



WATERLOO IN EL SALVADOR: DEMOCRACY IN ACTION
Church participation in the public square.
Page 9

FROM OWNERSHIP TO STEWARDSHIP
Easter upends the culture of ownership and finite resources.
Page 10

EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO TELL OUR STORY
The launch of diocesan Communications Committee.
Page 5



HURON CHURCH NEWS

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON • Huron Church News is a section of the Anglican Journal • MAY 2018

Our voices will be heard

Standing for the things we believe in

On March 7, Lily Ryan, a Grade 7 student from London, Ontario walked out of class at Lord Roberts public school leading a group of 30 students to show their support for the victims of a horrible school shooting in Parkland, Florida, on February 14.

She and her classmates formed a circle on the lawn in front of the school, sitting in silence for 17 minutes — 60 seconds for each Parkland victim.

The 13-year old is a member of St. James Westminster, a proud Anglican who talks about her faith with her friends and who thinks that we have to live out our beliefs in everyday life. The Bible tells us to do what's right, says Lily, and that is exactly what she did. Two and a half weeks later, more than 300 Londoners followed Lily's lead at a protest march in Victoria Park. Lily and her friends were there.

On Pentecost Sunday, the Anglicans across Huron will gather at St. Paul's Cathedral for the opening of the 177th Synod of Huron.

This year's theme is DISCIPLESHIP. Does Lily's story give us any direction? Does it tell us that while abiding in God's word, we may contribute to a wider community?

Will our voices be heard?

(More on Lily in Rev. Keith Nethery's column "Mostly about Religion", p. 12)

Lily Ryan at the protest march in Victoria Park.

Photo: Julie Ryan



Discipleship: living out our beliefs in everyday life

By Sandra Coulson

Of the five Marks of Mission, it could well be argued the two that give Anglicans the most difficulty are Discipleship and Evangelism.

Synod in the Diocese of Huron this year will step right up to the challenge of at least Discipleship, with Bishop Linda Nicholls identifying it as the major theme for the gathering May 27-29.

"The bishop felt that's one area where Anglicans generally need to look at (and) work at," said Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs, the executive archdeacon of the diocese.

"The idea is there will be some emphasis on: What does it mean to follow Jesus, to be his disciple and how do we help people do that in parish communities?"

For Tanya, discipleship should express itself in ordinary life.

"Some folks think of the 12 Disciples or they read the biographies of spiritual giants

like Desmond Tutu and think, 'That's not me!' But what's most inspiring to me are the folks who live out their beliefs in their everyday life – their family, their job, their community."

She points to statistics that indicate religious people are overrepresented among community service workers and donors to charity. "And one presumes that flows out of what we believe," she says.

But why do so many Anglicans struggle with the connection between discipleship and regular life? It's a question that causes Tanya to pause before speaking.

"Some of it comes from our background as a church, that sense that religion is very private. So some of the things you do to grow in discipleship, like discussing your faith with each other – not even with people who are not in the church, that's evangelism – in a small group or a Bible study and to pray together is not something that was often done over the generations in the Anglican Church," she says.

See Page 8



Photo: Sandra Coulson

Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs: Why do so many Anglicans struggle with the connection between discipleship and regular life.

**177th Synod of the Diocese of Huron
London, Ontario, May 27-29, 2018**



HURON CHURCH NEWS

Volume 68, Number 5

Submissions

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

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Deadline

Monday, May 21
for the June edition

Subscriptions

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

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

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

Publisher

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190 Queens Avenue
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Phone: 519-434-6893

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

Printer

Printed and mailed by
Webnews Printing
North York, Ontario

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

How do we hear God's Spirit?

In a few weeks we will celebrate the end of the Easter season with the feast of Pentecost.



**BISHOP
LINDA
NICHOLLS**

On this day the earliest disciples received the powerful gift of the Holy Spirit that would be their guide, companion and strength to live and proclaim the gospel. That same Holy Spirit is guaranteed to all the baptized generation after generation and is ours today, both individually and as a diocesan family when we gather to make decisions in Synod as we will do later in May.

How do we hear God's Spirit as the body of Christ? That process is the practice of discernment. Although we use voting as a tool for hearing the will of Synod it is always to be preceded and accompanied by the practices of discernment. Those practices include the reading and study of Scripture to hear about God's relationship with humankind in the past. We then engage in prayer that allows time for both offering our concerns and intercessions and silence in which we can hear God. We examine our tradition to hear how the Church has understood and practiced our



Rublev: Holy Trinity (detail)

faith through history. We also listen closely to and observe our sisters and brothers in Christ to see where and how we see and hear the Spirit at work through them. We are invited to ask if the proposed action is consistent with God's love, mercy, and justice. Is it an action that will be life-giving for the diocese and our people and all Christians? It is a process that requires faithful commitment, open hearts and minds and deep humility.

Sometimes God's people find themselves in disagreement, even deep and profound disagreement. That is not unusual! The Church moves slowly and carefully in discerning actions in its life and at any point in the history of the Church there have been some that took

decades and centuries to reach consensus. From arguments over the nature of the Creeds to the discernment of who can be ordained we have lived with disagreements. The discernment in our own Anglican Church of Canada about the possibility of the remarriage of divorced persons began in 1892 and was decided in 1967. It is still not widely accepted across the Anglican Communion. Neither is the ordination of women as priests and bishops.

These decisions are in a process of 'reception'. To 'receive' these as movements of God's Spirit for the whole church asks Christians to discern whether they see the gifts of God's Spirit at work in these decisions and their outcomes. Whenever I travel to other parts of the Communion I am aware that my life and witness are part of the 'reception' of the ordination of women, especially as bishops.

In the meantime we are brothers and sisters in Christ, baptized into the one Body of Christ, and so are one at the table of the Lord. Whether we agree or not on all matters of doctrine or theology or diocesan practice we are family. We are bound together in Christ and that requires us to listen to one another, to pray together, to read Scripture together, to share our experience of the love of God in Christ and discover what each brings to our decisions that needs to be heard.

The Holy Spirit of Pentecost

has been given to each and every member of Synod. Each member is called on to carefully prepare themselves for Synod and the discernment we will share together. The whole diocese is asked to pray for the Synod as it meets and discerns.

It is my privilege to serve on the Primate's Task Group which is seeking ways for our Anglican Communion to strengthen its ties in the midst of deep differences on a number of issues. Sitting in meetings with Anglicans from Asia, Africa, the USA, Australia, England, Ireland and Pakistan we discover that though we may be in disagreement at times, we are all committed to our faith in Christ. We are learning why we may find ourselves in different places on some issues and are learning to hear God in the scripture and in prayer in different ways through one another.

At a recent task group meeting one member noted that Christians of other denominations are watching Anglicans closely to see how we will find ways to remain together as a family in God in and through differences and disagreements. Our commitment to staying together to listen and discern and to find ways to live together is a witness beyond our Anglican Communion. I pray that we, as the Diocese of Huron, will be part of that witness, loving one another as we discern God's way together.

+ Linda

Being disciples: abiding in God's word

By Rev. Val Kenyon

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
John 8:31,32

As we gather again as a diocesan family at the end of May, it is always good to see one another again. As happens when we reconnect, we will speak about our joys, our sorrows, our accomplishments and our frustrations, and everything in between because sharing in one another's lives is what families do.

Bishop Linda has asked us to gather this year around the theme of Being Disciples-Abiding in God's Word. And so, bound together in Christ, we come to be reminded and to learn more about what it is to be a disciple of Jesus, allowing God's Word, enlivened by the Holy Spirit, to sink deeply within our hearts working in us all

that is possible.

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (Huron) continues our usual practice of providing materials for a Synod Prayer Vigil to direct our prayers for all that will be considered and discussed during our time together.

A simple format is provided to allow for prayers to be said both by those at Synod and by those praying from home. Prayer vigils material were sent in April to all of the rectors throughout Huron as well as to AFP parish reps. If you do not have a parish rep, or would simply like a copy of these materials, please visit diocesan website (<http://www.diohuron.org/ministries>) or let me know by e-mailing: vkkenyon@rogers.com and I would be pleased to send a copy of the prayers to you directly.

At Synod again this year we will all be invited to participate in a "Synod Prayer Wall", with regular opportunities being

given throughout our meetings to respond in prayer to what is being said, bringing together on the wall by Synod's end, a collection of our deepest hopes and longings for this Diocese, our loved ones, and indeed our role as participants in God's mission to the world.

