



Photo by Diana Hutton

THE REV. FRAN Darlington blesses the rabbit owned by parishioner Derek at the Blessing of the Animals service held last month. In all, 23 dogs – everything from a wee poodle to a big black Newfoundland – one cat, one bird, two hamsters, one gerbil, one rabbit and a gecko named Zippy were blessed in two services at St. Mary's, Hamilton.

Undermount parishes explore future

By ARCHDEACON ROBERT LECKEY

How would you describe your parish as a person? Would you describe it as an eccentric old aunt, a rebellious teen, or a bawling baby?

The 12 parishes of Undermount gathered at St. Peter's, Hamilton, Oct. 29, to share the present story of their parish with its joys and sorrows, struggles and accomplishments, hopes and fears, blessings and demons.

Most parishes had images of some remarkable

females. Sybil, of the 16 multiple personalities, was joined by Lady Bracknell, Hyacinth, a heavily perfumed old lady who wears funny clothes, and middle-aged stodgy dowager trying to be open-minded but who truly likes things as they once were. An aging Marilyn Bell, struggling in the water, was mentioned along with the handy country cousin who bakes a mean pie. Sarah and Elizabeth, who gave birth in their old age, were images of hope and new life. A confused teenager, seeking to know the future, was joined by Wile E. Coyote, endlessly escaping death and never giving up.

It was quite a cast of characters.

The turnout was excellent. Every parish had both clergy and lay members present. This is both a recognition of the uncertain future that faces many of the Undermount churches and a determination to work together to face that future.

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The journey to Kanata Native Village

By DONNA ELLIS

I had a wonderful opportunity Oct. 3 to join approximately 60 people from the diocese to learn about 17th Century First Nations history at Kanata Native Traditional Village.

Aaron Bell, assistant manager and lead guide, told "the story of creation," which is one of 500 unique to each nation.

We learned about the significance of the drum and how our society has misrepresented its beat in the Westerns we watched on TV.

Chris, one of the Gonrah Desgohwah White Pine dancers who was dressed in magnificent authentic regalia, told stories through dance of preparing land for crops and going into battle.

Our group sampled Three Sisters Soup, buns and strawberry juice before going out to explore the village where the longhouse stood.

After entering the stockade through a creation maze designed to protect against both wind and

enemies, we wandered through the longhouse as our guide shared facts and stories about its history and use.

Children climbed the stockade ramparts as Aaron identified the various tools and artifacts within the stockade.

Interpretive Centre

We returned to the Interpretive Centre to create images out of red clay, which according to the Sky Woman story, is what the creator made the First Nations people from thousands of years ago.

Lastly, we went back outside to play a bit of lacrosse and double ball, two popular First Nations games. We finished the day with a round dance in which everyone was invited to join, remembering that every footstep in the dance heals the earth.

Throughout the afternoon, I was struck by the importance First Nations peoples place on their children.

It made me realize how important it is to pass down the stories of life, faith and spirituality to them. Every story they tell



WILLIAM STEERS AND his mother, Judy, smudge with sweet grass smoke, a ritual cleansing.

embraces values, sacred traditions, and is spiritually rich.

The use of drums to mimic the heartbeat brings another dimension to each story.

Elders are highly respected for their wisdom and do much of the

Niagara votes

Budget meetings identify youth, local outreach & children's programs as top priorities in diocese

By ARCHDEACON MARION VINCETT

With the four regional budget meetings, held Sept. 20-24 around the diocese and the participation of more than 400 people, the "Making it Happen" phase of New Niagara is well under way.

Of course, many of the creative initiatives which came out of our New Niagara listening phase are being implemented around Niagara. Up until now, these have been the ones which did not require diocesan funding.

We continue to listen and learn as we asked participants to rank items, totalling almost \$1-million of the diocesan budget, in order of priority for the health and life of the diocesan family.

Their rankings will be crucial in assisting the budget committee to prepare a full line budget for Synod to debate in November.

Their rankings are also consistent with the vision which emerged from our parishes in the earlier stages of New Niagara.

What did we learn?

People really care how their diocesan mission and ministry monies are spent.

They want the diocese to continue to offer quality programs for youth, children, stewardship and financial development, outreach support and leadership training, both of clergy and laity.

There is strong support around the diocese for the Canterbury Hills camp program. There is, however, some confusion about the continuing need for the diocese to offer capital support funding for the facilities since Canterbury Hills is now run by a separately incorporated body.

There was enough support for at least one of the New Niagara initiatives which required funding that it is likely to be included in this year's budget. This was the one which requested an additional half-time staff position to facilitate and co-ordinate regional youth programming among other things.

Areas which had less support from the meetings included additional funding for General Synod, The Niagara Anglican and another New Niagara initiative, an Internet resource research staff person.

There was amazing consistency between the regions in both the top

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They see themselves at the bottom of the food chain because they are dependent on the earth and wildlife for their survival. Hence their prayers are mostly thankful in nature.

Proud of their history

These Iroquoian descendants are proud of their history and clearly enjoyed sharing it. How blessed we are to have these opportunities to learn about the First Nations people.

The Diocese of Niagara is committed to creating educational programs to help parishioners connect to our Native brothers and sisters. To see pictures of All My Relations...the Journey Continues 2004, please go to www.zip-squeal.com and click on All the Pictures in the main menu.

Upcoming New Agape events include an overnight immersion experience at Kanata Village and a women's retreat. For more information, contact Christyn Perkins, (905) 527-1316 ext. 460.

Donna Ellis is a member of Christ Church, Woodburn.

New Niagara enters 'making it happen' phase

Continued from page 1
10 priorities and the bottom three. You can see for yourself the actual results of the balloting in each region in the attached table.

The financial advisory committee, the budget committee and the New Niagara Team thank all who attended the meetings and contributed their ballots, their questions and their constructive comments.

We were very happy with the energy and commitment we saw and experienced. We hope those who came to the meetings now have a better understanding of the work being done with some of their DMM funds.

Evaluation tool

An evaluation tool has been posted on the diocesan web site at www.niagara.anglican.ca to give us your feedback on the experience, both positive and negative. This is the first time we have tried to offer such an interactive process at our diocesan budget meetings and we need to hear your comments.

In addition, two Episcopal task forces are being created to address budget items currently labeled Long Term Expenditures. These include parish viability and diocesan mission and maintenance. We intend to ask for help in conducting an audit of other

large pieces of expenditure which make up our synod budget.

A big thank you goes to the parishes that

hosted the meetings in September: St Simon's, Oakville, St Mark's, Orangeville, The Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton

and St. Columba's, St. Catharines. Your hospitality and generosity were much appreciated.

Budget Item	\$ Value	Oakville ranking	Orangeville ranking	Hamilton ranking	St. Catharines ranking
Youth	\$101,228	1	1	1	1
University Chaplaincies	\$ 45,968	12	5	7	11
New Niagara - 20 hrs					
Regional Youth Ministry	\$ 29,140	14	12	3	12
Outreach within the diocese	\$ 56,945	2	4	2	3
Outreach outside the diocese	\$ 22,470	9	15	11	10
Children's Ministry	\$ 46,887	4	6	3	2
Canterbury Hills Camp	\$ 95,000	5	8	4	8
Canterbury Hills Capital Support	\$ 65,000	13	9	14	15
Nurturing Congregational Growth	\$ 24,177	10	13	8	9
New Niagara - Internet Resource	\$ 25,000	18	18	18	18
Research Staff (half-time)					
Clergy Development & Education	\$ 71,772	8	3	5	4
Parish Leadership and Support	\$ 60,689	6	7	6	5
Clergy Leadership Support	\$ 58,488	6	2	10	6
New Niagara - Human Resources/Leadership Development	\$ 41,378	15	10	15	13
Niagara Anglican newspaper	\$ 32,000	16	16	16	16
Stewardship/Financial Development	\$ 55,120	3	11	9	17
Current General Synod	\$100,000	11	14	12	13
General Synod Increase	\$ 50,000	17	17	17	17
Total	\$981,262				

Undermount parishes explore their future

Continued from page 1
Encouraging stories of ministry and mission were told. Certainly most parishes described themselves in terms of people somewhat past their prime, but there were signs of life, signs of hope, signs of caring ministry.

