



ST. MICHAEL'S RECTOR Lynda Kealy proudly shows off her new granddaughter at the annual picnic. The picnic is usually held at Canterbury Hills but the picnic was held at the parish grounds this year. For details, see PICNIC / page 6.

'Make your voice heard'

Bishop urges all to attend budget meetings

By DIANA HUTTON
Editor

Niagara Bishop Ralph Spence is appealing to Anglicans across the diocese to attend one of four regional budget meetings this month to "express their opinions, and to ask the questions that need to be asked."

"It's vitally important for people to come to grips with the many difficult financial challenges we face," he said. "It's important that they ask questions and present their views before the budget is finalized at (diocesan) synod (in November)."

Budget meetings

Four regional budget meetings are being held by the finance advisory committee: Sept. 20 at St. Simon's, Oakville; Sept. 21 at St. Mark's, Orangeville; Sept. 22 at Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton; and Sept. 23 at Church of St. Columba, St. Catharines.

Pulling no punches, Bishop Spence said there is "enormous pressure" on the diocese to reduce spending.

"There are certain things we have commitments for that we can't change," he said. "We've got salaries, for instance. One of the biggest cost areas in every parish is salaries (for example), for the rectors, secretaries, caretakers. That's the cost of doing ministry."

Also included in the diocesan budget are financial commitments to the national and provincial church, and items such as pensions and services offered.

Bishop Spence noted many cost-saving measures have already been adopted at Synod Office.

Staff reductions

"We've reduced staff significantly," he said. "Historically there have been two bishops functioning. In 1991, there were three. For the last 15 years, we've had one bishop and we've carried on."

The regional budget meetings have been redesigned to allow for continued input from people, part of the New Niagara process. It is hoped many initiatives from the New Niagara process will help achieve significant cost-savings.

"At diocesan synod last year, I told people I was prepared to look at different ways of doing ministry,"

Bishop Spence said. "I hope people ask as many questions as possible so that, when they come to synod, they will have all the information they need to make an educated vote."

All four meetings will begin at 7 p.m. Coffee hour begins at 6:30 p.m.

They're partying at St. Matthew's

Burlington parish marks 155th anniversary with \$1.3-m. addition

By THE REVEREND SUZANNE CRAVEN and
THE REVEREND CANON CAROL SKIDMORE

St. Matthew on-the-Plains, Burlington, is celebrating in fine style this fall. After eight months of renovations, St. Matthew's in Burlington's west end has become the talk of the town.

A \$1.3-million dollar addition and renovation improved accessibility to all levels and provided much needed additional space for community groups and ministry.

The new addition includes a fireside room for programming, a new nursery room and community meeting room, a lift to three levels of the building, a link that joins two church halls on different levels and an extension to the kitchen, and a new church office.

Renovations were made to the worship space and to St. Andrew's Chapel, to both kitchens. Construction also furnished accessible washrooms in three areas, automatic openers on doors, air conditioning in new space and finally – a paved parking lot.

Our congregation has worked hard, not only to raise the needed funds but to volunteer countless hours in support of this project.

Former parishioners are invited to join us for our 155th-anniversary service of Dedication and Celebration on Sept. 26 at 10:30 a.m. Bishop Ralph Spence will officiate.

The service will be followed by tours, historical displays and a luncheon.

On Oct. 2, St. Matthew's will hold

an Open House from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., including tours, a free barbecue lunch and on-going musical entertainment.

At 2:30 p.m. the parish will begin a sponsored 5-kilometre community walk-a-thon, hoping to raise \$40,000 towards the building project.

St. Matthew's first corporate sponsor, Fox 40, has issued the corporate challenge by donating \$10,000 towards the walk.

Bishop Spence will be on hand to bless us on our walk and to take part in the festivities. Sponsor sheets are available through the church office at (905) 632-1233 or at stmatth@bserv.com and at commercial outlets.

The Reverend Suzanne Craven is priest associate and
The Rev. Canon Carol Skidmore is rector at St. Matthew on-the-Plains



AN ARTIST'S RENDERING OF St. Matthew's on-the-Plain with new addition. Designs by Gren Weis Architect and Associates.

Newspaper tightens belt

By DIANA HUTTON
Editor

In an effort to cut costs, your diocesan newspaper, The Niagara Anglican, is introducing a series of changes for 2004/2005.

One of the most obvious differences is the absence of a colour front-page photograph. The Niagara Anglican will carry front-page colour photographs only on the Christmas and Easter issues or when advertising revenues can support the cost. That change alone will save the newspaper thousands of dollars a year.

Another change is the page count. Again, unless advertising warrants, the Niagara Anglican will run at 12 pages, and sometimes fewer, per month. That measure too will save the diocese several thousand dollars a year. It had been the practice of the Niagara Anglican during the past two years to add pages to accommodate reader submissions.

The changes were announced by the Publisher's Advisory

Board (PAB) on Aug. 6.