As well at our Anglican Fellowship of Prayer table you will be welcomed to have a look at our latest resources, and upcoming events in Huron. We do hope you will stop by for a visit.

Rev. Val Kenyon is AFP diocesan representative.



ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER

God of truth and freedom,
as we gather for this our 177th Synod of the Diocese of Huron,
we thank you for the gift of your Word,
and its power to lead and guide us in all things.

We ask that you would continue to teach us
what it is to be a disciple of Jesus in all that we do,
in all that we are, and in all that we are becoming.

Help us to be open to your Spirit,
and to understand afresh each day
what it is to journey with you and to abide in your Word.

Loving God, who is above all and through all and in all,
we ask this in the name of your Son our Saviour.

Available on diocesan website:

Habitat for Humanity in Essex: the Anglican touch

By Rev. Andrew Wilson

Sixty-four. That is the number of Habitat for Humanity houses that have been built in Essex.

Saturday April 7, 2018 in Leamington saw the groundbreaking of what was an abandoned and derelict house, now an empty lot prepared for this build in anticipation of a family.

The day opened with the words of Dr. King, murdered nearly fifty years to the day, speaking of justice and lifting people up, imagining a world where there is not more want, no more poverty. God was there at the groundbreaking, as God has been there since the first day. I was not the only person invoking the name of our Lord.

I was asked to offer the blessing for a reason. In October of 2017, St John the Evangelist was called to inquire if we knew anyone who would be interested in the house. I knew the



Groundbreaking in Leamington, April 7, 2018.

perfect candidate: our deputy warden Kelley Beauchamp.

Kelley and her family, Matt, Keegan and Savanna, had come into our lives in the last few years. They are energetic, full of grace and ideas and they have all become active members.

Kelley has helped with several ministries, and championed many initiatives, not the least of which has been our monthly Pasta Dinner – creator of our now famous and delicious GIANT meat balls.

She has described the entire process as being God's provi-

dence, too many things have happened that point to God's hand. She enjoyed and looked forward with hope through each step of the process, stress not withstanding, and with each step she was more hopeful and encouraged, yet always concerned that perhaps there was another family that was more in need. Such is her loving nature.

Each checkpoint was completed one-by-one, and we were all overjoyed when she and her family were chosen.

And so, we stood in the sun

and unseasonable cold with the Beauchamp family and Habitat Board. We were joined by the mayor, deputy mayor, a councillor or two, MP, MPP, and recently elected Caldwell Nation chief and fellow parishioners and supporters.

We joined in prayers, listened to dignitary greetings, and participated in a smudging after acknowledgment of the Traditional Land finding new life. Kelley and her family share ties with First Nations peoples, making this even more special.

We were told how every dollar invested in Habitat houses nets FOUR in benefit for the area. How the neighbours came out to chat with Habitat when the old house was demolished, thrilled at the new possibilities. How the Government at all levels is able to help in this transformation through grants. How local companies donate materials and time. How these builds benefit the entire community.

After the paperwork was completed, showing the blueprints to her children, they laid claim to their rooms. They all felt God's blessings. Almost overwhelmed with emotions, too many to put words to Kelley said, though two are still in front: surreal and blessed beyond measure. As we finished with a BBQ at the Re-Store, Kelley commented to the manager that Habitat lives the Five Marks of Mission. Soon several parishioners and I began to count to five on our fingers together: Tell, Tend, Teach, Treasure and Transform – we were experiencing all of them today.

You can look up Habitat's history for yourself, but I will tell you that it was started by a farmer and Biblical scholar. The plan was to partner to build affordable, not-for-profit housing for families

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

The path to reconciliation: Anglicans and Lutherans walk together in Waterloo



Bishop Mark MacDonald brought insights from Indigenous spirituality

By Rev. Marty Levesque

Throughout this past Lent, Anglicans and Lutherans in the Waterloo area joined together to walk the path of reconciliation.

Each Wednesday, All Saints' Anglican Church, St Columba Anglican Church, Christ Lutheran Church and Mount Zion Lutheran gathered together for a speaker series focused on reconciliation and the Truth and Reconciliations Commission's call to action #59.

The program began by building an understanding of the Doctrine of Discovery, UNDRIP (United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples), the Indian Act and the Residential Schools system.

Our first speaker, Bishop Mark MacDonald, brought insights from Indigenous Spirituality to Christian Theology. The Good Walk or 4 Directional Thinking reminded us that we should experience the Gospel truths from all sides, as one experiences a mountain from all

sides when they walk around it.

At the core of Bishop Mark's message is the principle or idea of relationships that are formed through time spent in community. Bishop Mark encouraged all to participate where they can in a blanket exercise, visiting the Six Nations and the Woodland Cultural Center or attending a Pow Wow.

Next, Rev. Tom Patterson from the Diocese of Huron Bridge Builders reminded us of the importance of discovering both our differences and similarities as we come into relationship. The Bridge Builders do this with balanced representation on the working group while being attentive to not force that relationship or for settlers to take over.

Rev. Rosalyn Elm helped the participants to decolonize our Western theology and use insights from Indigenous Spirituality to create new insights into scripture. Western Theology tends to look from the Fall on-

ward, seeing humanity as sinful, while Indigenous Spirituality looks back to the Garden, proposing that we are living in the Garden of Eden as it is not just spiritual but real.

Through sharing our sacred stories we are also able to better understand our own stories by receiving a new lens in which to experience scripture. Rosalyn poignantly highlighted this with a telling of the Haudenosaunee creation story and using that to interpret Genesis.

To close out our time in Lent together, Deacon Scott Knarr shared tangible examples of reconciliation in action. Deacon Scott has helped develop and participates in a music camp on the Six Nations, which operates both summer camps and Tuesday after-school programming. (musicforthespirit.ca)

Scott brought into focus for the group the importance of relationships, of walking reconciliation with one person at a time and that reconciliation cannot be rushed or we will just tip the canoe.

The thread that connected all the various topics and speakers was relationships. The path to reconciliation can only be travelled by mending the broken relationships between settlers and First Nations. This was a powerful insight as we are reminded in the season of Lent that it is through Christ that our broken relationship with God is reconciled and our sins are forgiven.

Rev. Marty Levesque is the rector of All Saints' in Waterloo.

The Lightning breakfast at the Church of the Ascension, London



By Sandra Coulson

The monthly Community Breakfast at Church of the Ascension hit new heights in March when members of the London Lightning professional basketball team came out to help serve the meal and sign autographs.

Karen and Rob Robinson, two of the volunteers at Ascension's breakfast, made the connection with the Lightning, a team in the National Basketball League of Canada.

The Robinsons are loyal fans of the team and in the team's seven years, they've been friendly with the team owner, Vito Frijia, and the players. As an aside, it was Vito's company, Southside Construction, that built Ascension in 2002.

Rob said he was talking with the owner one day when Vito asked him if he would be at the

next game. Rob said he wouldn't because he and Karen had to prepare for the Community Breakfast.

"The owner said, 'Oh, I didn't know you had a Community Breakfast. Would you like some of the players to come serve?'" Rob recalled.

Eleven players and two coaches came out to the March 20 breakfast. They rotated between an autograph table in the Gathering Space at the entrance of the church and dishing out foods like bacon, eggs, toast, jams, and oatmeal in the Parish Hall.

Head coach Keith Vassell said the team has a community outreach person who regularly connects the team with different community events and organizations. "This group of guys really enjoys meeting people," he added.

Photo: London Lightning players Marcus Capers, centre, and Yohanny Dalembert help Ascension member Marilyn Youell dish out hot breakfast items at the Community Breakfast at Church of the Ascension in March.

Take the Cake: Essex Deanery Birthday-in-a-Bag Epiphany event

By Cynthia Connell

The second annual Epiphany outreach project for Essex Deanery ended on February 24 with a birthday bags assembly at St. James' Roseland (Windsor). More than 500 birthday kits were assembled and delivered to food banks and local shelters in support of children who are not able to celebrate their birthday with a cake.

Cake mixes, icing, candles, cake pans and party decorations were collected throughout the deanery between January 7 and February 11. It was a wonderful feeling when children ages 6-85 finally came together to assemble the kits to help those in need to provide a 2018 birthday celebration for their child.

A time of outreach and fellowship saw this dream carry on for a second year. In Epiphany of 2017 the Deanery of Essex came together to make the

vision of one youth come true. Jessica Flammia of St. James' Roseland had been helping at a local food bank and when a family came in she suddenly realized that many children were not celebrating their birthday with a cake. So she shared her vision of collecting supplies to assemble and donate 365 birthday cake kits to local food banks (her thought was every day someone celebrates a birthday), to local youth leaders.

