



CONFIRMING THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
Archbishop Linda on digging deeper into our baptismal vows.
Page 12

ARE WE DONE OR JUST RESTARTING?
Keith Nethery's top 10 things that we might think about in advance of the Episcopal election.
Page 16



NOW IS THE TIME TO DREAM
Social & Ecological Justice: Church is an ideal place to engage with climate change.
Page 14

HURON CHURCH NEWS

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



Who will be the next Bishop of Huron? From left: Rt. Rev. William Grant Cliff, Ven. Tim Dobbin, Very Rev. Paul Millward, Ven. Tanya Marie Phibbs, Rev. Canon Todd Townshend

Meet the candidates for bishop

Synod of the Diocese of Huron will elect the 14th Bishop of Huron on October 26

As of September 10, five candidates have been nominated for the election of the 14th Bishop of Huron which will take place at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Ontario on October 26.

The Venerable Dr. Tim Dobbin, The Very Reverend Paul Millward, The Venerable Tanya Phibbs and The Reverend Canon Dr. Todd Townshend were nominated by the Diocesan Council at the meeting on July 27 as the candidates who have received five or more votes by the members of the Council in a secret ballot.

The House of Bishops additionally nominated The Right Reverend Bill Cliff, Bishop of Brandon, after the Council requested the names of potential candidates, as is permitted by the diocesan constitution.

The diocesan constitution allows further nominations of candidates by any five members of Synod – with the written consent of the nominee to stand for election – up to 10 days before election. This means that the deadline to nominate candidates for the

election of the 14th Bishop of Huron is October 16.

In this edition of the Huron Church News, on pages 3 through 5, we present you the biographies of the five candidates, in alphabetical order, along with the Electoral Procedures Committee's (EPC) introductory message.

Included in the EPC's letter are four main topics – questions for candidates generated by the EPC and based on input received from clergy and laity across the diocese.

Members of the diocese had a chance to learn more about the nominees in person on September 21 at a "Meet the candidates" event at St. Paul's Cathedral. Each candidate had offered a five minute reflection on the question "Why do you feel called by God to be the Bishop of Huron?" after which attendees were able to meet with each candidate.

Electoral Synod will vote on Saturday, October 26 (registration will begin at 8:30 am) at the Cathedral and the 14th

Bishop of Huron will be consecrated (if needed) on January 25.

Archbishop Linda Nicholls will leave the diocese to assume her duties as Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada on September 30. Until the installment of the new bishop the Diocese of Huron will be administered by The Most Reverend Colin Johnson, retired Metropolitan of Ontario and Bishop of Toronto and Moosonee.

See: Meet the Candidates
Page 3-5



Exiting in style: The Primatial motorcade, Huron model: Bayfield, Ontario, August 24, 2019

The Bishop's last ride and farewell to Huron

It wasn't exactly a bike – it was a three-wheeler – and the ride was only a few miles long, but Rev. Steve "Soul Man" Martin made good on his promise to put his diocesan bishop on a bike as a way of promoting his ministry.

Rev. Martin came up with the idea more than a year ago but for various reasons he kept delaying its realization. On August 24 this year, having realized that Archbishop Linda will soon be gone from the diocese, he simply showed up at Huron Church Camp while she was serving the closing Eucharist for the season. Rev. Steve kindly asked the Archbishop to jump on a trike he especially arranged for this occasion and join him for a ride from the camp to Bayfield. The Archbishop, being who she is, couldn't say "no", but she discretely inquired about the distance from the camp to the village: it was to be only a few miles long drive.

So the Primatial motorcade hit the road with Archbishop Linda showing her brave face.

The new Primate's stylish exit from Huron corresponds with her ministerial efforts as the diocesan bishop. During her three-year tenure in Huron she has encouraged clergy to explore different ways in which their could perform their ministry.

Rev. Steve's biking ministry on Huron's west coast has certainly been one of the more visible signs of the change fostered by the diocesan bishop.

"I just wanted to say thank you Bishop Linda for all support she gave me for Church-On-The-Street missional ministry", says Rev. Steve, adding that he found it appropriate to take our new Primate for her last ride "before she moves on for bigger, better things".



A Prayer for Guidance

Gracious God and faithful Shepherd,
guide and direct us in these days
as we prepare to select
a new Bishop in the Diocese of Huron.
Increase in us the gifts of discernment
and understanding.

Open our hearts and our minds
to the leading of your Holy Spirit
as you guide and direct our process.
Help us to see afresh the mission and ministry
to which you have called the Diocese of Huron,
and who best amongst us
has the gifts to lead us in these days.
God of eternal light, our help and our hope,
we ask all of this in and through the name
of your beloved Son Jesus Christ. Amen.

*The Rev'd Canon Valerie Kenyon,
Diocesan AFP Representative*

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This is who we are, this is our story

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

By Rev. Carrie Irwin



his love for Jesus Christ, the
incarnate God, and what blos-
somed from this love was an
utmost respect for creation, joy
in this world and concern for
the needs of the most vulnera-
ble. In its most simplistic form,
a spirituality which sees God in
others and in ourselves.

Come and explore prayer
through creation, using the
whole body and soul, guided by
a Rule of Life, which says "this
is who we are, this is our story"
and reminds us of the things
God has put in our hearts, and
calls us back to our founda-
tions.

*Rev. Carrie Irwin is AFP
Executive, North; Rector of The
Regional Ministry of Saugeen
Shores, Tara and Chatsworth;
and Regional Dean of the
Saugeens.*



A Franciscan Blessing

May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers,
half truths and superficial relationships,
so that you may live deep within your heart.

May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression,
and exploitation of people,
so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.

May God bless you with enough foolishness
to believe that you can make a difference in this world,
so that you can do what others claim cannot be done.

*(Common Prayer Pocket Edition A
Liturgy for Ordinary Radicals, 2012)*



On Saturday, October 5th,
the Anglican Fellowship of
Prayer invites you to attend
the annual Fall Gathering at
St Anne's Byron to explore
"Life as Pilgrimage: Franciscan
Spirituality Perspective on the
Prayer Journey" with The Rev'd
Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell,
TSSF.

Come and explore prayer as
pilgrimage through life, a spir-
itual journey rooted in Fran-
ciscan teaching with it's incar-
national focus. St Francis' own
relationship with God was most
passionately expressed through

Life as Pilgrimage: Franciscan Spirituality Perspective on the Prayer Journey

with

The Rev'd Lyndon Hutchison-Hounsell, TSSF

Please join us for a day as we explore prayer as
pilgrimage through life, through creation, using
our whole body and soul, guided by
a Rule of Life

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2019
ST ANNE'S BYRON
1344 COMMISSIONERS ROAD WEST
10am to 2pm

To register:
Please contact:
the Rev'd Kim Metelka at
kimmetelka@diohuron.org
or by calling or texting info
to 519-980-4545



Electing the next Bishop of Huron: five candidates facing four questions

The Electoral Procedures Committee has generated questions for the candidates based upon numerous suggestions received from clergy and laity across the diocese. Further nominations of candidates possible up to October 16.

The Electoral Procedures Committee (EPC) is pleased to present the candidates for Bishop of the Diocese of Huron.

Based on the Diocese's constitution, as well as feedback from the 2016 Electoral Synod, the EPC has established the following format for how Synod members and the greater community can learn about the candidates for Bishop.

Below you will find a brief biography for each candidate. In particular, and in accordance with the Diocese's constitution, we asked each candidate to provide, in 500 words or less, a description of their educational background, work experience outside the church, date of ordination, appointments, and their record of service in the Church.

Between August 12 and August 31, 2019, the EPC received nearly 40 questions from clergy and laity across the Diocese. From these questions, which covered a range of topics, the committee generated four that it posed to the candidates in writing for their considered reflection and response. Those questions were:

1. **What is your vision for Huron?**
2. **How would you describe your leadership style? What role do you foresee Synod playing in the administration of the Diocese?**
3. **Given the wide range of positions in the church locally, nationally, and internationally on difficult issues, how will you shepherd the diverse flock that is Huron?**
4. **Do you have a plan in mind to address the related**

issues of decline, sustainability, and mission? If so, can you speak to that plan? How would you root it in your own theology and spirituality?

The candidates' answers can be found on the Diocesan website.

As well, members of the diocese were invited to attend a "Meet the Candidates" event hosted at The Cathedral Church of St. Paul, London on September 21 at 10:30 am. Each candidate was invited to offer a five minute introductory reflection on the question "Why do you feel called by God to be the Bishop of Huron?" after which attendees were able to meet with each candidate.

Following the event, the EPC filmed the candidates offering their thoughts on a select number of topics. Their answers, along with a video of the

"Meet the Candidates" event will be posted on the Diocesan website.

The Electoral Synod is scheduled for October 26 at St. Paul's Cathedral in London and will be chaired by The Most Reverend Anne Germond, Metropolitan of Ontario.

Lastly, further nominations of candidates may be submitted by any five members of Synod, along with the written consent of the nominee to stand for election, before October 16, 2019.

Any such nominations must be sent to the Vice Chancellor of the Diocese either via regular mail sent to Church House at 190 Queens Av, London, Ontario, N6A 6H7, or by email sent to vicechancellor@diohuron.org.

The Electoral Procedures Committee – Diocese of Huron

Bibliographical information on the candidates are presented here in alphabetical order, as they will appear on the ballot.

In our next edition (November), which will be mailed to you just a few days before election, we will have their response to the questions selected by the Electoral Procedures Committee.

The questions and answers will also be posted on our website, in the News section (www.diohuron.org/news) where we have created a new category "Episcopal Election".

The questions and answers will be posted around the time you receive this (October) edition of the Huron Church News.

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR BISHOP

The Right Reverend William Grant Cliff



My focus in ministry is to release the spiritual gifts in those around me in order to foster joyful proclamation of the life-changing and reconciling Gospel of Jesus; to draw people to Christ and to equip them to be agents of the Kingdom of God in their communities; and to send those disciples into the world filled with hope.