For most there are storm clouds somewhere on the horizon.

"Our fear is closure when endowments run out." "Our struggle is the building." "Our fear is not balancing the budget." "Our

building is a challenge in term of maintenance." "Our concern is possibly closing." "Concern is budget." "Money and buildings, we spent \$21,000 on the furnace."

Changes must come. The longest journey begins with the first step. All the parishes of Undermount took a good first step together that evening. The journey continues.

The Undermount region includes parishes west of Hwy. 403 to Winona, in Hamilton.

A VOTER GOES with the trend of ranking the Niagara Anglican a low priority at one of regional budget meetings. This man, at Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton, takes a moment to ponder his priorities. More than 400 Niagara Anglicans attended the budget meetings.

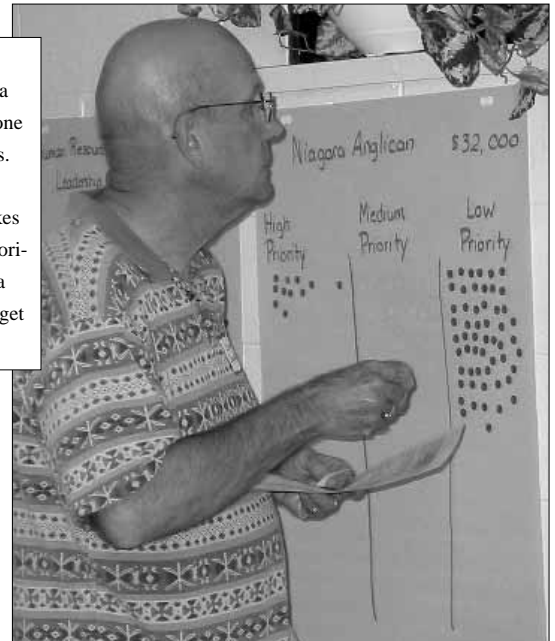


Photo by Diana Hutton

Join us for

A Spiritual Spa

A Children and Youth Ministry Networking Gathering

A Nurturing, Networking and Nourishing Event!
Sunday, November 28, 2004 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

St. Christopher's Church, 662 Guelph Line, Burlington

An Invitation to All!

especially for volunteers and layworkers in children and youth ministry

Enjoy the Spa sessions

Food for the Soul; Therapeutic Touch; Spiritual Scrapbooking; Embodied Living; Labyrinth Walk and Soulful Scents; Meditative Prayer

If choosing Spiritual Scrapbooking, please bring personal pictures

Take time to
Network and browse the resource table

Relax and Enjoy
Dinner and guest speaker
The Reverend Paul Charbonneau

Pre-register by November 14 – and save!

\$10 per person in advance
\$15 at the door

Don't be disappointed – Space is Limited

For information or to register:



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BISHOP JOHN SPONG'S FAREWELL LECTURES

Sunday, November 7
Dublin Street United Church
68 Suffolk Street West
Guelph

3 p.m. – 1st Century Liturgy: The Original Shaper of Christology
7 p.m. – 21st Century Liturgy: The Bankruptcy of Traditional Christology

Tickets: \$15 per lecture or \$25 for both lectures if purchased by October 31. They are available at Dublin Street United Church or by calling (519) 821-0610.

Sponsored by:

The Guelph Seminar, and Ecumenical Campus Ministry, University of Guelph.

For a study group on Bishop Spong's thoughts, contact Monica Moore at (519) 824-4177 or harcourtuc@sympatico.ca

St. John's, Ancaster, growing since 1818

From humble Union Church to welcoming faith community

By SUE LOWER

The year was 1818 when a group of people took a leap of faith, along with their rector The Reverend Ralph Leeming, to start building a parsonage and church where St. John's in Ancaster now stands.

George Rousseaux had donated the land and, with the help of many willing hands, a Union Church was built in 1824.

It was the only church in town, and so Anglicans and Presbyterians worshiped side by side.

As the largest settlement in the area at the time, Ancaster was a bustling town of many merchants. It was only a few years earlier that George Hamilton had laid out his farm in town lots that were to be the future city bearing his name.

A recognizable landmark to many in Ancaster, the current St. John's structure had its cornerstone laid in 1868 replacing the original building destroyed by fire.

Now, it's a far cry from the day The Rev. Leeming brought his vision of St. John's Ancaster to life in 1818.

Since then, we added the parish hall on Halson in 1951 – home of many community-based programs – including the Ancaster Food Drive – and, with the tremendous growth in the Ancaster area, we too had to take that leap of faith to expand in order to support the needs of our community.

We started with a dream to build onto the existing church.

We wanted to retain the landmark image seen on Wilson Street.

We ventured forth with a motto to keep our journey in sync with our values – "Honour the Past, Celebrate the Present, Embrace the Future".

It has been much work. But



CONSTRUCTION OF THE newly-expanded St. John's, Ancaster, required a lot of work and commitment over three years.

three years later, the folks at St. John's can now say, "Our dreams are coming to life, come be a part of that dream."

Our building is almost ready – over 13,000 square feet of space on Ancaster's main street, Wilson Street.

We now have space for those who want to come – who have yet to come.

We have created a new logo that reflects our hopes for this phase of our church life – an open door. We want people to know our doors are open.

The newly-expanded St. John's was officially opened on Oct. 10, with a dedication and consecration following a Thanksgiving Eucharist with Bishop Ralph Spence and various special guests.

A Community Open House was also held on Oct. 10. People ventured in to get to know us. We have many people just like you joining our parish family.

Check us out on the web at www.ancasteranglican.org and come in and meet us face to face.

We love our music and think you will too – come in and take some time in your life to reflect, think, celebrate and break bread with us.

We're warm and friendly, but here is what some of our parishioners and newcomers are saying: "I like the sermons from Father



AN OPEN DOOR welcomes all



THE ANNUAL ANCASTER food drive is organized each year at St. John's Ancaster.

David, they are relevant to me and my life right now."

"It's important for my children to grow up with strong values, this community gives them that foundation."

Marcie Mitchell, her husband Tim, and their three young children, make the trip from Oakville every week.

Marcie teaches high school and is saddened by those young people who don't know the love and support they could have from a

church community.

"I can see the difference teaching Christian values instills in my children. They really learn from doing things like sending Care Packages to Third World countries. It's not easy getting up early on Sunday and packing three kids off to church, but this is important. They are important.

"They love the activities at St. John's and I find the people very warm and friendly. Each Sunday is a special time for me to sit and

think about my life and the weekly lessons in the service. It allows me to look at the bigger picture."

We know we are making a difference to each other at St. John's. Come and find out for yourself.

Who was it that once said to you "come with me"? Do you thank God for them?

Say "come with me" and help the world hear the voice of the one who said: "Come to me, all you that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

St. Stephen-on-the-Mount
Hamilton, presents
Winterwonderland
Saturday, November 20, 2004
10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Featuring
Crafts For Everyone
Luncheon
Bakery
Preserves

Raffle: Quilt, Multi gifts
Tabitha-Cambodia crafts
Used Book Table

St. Stephen-on-the-Mount is located at 625 Concession Street,
next to Henderson Hospital, Hamilton.

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We Need Your Help!
Donation envelopes were not included in your parish envelope package for 2004
We need your regular contribution to pay the ongoing costs of your paper

Editorial

Anticipation and hope

Advent is marked by a spirit of anticipation, of preparation, of longing. There is a yearning for protection from the evils of the world – the crisis in Iraq, terrorism, and those closer to home like street crime, drugs, violence and abuse. And Advent is our light.

We can take that light and hope and apply it to our broken world, our strained relationships, our broken selves in hopes of healing.

Advent is hope and the promise of justice in a world shaped by desperation and injustice.

But as the pages of our calendars begin to fill up with the requisite celebrations of the season, we can easily lose sight of the importance of this time of preparation.