God calls us as Christians to feed the poor, to reach out to those in need, to love one another. During Advent and Lent it seems to be a bit easier for those in the secular world to remember this and engage in their community, be generous and kind and help those around them. As Christians we need to find opportunities to do this every day.

The Anglican community in

the Deanery of Essex now continues that spirit into Epiphany — a time when we continue the celebration of one of the greatest gifts we as Christians have received. The birth of Jesus became an opportunity to celebrate the birth of many others who need the light of Christ shown to them. Imagine how one simple brown paper bag containing birthday cake supplies can change a child's day, week, month or year!

Great job Jessica, the many volunteers and the parishes in Essex Deanery.

Your kindness, compassion, outreach and care will touch the lives of over 500 families this year and bring the love of God into their homes through the love in your hearts and hands.

Cynthia Connell is the co-ordinator of Youth and Children's Ministry Essex Deanery



Hand Bells at Holy Trinity/ St. Paul's, Chatham



Back Row: Don Pole, Bill Elders, Ann Koop; Middle Row: Jaelyne Feetham, Sue Martin; Front Row: Jane Pole, Laura Feetham, Mary Elders, Jim Pepper, Beth Myers (director), Jane Currie

The newly formed Hand Bell Choir played on Sunday, March 4, both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services of the reorganized parish of Holy Trinity/St. Paul's, Chatham.

These beautiful hand bells were given and dedicated in memory of Lois Pepper by her husband James Pepper. Lois was organist and music director at the former St. Paul's Anglican Church, Chatham and died in December of 2016.

This is a wonderful legacy to enhance the music ministry as the parish moves forward to worship God in special ways.

Ann Koop

Correction to the 2017 Apportionment report from congregations

The congregation of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener paid 100% of their apportionment budget of \$56,016 for last year.

The Diocese is apologetic for the mistaken receipt.

Paul Rathbone, Secretary-Treasurer

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More online at Huron, and Religion & Nature and Liturgy: How & Why We Worship at Renison University College, Waterloo!

* The Saugeens Theology Series!

Some licentiate courses are hosted by St. George's, The Blue Mountains, Clarksburg (marked above with "**") that can stand alone or be used toward the Licentiate in Theology certificate. Billets available.

For more about the LTh, these courses & to register:

www.huronuc.ca/LTh

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How to empower people to tell our story

In conversation with the Rev. Canon Keith Nethery, diocesan Communications Committee chair

The beginning of this year saw the formal launch of the Communications Committee in the Diocese of Huron - an idea initiated by diocesan youth group at Synod back in 2015.

Bishop Linda Nicholls appointed the Rev. Canon Keith Nethery as the Committee chair. Having served for years as the diocesan media officer, Nethery is aware of the challenges the Committee may face. Yet he thinks that this new attempt to reboot and restart the efforts to facilitate the creation of a stable diocesan communication network throughout parishes and ministries has some good things going for it.

Nethery: This time, we have people from all over the Diocese and we continue to recruit from around Huron to be a part of this. And we are looking for people with specific skill sets - people who have been or are in communications in their ongoing life.

It does not mean that they have to be radio announcers like myself or Rob Henderson, or newspaper editor like Sandra Coulson, it can be somebody who's had drama experience, somebody who's written for a local paper or magazine, or decided at one time in their life that they wanted to write a book and actually wrote it - maybe it didn't go anywhere, but it's a good experience, they understand the whole communication thing.

One of the things that this Committee wants to look at doing is to go around to the



"I'll tell you my story; you respond with your story": Rev. Canon Keith Nethery (right) in conversation with representatives of diocesan youth ministry Rev. Paul Poolton (centre) and Kyle Gascho.

various deaneries and do some communication workshops. We would ask, "OK, what do you want to learn about communication?", and then we back that up with, "here is what we want to show you".

HCN: So, basically the Committee is there to motivate and empower people across the diocese, to enable them to tell our story in the current communications setting?

Nethery: My philosophy has always been that communication is simply "I tell you my story; you respond with your story". And we go back and

forth until we have completed the act of communication in that we understand each other. That's what communication has always been about. The trick for today is how do we adapt it to a limited number of characters for twitter, how can we make it short enough that we can tweet it or text it; how do we put it on a website. The same applies to traditional print. In days gone by, HCN might only have two or three pictures, while now pictures are the thing. You must have that splash and dash, that marketing appeal and charisma.

"We need the support of every person in the diocese. Every person who reads this in HCN needs to say: I wonder what I can do to help tell our story; what's my church's story; is it a history story, is it a story of young people going forward, is it a story of how old our building is, or how new our building is, or what's happening that's completely unbelievable, or, maybe, it's how our community fits into wider community in which we live."

HCN: Sounds pretty simple, almost technical?

Nethery: And we know it's not. Because, at the same time, we have to face a more challenging issue. What is it that we want to communicate - that is the toughest question we have to ask. Do we want to communicate the church as it was 20 years ago? The church as it is today? Or the church where it will be 20 years from now? Or a combination of all those things? I am not sure that I have run into too many people in the church that really know what we want to communicate. What is it that we want to say in communication, what's our story?

That's the basic discussion that we need to have, not just at the Committee level, but at the diocesan level, so that we come to understand who we believe that we are. Because our story is just who we are and how we tell what we know and understand.

HCN: This means that we can have all kinds of stories and profiles at once, and that they all work at the same time?

Nethery: Exactly. What we need to do is have everyone come to the well and drink of the idea that we have to tell our story. And that means: what is the story; how do you write it; how do you tell it.

Today we have so many ways to communicate, but no more understanding of how to communicate than we did 30, 40 or 50 years ago. What we've got to do is take all the gifts and

talents that we have and marry them together.

That's a long-term process, but we have to start it. We keep starting and stopping. I hope that what we're doing now is starting something that slowly as a group, as more people come aboard, and more people are attuned to the idea what it is to tell our story, that we can slowly move forward, one step at a time.

We are pretty new at this, because we only had a couple of meetings, but I think that people in this group have the general understanding that that's the kind of thing we have to do. And I think we all understand it's difficult to do, but we also understand that it's imperative that we do it.

Members of the Communications Committee:

Rev. Canon Keith Nethery, London (Chair); Rev. Marty Levesque, Waterloo (social media officer); Rev. Rob Henderson, Windsor; Barbara Purcell, Port Elgin; Sandra Coulson, London; Cynthia Connell, CYC Essex Deanery; Kyle Gascho, diocesan youth group; Harold Remark, Kingsville.

Bishop Linda Nicholls and diocesan communication officer Davor Milicevic are ex-officio members.

The future of diocesan newspapers in jeopardy?

From the Anglican Editors Association: we invite your opinions on the future of your newspaper

The Council of General Synod (COGS) has created the Anglican Journal & Communications Joint Working Group who has been tasked with examining the issue of how we communicate across the Church, at both the national and diocesan levels.

An important part of the work being conducted by that working group is to consider options and to make recommendations regarding the future of print publications in the Anglican Church of Canada, at both the national and diocesan levels.

There has been an initial report from the working group made to COGS and there are to be some surveys done by the working group to gather reaction from the wider Anglican Church membership in Canada.

What has not been made clear to those at COGS or to those asked to fill in a survey is that if the Anglican Journal no longer is produced in print form, then

most if not all of the diocesan papers will no longer be produced.

The reason is that the cost of the distribution of the Anglican Journal and your diocesan paper is shared by the two reducing the costs to both. In addition all the papers are printed at the same printer and the size of that contract results in a lower price than any diocesan paper or the Anglican Journal could obtain on its own.

The Anglican Editors Association asked last June to be a part of the working group but was refused. It is our opinion that the Anglican Journal is widely viewed as an instrument of unity for the Canadian church and helping to fulfill the first Mark of Mission in proclaiming the Good News.

It is vital that it continues to provide Anglicans across the country with inspiration and information from and about

both General Synod and the dioceses. Members of the Canadian church need to remain connected to the life of the national church and activities happening throughout the country.

This exchange of information inspires both parishes and dioceses with ideas from outside as well as helping to overcome the isolation and congregational nature of some parishes and regions. The Journal also provides an important vehicle for the distribution of the PWRDF tri-annual paper Under the Sun and the Christmas Gift Guide.

The diocesan papers link parishes across their dioceses, provide a vehicle for spreading news into each household and are a way for the Bishop to communicate with parishioners in each and every community.