Educational Background

- D.D. (honoris causa), Huron University College 2013
- M.A. (Theology), The University of Western Ontario 2009
- Thesis: The Prayers of Elizabeth I: Access, Display and Association
- M.Div. (with honours), Huron University College 1992
- B.A. (Religious Studies), Kings College at Western University 1989

Ordination Dates

- Deacon: on 14th May 1992 by Bishop Robert Townshend of the Diocese of Huron
- Priest: on 30th November 1992 by Archbishop Percy O'Driscoll of Huron
- Consecrated Bishop: on 1st March 2016 by Archbishop Gregory Kerr-Wilson of Calgary

Appointments

- VII Bishop of Brandon, 2016 - present
- Canon Precentor of the Diocese of Huron, 2009-2015
- Honourary Clerical Secretary of Synod, 2008-2015
- Board Member – The Royal School of Church Music Canada, 2007-2011

- Ethics Consultant – The Ontario Human Rights Commission, 2005-2009
- Canon of the Cathedral Chapter – St. Paul's Cathedral, London, Ontario, 2003-2015
- Rector – The Collegiate Chapel of St. John the Evangelist, Huron University College, 2002-2015
- Diocesan Liturgical Officer – The Diocese of Huron, 2002-2009
- Chaplain and Honourary Inspector – Strathroy-Caradoc Police Service, 1999-2002
- Chaplain – The Ministry of Youth, Diocese of Huron, 1999-2003
- Rector – St. John the Evangelist, Strathroy and St. Ann's Adelaide, 1998-2002
- Human Rights Commissioner – Province of Ontario - Ontario Human Rights Commission, 1997-2004
- Rector – St. James' Hanover with Trinity Church Durham, 1995-1998
- Assistant to the Rector – Trinity Church Simcoe, 1992-1995

National and International Work

- Trustee – The General Synod Pension Plan, 2018-
- Member – Communications Committee of the General Synod, 2019-2022
- Secretary to the House of Bishops 2018-
- Chair – Council of the North 2018-2021
- Chair – Anglican Journal Co-ordinating Committee 2017-2019

- Member – Anglican Journal Steering/Communications Committee working group 2017-2019
- Member of General Synod 2013, 2016, 2019
- Chaplain to Youth – General Synod 2001

Service within the Church

- Doctrine and Worship Committee, Synod Organizational Committee, Executive Committee of the Diocese of Huron, Diocesan Music Workshops, Corporation of Huron University College, Finance and Property Committee.

Speaking, Articles, Academia (previous six years)

- Keynote Speaker – ACW Annual – Diocese of Huron, 2019
- Keynote Speaker – Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, 2018
- Published "The Joy of the God who Shows Up" for December 2018 Anglican Journal and January 2019 Episcopal Journal Featured Workshop – CLAY National Conference, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, 2016
- Monthly Columnist – Diocese of Brandon's "Mustard Seed", 2016-present
- Featured Preacher – Shriving Service and Evensong - SS Peter and Paul Parish, Olney, Buckinghamshire, U.K. 2015
- Featured Workshop – CLAY National

Conference, Kamloops, British Columbia, 2014

- Member – Clergy Consultation – St. George's House, Windsor Castle – "Speaking about God", 2014
- Keynote Speaker – Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior – Living the Eucharistic Life, 2014
- Keynote Speaker – Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador – Vocation Station Youth Conference, 2014
- Keynote Speaker – St. George's Church Wharncliffe Road Parish retreat – From Believer to Disciple, 2014
- Published "The Eucharistic Canons of the Anglican Communion" for the Diocese of Huron, 2013
- Keynote Speaker – Diocese of Edmonton - Holy Trinity Edmonton – Centenary Celebration, 2013
- Keynote Speaker – Diocese of Brandon Ministry Conference "Joy in Community", 2013
- Instructor – St. Peter's Seminary, London, Ontario - Ecumenism - Systematic Theology 5511B, 2012-2015

Memberships and Fellowships, Honours and Distinctions

- Doctor of Divinity (Honoris Causa) Huron University College, 2013
- Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal – for services to post-secondary education, 2012
- Lifetime Achievement Award – Huron University College Alumni Association, 2007
- Honourary Senior Fellow – Renison College at the University of Waterloo, 2007
- Life Member – Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, 2001
- Fellow – National College of Music and the Arts (London, UK), 2000
- Member – The Guild of Church Musicians, 1999-present

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR BISHOP

The Venerable Dr. Tim Dobbin



Biographical Information

- Born and raised in Whanganui, New Zealand
- Resident in Huron since 2000
- Married to Lynn; children Sophie and Felicity

Ordination Dates

- Deacon – Nov 29 1997 Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn Australia
- Priest – Nov 30 1998 Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn Australia

Education

- B Com/LLB University of Otago New Zealand 1986

As a parish priest for the past 20 years, nothing brings me greater joy than watching folk grow in their love for God and for one another as followers of Jesus. Some Holy Spirit-inspired discipleship initiatives I have been part of include: teaching courses and facilitating parish-based studies; establishing Messy Church congregations; participating in mission trips to El Salvador, Nicaragua and Brazil; building relationship with Indigenous sisters and brothers; promoting greater care for God's creation; encouraging local outreach initiatives; helping settle refugee families.

I am grateful for opportunities to serve the Diocese by facilitating discernment programmes, assisting with the diaconate and supporting clergy care, human resources and parish renewal. It has been a privilege to represent the Diocese at a provincial and national level. I am passionate about mentorship and helping the established church transition in a rapidly changing world.

- B Th (Hons) Charles Sturt University Australia 1999
- D Min in Pastoral counselling and Marriage and Family Therapy Waterloo Lutheran Seminary Canada 2004

Parish Appointments

- Rector, St. Mark's Brantford (2014 – present)
- Rector, Trinity Simcoe (2007 – 2014)
- Priest Associate, St. George's London (2001 – 2007)
- Interim priest, Redeemer London (2000 – 2001)

Record of Service in the Church

National

- Member of Creation Matters Working Group (2015 – present)
- Member of Responsible Investing Task Force (2016 – 2019)

Diocese and community

- Archdeacon of Brant/Norfolk (2018 – present)
- Delegate to General Synod 2016, 2019; Provincial Synod 2019
- Cathedral Chapter of Canons (2016)
- Regional Dean Brant/Norfolk (2010 – 2013)
- Deacons' Board (2004 – 2018)
- Clergy Care (2013 – 2018)
- Human Resources (2014 – 2018)

- Abundant Life (2015 – 2018)

Teaching Experience

- Sessional instructor at Renison Institute of Ministry, Waterloo in areas of pastoral care, discernment, prayer (2005 – present)
- Sessional instructor at Huron University College and St. Peter's Seminary in pastoral ministry (2005 – 2007)

Work Experience/Community Involvement/Personal Interests Outside the Church

- Work experience in legal and accounting firms, and forestry prior to ordination (1987 – 1993)
- Live-in member of L'Arche (Christian residential communities for people with intellectual disabilities) in France, Philippines and Australia (1993 – 1997)
- National chaplain to Faith and Light (network of support groups for people with intellectual disabilities) (2002 – 2011)
- Member of Brantford Community Assessment Team (2015 – 2018)
- Facilitator, Reconciling Circle, an ecumenical group promoting dialogue with indigenous people (2015 – present)

Personal interests

- Running, cycling, swimming, hiking, tennis, fly-fishing, gardening

The Very Reverend Paul Millward



Biographical Information

- Born in Paris, Ontario January 1st, 1962
- Married to Tracy
- Children: Christopher (Leily), Geoffrey, Erin; Grandchildren: Ziya, Elisa

Educational Background

- OSSGS, Paris District High School, 1981
- Bachelor of Arts, University of Waterloo, 1995
- Master of Divinity (with distinction), Huron University College, 1998

Ordination Dates

- Deacon: June 11, 1998
- Priest: Dec. 7, 1998

Parish Appointments

- Rector, St. Thomas' Anglican Church, Owen Sound, June 1998-November 2001
- Rector, St. Jude's Anglican Church, Brantford, December 2001-August 2004

Let us dream of a church in which the Spirit is not a party symbol, but wind and fire in everyone; gracing the church with a kaleidoscope of gifts and constant renewal for all.

In many ways, these words, penned some thirty years ago by the late Wesley Frensdorff, former Bishop of Nevada, capture for me the basic truth and essence of ministry in our Church today as we seek to be disciples of Christ and evangelists in our time. It has been my privilege for over 21 years of ordained ministry to experience and share in that kaleidoscope of gifts within the Diocese of Huron as a parish priest, Regional Dean, Archdeacon and now Dean. I believe that the Holy Spirit is once again leading us into a time of renewal, a new and exciting, albeit anxiety-provoking, time of transformation as we look to the future and what it holds for us. As we move into this important time of discerning the gifts of leadership which will guide us into our future, my prayer is that it will be a time of sacred space, a time in which the giftedness of our church will flourish as we seek to be the church God created and intended us to be.

- Rector, Christ Church, Chatham, September 2004-2017
- Rector and Dean, St. Paul's Cathedral 2017- present

Diocesan Dignities

- Regional Dean, Saugeens, January 2000-November 2001
- Regional Dean, Brant, September 2003-September 2004
- Regional Dean, Kent, January 2007-December 2008
- Archdeacon of Kent/Lambton, April 2011-April 2017
- Dean of Huron May 2017- present

Current Diocesan Committees

- Bishop's Commission on Ministry (BCOM)
- Canons and Constitution Committee
- Diocesan Council
- Diocesan Executive Staff
- Diocesan Sub Council
- Doctrine and Worship Committee

- Huron University College Corporation

Past Diocesan Committees

- Back to Church Sunday Committee
- Children's Festival Committee
- Church Location Advisory Committee (CLAC)
- Field Education Supervisor
- Fresh Start, Facilitator
- Mohawk Chapel Committee
- Parish Internship Committee (chair)
- Postulancy Board, Advisor
- Screening in Faith/Safe Church Committee
- Provincial Synod
- ACPO Advisor (3 occasions)
- Delegate 2015, 2018
- Provincial Council (current)
- General Synod
- 2019 Alternate Delegate

Work Experience/Community Involvement Outside the Church/Personal Interests

Work

- Millward's Supermarket Ltd., Paris, Ont., January 1975-December 1985
- Village Market Ltd., (Knechtels), St. George and Burford, Ont., January 1986-August 1989
- Cashway Building Centres, Store Planning Department, Mississauga, September 1989-December 1993

Community

- Legion Padre (Chatham)
- Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rite
- Grand Prelate, Hospitaller Order of St. John of Jerusalem
- Ontario Minor Hockey Association Trainer

Interests

- Music, sports (hockey, golf, football), cooking, travelling, theatre

Find out more about the candidates. Check their replies to Electoral Procedures Committee's questions.

www.diohuron.org/news

Go to "Episcopal Election" category

MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR BISHOP

The Venerable Tanya Marie Phibbs



Over the years, I have heard the people of Huron share their joys, concerns, hopes, dreams and passion as they live out their call to share God's love with others. To support the parishes and people in this call, a bishop must be adaptable and able to manage change while seeking and being open to new and creative ways to proclaim the Gospel. My gifts and experiences would help us to together discern new and continuing possibilities for vital and viable ministries.