"Producing a newspaper is not cheap," said The Reverend Canon Charles Stirling, chair of the PAB. "Given the current financial stress across the diocese, we wanted to do our part to cut costs."

He said without an advertising representative on staff, advertising revenues have been soft. Rising costs have also made changes necessary.

"Unfortunately what that means is that we won't be able to publish everything that is sent to us," Canon Stirling said. "As always, we will do our best. But the days when we could increase the size of the paper to facilitate extra copy are gone."

The monthly Cycle of Prayer has been removed from the pages of the Niagara Anglican. The Cycle of Prayer now appears on the diocesan website at www.niagara.anglican.ca. The change was made to save space.

Readers are encouraged to forward their news, photos and stories to stmatth@bserv.com. See NEWSPAPER / page 2

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National church has many cultures

By DIANA HUTTON
Editor

It's been two months since a decision on the highly charged, emotional debate on blessing same-gender unions was sidestepped at General Synod for three more years of study and discernment.

Niagara Bishop Ralph Spence, who voted in favour of dealing with the subject, said he was "personally disappointed that we didn't deal with the issue head-on."

Despite his disappointment, however, Bishop Ralph Spence holds strong to his faith that when the time is right, the question will be called.

"We're really dealing with a national church with many different cultures," he said in an early summer interview with the Niagara Anglican. "We in Southern Ontario and Southern B.C. and other large urban

areas may be ready to move forward, but Keewatin doesn't yet allow the remarriage of divorced people.

Family

"When you're a family, sometimes some family members are ready and some are not."

Bishop Spence said putting off the question for another three years was a "wise move for the church at this particular time."

In June, General Synod stopped short of officially blessing same-sex unions. Instead it affirmed the "sanctity and integrity" of long-term, monogamous gay and lesbian relationships.

"It was a typical Anglican compromise," Bishop Spence said of the affirmation. "Basically, it's saying to our gay and lesbian brothers and sisters that we value your presence and we celebrate you in our midst."

The decision has left a lot of gay and lesbian members of the church and their supporters frustrated and unhappy.

"Again we're asking them to wait," Bishop Spence said. "This is the reality we're in. We may want to be in a different place but we're not. What we heard at General Synod was parts of the Church are in one place and parts are in another place."

Bishop Spence said that judging by the many letters he's received, people on both sides of the issue are unhappy. Most letter writers wanted some forward motion, he said.

Bishop Spence said he anticipates the issue will again be raised at diocesan synod in November.

"I accept the fact that there will probably be a motion coming to our synod," he said. "At this time, we're gathering advice about how legal that would be."

Bishop Spence said his greatest concern is that the issue will "bog us down".

"The church is in major crisis," he said. "In some places, we don't have the critical mass to continue to do ministry as we did 20 years ago. Parishes need to start to deal with evangelism, we need to tell people, 'Hey, we've got this wonderful community that can give you support in life.' If we don't, it's going to go. That is very scary."

New primate

In other synod news, Bishop Spence said he was "delighted" with the election of Archbishop Andrew Hutchison as primate of the Anglican Church of Canada.

"He's a person who will reach out to all sides in the debate. Andrew will be a primate of transition," Bishop Spence said. "I'm sure others would have brought gifts but Andrew, I believe, is the right person for this time."

Parish visits are special times



BISHOP RALPH SPENCE and The Reverend Canon Jim Sandilands greet parishioners following the regular 10.30 service at St. James, Dundas. The bishop is seen greeting Marmie Doran.

Bishop Ralph Spence's parish visits each month are a special time for both parishioners and the bishop.

The bishop's message to a parish is important in maintaining contact between the diocese and individual parishes.

The visit itself is an important component in linking those who sit in the pews every Sunday with the vision of the whole Church within the diocese.

At a recent visit to St. James', Dundas, Bishop Spence gave an inspiring address on the Gospel which dealt with the concept of peace, and a reaffirmation of value of each of the "priestly crew" at St. James'.

Newspaper cuts costs

Continued from page 1

ries to the Niagara Anglican, but they are reminded to keep word counts to a minimum.

Despite the changes, Canon Stirling said the Niagara Anglican allows advertisers to convey their message across the diocese to a focused audience.

"Whether you live in Hamilton, St. Catharines or Orangeville, people are always in need of insurance or funeral arrangements and other such commodities," he said. "The Niagara Anglican's advertising rates are priced well below market value."

The cost to advertise in the Niagara Anglican is \$14 a column inch. Most commercial newspapers run at an advertising/editorial ratio of 60/40, the Niagara Anglican aims for a 20/80 split.

"Our goal is not to make money, but for the newspaper to be self-supporting," Canon Stirling said.

The changes were announced as the Diocese of Niagara faces one of its most difficult budget challenges in recent memory. The diocese is looking to cut substantial dollars from its 2005 operating budget. It hopes many initiatives from the New Niagara process, to be presented to the finance advisory committee in four regional meetings this month, will help achieve cost savings.