The Anglican Editors Association is seriously concerned that the readership of our diocesan papers will not get a chance to

voice their opinion on the importance of their diocesan paper and the Anglican Journal to them.

The editors are not in a position to hold a national survey of our readership however we are inviting you, our readers, to send letters to the editor of your diocesan papers regarding the future of the print editions of your diocesan paper and the Anglican Journal.

Send your letters, with your name and address, via email: huronchurchnews@gmail.com, or by post:

Huron Church News, Diocese of Huron, 190 Queens Ave., London, ON, N6A 6H7.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Davor Milicevic, Huron Church News editor

HURON CHURCH NEWS ONLINE

www.diohuron.org

Huron Church News is the public communication device for our Diocese

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

Deanery of the Saugeens
Anglican Church Women

Spring Gathering

Thursday, May 17th, 2018

Christ Church Anglican
Tara, ON

Registration 9:15am

Mental / Emotional Health and
Healing

Lunch \$10.00

RSVP: Ellen Waye 519-395-2427

ellen.waye@hurontel.on.ca

ACW is a group with a wonderful past and a promising future

Well, I cannot believe I am writing my last letter as president of the ACW Diocesan Council. I have enjoyed being a part of the ACW page for the past two years and appreciate the comments I have received as a result.

Four years as vice-president and then president have been very satisfying for me. I have travelled to many churches in our Diocese--though not as many as I would have liked. I have literally travelled from one side of Canada to the other, meeting Anglican Church Women from varied backgrounds, histories and geographies. I have spoken with our Primate and bishops from various dioceses and even assisted with communion at the seating of our Bishop Linda.

What wonderful opportunities I have enjoyed. And through all this I have learned one valuable

lesson: that the ACW is a group with a wonderful past and a promising FUTURE!

I realize that some people do not see it that way but we must believe it to be true. Our organization must remain strong because our church, our communities, our country and the world need women of faith and dedication to lead us through difficult times.

We might not be able to change the world but if we can bring God's light and hope to a part of it, we will be doing what is required of us.

Let us keep to the ideals of the ACW--prayer, work and stewardship!

Thank you for your support and friendship over the last two years and I look forward to seeing you at many annuals ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Brenda Clingersmith, President

Helping patients in Sarnia

A caring group of A.C.W. members of the St. John in the Wilderness Church, Brights Grove, visited the Complex/Cognitive Care unit at the Bluewater Health Facility in Sarnia on March 1, bringing two thousand dollars worth of personal care items for the patients.

Items included a new surround system and videos, comforters, afghans, a hair dryer, large print word search books, scent free shampoo and body wash, and other personal hygiene items.

The hospital staff members were overwhelmed with the generosity of the group and assured the ladies that their love and care would be greatly appreciated, as some of the patients either have no family or are far away from family



From left: Ashely (a patient in the unit), Marie Foubister, Jodi (hospital staff), Sandra Fraser, Lyn Kidd, Edna Braithwaite, Janice MxAlpine, Jean Dennis, Lori (hospital staff), Nancy Mann

members to care for their personal needs.

A.C.W. members thanked the staff for their dedication to their patients and assured them

this visit was a rewarding experience and a perfect opportunity to fulfill their commitment to their outreach program.

In Memory



London Deanery

St. Ann's, Byron

Leonida (Ema) Adamtau
Dorothy Bowcott
Jean Gellatly
Mollie Gregson
Joan Heard
D. Marie Lovell
Elsie Grace Murchison
Doreen Evelyn Seltzer
Dorothy Sewell
Katherine Stephen
Sheila Stevens

Church of the Ascension, London

Marilyn Campbell
Ferne Hillier

St. Luke's, Broughdale

Janice Chatterton Edwards
Maurine Leitch
Diana Stott
Evelyn Harris

St. Jude, London

Doreen Jeanne Faulkner
Janet Marie Hughes
Thelma Dorothea "Dot" MacAinsh

St. James Westminster

Deloris Elaine Bertelson
Shirley Kathleen Collard
Mary Josephine Fewster
Bernice Ora Newton

Saugeens

Christ Church, Markdale

Joan Bain
Edith Dunlop
Rev. Yvonne Summerfield

St. George's, Clarksburh

Betty Brown
Sally Patterson

Brant/Norfolk

St. Johns - Woodhouse

Port Rowan
Daphne McKenna

Waterloo Deanery

St. John the Evangelist,

Kitchener

Lois Cooper
Gwenneth Fish
Jean Thorne
Nancy Rose

Trinity, Cambridge

Bev Colwell
Jean McCallum
Anne Schuman
Lois Smith
Elizabeth Wiegand
Dorothy Whitfield

St. James', Cambridge

Phyllis Cannadine



Welcome, Hannah Rathbone!

The A.C.W. welcomed "wee" Hannah (Evelyn) Rathbone to our 14 March 2018 Council Meeting.

This was Hannah's first A.C.W. meeting accompanied by her beaming Grandpa, Paul Rathbone.

Canon Paul Rathbone is the Director of the Finance & Administrative Services for the Dioceses of Huron.

Karin Mussen - A.C.W. Communications

PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS

Appointments

Bishop Linda Nicholls appointed the Rev'd Val Kenyon as the Rector of Trinity, Lambeth effective April 23, 2018. Val remains the rector of St. Anne's (Byron), London.

Bishop Linda Nicholls and Bishop Michael Pryse appoint the Venerable Perry Chuipka as the rector of the Parish of the Bruce Peninsula (Trinity, Wiarton; Christ Church, Lion's Head; St. Edmund's, Tobermory; St. Margaret's, Cape Chin; St. Peter's-by-the-Lake, Sauble Beach; and St. Andrew's, Howdenvale) and Pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Wiarton effective June 1, 2018. Bishop Linda also appoints Archdeacon Perry as the Congregational Development Coordinator for the Diocese of Huron (20%) time, effective June 1, 2018. Archdeacon Perry is currently the Tran-

sitional Priest-in-Charge of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener.

Rest in Peace

The Reverend Canon Douglas Parker died Monday, March 12th, 2018 (wife Robena Parker). Canon Doug was ordained a deacon on November 30, 1963 and priested on November 20, 1964. He served the parishes of St. George's, Thorndale and Grace Church, Nissouri; Christ Church, Lion's Head, St. Margaret's, Cape Chin and St. Edmund's, Tobermory; Grace Church, Brantford; Holy Trinity, Burford; and Church of the Resurrection, London. He served as the Honorary Clerical Secretary of Synod and was named a Canon of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul on May 13, 1985. He retired on January 31, 1994. A funeral service was held on March 15th at St. Paul's Cathedral Church, London.

The Venerable Tim Dobin collated as Archdeacon of Brant/Norfolk



Bishop Linda Nicholls collated the Ven. Dr. Tim Dobbin as the Archdeacon of Brant/Norfolk on March 11, at St. Mark's Church, Brantford.

Ven. Tim Dobbin was deaconed November 30, 1997, and priested exactly one year later. He served in London - Church of the Redeemer (June 2000-April 2001) and St. George's (April 2001-August 2007). From August 2007 to June 2014 he was the rector of Trinity Church, Simcoe. He has been serving as the rector of Mark's, Brantford since June 2014.

He was appointed as a Canon (Cathedral Chapter of Canons) by Bishop Robert Bennett on May 15, 2016.

Dobbin was the Regional Dean of Brant/Norfolk from January 2010 to December 2012. On February 5 2018, Bishop Linda Nicholls appointed him as the Archdeacon of Brant/Norfolk.

Thank you, Charlie



Charles Mungar, the financial analyst for the Diocese, will retire in June, after 22 years of employment with the Diocese of Huron.

Charlie is fond of his time at the Huron Church House.

"It's truly been likeable work environment and many great people have come through this office, including eight bishops", says Charlie. He sums up his experience in two words: enjoyable and fulfilling.

"I would thank the Diocese for allowing me to serve all the churches

over all these years, for the time and the people that I met and talked to, and the enjoyment that I had discussing investments or other issues in the diocese with people. It's been fun and I've enjoyed it."

Thank you, Charlie.