Appointments

- Assistant to the Rector (part-time) Church of St. Jude, London June 1998-November 2000
- Rector, St. Stephens's, Brantford December 2000-November 2003
- Priest-in-Charge, Grace Church, Brantford, September 2003-May 2005
- Rector, St. Paul's Church, Stratford May 2005-December 2012
- Executive Officer, Bishops' Office, Diocese of Huron January 2013-May 2013
- Executive Archdeacon, Diocese of Huron, May 13-present
- Territorial Archdeacon, Archdeaconry of Lambton/Kent, November 2018-present

Current Diocesan Committees

- Bishop's Conference Planning Committee
- Canons and Constitution Review Committee
- Committee on Assistance to Theological Students (Chair)
- Companion Diocese Committee

- Deacon's Board (Chair)
- Diocesan Executive Staff (Chair)
- Diocesan Council
- Diocesan Sub-Council
- Doctrine and Worship Committee
- Human Resources Committee
- Postulancy Board
- Safe Church Committee
- Synod Organization and Agenda Committees
- Past Diocesan Committees:
- Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
- Bishops' Group
- Bishop's Committee on Ministry
- Clergy Care Committee
- Compensation Committee
- Diocesan Coordinator for the Other Nine Network
- Diocesan Family Camp Team
- Huron University College ATS Accreditation Review Steering Committee
- Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic Dialogue (LARC)
- Nominating Committee
- Planning Committee for the Celebra-

Bibliographical information:

Though my cradle years were spent in an Anglican church, during most of my formative years my family was part of an evangelical denomination. I returned to the Anglican church during my undergraduate years at the University of Toronto. Graduating in 1989 with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy (with Honors), I worked as a pharmacist for a few years and then began my Master of Divinity degree at Huron College. I graduated with distinction in 1998 and was ordained a deacon in June 1998 and priested in December 1998.

A member of Generation X, I have been married to Wade for almost 26 years and we are the proud parents of two young adult children.

tion of the 40th Anniversary of Women to the Priesthood

- Post-Ordination Training Committee
- Standing Committee on Diocesan Liturgies

Diocesan Dignities

- Regional Dean of Perth 2007-2012
- Diocesan Ecumenical Officer March 2008 to December 2012
- Named to the Cathedral Chapter of Canons May 2009
- Appointed Archdeacon of Huron, Executive Archdeacon and Registrar May 2013

Provincial Synod

- Chaplain to Provincial Synod 2007
- Delegate to Provincial Synod 2009 and 2015 to present
- Honorary Clerical Secretary of Provincial Synod 2018 to present
- Member of Provincial Synod Council 2009-2012 and 2016 to present
- Diocesan Representative to the Ontario Provincial Theological Commission on Education 2016 to present

General Synod

- Member of General Synod 2016 to present

Outside of the church, I have worked as a community pharmacist including managing a Shoppers Drug Mart Pharmacy for seven years. I have been a Beaver Leader and involved with minor hockey for a number of years.

The Reverend Canon Dr. Todd Townshend



Above all else, I seek to be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ. The gift of this vocation has led me to focus on community leadership and service at work and at home. Fostering healthy communities is the primary goal of my work in ministry as a Christian priest, as a theological educator/administrator, and as a husband, father, and friend. Often, this is a ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:16-20). After 19 years serving as a parish priest, 19 years teaching in a university/seminary, and 27 years of marriage, I have developed gifts as a learner and teacher, a collaborator, a catalyst, a communicator, a pastor, a partner, and a parent.

Theology, Huron University College; Directed the program providing field education and contextual learning for students in the Master of Divinity program. Taught courses in Liturgical Theology, Contextual Theology, Preaching, Theology of Ordination, and some senior undergraduate courses.

- University Instructor, 1999-2012 Part-time, and for seven years half-time, teaching courses in Pastoral Theology, Preaching, and other topics related to church life and leadership. Primarily at Huron University College, also at Renison University College, Canterbury College, and in other settings.
- Student Work, 1982-90: Jobs ranging from restaurants, retail, landscaping, warehousing, counsellor at summer sports camp, and sales.

Details of Ordination

- Ordained Deacon: May 14th, 1992 – Diocese of Huron
- Ordained Priest: November 30th, 1992 – Diocese of Huron
- Dignity: "Canon Theologian", Diocese of Huron, 2009

Church Appointments

- Rector / Associate Priest / Priest in Charge (variously), Chapel of St. John the Evangelist, Huron University College, London, ON, 2011-present
- Rector, St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London, ON, 2009 – 2011
- Associate Rector (Co-Rector), St. Aidan's Anglican Church, London, ON 2002 – 2009 (Dual, shared appointment with Huron University College)
- Associate Priest, half-time, St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, London, ON, 1997 – 2001

While in graduate school:

- Rector, St. Peter's Anglican Church, Dorchester, ON, 1994 – 1997
- Assistant Priest to the Dean and Rector, St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, London, ON, 1992 – 1994

Church Service/Leadership (abridged)

- Diocese of Huron:
- Chair, Doctrine and Worship Committee
- Elected Member, Diocesan Council
- Elected Member, Diocesan Sub-Council

- Chair of the Diocesan Youth Ministry Committee

General and Provincial Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada:

- Chair, Theological Education Commission (reporting to General Synod 2013)
- Elected Member, General Synod 2010, 2013, and 2016, Provincial 2012
- Member / Vice-Chair, Pension Committee – and its Continuing Education Unit

Personal / Family

- Born: 1967
- Married: 1992, Stacey
- Children: Tyne ('03), Seth ('05), Samuel ('10)

Post-Secondary Education

- Doctor of Theology, Th.D. University of Toronto and Wycliffe College, Pastoral Theology; Homiletics, Dissertation: "The Sacramentality of Preaching", 2007
- Master of Divinity, M.Div. (with Honors), Huron University College, University of Western Ontario, 1992
- Bachelor of Science, B.Sc., University of Waterloo, 1989

Work Experience "Outside" the Church

- Dean, Faculty of Theology, Huron University College, London, Ontario, 2013-present
- Chief Academic and Administrative Officer and member of Senior Leadership Team; University administration and leadership in Theological Education
- Associate Professor of Contextual Theology, 2011-2013
- Director of Field Education, Faculty of

179th Synod
Diocese of Huron
(Electoral Synod)

October 26, 2019

St. Paul's Cathedral,
London, Ontario

Look what came out of a tragedy and pain

The Leamington Ministerial, which includes St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church, continues with its annual Peace Party celebrating diversity



By Rev. Andrew Wilson

The Leamington Ministerial again planned a Peace Party to celebrate Leamington. The picnic was born out of tragedy, it is a way to fight racism and bring our town together after the murders at the Quebec Mosque.

Last year, the weather declined all day. The wind blew the rain sideways and one-by-one groups had to cancel what they hoped to bring until no one was left. This year, it was raining off-and-on all morning, sun then gloom. We had to decide whether or not to cancel the Peace Party for a second year. Finally we said, "If God wants to have a party, then God will need to supply the sunshine. Let's go for it!" Ruth Boem of Faith Mennonite said those words and we trusted in God and lo and behold: at least 350 people came to Seaciff

Park for our Third Annual Peace Party.

We moved our music under a roof to protect the instruments, just in case. God provided only sunshine. There was again dancing – and I know Jesus was somewhere in that circle. We told stories of homeland, of joy, of myth, of love and challenge.

For me, the most powerful was Shahbaz, a friend and local businessman. He has told this story many times, because it is important: the profound effect of St. John's on his community, and the wider community through such events as these. He regularly talks to his family and friends in Pakistan and tells them about Leamington, saying: "See, this is how you are to treat people, this is how you are to be treating your minorities."

I'm sure you have heard some of the stories from his homeland. Christian witness in

a little town at the very bottom of Ontario has become a message of love that has gone global. Najam, the Imam from the Mosque that meets at St John's, said a few words. Najam is a third generation Canadian who lives to inspire and help many communities. He also is a hockey fanatic and uses that talent to teach the next generation about God and prayer and respect and loving your neighbour.

If you were there, what might you have seen? Representatives from Leamington Hospice making beads with adults and children from around the world and locally as far as Windsor. A Syrian man in a suit poured cream into the coffee of a Lebanese Nun in Habit. SECC painted faces. Mennonites lead games. St John's BBQ'd hundreds of Halal hot dogs that St Paul's Lutheran prepared and the Mosque donated. Syrian

two Migrant Workers navigate Leamington and find their home Church – Seventh Day Adventist. Popcorn was provided by The Bridge Youth Centre, started by Meadowbrook to help homeless youth. Lastly, Starbucks provided gallons of coffee; music is not the only universal language.

Our Ministerial meets as religious Ministers to find common ground and find ways and projects where we can work together in the name of God. We have walked the parade together, prayed in meetings and in public and in the snow together. We support events and have been working on a housing crisis. We share resources and help new Ministers acclimate when they move to the area. We do that for all people in as many ways as we can, together or individually. We are called to be together and be the hands of Christ. On a warm and sunny day in June at Seaciff park, there were only smiles and laughter and togetherness.

Rev. Andrew Wilson is the rector of St. John the Evangelist, Leamington.

Learn Peace 2019:

it was the third annual event organized by Leamington Ministerial. For kids in Leamington it is already a part of their summer expectations.

Photos: Sara Garnet, Faith Mennonite Church

folk music featuring an ancient lyre and modern synth. Faith Mennonite's band, which included Ruth's husband, sang. Rod, the pastor from the United Universalist Church, being fluent in Spanish, after he finished playing ukulele with the 'SPUG' group that meets at St John's for lessons for all, helped



The organizers of this year's Peace Party.

The Jungle Book Kids from Christ Church, Chatham

By Rev. John Maroney

The hall of Christ Church Chatham is currently being transformed into a tropical jungle filled with exotic flowers and creeping vines: The 4C Theatre Company is celebrating its second anniversary by presenting Disney's spectacular The Jungle Book Kids.

By the time the set is finished, it promises to dazzle audiences of all ages. The young members of the cast and volunteers have been hard at work in designing the set.

The 4C theatre company was founded by Sharon Stepniak, music director at Christ Church, Chatham. Sharon has over 35 years of musical experience. She is assisted in the presentation of the Jungle Book Kids by Ruth Brown.

The 4C Theatre Company is an exceptional entity. It recruits young talent from all over the Chatham-Kent area.

This year there will be 30 children participating in the production. They have been practicing since the beginning of summer. They are a dedicated group of young actors who love what they are doing.

Stepniak states that the purpose of the 4C Theatre Company is to have a safe place where the youth of the community can thrive in a non-judgmental environment. It is important that children feel a sense of belonging and import. And ultimately, this is about bolstering self-esteem.