A number of current issues facing the Church together with dwindling congregations have contributed to the diocesan squeeze.

"PAB believes the paper is a critical tool for communicating in the diocese. A greater emphasis will be placed on perspective and reflection, the main purpose of the paper along with news," said John Janisse, a lay member of PAB.

At the same time, the PAB is exploring initiatives to finance the Anglican, including a more aggressive emphasis on subscriptions. The current subscription rate is \$12 and readers are encouraged to make the annual contribution through their parishes.

"That would greatly assist in putting the paper in a stronger position, and even allow us to relax some of our economic measures," said Canon Stirling. "In the end, that would provide space for the many stories, events and features that demonstrate the vitality of life in the Church in Niagara.

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 & Soulful Scents; Meditative Prayer

Time to

Network and browse the resource table

Relax and Enjoy

Dinner and a Guest Speaker

Please pre-register by November 14 - and save!

\$10 per person

\$15 at the door



Niagara Children's Ministry

Don't be disappointed - Space is limited
For information or to register



Dawn Alexander-Wiggins
Children's Ministry Consultant
905-527-1316 ext. 440
dawn.wiggins@niagara.anglican.ca

Joyce Wilton
Youth Ministry Consultant
905-527-1316 ext. 430
joyce.wilton@niagara.anglican.ca

Christyn Perkons
Youth Ministry Consultant
905-527-1316 ext. 460
christyn.perkons@niagara.anglican.ca



Bishop's Diploma Course

This program provides an opportunity for lay people to grow in their commitment to Christ and Christ's Church through a deepening of faith. This fall will feature an eight-week course on Ethics. To register, contact the centre nearest you.

Registration fee: \$35 (includes sessions plus text)

Area	Parish Centre	Start Date
Burlington	St. Christopher's (905-634-1809)	Sept.
Flamborough	Christ Church (905-627-4045)	Sept. 15
Grimsby	St. Andrew's (905-945-8894)	Sept. 20
Hamilton	St. Peter's (905-544-7710)	Sept. 20
Milton	Grace Church (905-878-2411)	Oct. 12

For further information contact:
Jane Stewart - 905-527-1316 x 420 or
jane.stewart@niagara.anglican.ca

Diocese of Niagara
www.niagara.anglican.ca

Keewatin trip inspires Bishop Spence

By DIANA HUTTON
Editor

An early summer visit has deepened the admiration Bishop Ralph Spence has for the Diocese of Keewatin, its people and their ingenuity.

"One could only come away (from a visit) with that sense of admiration on how the church prospers and is doing ministry extremely well in a situation few of us could imagine," he said in an interview immediately after returning to Hamilton.

"The church (in Keewatin Diocese) has no resources but is doing an awful lot with very little."

His week-long trip to Keewatin, which is in a partnership with Niagara and Nova Scotia dioceses, was arranged to give the bishop a taste of First Nations peoples customs and culture and to allow him to visit the Dr. William Winter School, now in its second year of operation.

Bishop Spence's sojourn to Keewatin began June 30 when he and his wife, Carol, flew from Hamilton to Winnipeg. They travelled to Kenora for Canada Day celebrations with Keewatin



ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, in Kingfisher, Ontario, Diocese of Keewatin.

Bishop David Ashdown. On July 2, they left for Sioux Lookout and on July 3, they arrived in Kingfisher, the only community with an Anglican Church.

Run entirely by First Nations people, Kingfisher is a centre in the far north with a mini-hotel, a nursing station, a community centre and St. Matthew's Church, "a lovely church," said Bishop Spence.

On July 4, Bishop Spence preached at St. Matthew's where 95 per cent of parishioners are First Nations people. He said he was moved when hymns were sung in Cree and other First Nations languages.

"It was a real cultural experience, a wonderful experience," Bishop Spence said.

Although this wasn't his first visit to Keewatin - he's attended



THE DINING HALL at Big Beaver House Camp doubled as a chapel.



A GENERAL STORE carries most conveniences, but at a premium.

General Synod there - it was his first summer visit.

With daylight breaking at See KEEWATIN / page 6

First Nations theological school embraces culture, tradition

The Dr. William Winter School, now in its second year of operation, is a joint project of First Nations' Anglicans and the College of Emmanuel & St. Chad.

Located in Kingfisher, in the Diocese of Keewatin, it replaces the Train An Indian Priest (TAIP) Program established in the 1960s. Dr. Winter, a retired First

Nations Anglican priest, established the school with a strong belief that First Nations peoples required a "unique theological education" which embraced their culture.

This year, 48 students are being taught theology for ministry in a First Nations setting.

Forty-eight students are enrolled in second year, which

began July 5. They are housed at the Big Beaver House Camp in the northern Ontario region of Keewatin diocese.

Accommodations

Two large buildings serve as classrooms and a large eating hall. Bannock and fish are cooked in the tepee near the hall. Many small sleeping cabins are scattered in the woods.