Advent is that special time in the Christian calendar that asks us to take pause from the frantic pace of life to connect more intimately with God.

It is only through quiet introspection and prayer that we can nurture our connection with God. He is always ready. It is we who need to “find the time”.

This Advent season, quiet reflection and prayer will pave the way for the celebration of the birth of Christ. Unless we have taken the time to contemplate the enormity of the birth of Christ, how can we truly celebrate Christmas?

Christ's birth had a profound impact on the world. He paved the way to God for a people in fear and oppression. What a remarkable sacrifice. How humbled are we by this enormous expression of love?

May the Advent Season provide us with the quiet and prayerful moments we need to face life – its difficulties, challenges, joys and sorrow. Advent begins November 28.

The people spoke

When diocesan synod meets in a few weeks, the process of building a New Niagara will have come full circle.

It was nearly a year ago, at the opening Eucharist of Synod 2003, that Bishop Ralph Spence announced the largest consultation process ever undertaken would commence immediately in the Diocese of Niagara. Most everything, he said, was up for review.

In less than a year, a team of dedicated volunteers have delivered to the diocesan budget committee a template for the future of the diocese. From this template, a vision for a New Niagara will be forged.

In September, four regional budget meetings were held across the diocese to give people the chance to vote on their priorities. More than 400 people attended and cast their votes. The number of people who attended the meetings, alone, was impressive, perhaps offering some indication of the passion behind the process.

To be sure, at least for New Niagara Team members, it was a gruelling process. In all 73 faith communities participated, representing the voices of thousands of Anglicans across the diocese. This truly was a process of the people.

And the people spoke. In remarkably consistent patterns, they voted to strengthen youth and children's programming, outreach within the diocese and to provide increased clergy leadership and support.

Nourishing the spiritual growth of our next generation is a motherhood issue. There should be no debate about that.

Outreach within the diocese (and outside—though that ranked considerably lower) is what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about. One woman was heard to say, “Isn't that why we're here in the first place?” She chuckled and added, “It would be a sad day when the Church forgets about people in need.” Indeed.

Providing clergy with leadership and support is another bread-and-butter issue. How can we hope to strengthen our faith communities if our clergy are unprepared or unable to lead the way?

The faithful who attended the regional budget meetings, consistently voted to strengthen those areas that are staples in our lives as Anglicans. Or they should be.



There is an awkward adjustment period when evangelists first get to heaven.

Letter to the Editor

A reflection on process

“What evolves from (the New Niagara) process...is a list of statements that can provide the diocese with guiding principles for future endeavours, ministry emphases and spending within the diocese.” - Robert Morrow, Niagara Anglican, Oct. 2004.

Exactly! But how? So many of the ‘positive core statements’ are features that we like to believe we do, but we are not consistent.

For instance, “We are a passionate community of faith ... growing into the future.” Are we? Then why do I read Archdeacon (Marion) Vincett's article about closing churches, with its implication that parishioners are more concerned with maintaining dilapidated church buildings rather than performing Christian service in the communities in which those church buildings are located? As the editorial states: “The Church that needs to be saved has little to do with buildings and more to do with vital and caring communities.”

“Our faith communities attract, invite and warmly welcome of those who are searching for spiritual meaning and a relationship with God.” We like to think so, but we kid ourselves if we think that is always the case. How can we make it really true? In our parish coffee hour, I see newcomers standing on their own because regulars are too busy chatting with their friends.

As Canon Michael Patterson observes: “we...need to respond and meet people where they are...to offer new ways for people to experience the living presence of God” in us.

“As a community, we devote leadership and resources to discerning relevant Christian education for all ages.” Do we? In my experience, when Christian education is suggested to most parishioners they fail to attend unless it is conducted during regular service time. Those who do attend are a handful of committed people.

I am convinced the reason we do not attract teenagers is because they are teeming with questions about spirituality – about God – but those same questions may challenge the faith of those who wish to instruct them. Our Church is divided between Essentials and John Spong (or Tom Harpur).

To boldly go – ‘we find creative and exciting ways to express and explore our faith.’ I may seem cynical but most people find comfort in a faith that is not subject to constant challenges. The seminars held at Niagara-on-the-Lake during the past summers have been challenging and worthy of support, but how many of those in the pews wish to have their faith challenged in such a manner?

In my own parish, a small group has studied Marcus Borg's thoughts, but the size of the group indicated how many are prepared to find creative and exciting ways to express and explore our faith.

“Valuing Anglican Expressions”: Indeed, we do hold in tension a preference for earlier and evolving expressions of Anglicanism and we've got to face up to it. What is God calling us to do?

I have a feeling that those who live in the past will die in the past. We call ourselves Anglicans, but how many of us are willing to discuss the dichotomy that threatens our unity?

Dare I ask if God is asking us to go our own separate ways? To quote Canon Patterson again: “we must adapt to this volatile environment.”

As a parting thought, the word ‘evangelism’ is misleading in our volatile environment. It has me thinking of standing on a street corner proclaiming, “Are you saved?”

As an educator, I know the best way to teach is by example. Should not Canon Patterson be director of Christian service?

If the unconvinced saw us living as Jesus taught, we would be effective evangelists.

Ghandi is said to have stated that he would have been a Christian had he seen Christians behaving as Jesus taught.

Susan Huxford-Westall, O.N.
Hamilton



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Viewpoints

Lowly coffee hour makes a difference

Most churches I've visited in the Diocese of Niagara have a coffee hour after the main worship service on Sunday morning. (Churches with two main services often have coffee in between.) Some small country churches are exceptions.

The coffee hour is a wonderful occasion for fellowship and an excellent opportunity to extend hospitality to visitors.

Coffee hours were rare before 1960 and practically unheard of before 1925. They were an innovation of something called the Parish Communion movement.



The Itinerant Churchgoer

— The Rev.
Dr. Alan L. Hayes

The argument was that in the primitive church (as we see in 1 Cor. 11:17ff.) the Eucharist wasn't simply a rite with a wafer and a sip of

wine, but a fellowship meal. So the coffee hour was promoted as a way of restoring real food and social interaction to the Anglican experience of the Eucharist.

In other words, it was an essential part of the liturgy.

St. Paul, Westdale

Visiting St. Paul, Westdale, one Sunday recently, I was mightily impressed with the table that was laid out in the basement after the service. There were baked goods, cheeses, fruits, vegetables, and dips, better than you find at some restaurant buffets.

I mentioned my reaction to a parishioner.

"Yes," he said, "that's one of the reasons my family comes here."

He hastily explained that they weren't gluttons looking for cheap good eats. But he had discovered from hard experience elsewhere that his family wanted more from church than decent worship and preaching; it wanted good healthy community.

"When we moved to Hamilton, we visited several churches," he recounted, "and when we saw how much work the people of St. Paul's put into its coffee hour, we knew that this was a place that really took fellowship seriously."

Welcoming visitors

When I visit a new church, I like to talk to people afterwards. Unfortunately, I've found that many churches overlook welcoming visitors to the coffee hour.

That's why I was impressed with Christ Church, Bronte. As I shook hands with the rector after the service, he recognized me as a visitor, and not only invited me to coffee, but summoned a warden to show me the way and introduce me to people. I said to myself, "This is a place where I'd like to return."

Among the churches I've visited where laypeople sitting near me in the service took the initiative to show me to coffee and introduce me around are St. George, Georgetown, and St. George, Lowville. Maybe that's one reason their numbers are strong and their energy is positive!

Clergy as hosts

At most churches I've found that the clergy spend little time at the coffee hour, or even none at all. In my view, they might as well skip out on the Eucharist.

The coffee hour is equally a part of the weekly gathering of the people of God. If the sanctuary needs someone to preside, so does the parish hall.

I know from my own experience as a priest, though, what happens to the clergy after the Sunday morning service. People descend on them to make appointments, to consult about things, to require urgent pastoral care that they've been thinking about all week, to drag them into committee meetings, and to load them with immediate administrative tasks.

But clergy who want to build the congregational community and get to know visitors and newcomers had better reschedule all that to a later time and head to the coffee hour instead.