The transformations are quite remarkable, says Stepniak:

"Youngsters who were shy and timid at auditions end

up being effervescent in their confidence as they belt out the songs and their lines. They come together, work harder than they have ever done before and they learn the importance of community and dedication."

Jungle Book Kids is going to be a delightful experience for all involved, concludes Stepniak.

Tickets are already on sale and are going fast. If interested in purchasing tickets please call the Parish Coordinator at 519-352-1640 or email at churchoffice@christchurchchatham.

The dates are:
Friday, October 25, 7:00 pm
Saturday, October 26, 2:00pm and 7:00pm
Sunday, October 27, 2:00pm
Tickets:\$12:00

Rev. John Maroney is the rector at Christ Church, Chatham.



It's a charming bungle in the jungle performed by Christ Church's 4C Theatre Company. Photo: Deborah Carrall

The hands and feet of Christ – Holy Trinity Lucan steps up

Following the example of their priest, the parishioners in Lucan raised funds for the parking for over 170 people at the London Regional Cancer Program.

By Amanda Jackman

Cancer is downright scary. From diagnosis to treatment it can be a very stressful time for individuals and their loved ones. In hopes of helping people through a difficult time - Holy Trinity Parish Lucan stepped up.

At a recent council meeting the idea was brought forward to pay for parking for those who are undergoing cancer treatment, and the idea was supported fully. In fact, Rev. Matthew Martin dedicated the proceeds of his most recent concert to the cause.

"It was an incredible response," said Martin. "Not only were we able to use the proceeds from the sold out concert but people also donated that day after they heard what we were doing."

The raised funds paid for the parking for over 170 people at



With the proceeds of his concert Rev. Matt (in white) and Holy Trinity Lucan parishioners help pay for parking for those undergoing cancer treatment at the London Regional Cancer Program.

the London Regional Cancer Program at London Health Sciences Centre.

"Parking can get expensive," stated Martin. "Especially when

you have to make return visits, and many of the patients do."

The expression of those who walked toward the big blue machine to pay for parking shifted

from confusion to appreciation.

"People's faces lit up! It was such a joy to help take even the smallest burden from them," said Martin. "People shook our

hands, hugged us, some told us their story, and some even donated back."

Often telling his parishioners they are the hands and feet of Christ, Martin felt this was a prime example of love and compassion at work.

"I'm so proud of my parish for bringing this to the table, and so grateful for the community who helped support it."

"The parish is extremely proud of Rev. Matt too," stated Shelley Reynolds, church Warden (pictured centre). "Matt donated his time and talent to the cause. Without him this wouldn't have been possible."



St. George's Forest Hill goes to Mars and beyond!



By John MacKellar

This summer St. George's of Forest Hill in Kitchener hosted an ecumenical group of 50 kids ages 4 to 11 for a Vacation Bible School.

We gathered children from our Anglican churches, Roman Catholic, Coptic and Evangelical churches. Using our Vector Verse from Ephesians 3:20 – "Glory to God whose power working in us can do more than we can ask or imagine" – we set off on a journey through Music, Bible stories, Crafts, Science and so many fun activities to explore Faith, Boldness, Kindness, Thankfulness and Hope. For one week in July and one week in August we manned our Mars Outpost and helped a stranded spaceship by filling its fuel cells with these wonderful qualities.

Starting in June, we were building sets and props to transform the church for our space journey. By July we were ready to welcome our voyagers

who, although they came from many churches and faiths, had one thing in common... a shared belief in Jesus. We started the day at 9:00 with Commander Carlson (Catherine Carlson) and her Robot buddy EP3:20. They greeted the kids and using a lively script, music and dance in a set filled with flashing lights, bright colors and futuristic scenery they launched us into space and communicated by video with the Spaceship Galaxion. Once our goal for the day was set, Father Stephen Hendry introduced the young people to Leadership using the John Maxwell Leadership Program and then they gathered downstairs for a quick snack before going to visit the Storyteller who told them about Daniel, Esther, the Good Samaritan and stories about Jesus.

They raced back upstairs to enjoy more time with music, dance and magic tricks before lunch. The afternoon was filled with science experiments like shooting off rockets, exploding volcanoes and balloon starship

and supplies by the Optimist Club of Kitchener-Waterloo and by the parish of St. George's. Our congregation gave generously of their time, talent and treasure. In fact so many craft supplies were donated that we have enough left to supply our Sunday School and Messy Church programs for the coming year.

Thank you to the team of Father Stephen Hendry, Sue

MacKellar, Catherine Carlson, John MacKellar, Valerie Cuthbert, Vivian Harris, Terry McCoy, and our many other volunteers. Thank you also to our incredible teen team of Riley Barclay, Sam Voll, Josh Voll and Sarah Schnarr. This would not have been possible without their leadership.

John MacKellar is deputy warden at St. George's Forest Hill, Kitchener

"Glory to God whose power working in us can do more than we can ask or imagine" – an exciting summer journey for children at St. George's of Forest through music, bible stories, crafts and science.

Each day was filled with enthusiastic voices, messes, racing around and laughter. Each day we explored the values that make us Christians and shared our faith. The kids could be heard singing the songs long after music time was over and the parents commented on how the kids kept talking about their day when they went home.

This was totally a volunteer operation supported by generous contributions of money



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ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

Food that endures: feed the hungry!

Fall is here! My favourite season! Perhaps summer weather has lingered, giving us warm days and cool nights. Harvest is almost over. No more beans to pick or tomatoes to can. Pumpkins are turning orange, apples, are ripe and thoughts of savory pies whet our palettes.

The frantic activities of school starting have calmed but after-school activities keep families hopping. Those who are retired seem to be busier than ever. No rocking chairs on the porch. No lazy days. Where did those "life of Riley" dreams go?

We in Canada, and in this Diocese in particular, are truly blessed. Fine weather. Excellent farmland everywhere. Fresh fruit and vegetables harvested locally. Jobs for just about everyone. A stimulating, mixed economy. Both high tech and low make for interesting juxtapositions.

How could we be more blessed? While our prosperity feeds ourselves, our generosity feeds those in need. Materially.

Is that kind of food enough? Jesus tells us, "Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life." Perhaps we are complacent in feeling that our donations are enough; that our volunteer efforts are enough. Are they? If we feed only food and not spiritual hunger, is it enough? Where is God in all this generosity?

Jesus tells us that feeding someone is fine but they will hunger again. We must also feed the spiritual needs of each other. That "food" endures.

Perhaps there is a reason that food banks are always needing more donations. Perhaps there is a reason that those in need are still in need. Where is the Spirit of the Lord in any of this? Only He can fill the true needs of humankind. How do we fulfil both the material needs and the spiritual needs of our fellow man?

We are told to spread the Good News. Do we do that? Even at church, do we really leave on Sunday intending to spread the Good News? How do we incorporate His Message into our daily life? How about at work? How about in our neighborhood? How about at home? Who of your family and friends even know that you are Christian? What are we hiding under that bushel?

Yes, it is a challenge in this secular world to express our faith, to share it, to discuss it, to even introduce the topic. Aren't we taught that politics and religion are verboten topics around the dinner table, especially when guests are present? Perhaps we can discuss spiritual matters with a few trusted friends from church. Perhaps we must learn to raise the subject of God outside of our comfort zone. Perhaps we must learn to share "the food that endures for eternal life".

We are called to do so. Take a first step. Feed the hungry.

Bonnie G. Rees, President
ACW Diocesan Council



Tim Mossholder/Unsplash

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 (Follow-up classes to be arranged for those who are interested)

Praying with the Mystics (Part 1)
 with Dr. Helen Butlin
 Experience the teachings of Julian of Norwich, Hildegard of Bingen, St. John of the Cross, and Teresa of Avila.
 St. Aiden's Church, London, Oct. 20, Nov. 9, Nov. 30, 2019; 9 am - 3:30 pm

Praying with the Mystics (Part 2)
 with Dr. Helen Butlin
 Experience the teachings of Evelyn Underhill, Dorothy Day, Karoline Lehner, Simone Weil, Thomas Merton, Henri Nouwen.
 St. Aiden's Church, London, Jan 18, Feb 8, March 7, 2020, 9 am - 3:30 pm

Cost for each course: Your choice. Each course runs over three days. You attend 1 or 3 class meetings. You pay \$75 to audit 1 class meeting, \$150 to audit total 3 class meetings, or \$300 for all 3 class meetings for credit toward LTh certificate.

More Details or to Register:
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THE DEANERY OF THE SAUGUEN'S WOMEN
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 ON
 THURSDAY OCTOBER 17, 2019
 AT
 CHRIST CHURCH, 55 MAIN ST, LIONS HEAD, ONTARIO

OUR THEME
 "ONE BODY, ONE SPIRIT"

Registration and Refreshments at 9:00 a.m. followed by Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. with your creche/infant being. Archdeacon Perry Chupras.

This facility is wheelchair accessible.

Our hosts will arrange lunch at a cost of \$30.

After lunch we invite you to explore with us "One Body, One Spirit."

Meeting will wrap-up around 1:30.

Please RSVP to Marlene Davies by October 10, 2019 - at: ACHIX@eastlink.ca or 519-793-3110

Other enquiries: Sandra Gannon, Secretary - 519-934-2039 or susan@sauguen.org

Our women look forward to being with you in this season of the year. #fallmeeting

Diocesan Golf Tournament for Outreach 2019

Seventy one participants from across the diocese hit the turf at Ironwood Golf Course, Exeter on Saturday, September 7. The weather cooperated this year contributing to the good mood and the success of this traditional diocesan event. Over the course of the last 10 years, over \$100,000 has been raised and directed to food banks, community gardens, suicide awareness programs and youth programs.



Having a good game? Who knows... Having a good time? That's for sure!



The shot-gun came at exactly 12:45. The rest is history...



A perfect opportunity to improve the game.... and to enjoy a good cigar!



A stylish swing by an unknown player (left). We were impressed with their game (up). As usual, The Crayolas won the most points for artistic impression (right, with Archbishop Linda who perfectly blended in with her colour).



Photos: Davor Milicevic

PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS



Archbishop Colin Johnson

Appointments

The Most Reverend Colin Johnson, retired Metropolitan of Ontario and Archbishop of Toronto and Moosonee has been appointed the Diocesan Administrator from October 1, 2019 until the consecration or installation of the 14th Bishop of Huron. Archbishop Colin will

have all the rights and privileges of a Diocesan Bishop during this time period. Archbishop Linda, will continue as Bishop of Huron until September 30, 2019. In accordance with the Diocesan Constitution, an Electoral Synod will be held on Saturday, October 26 at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in London.