Electricity to the eating hall and classrooms, which doubles as a chapel, is supplied by a generator, but there is no power in the sleeping cabins.

Classes begin each day at 7 a.m. with morning prayer and end about 8 p.m. with evening prayer.

Days are full and busy. At the end of each session, students are given homework to complete

over the winter. Completed work must be sent in for grading.

While in Kingfisher, Bishop Ralph Spence travelled by boat to the Dr. William Winter School, where he sat in on classes, lectured and spoke with students.

"I was warmly embraced and welcomed with open arms," he said. "It was a wonderful experience," he said.

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. *

\$100/person
5 and under free
\$375 Family Rate

*
For Registration & Information
Contact Dawn Alexander-Wiggins
Consultant in Children's Ministry at
(905) 527-1316 ext. 440 or
dawn.wiggins@niagara.anglican.ca
Registration Deadline is January 28, 2005

*
A Family Ministry Initiative from Niagara's Children Ministry

All My Relations - the Journey Continues

New Agape Education Event for all ages

Sunday, October 3, 2004, 2-5 p.m.

Kanata Village, Brantford

An interactive tour of a 17th Century Iroquoian village and interpretive centre

Lacrosse, aboriginal food, First Nations craft, storytelling and dancing.

\$7 per person (ages five and under are free)

Questions? Call Christyn Perkons at 905-527-1316 ext. 460

Name _____
 Phone Number _____
 Number Attending (ages 5 and over) _____
 Total Enclosed (\$7 X #____) _____

Cheque payable to Diocese of Niagara

Deadline: September 24, 2004

(We are unable to accept registration after the deadline.)

Mail to: Diocese of Niagara, Program Dept.

252 James St. N., Hamilton, ON L8R 2L3

Editorial

Stepping up to the plate

Beginning September 20, a series of four budget meetings will be held throughout the diocese. So important are these regional meetings that, for the first time in recent memory, the budget process has been redesigned to continue to seek meaningful input from the wider diocese.

Bishop Ralph Spence is appealing to the faithful to attend the meetings – Sept. 20 at St. Simon's Church, Oakville; Sept. 22 at Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton; Sept. 21 at St. Mark's Church, Orangeville, and Sept. 23 at the Church of St. Columba, St. Catharines. The special invitation comes with good reason.

The Diocese of Niagara is in a fiscal crunch, unprecedented at least in our modern times. Changes in society and demographics have meant if the Anglican Church in Niagara is to survive and regain its relevancy, we cannot do business or ministry the way we used to. The status quo is simply not an option.

The diocese needs to make significant cost cuts, while maintaining viability. It also needs to spend a little money on ministries that will really help. And it needs the support of everyone in the diocese to accomplish these goals.

We need to do this together. We need to pray and think about the options in front of us as a diocese, and we need to share those thoughts with each other at these meetings.

Bishop's charge

That much was made clear in Bishop Spence's charge to Anglicans at November's diocesan synod when he announced the largest consultation process ever undertaken in Niagara. At that time, he asserted that everything was up for grabs. He challenged Anglicans to "dare to dream" and make their voices heard for their vision of a New Niagara.

That process, which has come to be known as New Niagara, ignited the passions of literally thousands of people throughout the diocese who stepped up to the plate to offer their hopes and dreams for a New Niagara.

Rather than languish in survival mode, the Diocese of Niagara today faces unprecedented opportunity to shape and direct its future towards relevant and meaningful ministries. Rather than expend all energies on keeping buildings open despite an overabundance of vacant pews, Anglicans in Niagara have responded to the bishop's call to live the Gospel of Christ wherever there is need.

New Niagara initiatives

In less than a year, a tireless team of people, gathered, assimilated, categorized and analyzed thousands of ideas and visions of new ways to "do" ministry. Many initiatives are local and regional requiring only staff support. Diocese-wide initiatives require funding as well.

And it is for this reason that attendance at the budget meetings is paramount.

Bishop Spence has said these meetings are very important in the life of our diocese "as we struggle collectively to put together the wealth of enthusiasm and ideas generated by New Niagara and the hard realities of dollars and our bankers."

Relevant and meaningful ministries will demonstrate to a society hungry for spiritual nourishment what it means to be Anglican.

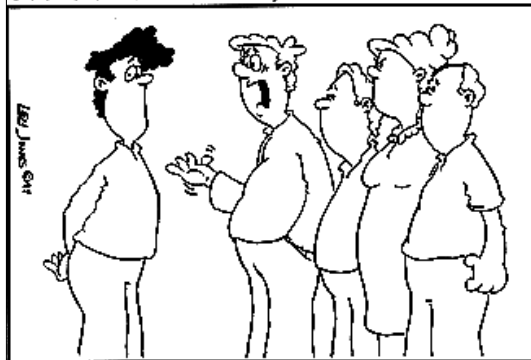
But to be effective, these new ministries must receive the support required. It is now incumbent on us to ensure that support is forthcoming. Strong representation will lend support to the many worthwhile initiatives conceived through the process.