In my experience, the most successful coffee hours are the ones where people experience the rector as a gracious host and hospitable presence. I think, for example, of St. Mary, Hamilton, where I found the rector to be just that. She attended to people in a comfortable way that wasn't at all fussy. She introduced visitors and got up-to-date with the regulars. She got the group's attention for a few words of thanks, some friendly remarks and some timely announcements.

A parish leader who exercises that kind of ministry week after week does a lot to further the divine alchemy by which God turns a disparate group of strangers and pilgrims into a relatively harmonious community centred on Christ.

At St. Mary, I thought of 1 Peter 2:10, "Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people." Those who have learned and inwardly digested that verse know what God makes possible through the lowly coffee hour.

Toward a healthy maturity

"She rises while it is still night, and sets meat before her household..." Proverbs 31:15

The bird feeder hangs from the centre of a clothesline over a rock garden, about seven feet from our kitchen window.

The birds that visit it daily throughout the year are a constant source of fascination – and amusement. Their antics are almost enough to make one look forward to spending a few minutes washing dishes or preparing a meal.

Over the summer I've seen two generations of 'Elbejays' (the Birder's technical term for "little brown jobs" – those varieties of sparrows and finches that look so similar) grow into independent maturity. Larger species, like cardinals, mature more slowly – but the colour change in feathers, especially in the males, make the process seem to be happening more quickly.

But in all species, there comes a point at which the youngsters are in fact larger than their parents, who have worn themselves thin finding food for their hungry offspring.

But one young male cardinal seemed to be pushing the feeding thing just a little too far. We had watched as his plumage filled in, and as his flying improved, and as he learned to first pick up spilled seed from the ground, and then to land on the feeder itself.

In fact he had become quite competent by the time his plumage had finally filled in with the recognizable bright red, complete with crest on the head. And he had clearly grown much larger than his mother.

But whenever his mother appeared on the scene, he quickly perched on the clothesline, opened wide

his beak, fluttered his wings like a young flightless chick, and chirped to be fed. And to my complete disgust, she fell for it and fed him every time. Apparently the bonds of the parent-child relationship, so helpful in the early stages, can become completely dysfunctional in maturity, in birds as well as

in people. Both species seem to have trouble with the process of growing up and becoming a healthily independent adult.

Over thousands of years, the dysfunction persists. Overprotective parents driven by a need to be needed inhibiting maturity or encouraging immaturity in their offspring, to the detriment of both; and youth manipulating adults into providing what, with a little effort, they could easily do for themselves.

On a subtler level it leads to controlling authoritarian leaders, whose followers find it easier to do what they're told rather than work it, or think it, through for themselves. And it cultivates that manipulative behaviour that is associated with the view that the world owes us a living, and if something goes wrong, it's always somebody else's fault.

Such dysfunction can also be found in religious communities, as we see being played out daily on our TV screens and in our newspapers.

There is example after example of rigid controlling behaviour that binds both leader and follower into a fixed pattern, of dependence and reaction. The very sort of demeaning role imprisonment that Jesus was encouraging us to break away from.

"I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. I have come to set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother...." Matthew 10:34b-35aas

Seeking the higher ground

As we absorb the daily news, it appears our society is becoming more and more uncivil, angry and fractious. For example, incivility was evident during our national election.

What has traditionally been 'genteel mud wrestling' – politicians throwing mud at each other – frequently became a blood sport. Some of our candidates attacked their rivals with nasty, personal remarks.

Not to be outdone by government, the private sector practices incivility. In many of our union-management disputes, invective is the preferred means to communicate with one another. Elsewhere, customers are rude to shopkeepers and shopkeepers to customers.

Is society becoming more uncivil? Or, does the daily news only make us more aware of what are really timeless features of human nature?

My sense from reading Scripture is human nature does not change over time. Many Scripture stories illustrate this. Some – especially the stories of Jesus – go one step further with practical lessons and Good News. What Jesus teaches helps us deal with our and other people's natures in positive, constructive ways.

St. Luke's Gospel (chapter 12: 13-21) has a vivid account about incivility and Jesus' response. At one level, it impresses on us how destructive incivility is, and that human nature has not changed. At a deeper level, the story shows how Jesus dealt with incivility, and gives us a template for our responses.

Jesus was in his workplace, preaching and healing the sick. As he ministered, Jesus met two brothers arguing over their inheritance. Luke does not give us the brothers' dialogue, but I suspect it went something like this: "What's mine is mine; what's yours is ours; at least half of what's ours should be mine." The brothers asked Jesus to arbitrate. He declined, instead giving them a three-fold lesson.

The first thing Jesus did was listen. His response teaches us that listening to someone dump his or her bucket is often all that is needed to help resolve a

problem. Some situations only need to be ventilated.

Jesus' second response was not to engage. He declined to be drawn into the brothers' argument, perhaps to respect the principle of triangulation. In

triangulation, A is arguing with B. Along comes C. A and B ask for C's help. Before long, A and B are mad at C; C wonders what happened; A and B's dispute remains unresolved. In other words, everybody loses. Jesus would surely have known about triangulation.

Jesus' third response was to give the brothers a higher principle. He recognized greed was driving and dividing the brothers. So, he told them a story about the futility of greed. A landowner had so much wealth stored up for the future, he would never be able to enjoy it. God came to him unexpectedly and said, "Tonight, you will die. All this wealth you have – whose will it be?"

Jesus' story challenged the brothers to consider what really matters in life.

To make wealth one's priority, and allow it to jeopardize family relationships, doesn't make sense. Who gets what was not the brothers' real issue; greed was driving them with incivility and breaking their relationship.

Luke does not tell us how the brothers responded to Jesus. Perhaps, what Jesus said ended the dispute. If it did not, there was probably nothing more Jesus would have done. Jesus respects people's freedom of choice. Ultimately, we all have to decide our priorities and behaviours. Jesus wants our decisions to be meaningful by teaching us about consequences.

Is society becoming more uncivil? Scripture, history and personal experience teach us that human nature does not change. Fractious behaviour and incivility are constants in nature and history.

The Good News is that neither history nor human nature need be the last word in our lives. Jesus has given us lessons to help us as we live and work. May his response to the two feuding brothers help us as we encounter incivility, wherever we are.



Signs & Wonders

— The Rev. Canon
William C.
Thomas

wthomas@interlynx.net



Christ in the workplace

— Canon
David Browning



RECIPIENTS OF THE Order of Niagara pose for a photo with Bishop Ralph Spence at Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton. Services were held Sept. 19 and 26 to honour 76 recipients of the Order of Niagara. This photo was taken on Sept. 26. The cathedral was filled with family, friends and well-wishers.

Niagara shows its vitality in many ways

From expansions to celebrations, diocese is alive and growing

By DIANA HUTTON
Editor

There is vibrant growth in the life of the Diocese of Niagara, says Bishop Ralph Spence.

In the past few months, the bishop has attended the consecrations of at least four additions to church buildings across the diocese, giving cause for celebration.

"It's wonderful to see," he said. And while other additions/renovations are in the fundraising stage, Bishop Ralph has already attended the official opening of additions at St. John's, Port Dalhousie; St. James, Fergus, St. Matthew on-the-Plains, Burlington, St. John, Cheapside, and most recently on the Thanksgiving weekend, St. John's, Ancaster.

St. Luke's, Burlington, is also

in the final stages of fundraising for renovations to the parish hall and work at Christ Church Cathedral, Hamilton, is ongoing.

"There are lots of places in the process of expansion and that's pretty exciting," Bishop Ralph said.

Such vitality contrasts sharply with the pain of parish closures, he said, but "we move forward with the help of the Spirit."

New Niagara

Bishop Ralph said he was delighted with the turnout for the regional budget meetings. More than 400 people attended the four meetings held in Oakville, Orangeville, St. Catharines and Hamilton.

"The participation of so many was important to the process, which we had never before tried. I'm very pleased so many made sure their voices were heard."

Bishop's Company

With the largest turnout in the history of the event, the Bishop's Company dinner at the Burlington Convention Centre, was a resounding success, said Bishop Ralph.