*The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
Huron Presents*

**The Bishop of Huron's Prayer
Conference 2018**

**THE OFFICE DOOR IS
ALWAYS OPEN~
a Discipline of Daily Prayer**
The Very Reverend
Paul Millward
Dean of Huron

Saturday, May 5, 2018

10am-3pm

St Paul's Cathedral

472 Richmond Street, London, N6A 3E6

\$20.00 (lunch provided)

Join us for a day with the Very Rev'd Paul Millward, Dean of Huron as he shares with us those disciplines of prayer that have inspired, shaped, formed and energized his work and ministry over the years. Dean Millward will speak to us in the morning as well as offer a homily during the Eucharist. After a delicious lunch and time to browse resources there will also be afternoon workshops and activities. To register please contact: the Rev'd Kim Metelka at revkim55@gmail.com or by calling or texting info to 519-980-4545.



HURON CHURCH CAMP

One Week Camps

ages 6-14, grades 1-8 \$500 + \$65 HST

Session 1	July 8-14	Long Ago and Far Away
Session 2	July 15-21	Tall Tales
Session 3	July 22-28	To Infinity and Beyond
Session 4	August 5-11	All in a Dream
Session 5	August 12-18	By the Firelight
Session 6	August 19-25	Even to This Day

Senior Camp

graduating from grade 8 \$1200 + \$156 HST

Session 1	July 8-21	Companions on a Journey 1
Session 2	Aug 5-18	Companions on a Journey 2

Leader in Training

ages 14-16, grades 9 & 10 \$1800 + \$234 HST

July LIT1	July 8-28
July LIT2	July 8-28
August LIT1	August 5-25
August LIT2	August 5-25

Go to www.huronchurchcamp.ca to watch our video, see great pictures and register online.



Contact us at huronchurchcamp@gmail.com
519-434-6893 ext 217

See the heavenly image above?

Believe it or not, it was photographed over HCC by our friends from the Kitchener-Waterloo Royal Astronomical Society, who last fall came to marvel at our starry night sky! It is called the Veil Nebula and it is found in the constellation Cygnus, 1470 light years from Earth. What a wonder to behold! Many and great are God's works!

See the sandy beach below?

For over 70 years campers have dipped their toes into the sparkling waters of Lake Huron, gathered to live and work and pray and play together. What a wonder to remember those who have gone before us, walking together, companions in Jesus' name.

Here we are at the beginning of a new camp season, a new adventure, a new chapter in the never ending story of God's love for us, a story as old as the stars above us and the sands beneath our feet, a

Tale as Old as Time
Come, be part of the story!



Stratford's Anglicans and Lutherans welcome refugees

By Dave van Schaik
and Tim Elliott

Few can forget the image in 2015 of Alan Kurdi, the two-year-old boy who drowned trying to escape the Syrian war. It was the Labour Day weekend. That one photo started a chain reaction across Canada.

In our community, it galvanized the City of Stratford into action. The Mayor, councillors and staff organized a meeting to see what we could do locally. Service clubs, faith groups, the Festival Theatre, unions, school boards, businesses, and individ-

uals came together.

The goal was five families through five sponsorship groups under the umbrella Stratford Welcomes Refugees. The City authorized a steering committee and there was agreement that we would welcome any family. We would not choose by religion, only by size and need. Avon Mennonite Church was the lead group as they were already prepared for a refugee family.

The story of our sponsorship family from Syria is their story and we are respectful of their privacy. However, we want to celebrate our experience

of what happened when four churches came together.

One of the first things we learned was how silo-ed churches often are, even ones of the same denomination or neighbourhood in a small city. That's what people observed when Stratford's three Anglican parishes (St. James', St. Paul's, and St. Stephen's) joined with Zion Lutheran. We were coming together to do this important work and we didn't know each other. We had to get out of our siloes and get working quickly to figure out how we could welcome a family.

What helped us get going was the churches were working alongside service clubs, community groups, and other organizations. This was not just a church thing. We were part of a community effort and the clock was ticking.

We were fortunate to work with the Mennonite Central Committee. The clergy were involved early on but lay people took charge from the beginning. The work and challenges were identified and folks from the four congregations volunteered to get working on housing, medical/dental care, education, employment, not to mention furniture and supplies.

"It was an honour for me to work alongside so many volunteers from the four churches, each bringing their individual talents to the table. What an incredible group," said one person. Another added: "The very best side of Christianity working together".

Another said: "Coming together as four churches in Stratford to respond to the urgent need to DO SOMETHING filled my heart with the feeling that this was clearly what God wanted us to do." Another said: "My hope and belief is many friendships will continue and grow. It is an opportunity also for our churches to nurture this spirit energy of working together".



Photo: Terry Marklevitz

New friends made and old relationships renewed.

In the process, old relationships were renewed and new friends made. Meetings were held at different churches so the venues became familiar and comfortable. As we worked together church affiliation became less important as we had a common goal and hope.

There were anxious moments about housing and timing and a lot of uncertainty about how this might all work out. What if the family was bigger than the house we had lined up? How many beds? What ages are the children?

The anxiety of waiting was very stressful, according to Deacon Tom Patterson who chaired the SALT coordinating committee. What was particularly hard, he said, was that people wanted to know what was going on but we couldn't give them any answers. When asked what got us through, he replied: "The Holy Spirit. It was also not just SALT – it was the four church communities wrapped around us too. Those communities were behind everything we were doing."

In the end it worked out far better than we could have asked or imagined. The family arrived with four children and another was born in Stratford six months later. The house was perfect. A job was secured. Everyone is healthy. The older

children are flourishing in school and there is so much to be thankful for.

Each of the SALT group members has developed their own rich relationship with the family. We held a potluck luncheon in January at St. James' to celebrate and recognize the end of the sponsorship period. Roughly 40 people attended.

We went around the table and told our story and then enjoyed a musical presentation by some of the children of This Land is Your Land, and an unexpected solo by the 5-year-old girl of a song from the movie Frozen. We began as mostly strangers working together and have ended up as friends.

The bottom line is that we celebrate the positive experience of the energy and commitment of four churches in Stratford. It has brought us much closer together and also to the pain of the world. We hope that others will go and do likewise whether it's a refugee sponsorship program or another social justice initiative. Define a need. Call a meeting. Get going. Life is too short to stay in our silos.

Dave van Schaik and Tim Elliott are members of SALT - Stratford Anglican Lutheran Team.

My Syria...

I felt tightness in my chest... I got up and walked in the streets of London....

I sat in a place devoid of noise, like a garden. Suddenly, a young man sat next to me. He said, "Do not be afraid, I just want to talk to you..." He asked me where I was from. I said to him, from deep inside my heart, "Syria".



He smiled and said to me, "Welcome my friend, will you talk to me about the heartbeat of Syria?" I felt the tear in my eye and said, "Of course."

"Syria is my mother. She has a good heart and a broad hug... Syria opened its heart and arms to all people... Syria did not set up tents for the refugees who came to her land but put them in houses reinforced with dignity, made them her own people..."

Then strangers came from distant lands... To uproot us from our land, to make us strangers displaced in our own country. We were left homeless, with no place to go. We ran from place to place. Anyone who saw us rejected us and said to us: 'You are refugees. Do not move to our land, we have no place for you, sit in the camp. This is your station, you do not deserve more... you are Syrians, displaced.'

We sat in the camps... We died of starvation and cold. Our fathers fell apart, our mothers cried. We fled across the sea in order to go for a better life... Some survived and some died, lost in the sea. Some of us, like me, have been helped by some loving people and relatives to live a better life here and we thank you because you saved us from the difficult life we lived."

After my tears dried, the man said to me, "You must stop crying, crying is not for you, but lift your head and be proud of the greatness of your country and of what it has given to the world and those who came to its land. God knows, and will help Syria and make it as beautiful and great as it was before".

Angella Nadal Adra, London, Ontario

Providing the tools for those who are hungry for learning

From Page 1

Archdeacon Phibbs also points to the legacy of being in the past a large and influential church in a society where Christian practice was widespread. "We didn't get a lot of people from the outside who we would have to teach to be Anglican or to share our faith with," she says.

Discipleship is one component in the Mission and Ministry Plans that every Huron parish was expected to develop. So parish churches have to think about what steps they will

take to build that capacity.

"We need to be intentional about it, that's the main thing," says Tanya.

How parishes do that may vary widely across the diocese.

One common option is a weekly Bible study running 10 months of the year. But that doesn't suit the lifestyle or interests of everyone. Possible alternatives include short-term, perhaps six-week, Bible studies. Or a book study. Or a movie study.

At the other end of the commitment scale, some might dive

into Education for Ministry (EfM), a program recently introduced to the diocese to provide lay people with a theology education over several years.

Different channels of communications besides face-to-face meetings might work in other settings to build a culture of discipleship.