It's time to step up to the plate again. Finance Advisory Committee members face a gruelling task in the 2005 diocesan budget.

Your presence will indicate to them what is important to you, to your community and to your diocese.

Plan to attend.

ALTAR EGO. by Len Jones



"Pastor, we appreciate your efforts in fund raising, however, renting the Baptismal Pool out as a Holy Hot Tub during the week is just not acceptable!"

Letters to the Editor

Evangelicals exist in all denominations

Re: Time To Move On, and The Will and Grace, June-July Niagara Anglican.

I read with considerable interest the two timely editorials in the Niagara Anglican.

The authors are prominent and well-known leaders in our diocese and members of the Publisher's Advisory Board.

They took a very definite and partisan position on the blessing of same-sex unions and I saw no editorial disclaimer. Hence I am left to assume that the views expressed are the wished-for policy and practices of our diocese.

As was stated in our national press and in the June/July Anglican Journal there are nine dissenting bishops who do not support "General Synod's opinion on same-sex relationships".

These bishops are not alone in dissenting over same sex blessings and unions.

There are parish priests and laity across the country who believe likewise and I am sure that they are represented here in our own diocese, and this includes myself.

Bishop Ralph Spence wrote in his Pastoral Letter of June, 2004, "I commit myself as a bishop of the Church to provide episcopal care to all members of the diocese, not least to those who are distressed by the individual positions taken on this matter".

It is my request that you use your editorial prerogatives in a like spirit of generosity, to ensure that the various views on same-sex blessings and unions are truly and faithfully presented in an informative and balanced way in the Niagara Anglican pages.

Such partisan editorials (such as those of June/July) and any like articles and letters, may well speed the day of a split in our Diocese of Niagara.

This will be sad for the diocese, its member churches and the people who make up our many congregations.

You may well ask: What is my position in all of this, who am I, and where do I stand?

My bias is that I am an evangelical Anglican and a member of St. George's, Lowville. I have served the Diocese of Niagara for many years as a member of synod council and Synod itself. I have also served on the parish grants and Survive and Thrive committees, am interested in participating in the evangelism thrust of the diocese, and also am a volunteer management consultant with the diocese.

With respect to the evangelicals, I am in good company, as you may have read from an Ipsos-Reid survey in September and October of 2003. The poll found around 19 per cent of Canadians (12 per cent Protestant and 7 per cent Catholic) are evangelicals, based on six clearly defined indicators.

Evangelicals are found across all Christian Protestant denominations, including our Anglican Church of Canada and the Diocese of Niagara.

**Geoffrey Purdell-Lewis
St. George's
Lowville**

Editor's Note: Editorials written for the Niagara Anglican are the opinions of the writer(s) and do not necessarily reflect the position of Bishop Ralph Spence and/or the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara. When signed, editorials are specifically the opinions of the listed authors. Editorials are written to engage readers and to encourage dialogue. It is our hope respectful dialogue will foster greater understanding of all issues, thereby strengthening the body of the Church in Niagara and abroad.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Niagara Anglican welcomes submissions from readers as Letters to the Editor. This forum is available to everyone. All submissions must include a name, telephone number, or physical address of the author for verification purposes. The newspaper reserves the right to edit submissions.



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The Niagara Anglican reserves the right to decline any advertisement. Publication of an advertisement does not imply endorsement by the diocese or any of its principals. Advertisers and advertising agencies assume liability for all contents including text, representations and illustrations, and also assume responsibility for any claims and costs arising therefrom.

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Viewpoints

Celtic traditions

Several churches in our diocese regularly use a Celtic liturgy. I've attended three of them in the past few months. Of course, the bishop must give permission for these special services.

What's a Celtic liturgy? Asking that question will get you about as many answers as: What's an Anglican liturgy?



The Itinerant Churchgoer

— The Reverend Alan L. Hayes

Celtic Christians, like Canadian Christians, have never all agreed in their spirituality and theology.

But in Canada, if you go to something called a Celtic liturgy, you expect it to be quite a bit more poetic and more

evocative of God's holiness than what you'll find in the Book of Alternative Services. And the prayers will remind you of the experiences you've probably had of Christ's power in the sometimes gentle, sometimes terrible forces of untamed nature.

The Celts

The Celts are a far-flung people. Galatia in Asia Minor, known to us from St. Paul's letter to the Galatians, was settled by Celts. So was Galicia in Spain and Brittany in France.

But when Canadians think of the Celts, we usually think of the Irish, Scottish and Welsh. What typically happens is that a Niagara clergy person on pilgrimage or retreat in Ireland, Scotland or Wales is inspired by a Celtic Christian vision and brings it back to her or his parish in the form of a monthly Celtic liturgy. The parishioners I've spoken to — despite our Anglican reputation for resistance to innovation — have sounded very appreciative.