Guest speaker, Hazel McCallion, mayor of Mississauga, "kept us spellbound" with her speech, the bishop said.

"Hazel McCallion is such an incredible woman. She's a real dynamo."

Keeping the crowd entertained was a youth ensemble from St. Catharines, The Jazz Five.

"They were fabulous," he said.

St. Matthew's House

In grand style, St. Matthew's House, an outreach centre for the disadvantaged in Hamilton and area, celebrated its 40th anniversary on Sept. 30 at Liuna Station.

"It was fabulous," Bishop Ralph said. "I must give a special word of thanks to Canon Wendy Roy (director) and her staff for what was a great evening."

Although it's difficult to imagine, St. Matthew's House has been in existence for 40 years, Bishop Ralph said.

Politicians, clergy and those who have used the services of St. Matthew's House were all in attendance to mark the milestone.

"In 40 years, the folks there

have really plowed forward, at times with endless difficulty, with a lot of grace."

The celebration, which culminated with a fireworks display at evening's end, was "truly a wonderful event," Bishop Ralph said.

Open Houses

It was "a happy time" for clergy who attended the clergy open houses at Flagstaff. One-hundred people attended each of two days.

"There have been a lot of happy occasions."

God's Paint Brush...A Retreat for Families



Feb. 4-6, 2005
at
Canterbury Hills Camp

* A retreat designed to create opportunities for families to enrich faithful, nurturing relationships and homes. This year's theme is based on the book, "God's Paintbrush" by Sandy Eisenberg Sasso. There will be campfires, workshops for adults, programs for children and youth, family crafts, high ropes adventure, hearty meals, heated cabins, lively music, creative worship, llama walk, puppet shows and time to connect with loved ones in the beautiful landscape of the Carolinian Forest. *

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*
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Consultant in Children's Ministry at
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dawn.wiggins@niagara.anglican.ca
Registration Deadline is January 28, 2005

*
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ATTENTION, READERS

The Publisher's

Advisory Board of the Niagara Anglican is conducting a survey about the Niagara Anglican newspaper.

PAB is asking you to tell us how we can better serve you. What would you like to see? What do you eagerly read? What could you do without? To complete the survey, visit www.niagara.anglican.ca.

Those without Internet access are encouraged to visit their parish churches to have a copy of the survey printed out.

Year-round stewardship is necessary

Reflections on a personal theology of giving

Part two of a three-part series by Jim Newman, former chair of the Diocese of Niagara's Stewardship Committee. This series is based on a talk given at Christ's Church Cathedral in April 2004.

In the previous issues of the Niagara Anglican, I argued for a renewal of year-round stewardship programs across the Diocese of Niagara. We really have no choice. Many parishes are in serious financial difficulty. Some may disagree, but I don't think it's due to over spending, although there are always areas of potential savings.

It's because of unrealistically low levels of giving.

How we manage the love of God

But we can remedy this. St. Christopher's Church in Burlington is an example of a deliberate and ongoing process to educate people about steward-

ship action and attitude.

Their rector defines stewardship as "how we manage the love of God."

He's clear about expectations. For example, one is expected to join the parish and make a commitment of time and treasure from day one.

Newcomers

Newcomers are encouraged to give two per cent initially with a minimum standard of \$1,000 per household set by the rector.

They believe there's a direct link between giving and worship attendance.

They put an emphasis on stewardship of time – "tithe your time".

Parishioners are regularly challenged to self-examination of how they give. They've had a narrative budget in place for 10 years. Over the past five years, the average annual



gift per giver has increased from \$600 to \$1,100.

It's not all about money at St. Christopher's. The parish emphasizes that all are on a journey to become "mature Christians". They present themselves as a community whose task is to model faithfulness to the world.

And it's not your average parish. In the past 10 years, it has doubled in size and become a dynamic, spiritually vibrant, outward looking community of faith that is an example to parishes across the diocese.

Planned giving

More Anglicans endow the Salvation Army in their wills than their own church, and that more Anglicans give to World Vision than the Primates' World Relief and Development Fund. Why? It's because these, and most other charities, have

become more aggressive about pursuing planned gifts. They ask, and they ask in a variety of ways.

Anglicans are less likely to ask directly. But, thanks to Planned Giving representatives across the diocese, that's changing.

We all know the importance of having a will, but not all of the ways that we can include our parishes and the diocese in our wills.

Bequests

The most popular planned gift is a bequest, but there are other means such as trusts, life insurance, and annuities.

Your planned giving representative can provide details. My wife and I have a will and we've remembered Christ's Church Cathedral in our will. See how it works?

Jesus talked about money more than he talked about prayer and heaven. He believed that there was a direct connection between our stewardship of money and our spiritual growth.

As I continue to rethink my own theology of giving, I found some excellent thoughts in a little book called *Giving – Unlocking the Heart of Good Stewardship* by Ortberg, Pederson and Poling. I'll write about it in the next issue.



CANON LUCY Reid and Fred Evers are the authors of *Working With Spirit*. Canon Reid is ecumenical campus minister at the University of Guelph. Mr. Evers, a member of St. Matthias in Guelph, is a sociology professor at the university.

Working With Spirit brings God into our lives everyday of the week

By THE REVEREND DAVID HOWELLS

Living with a university chaplain, you get to hear all sorts of stories of what is happening on campus: stories of students struggling to become whole, stories of crazy professors, and stories of ordinary people just trying to find their way through life.

Working With Spirit is a book that comes out of that last group.

Every Friday morning, The Reverend Canon Lucy Reid cycles off to the University of Guelph campus at 7:30 a.m. to convene a group of faculty and staff who meet to make sense of their lives.

A university is another part of our world, and as the pressure to produce more with less occurs in factories, it happens on campus as well. Motivated, committed people start to fall apart, lose their sense of purpose and hope, and stop caring.

Working with Spirit is a book which comes out of 10 years of working with real people trying to keep a sense of the Spirit of God in the midst of conflict, down-sizing, anxiety and stress in their work.

Working with Spirit is a practical book of thoughtful reflection, stories about people and things that you can do.

It is a book for people who want the God they know on Sunday to be woven throughout their lives during the week.

I recommend this book to you, not just because I live with the author. The book is available at the Anglican Book Centre, or through Chapters, Amazon.Com or Barnes and Noble.

The Rev. David Howells is rector of the Church of St. David and St. Patrick in Guelph, and is married to Canon Lucy Reid.

Decision deferred for St. Luke's

Synod council has deferred a decision to allow Grace Church, St. Catharines, to use mortgage financing for a clergy stipend and renovations to the church building.

The decision will be deferred until the diocesan treasurer receives information from the parish on construction estimates, repayment plans, fundraising efforts and ministry plans.

Sale of property

The parish hall of All Saints, Niagara Falls is back on the market. The Reverend Dr. Steve Hopkins reported the sale did not close.

In July, a purchaser requested an extension due to financial difficulties. As of Sept. 3 the purchaser had not secured funding. The property is back on the market.

Executive Archdeacon Marion Vincett reported the sale of St. James, Hamilton, has closed.

Following the final service of St. Martin's, Niagara Falls, on Sept. 8, the property was to have been listed for sale.

Archdeacon Vincett said there is a party interested and there may be the possibility of a private sale.

St. Stephen's, Niagara Falls, has been sold for \$221,000. Some parishioners have moved over to Holy Trinity.

\$15,000 grant for St. Luke's

Synod council approved an application from St. Luke's, Burlington to the Anglican Foundation for a grant of \$15,000.

The grant is to assist in the redevelopment of its parish hall. To date, the parish has raised \$723,000, received pledges of \$855,000, and bequests in the amount of \$50,000, totalling \$1,628,000. The goal for the project is \$1,969,000.

The Anglican Foundation grant will be used to furnish the parlor.

Applications to the Anglican Foundation must be approved by the diocesan bishop and synod

Synod Council News Sept. 2004 meeting

council. Each diocese may forward three applications per year and there have been none in 2004 from Niagara.