On behalf of Archbishop Nicholls, the Very Reverend Paul Millward appointed the Reverend Bradley Johnson as the Regional Dean of Oxford, effective August 1, 2019 for a three year term. Brad is the rector of Epiphany, Woodstock.

On behalf of Archbishop Linda Nicholls, the Very Reverend Paul Millward appoints the Reverend Mary Farmer as the rector of Trinity, Bayfield and the Parish of the Holy Spirit effective October 15, 2019. Mary is currently the rector of the Parish of Long Point Bay (St. John's Church, Port Rowan; Port Ryerse Memorial Church, Port Ryerse; St. Andrew's-by-the-Lake, Turkey Point; St. John's Church, Woodhouse; and Christ Church Chapel of Ease, Vittoria)

On behalf of Archbishop Linda Nicholls, the Very Rev'd Paul Millward appoints the Reverend Elise Chambers

as the rector of the Parish of Southern Trinity (St. Andrew's, Harrow and Christ Church, Colchester) effective October 7, 2019. Elise is currently the rector of Christ Church, Petrolia; Christ Church, Forest and St. John's, Kettle Point.

Retirement

Archbishop Linda Nicholls has accepted the wish for retirement of The Reverend William (Bill) Strang effective February 1, 2020. Bill was ordained a deacon on June 24, 1997 and priested on November 26th of that year. He has served the parishes of St. John's, Thamesford with Christ Church, Lakeside and Christ Church, Amherstburg, the position from which he retires. He has been a member of the diocesan Health and Safety Committee, the Postulancy Board and Diocesan Council. He has also served as the Regional Dean of Essex. Bill will be honoured

with the other retirees at next year's Synod banquet.

Ministry Conclusion

The Reverend Canon Janet Lynall has concluded her ministry as the Priest in Charge of St. John's, St. Thomas.

Rest in Peace

Mr. Neil Macfarlane, the father of Rev'd Peggy Fidom passed away on Sunday, August 25 at LHSC - Victoria Hospital, in his 91st year. He leaves behind his wife, Eileen; his daughters, Lynda Vernon (Michael), PeggyAnn Fidom (Andy), and Rena Oag (Joe); and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Dear brother of Mary Jackson, the late Ruth Jackman and the late Don Macfarlane. Neil was a hard worker and has earned his rest. He will be lovingly remembered by his family and friends. A memorial service was conducted on August 30.

Our vision is a spiritually regenerated church

By Ven. Perry Chuipka

Billy Graham once said, "We are the bibles the world is reading; we are the creeds the world is needing; we are the sermons the world is heeding"

I think Billy Graham had it right. Our church needs you and me to be the stars that God intended. The day stars that shine the light of Christ in our broken world!

Today, with the struggling decline of church attendance, financial difficulties and tiring congregations, priests are looking to help their parishioners move forward in new and different ways. Being a priest in the church, I often want a quick fix, an easy solution that will turn our church life around. But there is no easy answer.

One of the things that I have learned as a congregational coach travelling around the diocese to different churches is that priests care about their congregations. However, that care can lead us to do things that may not be productive for our congregations who are already working at many things in their faith communities. A long course in discipleship or evangelism often turns people off because they are so busy in their lives. Instead it is about introducing our congregations to a little bit of discipleship and a little bit of evangelism.

Many of us know that discipleship and evangelism is the direction that our faith communities need to move in order to discover new ways to be apprentices of Christ in our communities. Although our Prayer Books have been good for us incorporating the scriptures, leading us in liturgy and enlightening us with prayers, we still need to have conversations about how we share the good news of



CONGREGATIONAL COACHES

God in our everyday lives. As Anglicans, we have not had much practice with discipleship and evangelism. Combine this with the bad examples that we hear about in the media today and it is no wonder that our Anglican brothers and sisters are a little leery when it comes to talking about discipleship and evangelism.

Thus, one of the ways that our coaches have found helpful to introduce discipleship and evangelism is by having little conversations.

Let me give you some examples.

At our council meetings we have a devotion time before we begin our meeting. I have used this time to have a little conversation about one of the small articles contained in the, Christian Foundations: A grounding for a life of faith produced by Wycliffe College. The article I chose looks at evangelism in a contemporary way. I lead the group with the three questions that are given after the article. The discussion helps our council to talk about what we do as Christians in a new way. People are invited to give their thoughts but nobody is forced to speak. Within twenty minutes, some have shared their experiences about evangelism, some have talked about things that have always concerned them while still others have spoken about their faith in God in another

way. Our group has been enlightened and also felt free to express themselves with no judgement. On some occasions, our discussions at the devotions time find its way back into our conversations during the rest of the meeting. It is nice to see that our conversations about evangelism is really about who we are as the people of God.

Another example being used by an Anglican faith community is to begin their worship with a question each Sunday just prior to their opening hymn. The question always relates to the scriptures of the day. The person leading the service will bring the question back for a small discussion during the homily, after the prayers of the people, or after the confession, wherever it tends to fit. The question leads to a little discussion of ten to fifteen minutes and then they continue with the service. I was told that the parishioners now come to church expectantly awaiting the question with an opportunity to have a conversation to learn more about their faith.

Another example of having little conversations about evangelism and discipleship is to use a daily devotional book as a discussion starter. One of my coaches told me how members of their congregation meet for coffee and tea every week using the "Devotions about Discipline - Today Daily Devotional". They read the daily devotions then have a conversation about how this particular discipline can help them in their daily life. The coach mentions, at one point after the discussion that everyone in the group are being disciples by the way they are learning and having conversations about their faith. A few people seem surprised but then the light comes on for them. Sometimes we need to affirm our parishio-

ners about what they are doing, especially when they are putting their faith into action.

Another example that was used by the Kitchener churches during Lent was the "Spirit of Invitation" material. Each church hosted one session with snacks and refreshments afterwards. The parishioners enjoyed the refreshing contemporary style of this material which encouraged them to have conversations about how our ordinary daily routines relate to the things we do in worship. For example, the Lord's Table relates to our own dinner table. How we invite people into our homes is very much like how Jesus invited people to have conversations with him. The videos included in our sessions enabled us to continue the conversation at our tables. The discussions were refreshing and as one person said to me, "I never saw the connection between evangelism and invitation before!"

Another very simple exercise of evangelism was given to me by the Reverend Duke Viperman. At a congregational event he asked them to write three words that say something about God on a cardboard. Then he asked them to get into a circle and hold up their cardboards. There were all kinds of different messages. For example, from the very familiar, "God bless you", "God loves us" to some very creative messages, "An Awesome Friend", "Our Abundant Deliverer", "The beautiful Creator" and "My Inner Sanctuary". Then he told them you may not know it but you are all evangelists. Then he had them share their cardboards with the people at their tables in little conversations. Some of the conversations at those tables had people sharing some of their faith. This is a very simple way to take the

stigma of this word "evangelism" that has eluded Anglicans for years and engage them in a playful way that enables them to talk about their faith in God and Jesus. Sometimes it is the approach we use. Little conversations can be non threatening and very inviting.

So let me go back to Billy Graham, who had it right. We may be the only bible that someone reads in their lifetime. So our conversations, the way we listen intently and respect others can make all the difference in someone's life.

Our vocation is about how we invite others, how we listen to them, and more importantly, how we engage them in little conversations about the mystery of God in our lives. People don't want a course on evangelism, nor do they want a sixteen week study on discipleship. However, what they do have time for in their lives is little conversations that help them to see words like evangelism and discipleship in new ways. Ways that they can live out in their daily lives.

For more ideas on how to begin little conversations on evangelism, discipleship and other disciplines of our Christian faith, give one of our coaches a call. They will have the time to help you explore new ways of introducing conversations that will help others become and grow into apprentices of Christ. Check out our website <https://coaching.diohuron.org/> Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail a coach. You will find contact information on our website. We are only a little conversation away!

Perry Chuipka Archdeacon of Congregational Development.

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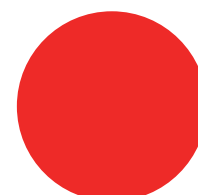
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Working together for a unified church

A reflection on General Synod 2019 by a Huron youth delegate

By Sydney Brouillard-Coyle

“We will not have unity in our church as long as we marginalize and oppress a large group of Christians. Nobody should ever feel unsafe or scared to come to a place of worship.” This was what I said as I addressed General Synod 2019 on the night of the marriage canon debate.

I began my comments with the question: “Does God hate me for being queer?” It’s a question that bore into my heart in the time leading up to General Synod as I wondered if the Church I love was ready to honour the possibility that I could have a relationship as loving and committed as the one I see in my parents. If not, I thought, what does that say about me and my relationship with God?

“Does God hate me for being queer?” In my address at General Synod, I explained that I got the answer to my question when I was with the other youth delegates, the night before General Synod began. As I



Sydney Brouillard-Coyle at 2019 General Synod

was asking myself that question during an outdoor communion service, we were brought together by song: “love, love, love, love / people we are made for love / love your neighbour, love yourself / and love your God.”

As I sang this at the microphone, I had no idea that this song would turn into an anthem of healing and protest for the LGBTQ2+ community and our allies after the failure of the vote to amend the marriage canon. This was the song the youth delegates sang outside

the hall after we were dismissed that night, and we sang it the next morning as everyone came for the communion service prior to the primate’s election. People spoke of how healing it was, to sing with us, to stand and listen, and to be with us in a time of immense grief and pain. Music was healing for us as individuals and as a whole for General Synod. No, music does not create unity, but it is a path to get there.

Music brought my home congregation of St. Paul’s, Essex,

alongside our sister church of Trinity, Cottam, together in our pride service on August 11th. We used songs from General Synod and from a recently released resource from the Hymn Society: “Songs for the Holy Other”. It brought us together as we raised the pride flag, to show that we love and affirm all of God’s children, and we live out the call to love our neighbour.

This summer, I have heard members of the LGBTQ2+ community and allies express a desire for a program to assist parishes and dioceses in discerning the love we are called to in terms of marriage. In collaboration with people across the generations, we are proud to release “Respect for the LGBTQ2+ Community: A Study Program” that will be made available to Anglicans across Canada. This program is to assist individual congregations and dioceses in facilitating conversations on marriage and LGBTQ2+ rights in light of everything that is happening in our church and around the world.

The program will focus on four main areas: Community Building and Love, General Synod 2019, Changing the Conversation, and Where Do We Go from Here. This study program will be good for congregations regardless of whether they have yet to have the conversation or have already had the conversation and are looking into ways to be active allies in their wider community.