True, it's not a huge innovation. In the services I attended, the only real change was the liturgical text. Everything else felt familiar. Even the hymns were mainly English and North American, with no Irish harp or Scottish bagpipe in sight.

The texts of the three services all reflected the influence of the Iona Community. This is a Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) retreat centre on a cold and craggy island in northwest Scotland, on the site of a sixth-century monastery founded by the great St. Columba.

Presbyterians are allergic to a priestly consecration of bread and wine, and so they never include the narrative of the Last Supper in a eucharistic prayer. The three Niagara services I attended followed the Presbyterian model of recalling the Last Supper in a story, not in a priestly prayer. St. Columba wouldn't have done this, but I found it quite natural.

At St. Saviour, Queenston, you couldn't ask for a more beautiful, more appropriate setting: a small stone church on a grassy knoll on the tree-lined banks of the Niagara River. In such a place, you don't need to actually step into the church to feel at peace with God.

Prayer of Confession

An example of the lovely creation-centred language of the service was the prayer of confession early in the service, in which we addressed the holy God as "sun behind all suns," present in earth, sea and sky. The service expressed a theology of the hiddenness of the Father, the healing purpose of the Son, the empowering breath of the Spirit, and the mission of the Church in justice and evangelism.

At St. Mary's, Hamilton, the rector had put together the service with wonderful sensitivity and a creative flair not only from Iona but from other sources, such as Lindisfarne, the island in northeastern England from which Celtic missionaries evangelized the Anglo-

See CELTIC/ page 6

Living out our faith, confronting the challenges

Within our parishes, within our Diocese of Niagara, within the Anglican Church of Canada, we are confronted by challenges that are as great as we have ever known.

Many people are at a loss to understand how to address the challenges. They don't know how to address the task of identifying and respond to the challenges we all face.

Evangelism is a ministry, that if understood properly, that can assist us in identifying a strategy for recognizing these challenges, engaging the resources necessary to address them and moving us forward to ensure healthy, vibrant communities of faith.

There are many resources available to help us with this and below is a framework offered by our Presbyterian friends that is a very good starting point in creating a strategic plan for evangelism.

Let's begin with some definitions.

Evangelism comes from a Greek word found in the New Testament and means sharing good news. Most of us enjoy sharing good news, whether of a child's birth, a job promotion or a marriage.

Likewise, many of us enjoy telling others of our positive experiences. We like to tell others about a good restaurant, a good movie or a terrific book we have read.

The Good News is centered around the salvation which is found in Jesus Christ. In the Great Commission, Christians are called by Jesus to "go and make disciples of all people." (Matthew 28:19)

We are called to share our faith and the good news of God's love for us in Jesus. This happens both inside and outside the church.

Evangelism is meeting people in situations where the Gospel is given the opportunity to change them.

Our working definition will be "welcoming the stranger."

Evangelism is sharing the hope and hospitality of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Church growth is the increase in worship attendance that happens when people hear the good news and respond with acts of discipleship to Christ and his Church.

Mission involves all aspects of the work of Christ's church. It is everything the church does in his name.

Our Church's mission is to carry on the ministry that Jesus began 2,000 years ago. Another name for mission is ministry.

Faith sharing is a three-way conversation between a faith-seeker, a faith-sharer and God, in which personal experiences of God are shared.

Witnessing is sharing your own faith story.

Conversion happens when someone comes to



The Rev. Canon Michael Patterson
Director of Evangelism

mpatterson@niagara.anglican.ca



faith in Jesus Christ. It is the activity of the Holy Spirit.

Relational evangelism is sharing the good news of God with another person or with a small group of people. This can happen when we share our faith with friends, relatives, neighbours and business associates. It is witnessing in word and action to the transforming love of God in Christ, with integrity and compassion in personal, church and public realms.

Where do we start?

The first step in planning your evangelism strategy is to consider your congregation and ask these questions:

What will new people find when they visit our church? Are we experiencing conflict? Do we have healthy self-esteem? Are we vibrant and alive? Do we have a clear vision of where we are going? Are we a warm and welcoming community of Christ? What would our community miss most if our church ceased to exist? What's needed for church growth?

The second step is to prepare the field for growth. This is the time to look at making your leadership more effective. Your responsibilities are to attend to God's vision for your congregation, to plan how this vision will be achieved, and to set high and achievable expectations for yourself and your church.

What are the challenges facing us?

- Moving from maintenance to mission: The congregation must move beyond a survival mentality to the openness of ministry and community outreach.

- Developing a vision for the future.

- Resolving power conflicts, whether between individuals or cliques.

- Increasing money and resources and improving stewardship of those already committed to the church.

- Overcoming poor self-esteem and apathy.

- Expanding our circle of concern and friendship to include outsiders.

How do we initiate change in a congregation?