And parish leaders might have to shift responsibility for some duties so that clergy have fewer administrative tasks and more time for discipling church members.

It's also possible to add disci-

pleadership components to things we already do, Tanya suggests. The Mission and Ministry Plans call on parish councils to include a teaching component in their meetings. But Tanya says initiative could be spread: "If you have a group that always gets together – like the quilting ladies – what if you opened with a very brief devotion before they quilted? You could do little bits of it that might help folks get into the sense that everything we do together should be about how we live together."

At Synod, delegates will

likely hear about discipleship in everything from the bishop's charge to talks by lay people about how being a disciple of Jesus has made a difference in their lives.

"I think folks in the church are often hungry for learning, but it's how do we provide the tools and resources for different parishes to figure out what works in that parish," Tanya says.

Sandra Coulson is a member of Church of the Ascension, London, and a copy editor at the London Free Press.

Waterloo in El Salvador: democracy in action

By Rev. Marty Levesque

From March 4 to March 11 a group of parishioners from All Saints' Anglican Church in Waterloo, Ontario travelled to El Salvador to attend Foundation Cristosal Global School and immerse themselves in the Salvadorian culture.

The purpose of the mission trip was to educate the participants about democracy and human rights in the Salvadorian context, the history of the church in the public square and how church participation in the public square can be activated back home in Canada.

In the midst of the trip, an opportunity presented itself for the group to put into action their learning and participate in the International Women's Day march in San Salvador. All Saints' joined approximately



Photo Rev. Marty Levesque

**"For the missionaries, it was a walk to Emmaus":
Marching down the streets of El Salvador**

5000 people in what can only be described as one of the liveliest marches the group participants have ever attended.

The march went down Alameda Franklin Delano Roosevelt and ended at Mon-

umento al Divino Salvador del Mundo (The monument for Christ, Saviour of the World). It was here that speakers told stories and shared human rights violations of women in El Salvador.

For instance, 17 women have been incarcerated for the violation of El Salvador abortion law. Abortion is strictly prohibited in El Salvador and carries a life sentence. These 17 women did not have abortions though, they had miscarriages, and one had a stillbirth. The courts, however, had found them guilty of not doing enough to protect their unborn children and considered the miscarriages and stillbirth as abortions. Many of these women have been imprisoned for over a decade with another 20 years on their sentence remaining.

All Saints' spent time with partner communities in experiential learning moments of democracy in action. Rather than have an NGO, like Cristosal, dictate to a community their needs, Cristosal works with the communities to

empower them in their local environment. Partnerships in this context look much different, but they do respect the autonomy of the communities and create more holistic relationships of mutual transformation.

The time spent in El Salvador was formative and fruitful for All Saints'. The country, in many ways, is scripture stories come to life.

For the missionaries, it was a walk to Emmaus. During our time with the people of El Salvador, we were mutually transformed. It is the hope of All Saints that this transformation begun in many miles from home will find life in the greater community as we look to serve and witness to Jesus Christ in Waterloo and around the world.

Rev. Marty Levesque is the rector of All Saints' in Waterloo.

Walk with your brothers and sisters

By Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle

They say those who sing, pray twice.

Certainly music can carry within it a powerful means of self-expression. It is also true that when we pay close attention to the words of the hymns these too can become a special kind of prayer:

"Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbours we have from you." (Common Praise #504)

"Sister, let me be your servant let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too." (Common Praise #500)

"As we worship, grant us vision till your love's revealing light in its height and depth and greatness dawns upon our quickened sight, making known the needs and burdens your compassion bids us bear, stirring us to ardent service, your abundant life to share" (Common Praise #585)

How many of our hymns invite us to service?

Indeed, we are reminded, "where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found; brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound." (Common Praise #487)

There are many hymns which remind us that being Christian includes responding to human need with loving service. This is the third of our Marks of Mission.

In a time when it is so easy

SOCIAL JUSTICE HURON



to write a cheque (or make an e-transfer), where boxes collecting donations for those in need are readily available, there are many opportunities for us to contribute in ways that will help those in need. These donations are important and make a difference.

Service, however, is defined as the action of helping or doing work for someone. The operative word here is ACTION. The ideal is to engage in relationship with those whom we serve as modelled by the way Jesus engaged in relationships while on the earth.

We are reminded what this looks like Maundy Thursday as we hear the story once again, where Jesus, during his last supper with his friends, takes off his outer robe, ties a towel around himself and washes feet. It is a powerful image. The master, teacher, Rabbi of this group takes on the role of the servant, doing what is smelly and dirty for those he knows will soon deny, abandon and betray him.

When he is finished Jesus says:

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn 13:34-35)

While our worship on Maundy Thursday includes the symbolic washing of feet, the point isn't to embrace a literal interpretation of this story once a year. We are continually invited to reflect on the ways washing feet becomes a metaphor for our service in the community and in the world.

How do we symbolically and literally take off our outer robes, tie towels around our waists and do that which is smelly and dirty in an effort to show love to those around us? To what extent are we open to "come and journey, journey outward, where that cross call us to care, where injustice and where hunger and the poor call us to share?" (Common Praise #482)

Our songs, our prayers provide gentle reminders that walking the Way of Jesus Christ calls us into a profound way of being that includes responding to human need not only through donations but also in the ways we intentionally choose to create relationships and walk with brothers and sisters, washing feet, sharing bread and trusting in the wonder that is the Good News. This is how we show that we are Jesus' disciples, by the love we show in our service to others.

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

Travelling across the waters to bolster faith



By Cheryl Yako

Lillian Scorrar, lay co-chair of the Deanery of Essex and PWRDF representative for Christ Church, Amherstburg journeyed in February with 11 other delegates of various denominations, from across Canada, to Malawi, East Africa to witness three programs sponsored by Canada Foodgrains Bank/PWRDF.

The two representatives from Canada Foodgrains Bank provided the itinerary for the group which included three projects at different stages of completion. The improvement in nutrition, agricultural techniques and societal attitude between the three phases was inspiring.

Climate change has been devastating to the people of Malawi, whose economy is based on agriculture. Drought and flash floods have left this country the sixth poorest in the world with an annual GDP of \$300.79 USD, according to the World Bank. Along with farming problems and subsequent starvation, HIV-Aids is rampant, leaving nearly one million children orphaned.

Home stay was part of the mission, allowing for discussions on gender equality, food security, nutrition, best practices in agriculture along with fellowship with the host and extended family. Living conditions were eye-opening, since most of the delegates had never been to Africa.

"They have nothing and yet have an enormous amount of faith that God will provide. We have everything we need and yet do not depend upon faith alone", says Scorrar. She was moved by the faith in God that the Malawians demonstrated.

Lillian is a sessional professor at St. Clair College in Windsor, ON and a doctoral candidate in global health at NOVA Southeastern University in Florida. She is planning on more fundraising events for PWRDF/CFGB and hopes to go on future missions trips.

If your group would like to hear more about this mission, Lillian would be willing to speak on behalf of the group, since she was the only member from the Diocese of Huron. She can be contacted at lscorrar@hotmail.com

Cheryl Yako is a warden at Christ Church, Amherstburg.

Kids helping kids... helping kids

By Diane Dance

The parishioners at St. Thomas à Beckett Church in Mississauga have found a way to support the Anglican Foundation and to act on one of the Marks of Mission: "To respond to human need by loving service" through their annual Vacation Bible School.

An integral part of their Vacation Bible School has been a "Kid-to-Kid" ministry and for the past three years they have chosen to support the Kids Helping Kids fund.

The VBS participants, their families and also the congrega-

tion are asked to donate money to purchase Hope Bears from the Anglican Foundation. This year's theme was Maker Fun Factory: Created by God, built for a purpose. Each day focuses on a daily message which is incorporated into all of the activities: God made you, God is for you, God is always with you, God will always love you and God made

you for a reason.

The children are given materials provided by the Foundation including, place-mats, tattoos and brochures. During the week, the children write notes to the recipients of the Hope Bears, wrap up the bears and decorate a box which includes prayers created by each child. On the last day the boxes are presented to a

representative of the agency they are supporting. Trillium Hospital and the Salvation Army Family Life Resource Centre have received these much appreciated Hope Bear packages.

Imagine how wonderful it would be to show our children that they can make a difference in the lives of other children, truly kids helping kids - a win win situation.

For further information please contact Diane Dance at d.dance@sympatico.ca.

Diane Dance is the diocesan liaison with AFC.



SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT!