The Anglican Church of Canada is my home. It’s messy, it’s ugly, and it’s confusing in the best of times. But that’s all part of being “home”. Home is a place of family. We are a family. As we work together, talk together and pray together, my hope is that my generation will be the last to deal with the pain and trauma that comes from wondering “does God hate me for being queer?” Everyone has a place in the kingdom of God, and God’s love is one that is unconditional for all of God’s precious children.

Sydney Brouillard-Coyle was the youth delegate to General Synod 2019 and is the music director at St. Paul’s, Essex.

Being a teacher: raising positive kids in a negative world

Sharing the testimonies of our lay leaders at 2019 Huron Synod



By Laura Manias

I grew up here in London, the oldest girl in a family of four kids. For my family St. James Westminster was our church home, and faith in God was important.

St. James is the first place I was a teacher, and the experiences there and the relationships formed started me on the path to where I am today.

I am an elementary teacher for Thames Valley District School Board in London. I’m the outdoor education teacher for four kindergarten classes at one school, kind of like a gym teacher, but I include a variety of learning materials that cover multiple subjects. I’m really lucky to teach outside almost every day, in God’s creation. It’s a great job, I really love it.

Every teaching role has many, many blessings and wonderful moments, but also some challenges. Just like our churches are not the same as 20 years ago, and society isn’t the same as 20 years ago, schools and teaching are not the same as 20 years ago.

To help paint a picture of what my day looks like, here are some statistics about my school community:

430 students; 31 teachers and 23 support staff; 1 in 4 of our students identify as First Nations, Metis, or Inuit; over 85% of our students live in poverty; only 58% of the parents graduated from high school

I work with some of the most caring and creative people I’ve ever met, trying every day to meet the needs of our students, our kids. As a Christian I believe my faith in Jesus helps the staff team towards the goal of supporting these kids.

“The kids who need the most love will ask for it in the most unloving ways” is a daily truth in my school building. Remembering this helps a lot. In a tough school like mine, it’s so important for the staff team to be supportive of each other. I’m thankful every day for our team.

One in four of the students at my school identifies as First Nations, Metis, or Inuit. Just like in this diocese, at my school over the last couple

years we’ve worked to celebrate, honor and respect the history and current lives of Indigenous peoples through monthly assemblies on the seven grandfather teachings, my outdoor classroom in that photo, and Oneida language lessons for students instead of French if they choose. As a staff team for professional development we participated in the Kairos blanket exercise, which I’ve done a few times at various church experiences, but for me the school experience was the most moving ever because we were all picturing our students who that history has and continues to impact every day!

My school is in the east-central part of London. Over 85% of the students at my school live in poverty, only 58% of the school parents graduated from high school. Many of the school parents grew up in poverty themselves, they have different values and priorities than me and my middle-class colleagues.

For the parents of families living in poverty there’s a ton of things that they have to take care of before they can parent, or be available for their kid’s emotional needs, or develop strategies to help their children learn how to behave and get along with others. In other neighbourhoods, families with more financial means, don’t have the daily anxiety of meet-

ing the first step of Maslow’s hierarchy of needs - food, water, warmth, shelter, and clothing. Many of the parents at my school are spending all their energy on those basic needs, and also handling anxiety causing situations like addictions, either themselves or other loved ones, or the incarceration of a loved one, or struggling to find work when they may not have much education. So the kids come to school not for academics, they are there to be fed, clothed, and overall, loved. Once they get that love and feel safe, we can work on academics.

I spend my day building relationships with my students, practicing patience, acknowledge their feelings, modelling talking about our feelings, talking through problems with students “You look upset” and “I’d be frustrated too if that happened to me” are common phrases I use, I remind them that I love them and want them to learn, and that I also love the other students and want them to learn too. and then we hug. They ask for hugs all the time, and it helps me feel better too! We have to love and meet the parents and students where they are, to give them the love and guidance that Christ calls us to.

“When you put faith, hope and love together you can raise positive kids in a negative world.” I’ve been a full-time teacher for almost eight years

now. I’ve learned so much in that time, through reflection, and talking to God, I’m more patient and have more strategies that help me with students showing them God’s love. The best thing is that if I mess up, because we all do sometimes, I can pray whenever, ask God for help and forgiveness, and then do better, modelling for my students how to do better. Similarly, when my school day goes well, when my actions help someone, I praise God and thank God.

I have so much hope for all my students, hope that the support and love they receive at school makes a difference, hope for a great future for each student. But most importantly I hope and pray they will be happy and know God’s love, as I know it, and share it with the people they love.

Laura Manias is a Sunday school and youth leader at St. James Westminster (London) and the lay co-chair of the diocesan youth committee.



Confirming the work of the Holy Spirit

Confirmation allows us the opportunity to dig deeper into our baptismal vows to ask what they mean in our lives today and how will we follow Christ in our daily life in whatever vocation to which we have been called.

By Archbishop
Linda Nicholls

One of the joys of episcopal ministry is presiding at the sacrament of confirmation.

Whether the confirmands are young or mature there is a profound joy in this moment when the promises of baptism are affirmed in the presence of a particular congregation and the bishop as a link with the whole Church through the ages. This confirmand – woman, man, boy or girl – proclaims their commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour and commits to following the way of Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.



Confirmation service: Deanery of Waterloo, April 2018, with Bishop Terry Dance

I particularly love the opportunity to meet the candidates before the service and hear something of their life and journey. What joys and personal gifts and passions will God use through the life of this Christian? Their moment of commitment is significant!

I remember my own confirmation. At that time confirmation was expected by church and family when you reached 11 or 12 years of age. It was a requirement before being able to receive Holy Communion.

However what I most remember was the importance of this decision. Each candidate

met with the parish priest and although he gently warned us that lightning would not likely strike us when the Bishop laid hands on our heads I remember the solemnity of the decision. Years later when evangelical friends would ask when I had accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Saviour and wanted a time and date – I realized that, for me, that moment was my confirmation. It was the moment when I affirmed publicly the faith I had been taught and wanted to live. During General Synod this past summer I had the joy of returning to the parish where I was confirmed on

the day after I was elected Primate, remembering the commitment to God in my baptism now confirmed through the sign of the laying on of hands by the Bishop as a continuing lifelong commitment to serve as called by God.

Confirmation allows us the opportunity to dig deeper into our baptismal vows to ask what they mean in our lives today and how will we follow Christ in our daily life in whatever vocation to which we have been called. It is a moment of public witness of faith through the affirmation of baptismal vows. It is a moment of confirming with the outward sign of the laying on of hands, the inward continuing work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the confirmand and the link of that confirmand with the whole Church through the Bishop.

When the Church affirmed that baptism is the primary sacrament of initiation through which one enters the community to receive the Eucharist many people no longer saw the need of confirmation. Yet it is a sacrament, not required of any, but important in marking our baptismal journey. Whether confirmation is chosen as a teenager or a senior citizen it is a powerful sacrament of our identity and Christian call. It

may take place at any time in life. For young people it marks one of the first adult decisions made about the continuing direction of their lives. For adults it may occur at a moment when faith has become a living reality in daily life or after a time away from God now needing public witness of return.

Some people, confirmed at a young age, discover a desire to make a public reaffirmation at a time of life transition or renewed understanding of faith or recommitment. Although the laying on of hands is a once-only sacrament that reaffirmation may take place in a public service of worship in the presence of the Bishop at any time in one's life. The full life of faith is especially seen in a service that includes baptism, confirmation and reaffirmation with young and old standing together in testimony to the rich variety in how God works in our lives!

It is my prayer that confirmation and reaffirmation will find renewed interest among the people of God. They are the gifts of our heritage as a sacramental church and are meant to be shared widely. I pray that every parish will engage in opportunities to deepen and renew faith with a service of public witness to that faith in confirmation or reaffirmation!

What do you need to know when hiring a contractor

Be careful if you have to hire two contractors to work on your church building at the same time: in that case the owner becomes the designated constructor responsible for all aspects of health and safety on the site.

Hopefully all our wardens and clergy read the article on hazardous materials. Today we are reminding you of another issue that could get us in trouble if we are unaware of the rules. If your Board of Management has employed a contractor to work on your church buildings, who is the designated "constructor", and why is that important?

The Ministry of Labour require that one person on every construction site be responsible for health and safety as required under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act. The contractor will normally have one person trained to fill that role, and you need not concern yourself with that.

But what happens when there are two contractors working on the site at the same time? Now the Act clearly states that the owner (or the owner's representative) becomes the "constructor", and that person is responsible for all aspects of health and safety on the site.

You never want to be in that position.

The constructor is the "go to"

person for every accident on the site. When there is a lost time accident, the Ministry will investigate, and if safety rules were not being followed, they will lay charges, and the person charged is the "constructor".

A simple example:

You have employed a contractor to replace the roof, and while that is going on, you retain another contractor to paint the interior of the church hall. The roofers are wearing safety boots, but the painters are wearing sneakers. A painter comes out of the hall and steps on a roofing nail which goes into his foot. You have a problem!

Same scenario with same two contractors, but this time the roofer has installed scaffolding to access the church steeple. The scaffolding was not erected properly and collapses, killing or seriously injuring a worker. Because there were two contractors working on the site, the church warden is the designated "constructor" and will be charged. Penalties include very large fines and possible jail.

You never want to be in that position.

This is not an issue if there is only one contractor working

for you so you need not worry yourself about the Act. The sections on health and safety are long and onerous, and even if you have someone in your congregation familiar with the Act you still do not want that responsibility.

What if we hire a contractor and he brings in a subcontractor?

Not a problem, because you only hired one contractor. The prime contractor is responsible for ensuring his sub complies with safety rules.

What if the two contractors are working on different buildings? Generally the owner is still on the hook as the "constructor".

What if one contractor is working during the day and the second contractor works evenings? The owner is still on the hook.

If you have a situation that is not clear, call the Ministry of Labour to get clarification. The consequences are too severe to take any chances.

And by the way, the same rules apply if you hire two contractors to work on your home!

Diocesan Land and Property Committee



Nicolas Cool/Unsplash

How to generate the best welcome package



**MEDIA
BYTES**

**REV. MARTY
LEVESQUE**

The welcome package is a sure-fire way to help newcomers learn more about your community. They identify the newcomer at coffee hour so your volunteers can introduce themselves and answer any questions. And most of all, they leave an impression in the mind of the visitor.

To ensure that impression is positive here are a few tips to help you generate the best welcome package for first-time



Katie Moum/Unsplash

visitors.

Most of the content needed for the package should already exist on your website: who you

are, what worship is like on a typical Sunday morning, what life at your parish includes. Simply re-purpose this content into print format, preferably into a set of brochures.

The brochures need to be appealing. Not everyone is a graphic designer or has one who can volunteer their services. This is why I make judicious use of templates.