Your congregational climate can be changed. Your church can be more open to more people and new ideas, congregational self-esteem can be improved, and fear of change and risk-taking can be overcome.

Each congregation is unique and presents different challenges. Every church has its own particular culture (who they are), congregational system (how they do things) and community context (where they are).

The potential for evangelism in every congregation depends on the grace of God and the gifts, faith and co-operation of its members. It also depends on the health of the culture and system and the possibilities presented by the community.

Letter to the Editor

Debate recalls Sadducees and the Pharisees

There is nothing new under the sun.

When our Lord Jesus Christ walked the earth, there were two main religious factions in the Jewish faith — the Sadducees and the Pharisees.

The Sadducees did not believe in life after death. The "supernatural" had no part in their scheme of things. They felt they were too sophisticated or evolved for such things.

The Pharisees, on the other hand, were very legalistic and stressed the finer points of the law, which they knew inside out and backwards.

I sometimes think these two groups could represent the liberal and evangelical wings of the Anglican Church as they see each other.

Jesus came with a refreshing message. He breathed life into the Torah (the law) and the prophets. He used Scripture not to bash people, but to enliven, encourage and restore people to a new life of faith in God.

Jesus didn't get uptight about traditions, but He did know the Scriptures (Matthew 5:17-20). He not only knew them, He fulfilled their requirements through His life and death.

God kept His promise to Jesus, the Messiah, and raised Him from the dead (Psalm 16 & Acts 2:22-36) so that this little Jewish baby — born of promise but born under a cloud of potential scandal — grew up and became not only God's Messiah for the Jewish race but Lord and Saviour of the whole world, for all time.

It seems to me if we ignore the Word of God — the Bible — we ignore God's wisdom and the workings of His Spirit in the lives and hearts and minds of men and women in many cultures and over much time.

We have become presumptuous in our thinking. We make hasty decisions and mistakes that affect the Church in negative ways.

At this crucial time of decision in the Anglican Church, we should be poring over the Book of Acts to see how the early Church handled questions of faith and practice.

We need to be looking for wisdom and inspiration from the Old Testament and Gospels which answer the question: "What would Jesus do?"

Last but not least, we need to apologize to our gay and lesbian members of our Church. Have they become an issue — a debate and been dehumanized as the church differs?

Where is Christ's example being followed in all this? He didn't always say "yes" but He did love! He constantly challenged people to change, to embrace the high ground and to count the cost.

He got angry at the hierarchy of the Jewish religion for their tradition practised without love, without spiritual integrity.

Truly, there is nothing new under the sun.

Mary Krucker Hamilton



FAMILIES CAMPED AROUND St. Michael's Church in lawn chairs during the annual picnic.

Parish picnic on parish grounds was a treat for everyone

Parishioners at St. Michael's, Hamilton, decided this year to break with tradition by holding their annual picnic on the parish grounds.

A date had been chosen to use Canterbury Hills, but the lower attendance led the Reverend Lynda Kealey to suggest the picnic be held on the parish grounds after church on Sunday.

"Let's show the surrounding community what we are about!" she said.

Fortunately the weather was perfect. Hamburgers and hotdogs were barbecued and parishioners brought salads and desserts to share. Families set up folding chairs and "camped" around the church.

Even grandchildren came. Rev/ Lynda's son and wife from New York brought their new daughter to join in the festivities.

Keewatin visit impresses, inspires Bishop Spence

Continued from page 3

around 4:30 a.m., the sun stayed high until about 10:30 p.m., Bishop Spence said. But there were other marvels as well. He saw black bears, moose, deer, partridge, loons and eagles among other wildlife. He was even "stared down by a black bear," something he doesn't recommend, he said with a chuckle.

The First Nations Band which governs Kingfisher has brought electricity and running water to the area "as they constantly try to improve their lot in life."

The town, with a population of about 450, has its share of problems, as every other community. Bishop Spence said he was impressed, however, with the community programs addressing those problems.

Hard work

"There is a lot of hard work being done in the community," he said.

The new school in town has is "totally bilingual" speaking Cree or Ojibway Cree and English.

Kingfisher now also has a grocery store but food is very expensive since most of it is imported at

great cost. Most people live off of the land.

"It's quite a fascinating thing," Bishop Ralph said.

Local berries make for delicious jams and smokehouses cure fish. The grocery store sells everything else, including fresh vegetables, but it is expensive.

Mining community

Kingfisher administrators – mostly First Nations people – are working to ensure the mining community becomes independent and self-sufficient.

"I'm very optimistic for the church and the community," Bishop Spence said.

Kingfisher has no paved roads, making travel difficult, especially in the summer. In winter, "winter roads" made of packed snow and ice provide better access on snowmobile to more isolated areas.

The federal government wants to build roads in Kingfisher but locals are hesitant to allow new infrastructure until social programs are in place.

Kingfisher is a "dry" community and there are some concerns about its status should the town become more accessible to out-

siders.