Policy for Disposition of Moveable Memorials/Furnishings

The following was developed by the archdeacons and distributed at the September synod council meeting. This policy is offered as a guide.

The regional archdeacon, wardens and the priest/cleric in charge, will take an inventory of the items in question. A list may then be advertised on the diocesan web site after the parish has been disestablished and worship in the building has ceased.

Requests for any items will be made in writing to the regional archdeacon before a stated date, with

the understanding that the items in question may or may not be available depending upon the conditions of the sale of the property.

A submitted request should include the reason for the request. The regional archdeacon, in consultation with any or all of the wardens, priest/deacon involved, the diocesan archivist and the bishop makes the distribution.

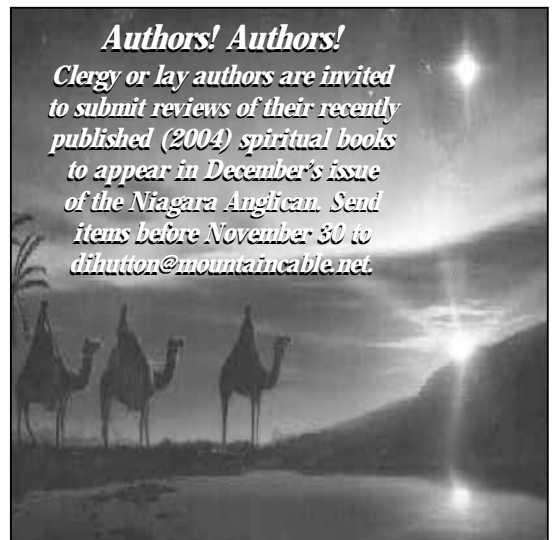
The cost of the removal of fixed items or damaged building fabric will be borne by the recipient parish or individual.

A memorial to any parish, like any gift, becomes the property of the recipient and no longer belongs to the donor. There is no guarantee, however, that it will remain in the parish to which it was given. Should it become necessary to remove a memorial gift from a church building, wishes of the donor family will be considered.

At press time, minutes from the October synod council were not available.

Authors! Authors!

Clergy or lay authors are invited to submit reviews of their recently published (2004) spiritual books to appear in December's issue of the Niagara Anglican. Send items before November 30 to dihutton@mountaincable.net.



The rich, warm wisdom of Katharine Greenfield

Cathedral Archivist,
Diocese of Niagara

Katharine Greenfield, honorary lay Canon of Christ's Church Cathedral, modestly claims, "I don't think you'll find anything very interesting about me."

She then enthusiastically explains her work as the archivist for our diocesan Cathedral, to offer insights into the workings of the Cathedral community, and to share wisdom accumulated through many years as a faithful Anglican.

"I collect papers and photographs, anything to do with the Cathedral – but I'm not really an archivist," she smiles. "I'm really a librarian, so I arrange things ... with a card index and file folders in a cabinet."

"I want to be a repository for minutes, record books, etc. for any organization that goes out of business, or that are so old that the secretary no longer wants to keep them."

Rumour has it that Katharine is primarily responsible for the magnitude of accumulated historical artifacts at the Hamilton Public Library, where she was head of Special Collections.

Katharine often responds to letters inquiring about families' affiliation with the Cathedral.

"If I don't find it, I hand it over to John Rathbone, the diocesan archivist. I don't mind handing it over to him ... he's a very nice man."

Katharine goes to the Cathedral every morning, "but ... I try to work three days a week; there's stacks of stuff to be filed."

"Some (of it) comes from newspapers, but people have collected bulletins, calendars, and clippings. When they die, their families don't want to throw everything away, so they ask if I want it. I always say 'Sure!'"

Investigating archival material,

Getting to Know You

– The Rev. Fran Darlington

Katharine appreciates records kept by her great-grandfather, John Gamble Geddes, who served the Cathedral from 1835, becoming dean of Niagara at the formation of the diocese in 1875, remaining until his death in 1891.

"He wrote beautifully!" Katharine said. "Some clergy scrawl in the registers, but he was always neat. I was brought up to think (him) a saint, but he wasn't, just an ordinary man with great dedication."

Before becoming dean, Mr. Geddes operated a school on the site.

"That's why the (Cathedral offices) are called 'the school-house.' He was a meticulous man; some people thought he should have been bishop... In 1839, the congregation wanted him to retire," but chose not to.

"He occupied the dean's stall every Sunday till he died. I bet the vicar was thrilled!"

Katharine has also examined papers left by Bishop Walter Bagnall (1949-1973): "They're fascinating, you know."

Her friend's parents remembered him: "They were charmed that Bishop Bagnall would stop and talk to them at the farm market."

Katharine's keen observation and warm humour are evident as she describes herself as "quite an admirer of Bishop Bagnall. He was a kindly man, but pleased with himself, so pleased that you were pleased for him."

Asked about her most fascinating find, Katharine explains her great interest in local history, especially in finding Sir Alan McNab's papers and discovering his part in the Cathedral.

She found minutes from a build-



CANON KATHARINE GREENFIELD
Cathedral archivist

ing committee meeting in the 1830s. Sir Alan was a member, "selling pews to finance the Cathedral. He had two really good pews with social status, then he was granting pews in the balcony for servants."

Katharine describes the "original Cathedral, with a spire and colonnade, almost sitting on the road. Judge Thomas' house was across the street. The Sunday School children would go (there), because the bay came right up to the house and they could play there – but they were learning Bible verses!"

Katharine is well aware of the challenges facing the Church at the beginning of the 21st Century. "Jo Fricker was at the Cathedral (dean of Niagara 1973-1985) when the Book of Alternative Services first came out. He gave me a copy, and hoped I would accept it. I've never argued about it, because we have to change."

Change may bring struggle
Nonetheless, Katharine is aware of the struggle change may bring: "It's unfair of clergy to take for granted that if you don't accept change of some sort, you're out of the picture. I think you can be (up to half) conservative! I've attend-

ed services all my life, my mind may not be as keen as it once was, but I've studied a lot! But I love the Church, and I love the Cathedral!"

She is very proud of what happens there. "If you hang around the place, you realize the work that's going on... we haven't the money or personnel to do it, but we do it."

"We have an awful lot of (street people) around, but I see how nicely they are handled."

'Churches doing best'

"I really do think that our churches are doing their best to follow the teachings of Christ."

Her smile brightens again.

"The Cathedral used to have a reputation for being cold, but not any more."

The Cathedral now needs \$250,000 for a new roof.

"I lay awake, and try to figure out what I'm going to do with the \$1,000,000 I'm going to win – put a new roof on the Cathedral, and buy a nice house!" she chuckles.

Asked about the Church's difficulty accepting money from lottery winnings, Katharine grins. "I think the dean would find a way

around that!"

Katharine admits "I agree to disagree with Peter (Wall, dean of Christ's Church Cathedral), but he was so kind in the loss of Harry (Katharine's beloved Yorkshire Terrier) in the summer."

Preceded by Henry, Harry is succeeded by Harriet, now finding her way into Katharine's heart.

Family dwindling

"I've always been single. My family is dwindling (two brothers and a sister have died in the last few years) so a dog means a lot to me..."

"Life has slowed down. If I didn't have the Cathedral and a dog, I don't know what I'd do. They're my family!"

Katharine's surviving brother, Bill, 90, lives in British Columbia, and continues to minister in a three-point parish there.

Born in Hamilton, Katharine was baptized at the Cathedral, and has lived in Hamilton all her life, for 52 years in the house where she was born, and 32 years in her house on the Hamilton Mountain.

Still an avid reader, Katharine did leave Hamilton to go to Trinity College, Toronto, where she lived in St. Hilda's residence, and sang in the choir. She has also travelled to Europe and across Canada, and continues to enjoy bus trips.

Involvement

Involved in many organizations, Katharine chuckles as she describes going to meetings. She is now past president of the Head of the Lake Historical Society and of the Hamilton Association for Advancement of Science, Literature and Art.

In 1997, Bishop Ralph Spence appointed Katharine an honorary lay canon of the Cathedral: "I couldn't figure out why, but I was thrilled!"