Both Apple Pages and Microsoft Publisher have professionally designed templates included with the software. Apple has over 100 + new brochure designs that can be downloaded for an extra 9.99 at the Apple Store and Microsoft 365 has an equal number available for download for your

favourite Microsoft program (Word, PowerPoint, Publisher) at templates.office.com

If you wish to break away from the templates that come with the software, both lucidpress.com and canva.com are excellent resources that give you access to fresh designs. Canva also allows you to match your design with Facebook banners images if you are planning an event. A bonus.

All of these brochures just require that the text is changed and new images added in the placeholders. They are designed to be drag and drop so that non-profits who cannot employ a graphic designer can still have professionally designed brochures.

Once the brochures are finished and printed in colour, I like to finish it off with a fridge magnet and a pen, all branded and all from Vista Print. Pop in some seasonal appropriate candy and then you have a welcome package that is professional and informative about the church.

Such a subtle way to leave an impression, but one that will leave a powerful impression that will have that first-time visitor returning again and again.

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

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Time for a new habit? Try theological reflection!

By Rev. Canon Val Kenyon

Did you know that theological reflection works in the same ways that our minds work?

When we find ourselves in a new situation, we typically draw on past experiences to help us decide whether we should choose a new way of responding or stay with something that has worked for us in the past. Out of habit we often choose solutions that have been tried and true, however, as we live in changing times, old ways of doing things are working less and less frequently and it may be that in making a new choice that transformation is possible.

While we can of course theologially reflect on our own, it can also be done with others as we hear their thoughts and



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.

and informal situations.

As we practice theological reflection we are bringing our own real-life experiences and drawing on Scripture and Christian tradition. As we reflect, we depend on God's Spirit showing us the way. In the end by God's grace, theological reflection offers us a new way of looking at things, and may even suggest new action for us to take.

Theological reflection is at the heart of the Efm program and a regular part of Efm sessions and participants get practice in reflecting with others also interested in learning more about it.

If you would like to learn

more about this or any other part of the Education for Ministry (Efm) program, please do not hesitate to be in with either 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.



Mike Labrum/Unsplash

reflections. With time and practice, reflecting becomes a

habit, and we will find ourselves returning to it in formal



AFC to award grants for projects addressing the crisis of climate change

Our planet is in peril because of climate change.

The Anglican Foundation of Canada challenges your parish to respond by upholding our Baptismal Covenant: "to safeguard the integrity of God's creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth." 20 grants of up to \$2,500 each will be awarded to parishes or dioceses for projects that foster sustainability, reduce the carbon footprint, and plant the seeds for change for a greener Canada.

Some initiatives that have already been undertaken by Anglican churches include:

- planning "low-carbon footprint" parish dinners
- installing energy-efficient dishwashers and low-flush toilets
- purchasing china mugs and plates
- putting service bulletins and meeting minutes online
- eliminating single-use plastic cutlery and bottles
- changing to energy-efficient light bulbs

AFC encourages you to be creative and imagine other ways to address climate change in your church. A small step can have a positive impact.

Proposals must meet all of the following criteria:

- new project to begin in 2020
- address the crisis of climate change by making a local change
- AFC grant may comprise up to 100% of the project budget
- endorsed by a diocesan bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada

The AFC Board of Directors will review proposals in May 2020 and announce those receiving grants in early June. Proposals submitted in response to this request do not count as one of the three submissions each diocese is allowed per year.

For more on criteria and to find a submission form, visit:

<https://www.anglicanfoundation.org/2019/08/RFP-2020-Criteria-Submission-Form.pdf>



imagine
what you could do
with \$2,500 ...

**2020 Request for Proposals
to address the
Crisis of Climate Change**

20 grants up to \$2,500 each available.
Submission deadline is April 1, 2020.

anglicanfoundation.org/rfp

ANGLICAN
FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Church is an ideal place to engage with climate change

By Rev. Chris
Brouillard-Coyle

*Got a package full of wishes,
a time machine, a magic wand,
a globe made out of gold*

*No instructions or command-
ments.*

*Laws of gravity
or indecisions to uphold.*

*Printed on the box I see
"Acme's build a world to be".
Take a chance, grab a piece
Help me to believe it.*

*What kind of world do you
want?*

Think anything.

Let's start at the start.

Build a masterpiece.

*Be careful what you wish for.
History starts now*

SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE



Markus Spiske/Unsplash

That no one would be stigmatised, demeaned or criminalised because of where they were born, what they believe or who they love?

- How would we ensure that all people had enough? Is it possible to have a world where making sure all workers have access to a living wage is at least as important as maximising profits and salaries for shareholders and CEOs?

- To what extent would the world we envision celebrate the gifts of all people? Would the

pieces of the puzzle include opportunities for everyone to nurture their gifts and find creative ways to share them with the world no matter how different they may be?

- In what ways would the world we create honour God's Creation? How might the 'masterpiece' we envision bring us closer to life in the Garden of Eden?

What kind of world do you want? Think anything. Let's start at the start. Build a masterpiece. Be careful what you

wish for. History starts now

This doesn't have to simply be a thought experiment. There are moments and ways in which we can actively seek to transform unjust structures, pursue peace and reconciliation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth. In fact, this is the work we are called to do as Christians!

One of the ways we can live into this mission is through our participation in the electoral systems available to us. Elections can be an opportunity for this kind of fresh start. They give us a chance to reflect on what is important and what we would like to see happen in the years to follow. Elections give us a chance to engage with candidates, asking questions that can reveal the extent to which they too are committed to building a better world that more accurately reflects the ideals of the Gospel.

As we prepare to cast our votes in the Federal election in the next month, what would it be like to consider the ways in which the policies and practices proposed by candidates illustrate a commitment to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being? What questions might we ask that

will help to reveal a desire to safeguard the integrity of God's Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth? Are we willing to hold our Federal politicians to the high standard of Gospel values as they seek to lead this county during a time of such populism and division? (For helpful resources to assist in engaging in the Federal Election process check out: <https://cpj.ca/2019-federal-election/>)

What about the candidates for Bishop? What questions might we ask of them as we consider how they may lead us in being prophetic in this time? To what extent do we see the role of Bishop as one who will inspire us to not only dream but act in ways that bring our world closer to the 'masterpiece' we envision through the Good News of Jesus Christ?

What kind of world do you want? What kind of Canada do you want? What kind of Diocese do you want? Now is the time to consider the possibilities. Now is the time to ask the hard questions. Now is the time to dream and then vote. Be careful what you wish for. History starts now.

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

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Freely give, freely you have received

By Andra Townshend O'Neill

Freely freely you have received

Feely freely give

*Go in my name and because
you believe*

Others will know that I live.

(Lyrics by Maranatha)



Annie Spratt/Unsplash

was for - a place of refuge, hospitality and renewal and of course, a meal. The rector and committee wanted to invite the teenagers of this county into one of the most historic buildings of their community to let them know that they were welcome - that this church was their place too. Within a few months 500 students were coming for lunch once a month. Coming and staying, filling the hall and the church, with the church itself being one of the

most popular places to eat their pizza. The opportunity to talk to Wendy the rector, ask her questions about the holy things around them and things they wonder about - baptism, Jesus, religion while eating pizza with their friends, is a gift that will shape their lives. The church has become a place that teenagers have begun to think of as their own, where they can talk about how they think and how they feel or they can just leave

with their pizza. All because it is free - they regularly confirm with us that it is free and exclaim over and over how grateful they are.

Freely give...

Because you believe, others will know that I live.

For the summer I moved on to another church as a summer Intern where I witnessed the same approach to outreach. Plans were underway to pick up items for their yard sale which they would be selling without prices on them. The policy is to ask people to pay what they think is fair or reasonable for them. What a change in the environment of this sale. Immediately it became Christian outreach. The neighbourhood and greater community gathered together, everyone was able to take home something new to them that was either affordable or free and in the end the church raised \$1000. It was not a fundraiser but an event designed to invite, to welcome and to bring joy to others, that raised some money for the church along the way.

And that is the St. Mark's way. Vacation Bible School was the same. Sixteen children, seven teens, five parents, eight adult volunteers, 36 people in total attended a week long VBS packed with stories about how

much God loves us, snacks, crafts, games, all at no cost to those who were invited in. Given freely by the community at St. Mark's to those invited in. Everyone is welcome, appreciated and received with joy.

This kind of giving and welcoming changes a community. It brings a joy that has been missing in some of us that have been trying diligently to fundraise, save dollars and cents and pay the bills to keep our churches open. We have been doing so many of the right things, trying to be good rational stewards. However, we are first and foremost Stewards of the gospel.

When we give freely, to welcome openly to help others to receive the grace of God, we begin to see our budgets in a new way. We begin to see God at work in our invitations and when we tell God's story and we become energized with hope and faith in the future of our mission as a church. We begin to fill up with the Spirit and energy of God, that endless gift of grace that we have been given so freely so that we can give freely in return.

Andra Townshend O'Neill is MDiv. Postulant and a member of the diocesan Stewardship Committee.

Entering the third chapter: a vision of later life

"As the wheel inevitably turns,
how will we live?"
(Sparrow Heart)



As I See It

REV. JIM
INNES

We enter the third chapter of life somewhat unconsciously. Almost naturally sidestepping any thought of our diminishing life span. Except, of course, those pesky birthdays that we'd sooner forget than celebrate.

When approaching this third chapter, marked by the years between fifty and seventy-five, the world tends to get a little smaller. There is the loss of people we love, the loss of our power in the working world, the loss of predictable health, and the loss of dreams once held so importantly. These are



Diana Spataru/Unsplash

but a few grief-related issues.

Aging can, at times, feel bleak and, for some, depressing and laborious. Nonetheless, as suggested by renowned Harvard researcher, Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, "We must develop a compelling vision of later life: one that does not assume a trajectory of decline after fifty, but one that recognizes it as a time of change, growth,

and new learning; a time when 'our courage gives us hope.'"

As I see it, this third chapter of life presents us with unprecedented potential for being fully alive. It is rich with hard-earned wisdom and well-earned compassion. And, as we walk deeper into this third chapter, the louder we hear the call to live congruently with our true self.

Sparrow Heart, a gifted elder, said it well, "As the body and ego diminish, Soul and Spirit can be embodied as master and sage, generating and gifting active wisdom and compassion to a yearning world. The struggles of a lifetime may recede, and our true nature as conscious and loving beings is revealed to us."

In the third chapter, life is no longer about accumulation and drive...but instead, letting go and humility. On this path, we tend to enter grief willingly. Knowing that joy waits patiently on the other side. A process that may have, in the early years of our life, been overshadowed, or swallowed up, by more energetic tasking... and the avoidance of any form of death.