Know a student who's going to college? Send them with a loving prayer and a Hope Bear dressed in a scarf of their college colours. Perfect for graduation too!

Contact AFC to order. ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA imagine more

www.anglicanfoundation.org

From ownership to stewardship

By Rev. Raymond Hodgson

Mine. My car, my house, my time, my bank account.



These are mine: I earned them, I bought them, I own them, I can do what I want with them. And there's only so much. Pharaoh would agree; Caesar would agree; our consumerist culture would agree.



This is what ownership looks like.

But where does that car really come from — did I make it, or does it trace back through factories and workers and miners all the way to the One who brought order out of chaos and created it all? And if I didn't "make" it, can I "own" it?

The society in which we live has an easy answer for this. Our society says that we are who we are — that our value and meaning are largely determined — by what we are able to produce, consume, and own. And if I own it, you don't — these things, even time itself, are

finite. The more that we "give away", the less that we have, and therefore the poor, the disabled, the refugee, and the sick are a drain on our resources. Pharaoh would agree; Caesar would agree; God does not.

No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

(Matthew 6:24, NSRV)

For the Christian there is a challenge to this understanding of ownership, wealth, or Mammon. And it is not a subtle,

ambiguous, or optional kind of idea — it is right there in black and white. The culture of ownership and a finite understanding of resources are in necessary and absolute conflict with the teachings of Jesus.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, writes "[t]he laws of economics say that spending in one area gives revenue in another, and they all balance out. Jesus' economics are so much bigger than this. They do not balance. The spending of God's life gives an infinite quantity of life to the world."

Easter itself upends the culture of ownership and finite resources — and we are an Easter People.

If not ownership, then how are we to understand our relationship with the car, the house, the time, and the bank account which still exist, whether I call

them "mine" or not?

The answer to this is to shift from a culture of ownership to one of stewardship.

The steward does not own, but does direct the use of something owned by her master. The steward does not own, but is responsible to her master for how it is used. The steward does not own, but uses those things put in her charge in the way in which her master would want them used.

There's a reason that Jesus spoke so often about stewards — faithful and unfaithful.

We are called to be faithful stewards of what God has entrusted to us. This is what stewardship looks like.

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

EfM from inside out: frequently asked questions

by Rev. Val Kenyon

What is the time commitment?

Groups vary in the time that they meet with some meeting weekly, biweekly or even monthly depending on the availability of the group members. Groups usually meet over a nine-month period. While the EfM is a four-year program, participants commit to just one year at a time.

Are there costs involved?

A full year of study costs \$350. In addition, participants are responsible for buying textbooks which range between \$25-\$50. Bursaries are available; so don't let money stop



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.

you from inquiring about a group near you.

How much preparation is involved outside of the weekly session?

While each year has different amounts of reading, the first year will likely feel like the greatest adjustment. In all years, the material is engaging and very interesting. It is suggested that participants have

approximately two hours per week outside of the meeting for preparation and personal reflection. It is not uncommon for participants to mull over questions all week that have been discussed in the group meeting.

Who participates in EfM?

EfM is designed for lay people of all ages. At baptism we are all called to ministry.

Around the world, EfM has been a part of supporting many to understand their particular ministries and to find their places of service within the church and the world. While everyone has their own reasons for joining EfM all come with a desire to learn and grow in their faith. Many come looking for a small-group setting in which they can explore the bigger questions of life in a safe and confidential environment, examining questions in light of popular culture.

Registration and Information

Registration begins in late Spring for classes that begin in September.

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

Rev. Val Kenyon is EfM Animator in Huron.

Letting go in order to move forward

Clive Staples Lewis is credited to have once said, "Getting over a painful experience is much like crossing monkey bars. You have to let go at some point in order to move forward."



AS I SEE IT

REV. JIM
INNES

Such letting go often requires great exertion because, when in pain, we feel tremendously heavy. Even the strongest of us can drop to the ground in distress.

Recently, in Montreal, a 10-year-old boy disappeared after he left his home to meet a friend. The police believe he accidentally drowned in the Rivière des Prairies. No proof was found. And, as of writing this

article, the search continues with the boy's father repeatedly saying that he believes his son was abducted and is still alive.

When we are going through such a painful experience, the anxieties surrounding our circumstance can immobilize us. We can't see, we can't think, and at times we can't hardly breathe. And the worst of it, the most difficult to let go of, is our feelings of powerlessness, and the bitter truth that we are truly not in control of the stresses that can, and will, affect us.

We don't even need to be the one directly affected to feel these uncontrollable realities. One of the interesting sides to this Montreal incident (according to News reports) is that locals started to pledge money after the family initially offered \$10,000 to anyone with information about their son's whereabouts. Additionally, Police say they have received nearly 700 tips from the public and,

in an "unprecedented" reaction, more than 500 volunteers showed up to help search.

When we hear of a painful incident not only can we empathize but we can suffer some degree of emotional distress. And studies have proven that actually witnessing a person in suffering will activate the neural pain pathways in our brain. Which, in my experience, can trigger emotional trauma. Like, for example, when someone has witnessed a serious accident involving a close relative or, when another's pain parallels a past experience and triggers unresolved grief.

Like it not, we are affected by each other's suffering. And the work of moving forward, from rung to rung through the monkey bars, is a community activity. So, as I see it, we are called, by nature's design, to accept our empathetic reactions and, in turn, respond with compassion.

Empathy is about being attuned to the feelings of another, whereas compassion goes a step further by integrating an almost (but not quite) selfish need to relieve any suffering. Such empathy and compassion is spoken to in Christian scripture when the writer of Hebrews urged fellow believers to "continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering" (13:3).

Further to such measures, and what I implied in calling compassion an almost selfish act, is that working to help ease the pain of others can go a long way in letting go of our own suffering. Not that we ought not to acknowledge and wrestle with our own pain, but too much self absorption can be a heavy weight. Perhaps this is the deeper meaning behind Gandhi's words, "The best way

to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."

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Making a public statement of belief

Engaging in the experience of the Season of Lent and anticipating the blessings of the Easter Season has always been a focal point of the church's (and my personal) calendar.



A VIEW FROM
THE BACK PEW

REV. CANON
CHRISTOPHER
B. J. PRATT

There is a familiarity of ritual and the repetition of a story which is at the heart of our personal identity and our shared faith. We know the story and we know how the words of the Gospels lead us to a conclusion of the written story.

Experiencing the telling of the Gospel narrative exclusively within the context of public worship is like watching a news broadcast, when reporters have a limited amount of time to convey an experience or an event, then the attention of the viewer is immediately drawn away to another story and another one that follows.

Years ago, I attended a presentation of the Gospel of St. Mark, which was offered by an actor, who occasionally moved some chairs and a table around to re-set the scene. Offered as a complete piece, the Spirit - filled words made the experience both powerful and meaningful.

The flow of the Gospel story

was clearly evident, the message, richer, when compared with the liturgical Sunday snippets I had experienced for all my life. From time to time in my ministry, the act of reading the Gospel of St. Mark, either by myself, or with a member of the Parish Family, has been a part of the meaningful observance of the Season of Lent.

Sustainable values which are at the centre of our lives need a place to be identified, a place to be nurtured and a place to grow.

It is a combination of good news of the Gospel narratives, the experiences of the faithful generations who have shared the story, and the personal reality of our own faith which helps us to shape the foundation upon which we build our lives. Sometimes, those essential matters of our own identity as followers of Jesus may put us into places where we are called upon to openly confess our faith.

Prior to Holy Week, each year, I reach into my library for Herbert O'Driscoll's book, "The Leap of the Deer". The writer reflects on many of the stories which were woven into the fabric of his life at an early age, growing up in Ireland. I am always drawn to his telling of the story of St Patrick, whose band of monks built a bonfire as a

part of their Easter Vigil liturgy on a hill not far from the home of the Irish High King. It was on a night when, on pain of death, no other fire was to be lit throughout the land, except the fire of the High King. By lighting that fire, Patrick, empowered by his faith and love for his Lord, forced a confrontation which led to conversion and a story of faith which is a story of transformation.

Driven by faith and / or core values, individuals are compelled to make public statements. Thousands of people south of the border and around the world have marched to protest gun violence. Theirs was an act of making a public statement which is a proclamation of personal belief. The act of sharing in a public march during Holy Week, either on Palm Sunday, or some other day is a declaration of a person's faith identity. The crowds may not be as large, but the statement of belief is just as clear.