Katharine admits to a talent for public speaking "on Cathedral and Hamilton history. I'm not bad, but I amuse them! You see, I look so dull and old, they're surprised when the fun comes out."

Dull? Old? None of us can escape the passage of time, but Katharine Greenfield is wonderfully young at heart, and far from dull!

The history of our Cathedral is in deeply dedicated hands, and our Diocese is greatly enriched through her presence and work.

'I collect papers, photographs ... I want to be a repository for minutes, record books...'



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Sat., Dec. 4, noon to 5 p.m.
Cost is \$15.00

For information, call
St. James' Anglican Church,
Dundas at (905) 627-1424





The Bishop's Company



Two-hundred and fifty people attended the 2004 Bishop's Company dinner held at the Burlington Convention Centre. Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion, an Anglican, kept people spellbound with her speech.



BISHOP RALPH SPENCE with Mississauga Mayor Hazel McCallion

If you would like to become a member of the Bishop's Company, please forward your name and address to Karen, Nowicki, Bishop's Company registrar, at 905/527-1316 ext. 380 or email knowicki@niagara.anglican.ca. Bishop Spence will personally invite you to become a member. The annual membership fee is \$200.



THE JAZZ FIVE, a youth ensemble from St. Catharines, kept everyone entertained.



BOBBY AND MYRTLE LAMBE, from County Down, Northern Ireland, pose with St. Mary's Rector The Reverend Fran Darlington. The couple had flown from Ireland early in October to worship at St. Mary's in honour of their 47th wedding anniversary. The couple was married in the church in 1957. While in Hamilton, they visited Archdeacon Clark, who officiated at their wedding and is now St. Mary's Rector Emeritus.

St. Mary's, Hamilton, raises \$2,000 for hurricane relief efforts

Raising more than \$2,000, parishioners at St. Mary's, Hamilton, opened their hearts and wallets to support hurricane relief efforts in Grenada and Cuba.

On Sept. 19, the parish welcomed The Reverend Canon Christian Glasgow from the hurricane-torn island of Grenada.

Canon Glasgow was able to fly out of Grenada before the hurricane hit to participate in a meeting of the Partners in Mission (PIM) group of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Rector in Sauteurs

Rector of St. Patrick's parish in Sauteurs, Canon Glasgow is appointed to represent the Diocese of the Windward Islands at PIM.

Canon Glasgow gave a powerpoint presentation of many photographs of Hurricane Ivan's devastation.

The circling winds tore roofs

off many buildings, and damaged even cement structures, including churches. The accompanying deluge of rain caused even more damage as it poured into roofless buildings.

One rectory was left with its window awnings intact, but the roof collapsed through two floors into the basement, just as the priest and his family were seeking shelter there. If they had reached their destination, they would have been killed.

Hillsides once blanketed with rich greenery now look as if a buzz saw attacked them.

The island's spice trade in nutmeg and cinnamon is destroyed, and will take several years to re-establish. Breadfruit is a staple of the local diet, but those trees too were snapped off just above ground level and will not bear again for 10 to 12 years.

The outlook is very grim for the people of Grenada.

Like several Niagara parishes, St. Mary's is twinned with a parish in Cuba, which was also victimized by Hurricane Ivan.

During worship, Canon Glasgow wore a stole sent to St. Mary's rector by the parish of Santa Maria Virgen in Itabo, Cuba.

Funds split

The funds raised for hurricane relief will be split between their friends in Grenada and Cuba.

Parishes considering assisting with hurricane relief are invited to contact the Reverend Philip Wadham at (416) 924-9199 ext. 223.

Canon Glasgow's sister, Gloria Charles, is also willing to bring his presentation to any interested church. Call St. Mary's at (905) 549-4335 for more information.

Rural churches could be impacted by new water regulations

By THE REVEREND DAVID LONG

New water regulations issued by the provincial government mean that rural churches not on municipal water systems will have to decide whether or not to continue drawing drinking water from their taps.

The new regulations require churches drawing drinking water from cisterns, wells or ground

water sources to have an engineer design them a new system, install new water treatment equipment, and undertake regular water testing.

Costs vary

The costs of this vary, but could be as high as \$20,000 in the first year. Churches going this route must comply before June 1, 2005.

Archdeacon Harry Huskins, provincial executive officer, took

the lead to bring together other denominations seeking changes in the requirements from the Minister of the Environment.

This has resulted in the issuance of a new ministry guideline in August.

Exemptions

Changes will now enable our churches to post signs that will exempt them indefinitely. Previously, signs brought only a limited delay in the requirements.

However, by posting signs advising people not to drink the water, the parish would be restricted to preparing food only for members and their personally invited guests and conducting bake sales.

This will severely restrict the

ability of those churches to rent out their halls or conduct money making events.

It is essential all rural churches not on municipal water read the information found on the Ministry of the Environment's web site at ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp.4427e.pdf, or by calling the ministry's toll free number 1-800-565-4923.

Short-term

You may also choose to post signs in the short-term while awaiting possible cost reductions in the future.

Discussions continue with the ministry and the churches' technical experts, asking for further changes that would significantly reduce the high cost of engineering studies, equipment, and testing

requirements while ensuring high safety standards and enabling more rural churches to continue to have drinking water systems.

Third options

Along with a number of other public interest groups, the churches will also be asking for a third option that will allow parishes, community halls, and other rural public facilities to test their drinking water on a regular basis and continue to use their present systems unless a problem appears.

Readers who are unable to download the information from the ministry's web site, can contact The Rev. David H. Long, director of Human Resources, at the Diocesan Resource Centre, (905) 527-1316 ext. 330. E-mail david.long@niagara.anglican.ca.



The Christ's Church Cathedral Shoppe is now open

Devotional books, gift items, cards, Christmas cards and gifts and Anglican Book Centre publications.

We look forward to seeing you when you visit your Cathedral.

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**Saturday, November 13,
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For more information, call the church office at (905) 627-1424.

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Grace Anglican Church

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- ◆ Penny Sale
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905/529-2205 or 905/529-2983

Special rates for churches & seniors, free custom tints, free parking

St. Philip's, Burlington presents the Burlington Welsh Male Chorus

**November 6
8 p.m.**

at St. Christopher's Church, 662 Guelph Line, Burlington

Tickets are \$12 at the door and \$10 in advance. To purchase tickets or for more information call St. Philip's Church at (905) 336-7212 or St. Christopher's at (905) 634-1809.



CANON WENDY ROY, executive director of St. Matthew's House with Hamilton Centre MP David Christopherson at the 40th anniversary celebration of St. Matthew's House in Hamilton. The celebration was held Sept. 30 at Liuna Station.



A FIREWORKS DISPLAY, featuring a giant 40, capped off the evening.



MAGGIE PARKER-MILTON, St. Matthew's House staff member and Arlene Luke, former client and volunteer



MC DANA ROBBINS Editor-in-Chief Hamilton Spectator



BRIAN HAYMAN & Getting in the Groove brought a unique jazz experience

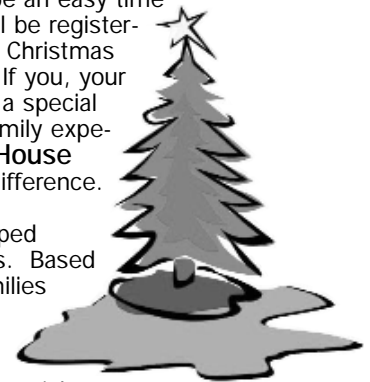


ST. CHRISTOPHER'S BURLINGTON Choir led by Mary Jane Price, director of music, sings show tunes.

Make a difference this Christmas – share yours with a family in need

Christmas is coming but it won't be an easy time for hundreds of families who will be registering with **St. Matthew's House** Christmas Adopt-a-family program in November. If you, your family, parish or group are looking for a special way to share your Christmas with a family experiencing hard times, **St. Matthew's House** offers you an opportunity to make a difference.