It has been my experience that the "diminishing" body and ego accompanies an urge to be of service. Not that being of service isn't a choice made earlier in life, but now, in the third chapter, the act becomes

increasingly organic. And as organic, less ritualized and more spontaneous.

Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot puts it this way, "This third chapter is a stage in life when the traditional norms, rules, and rituals of our careers seem less encompassing and restrictive." And in her book, *Third Chapter*, she gives many examples of post-career men and women flowing into these latter years with an inspiring vision of how to put giving at the center of living.

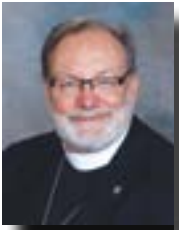
As the wheel inevitably turns, we can find ourselves living a truly connected lifestyle; connected to ourselves, our friends, our community, and our God. There is no stop to the process of becoming more of who we are meant to be. And the third chapter can be an exciting ride to new heights of creative living.

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

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Listening to the Divine guidance

Before you read this article, I invite you to pause for a moment, take a deep breath and slowly exhale.



A VIEW FROM
THE BACK PEW

REV. CANON
CHRISTOPHER
B. J. PRATT

Alright, now do that once again.

In the brief period of time you have just spent concentrating on breathing, you have experienced one of the key and essential divine gifts necessary for human life. It is a gift which is so much a part of how we function as human beings that it may slip by and go unappreciated.

As I write this article the prayer life of many of us has a focus on the area of this global village which our companion Diocese of Amazonia calls home. As wildfires sweep through a part of the world many have referred to as the, "Earth's lungs", we find ourselves helplessly watching to see what the full extent of the destruction may eventually prove to be.

Closer to home, each of us may be able to name those moments, places or people who have been identified for us as needing our prayerful support. The requests for prayerful intercession on our part may be lengthy, but at all times we need



Patrick Schneider/Unsplash

to recognize the expectation that we would not be asked to offer our prayers, if the person making the request did not feel that our prayers would make a difference.

Anger, grief, resentment and many issues too numerous to name seem to get in the way of our awareness of the God given gifts which are ours.

Some may feel that there is a certain amount of inadequacy to the statement, "You are in my thoughts and prayers". If that is a message which stands alone, then perhaps the criticism has a degree of merit. There is a link between holding

a moment, a place or a person in our thoughts and prayers and any possible action we might take that might have any influence on the focus of our prayerful petition.

As representatives from across our Diocese meet to elect new episcopal leadership for the Diocese of Huron, we need to keep all who are able to vote in that election in our thoughts and prayers. Discerning the guidance of the Holy Spirit is an essential factor in any Diocesan gathering where the framework for future ministry begins to take shape. This is one of those moments.

Where we have delegated the electoral process in the life of the Church into the hands of others, there is another election for which our full participation is required. We not only need to keep our nation in our thoughts and prayers as we are called to the polls, but we must be ready to exercise our respon-

sibility as Canadian citizens to vote. Thoughts and prayers, in this instance are translated into action. We then must live with the results of our collective action.

In a world filled with turmoil and distress what is our role as a community of faith and as individuals rooted in a relationship with Jesus? How do we model the message of peace and concord that we yearn for? Are we guilty of being the focus of the message of the prophet Jeremiah, who berated those who offered a false message of "peace, peace; when there is no peace" (Jeremiah 6:14)?

Words have power. The words of our prayers and the words of our lips whispered into the ears of those around us have an energy which we may or may not fully grasp. As we offer our prayers seeking Divine guidance in helping us to face a moment, a crisis or a personal relationship, the words we use are energized by the actions we take.

Do our words cause hurt and frustration? Perhaps they should not have used in the first place. Do our words build relationships of trust or tear them down? Perhaps a different course of action might have been considered. Do our words generate a feeling of inclusion or exclusion? The trauma of that question is rippling across the Anglican Church of Canada at this moment.

In the midst of the pressing issues which seem to beset us and sometimes seem to overwhelm us, we are called

upon to always be mindful of the many blessings which have been given to us. The Attitude of Gratitude which we are asked to claim as the way in which we view the world around us is sometimes a difficult perspective to take. Anger, grief, resentment and many issues too numerous to name seem to get in the way of our awareness of the God given gifts which are ours. Narrowing our focus on those elements of our lives for which we need to offer our thanks helps us to truly value and appreciate what is essential, even the very gift of life itself.

Once again, I ask you to take a moment and breathe in, slowly exhale.

Again.

Still your heart and soul and mind. Be open to the movement of the Holy Spirit in your life and in this moment. Gather together all the cares, concerns, worries, anxieties of your life. Take the load off your shoulders and place those burdens down. Be still. Listen well. Listen well to the Divine guidance which you will experience as an answer to your prayers, then let the words you offer and the actions you take be an expression of God's Healing Love in God's World and in the lives of the individuals whose lives touch yours.

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

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Are we done or are we just getting restarted?

Keith's top 10 or so things that we might think about in advance of the Episcopal election.

For some reason, I've had to argue with myself for the better part of a week about writing this column or not.



**MOSTLY ABOUT
RELIGION**

**REV. CANON
KEITH
NETHERY**

After nearly 25 years in ordained ministry, I think I have the background and experience that makes expressing my thoughts appropriate, for the sole reason of promoting dialogue.

You see, this will almost certainly be the final time I participate in an Electoral Synod. For the sixth time, I will gather with others to listen for the Spirit's direction in selecting a new Pastor (remember this choice of title, it will come up again.) It is a privilege that I take seriously and prayerfully.

So why the argument with myself?

Well, my first thought was to write a column about what I see as the issues before this Diocese (and in a wider sense the Anglican Church of Canada), not as a means to direct support to any candidate, but rather simply to provide my own personal window into what we all might think about as we approach October 26.

So what's the argument? Well, why should I get to share my ideas? Perhaps even more central to my inner struggle: will anyone really care?

To be honest, these are ideas that I have pondered for quite some time, even though many have been rejected when raised before. This might well make this column equivalent to leading with one's chin. But if I don't share them out loud now, there might not be another chance.

So here goes: Keith's top 10 or so things that we might think about in advance of the Episcopal election.

1) We are shrinking (some might say this is an under-statement). If what we have done isn't working, why aren't we thinking outside the



Primatial election, General Synod 2019

Photo: Milos Tosic

box? Our structure hasn't been significantly overhauled in how long? (We might still have had stables on our properties when this last got a serious once over.)

2) Given rapidly growing technology, communication, transportation, and a few more -ology's and -ations; isn't it time that we considered joining with Niagara or Toronto or both?

3) Nearly 30 years ago, in the Diocese of Calgary, as a lay person, I participated in a discussion on the potential of changing the way we deploy clergy. It went nowhere and there hasn't seemed to be a much warmer response in several revisits of the idea, until a London chat two years ago. Is it not time that we look at sharing our gifts, rather than the one priest – one church model that has dominated for decades? Deploying clergy at the deanery or archdeaconry levels would allow the ultimate flexibility required to meet new, changing and exciting trends. This would somewhat match the evolution we have seen in a wide variety of institutions as we make the best use of emerging technology and communication to provide the best overall service at a time when financial resources are strained.

4) Is it not time that we realize that we are building rich and people poor; the exact opposite to what we need to be in today's world? While I share

in the love of historic buildings and wanting the comfort of familiar spaces, I am very much aware that this will be our ending. If we don't immediately make it a clear and stated priority that our decisions will be made as to "the needs of those who have not yet joined", then we are a generation away from extinction. In other words, what we want must be less important and what society needs must be more important.

5) In light of number four, can we also state that Jesus is what it's all about? That's the radical Jesus, the compassionate Jesus, the inclusive Jesus, the loving Jesus, the just Jesus, the Jesus we have known and the new Jesus that we embrace as the Spirit reveals.

6) I realize that the Anglican Church is known as a traditional church and in some ways that is a good thing. However, in other ways, the things we do are rapidly increasing the sense of irrelevance society and culture feels about us. I mean, we still call a worship book from 1985 our "new" book. Technology is upon us, around us and screaming at us. Its okay to try new things musically, liturgically, structurally; even if (and maybe more appropriately because) this makes us uncomfortable.

7) Our image needs a reboot. Maybe we don't want to go as far as preachers in jeans and t-shirts or bishops in an Alb

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and stole, or maybe we do. Rather than continually saying the way we do it is the way we do it, maybe we should ask people outside our walls what they know about us, and if what they know is comfortable or off-putting? I have tried to explain our titles to people and their eyes glaze over and their minds disengage and they simply say, "Why?"

8) Is our Bishop our Pastor, our Administrator, our Authority, some combination? It seems to me we haven't necessarily given this a whole lot of thought. We elect a bishop and tell them to do the bishop thing as it has always been done. Maybe it might be a good idea for us to have a conversation about the bishop's expectations and our expectations and if they even reside in the same galaxy? Personally, I would like to see bishops absolved of all administration functions and encouraged to be pastors and visionaries.

9) New models of ministry are a good thing, no they are a great thing! They make us take number four, seriously. Can we find a process that focuses on evaluation and change rather than insists on stability and sameness? Heads up, this will only happen if we are all intentional about making this happen.

10) I said 10 or so, so here is a bit of a hodge-podge of things to think about. Why is confirmation still an episcopal office? Since baptism is now seen as full admission to the church, we're watching confirmation flounder for a variety of reasons. Because we've always done it this way isn't a good enough reason to continue. If I suggested that every Anglican in Huron visit a different Anglican church at least once (can I push it and say twice) a year, how many would do it? If we aren't comfortable going

to a "new" church, how can we expect people who have never walked in the door of a church to make the first step? Maybe if we challenged ourselves with new experiences, we would learn much about welcoming new people in our midst. Why do we insist on keeping churches open long past the time there is any hope of revitalizing them? Is failure the way we want to be remembered? If our new bishop said, "I want everyone to try this one new thing", how many of us would do it? It is long past time for us to end the use of the parliamentary system as the means of doing Diocesan business.

So there is my hardly exhaustive list of things we might contemplate while we contemplate who our next bishop might be. Some of the things I suggest are very serious and some more than just a little tongue in cheek. But with every word I have written I am hoping that as a family we will take this as a watershed moment in our history as the Diocese of Huron, an opportunity to ask serious questions, to be willing to hear new answers, to ask God to challenge us, and promise that we will respond, not with the same old same old, but with an exuberance and excitement that will be contagious.

People have been predicting the end of the Anglican Church of Canada, and all its subsets for most, if not all of the quarter century that I have served as a member of the clergy. I personally think that if we don't soon take some risks, make some vibrant changes, they will be right in their prognostication. So, what say you – are we done or are we just getting restarted?

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