Another reflection which nags at me when I read, "The Leap of the Deer", published in 1994, is this thought, "By the end of the twentieth century we have a Christianity so unsure of itself, so apologetic for its every past action, so eager to assign worth to every spirituality other than itself, that we cannot help but wonder sometimes if it is capable of the harsh wilderness journey that it is now called to as its third millennium approaches."

At our best, the church, the community of faith, is a place

where we gather, not to be entertained, not to function as a centre of social life, but as a place where faithful people and those who are searching for a faith to claim, are drawn together to be nurtured and fed by Word and Sacrament and where the foundation upon which their lives are built may be strengthened and renewed. Sustainable values which are at the centre of our lives need a place to be identified, a place to be nurtured and a place to grow.

That place is known by many as the congregation they call their parish home. In an article from the New York Times, Dov Seidman, the CEO of LRN reflected on the challenges of making decisions. He is report-

ed to have said, "Sustainable values are what anchor us in a storm and because values propel and guide us when our lives are profoundly disrupted, they help us make hard decisions."

Knowing our story of faith, claiming our story of faith, living our story of faith, sharing our story of faith, building our lives on the foundation of our story of faith, are worthwhile priorities for us all during the Season of Easter 2018...and for the rest of our lives.

"The Lord Is Risen Indeed... Alleluia!!"

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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Being a voice for the voiceless

Following the deadly shooting at a high school in Parkland Florida, I was most impressed to see young people across the United States and in fact Canada, standing up and saying this is wrong, it has to stop and we must hold our leaders accountable.



**MOSTLY ABOUT
RELIGION**

**REV. CANON
KEITH
NETHERY**

And then I clicked on a story on the London Free Press website. It told the story of a 13 year old student at Lord Roberts school in London, organizing a student walkout in support of those who lost their lives and in

support of those making their voice heard. That 13 year old is Lily Ryan and she is a member of St. James Westminster. I immediately emailed her to tell her how proud I was and told myself that I needed to tell you her story!

Now, when Lily birthed this idea, there was no guarantee that school officials would go along. She knew that there might be some repercussions, but she decided within herself that the issue was too important to back down.

So, at 10 am on Wednesday, March 7, Lily lead a group of almost 30 students out of the school to make a point of supporting the students in Florida and supporting the idea that society as a whole cannot accept these incidents of mass shootings and that changes have to be made. By this time Lily knew the school principal was in

support of the walkout and after making their voices heard, Lily and the other students returned to class. Two and a half weeks later, Lily joined more than 300 people (mostly young adults and students) at a protest march in Victoria Park.

Lily says guns are a problem period. "The laws here in Canada are far from perfect, but they are better than the laws in the United States. It's not right for politicians to make excuses. If the laws were tighter, people wouldn't be able to get guns so easily. Nothing seems to be changing despite the shootings, so we have to make our voices heard."

The violence in US schools is close to Lily's heart as four of the five members of her family were born in the United States. The third of three children, Lily was born here, in London. Lily says her family is supportive

and encouraging of her taking action.

This is not a one off idea for Lily. Being a voice for the voiceless is a big part of her life. In the last year she has also been involved in the "Take Back the Night Rally" and was a big part of a Me to We Day event at Lord Roberts as they marked a Day of Silence in support of those around the world who have no voice.

Lily says faith is a big part of what moves her to take stands on issues of social justice. "The Bible tells us we have to do what is right, even when it's hard, even if we have to take risks. I talk about my faith with my friends and some have come to church with me. The Anglican Church is my church and I like that we try to help all people."

Let me say that the Anglican Church is blessed to have Lily Ryan and her family. I am

impressed with her leadership and the deep caring soul that she is. Lily is a part of a growing number of young people who are taking a stand and doing it in the context of their faith. It is important that we recognize, honour and encourage the efforts of all our young people, who are the church of today and are a tremendous witness to what God can do with and through us. Well done Lily!

Rev. Canon Keith Nethery is the rector at St. James' Westminster, London.
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Summer - a great time to get "unjammed"

Hurray, summer is coming soon to a park near you!



**LAUREL
PATTENDEN**

We love our warm weather after the colder days of winter. This is the time to pick up and pack up to head to the camp grounds, cottages by the lake, amusement parks, summer sports leagues and sightseeing.

Food and beer tastes better on the outdoor patios and we linger a little bit longer with friends at sunset. It is not uncommon to have every

weekend booked through our short summer time with travel visiting friends, weddings and BBQ's. Nothing suits us better than having a jammed packed summer schedule. Or does it?

Perhaps our summer lacks some serious whitespace. Whitespace, according to the Encarta World English dictionary, is a noun referring to the area of a page or other printed surface where no text or pictures appear. So it is an editing thing about margins and line space.

I sometimes think of whitespace like the mat that surrounds a picture that is framed. Or, while doing calligraphy, each type of lettering needs its own whitespace balance to make the script appear well done. It is breathing space in our art. The term spiritual

whitespace is becoming popular and rightly so in the fast pace of living in today's world.

So what exactly is spiritual whitespace?

Well it isn't blank space because whitespace has a purpose. A beauty to it. Spiritual whitespace is time alone with ourselves and God.

This is not the same as bible study, scripture reading or prayer. It is a quiet time unscripted. Time not curated for a certain result or pursuit. It is time spent sitting alone waiting and opening our hearts for Jesus to come in. It is taking time to make an invitation to God.

Making spiritual whitespace can actually be just as adventuresome as any summer trip. We can uncover territory in our hearts that has never seen the light of day. Areas that have

been lost. Reconnect with joy in our soul. Shed tears needed for healing. Find rest in our restless heart. Experience some peace that somehow became diminished. Discover the child within again.

When was the last time we invited Jesus to visit and to just listen to him? Or when did we last opened our heart for him to hike through our desert, our rocky ground, our wilderness, or boat through our troubled, rough waters?

I can't think of any one better to be with because He has already hiked or boated through these dark places. He knows. Just as He knows how all of those places camp out in our hearts. But He needs space.

And we can make room for this spiritual whitespace for him and for us to meet. Nothing can

travel when everything is all jammed up. We all know this.

Summer is a great time to get "unjammed". There are green parks waiting for our blankets to be spread. There are hiking trails with rest spots and benches inviting us to stop. There are beautiful beaches and shores lines encouraging our lawn chairs to open. There are trees with such lushness providing cool shade to rest. There are canoes waiting to be serenely paddled. There are hammocks to sway in. There are cool porch swings to sit upon.

We have lots of places for spiritual whitespace. Lots of places to alone with Jesus this summer.

He is just waiting for the invitation. And make that invitation ASAP!

Summer is so short.

Cambridge Analytica lesson: check your apps settings

Most people are aware of Cambridge Analytica - the company that breached Facebook's privacy agreements and weaponized social media as a psychological tool to



**MEDIA
BYTES**

**REV. MARTY
LEVESQUE**

help Donald Trump win the presidency in 2016.

They did so by collecting data that Facebook users freely shared on the platform. This

is done most often through quizzes. Ever wonder if you are High Church or Low Church, which theologian are you, which Disney Princess are you, which Star Trek character are you, or what is your social media word cloud?

The number of quizzes is too many to innumerate here. But to access the quiz result you must agree to give the app access to your profile and personal information that often includes your profile picture, age, sex, birthday, entire friend list, everything you have posted on your timeline, all of your photos, hometown, education history and everything you have ever liked.

Few people probably realize that every time they install one of these apps they continue running in the background unless users actively delete them via their privacy settings. To do so, click on settings and then "apps and games" tab in the right-hand menu and you will see how many apps are installed on your profile and consistently pulling information.

Not all apps and games sell your information to third parties or operate like Cambridge Analytica, but it is very difficult to ascertain which do and which do not. Many companies use this information to build psychological profiles to market and advertise directly to you.

And political parties use this information to micro-target you on issues that you have self-indicated are important to you.

By accessing these quizzes you not only share your information, but you are also giving the apps access to your friends' list in which the quiz will appear as sponsored content in your friends stream. This is in the hopes that since you took the quiz, your friends will also wish to play along with you and compare results.

My advice is to go to your apps and games settings and delete all the apps and games you do not use on a regular basis. Secondly, when it comes to quizzes, while it may kill

a few minutes and give you a chuckle, I would simply avoid them. And finally, Facebook still remains a wonderful place to share with friends and family, but it is always best to do a quick audit of your own privacy settings.

These three tips will ensure your enjoyment and connections through social media remain with you, friends and family and are not used in a manner that counter-intuitive to the Missio Dei.

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