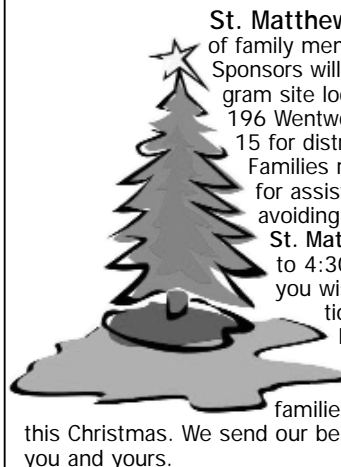
Last year **St. Matthew's House** helped 3,873 family members and individuals. Based on steadily increasing numbers of families who are suffering from the impact of poverty, unemployment, and financial hardships, we expect to help more this Christmas. Too many of them are at risk of becoming homeless.



Three ways you can sponsor a family:

- Provide the food for Christmas dinner for a family of two to five people or for a larger family.
- Or, provide new unwrapped toys for children or gifts for teenagers.
- Or, sponsor a large or small family by supplying Christmas dinner as well as one new gift for each child according to the size of family chosen. St. Matthew's House suggests gift certificates from A&P, The Barn, Fortino's or No Frills to cover the cost of meat (for the size of family chosen.) You can also supply potatoes, vegetables and dessert.

As a suggested guideline, you should be able to sponsor a family of four for \$125 - \$150. If it is not feasible to provide food or gifts, you can help sponsor a family by giving a donation to: St. Matthew's House Christmas Program, c/o **St. Matthew's House**, 414 Barton Street East, Hamilton, L8L 2Y3. Income tax receipts will be provided.



St. Matthew's House provides sponsors with first names of family members, plus ages and sizes of children. Sponsors will bring the food and gifts to the Christmas program site located at: Wentworth Campus, Mohawk College, 196 Wentworth St. North, Hamilton, on Dec. 13, 14 and 15 for distribution to families. Families registered at St. Matthew's House are eligible for assistance from only one agency, thereby avoiding duplication. Please call Debra House at **St. Matthew's House**, Monday to Friday, 8:30 am to 4:30 p.m. before Nov. 5 at (905) 523-5546 if you wish to sponsor a family or if you have questions. After Nov. 5, call Debra at the Christmas Program (905) 522-4584.

Thank you for remembering children and families most in need at **St. Matthew's House** this Christmas. We send our best wishes for every blessing at Christmas to you and yours.

THE WALK TO BETHLEHEM
Christmas pageant will take place Dec. 3, 4, 5, 6 at Country Heritage Park, Milton. The production takes groups of people through the Christmas story in an interactive way. Last year, (pictured left) Grace Church, with other Milton area churches, participated in the second annual event, produced by Christian Churches Working Together. The group comprises 18 area churches of various denominations. Last year The Walk to Bethlehem brought more than 5,000 through the park. More than 100 volunteers from Grace Church took part. In all, 600 volunteers helped pull together the event, which ran four nights. Other Anglican churches involved included St. Stephen's, Hornby, St. George's, Lowville and St. John's, Nassawaya. For more information on this year's pageant, call Grace Church at (905) 878-2411.



Bishop's Itinerary

November 7, 10:30 a.m. – All Saints, Peterborough, guest preacher
November 8 – Provincial House of Bishops
November 9 – Provincial Synod
November 11, evening – Synod Service, Christ's Church Cathedral
November 12 and 13 – Diocesan Synod, Hamilton Convention Centre
November 14 – 4 p.m., Ridley College, St. Catharines, Confirmation
November 14, evening – Visit with St. Catharines clergy
November 15 – St. Catharines, day with clergy
November 16 – Lincoln clericus meeting
November 17, 8:30 a.m. – Canterbury Hills, breakfast with church secretaries
November 17, 1:30 p.m. – Cathedral Place, diocesan candidates committee
November 20, 8:30 a.m. – Breakfast with Cursillo participants at Mount Mary, Ancaster
November 21, 10 a.m. – St. Paul's, Glanford, parish visit
November 25, 6 p.m. – Dinner with Divinity students, Toronto
November 26, 1:30 p.m. – St. John's Kilmarnock School, Evensong
November 28, 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. – St. George's, Guelph, parish visit
November 28, 3 p.m. – Christ's Church Cathedral, Mohawk regional confirmation
November 30, 5:30 p.m. – Cathedral Place, Bishop's Diploma Course Graduation

PEARLS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA

February 13 – March 03, 2005

A fascinating journey through Southeast Asia including Hong Kong, Thailand, Singapore & Malaysia, topped off with a four-night stay in mysterious Bali. The tour includes a Bangkok Rice Boat Cruise, a Mekong River Boat Ride, an Elephant Ride and a Bamboo Raft Ride.



Deposits are fully refundable for any reason until December 15. For a brochure of this exotic tour of the Orient, please contact:
 Canon Gordon Kinkley, M.A., M. Div.
 St. John's Church,
 80 Main St., St. Catharines L2N 3Z3
 (905) 934-1020; kinkley@iaw.com

Annette Graydon appointed to U.N.

Congratulations to Annette Graydon, who was appointed by the primate to attend the U.N. Commission on the Status of Women in March, 2005. Mrs. Graydon, a member of St. Alban's Glen Williams, is the national president of Mothers' Union.

Holmes at St. Luke's

The Reverend Gerry Holmes will supply at St. Luke's, Palermo, one day a week and Sunday. This arrangement began Oct. 12.

Sympathy for Ward family

Sympathy is expressed to the Ward family on the death of The Reverend Canon Clifford Ward, honorary assistant at St. Mark's, Niagara-on-the-Lake, who died on Sept. 27. The funeral service was held from St. Hilda's, Toronto.

People In The News

– Alison D'Atri

Anniversary wishes for the Goodwins

Ron and Olive Goodwin, St. Alban's, Glen Williams, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Sept. 26.

Anniversary wishes for the Pearsells

Belated anniversary wishes are sent to Robert and Irene Pearsell, faithful members of St. Stephen on-the-Mount, Hamilton, who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Sept. 25.

Moffett ordained into diaconate

Nancy Moffett was ordained to the Diaconate (transitional) at St. John the Evangelist, Thorold, on October 28. She will continue to minister at St. John's as assistant curate under the supervision of The Rev. Canon Dr. Cathie Crawford-Browning.

Comfort, safety in the Lord's dwelling place

Psalm 84 v1-7: 'How dear to me is your dwelling, Lord of Hosts.'

'My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord. My heart and flesh rejoice in the living God. The sparrow has found her a house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young by the side of your altars O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.'

'Happy are they who dwell in your house, they will always be praising you.'

'Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose heart is set in the pilgrim's way.'

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

– Annette Harris

'Those who go through the desolate valley, will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.'

'They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will reveal Himself in Zion.'

'Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer, hearken O God of Jacob'.
 Dwelling places are promised

to all who walk in the way of the Lord.

Comfort and safety, our Lord's defense is provided to all who turn to Him. Even the sparrows and swallows will be kept, the smallest defenseless birds of the air will be found homes, shelter from the storm. We shall be refreshed and nurtured on our journey as we seek as pilgrims of old.

He shields with his mighty power and guides with His Holy arm, and directs with His Holy life giving spirit.

He who promised us springs of water in a dry and thirsty land, gives renewal, cleansing, blessing, nurture. A spring will always be fresh, available to irrigate the dry ground for new life, new hope.

We shall go from strength to strength and not grow weary, we shall praise our holy God and Father for all He has given, for all He has done for us, His only son our savior, His blessed Holy Spirit, our comfort and help.

Lord God of all pilgrims, teach us to recognize your dwelling place in love, generosity and support with those with whom we share our journey. Help us to worship you in our response to all in need, for all the world is your temple and every human heart can be a place of your indwelling. You find us who seek you Lord of all, and we ask in Jesus' name that the spring of life giving water is ever available to us. Amen.



Cycle of Prayer

HAS MOVED

onto the Diocesan Web site
www.niagara.anglican.ca

Resources

Spirituality and Prayer

Churches are encouraged to copy it for use in their parish.