"Opening the area to the rest of the world will change the way things are done," Bishop Spence said. "And it may not be all for the better. They want to get their social programs in place before major changes are made."

Bishop Spence, who presented a \$3,000 cheque to the Diocese of Keewatin for its continued work on translating the Bible, hymns and prayers into Cree and Ojibway Cree, said he hopes his experience in Keewatin will tempt others to make the trip as many have to Cuba, another partner diocese.

"The First Nations people are

Outdoor weddings OK'd, marriage commissions out

Now sanctioned by General Synod, clergy officiating at outdoor weddings in Niagara must first receive permission from Bishop Ralph Spence.

Two significant changes were made to the marriage canon at General Synod last spring.

Effective immediately, clergy may conduct marriage ceremonies outside church buildings.

"I am sure many of you eagerly awaited this change," Bishop Spence said. "Please note that I would still like you to clear such services with me and formally obtain my permission."

General Synod also gave the

local option to diocesan bishops to abolish the marriage commission in each diocese.

"We need to have a conversation about this," Bishop Spence said. He plans to include the question of marriage commissions on the agenda of the next diocesan-wide clergy day.

"It is my wish that we make the use of this commission optional here in Niagara – there if you want to make use of it for pastoral reasons, but not compulsory."

He reminded clergy the responsibility was still theirs to witness proper documentation regarding divorce.

Celtic traditions around Niagara

Continued from page 5

Saxons.

Of many things I liked, I'll mention only the trinitarian peace: "God the Father reveals peace in the beauty of creation. God the Son reveals peace in healing and renewal. God the Holy Spirit reveals peace in love and joy. The peace of God be with you all!"

The blessing of bread and wine was a fine composition, simple but richly worded, and clear in its praise of God.

Last fall I attended a Sunday noon service at St. Christopher, Burlington. None of the advertis-

ing for the service revealed that it was intended for young people, and as soon as I arrived I felt mightily out of place. But I stayed, and all by myself I raised the average age of the congregation by about 10 years.

The liturgical text was based on Iona, but the music and ambience were suitable for late teens of the 21st Century.

A small group of us sat in a semi-circle of chairs at the front of the church, and the words of the service were projected on a screen. The music was led by a very able youth band, directed by an older choir member, and young people also read lessons and led intercessions. One even read the homily.

I was told that the service began in the winter of 2003 and began to attract congregations of 50 or 60. But in the way familiar to Christian youth workers, the numbers dropped over the summer.

Other Niagara churches that advertise a Celtic liturgy one Sunday a month are St. James, Guelph, and St. Aidan, Oakville. This alternative isn't for everyone every week, but it's an appealing part of our varied worship in the Diocese of Niagara.

incredibly gracious, they made us feel welcomed," Bishop Spence said. "They have a wonderful sense of humour; there was a lot of laughter. It was a wonderful experience for a city boy like yours truly."

Anyone considering a visit to Keewatin can inquire through Karen Nowicki at Synod Office, (905) 527-1316 or karen.nowicki@niagara.anglican.ca.



An amazing event for
Junior Youth (10-13)
and Their Leaders
(& potential leaders)

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ATTENTION READERS

By the time you read this issue of The Niagara Anglican, there will be a survey on the the diocesan website asking you to share 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 parishes to have a copy of the survey printed out.

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A safe place
to become...

Youth Page



Photo by Elizabeth Elliott

CHILDREN AT GENERAL Synod Children's Ministry Day had fun worshipping with a parachute at closing Eucharist on the roof at Brock University. The day was planned by Niagara's Youth Ministry Advisory Committee.

A snapshot of General Synod Children's Ministry Day

Forty-four children and 18 adults from across the Diocese of Niagara gathered May 29 to explore the General Synod theme, "See, I'm making all things new!"

Elizabeth Elliott, member of the Children's Ministry Advisory Committee, reported the following through her lens of photographer for the day.

By ELIZABETH ELLIOTT

Trying to capture the day's events on film allowed me the wonderful opportunity to move about throughout the day.

"I observed and participated with children in a labyrinth walk led by The Reverend Canon Elaine Hooker. Children made an Anglican prayer bead necklace with The Rev. Vickie Edgeworth-Pitchard, created a garden basket with Dawn Alexander-Wiggins and Heather Grant, and voted in a pseudo-election for primate.

"Moved by her experience of the day, seven-year-old Emily even wrote a card for the elected primate outlining rules by which to live which included "to have fun."

"The primate read this card at his installation reception the following Friday.

Laughter and sharing

"The Holy Spirit was evident in the laughter, questions and sharing that ensued through the day with a pizza lunch, puppet performance, and drama session teaching children to respect and celebrate diversity led by Julia Course, a Brock drama major.

"Brock Aboriginal Services led children in Aboriginal drumming rituals and a sampling of traditional foods, which included corn bread, corn soup and strawberry juice.

"A closing Eucharist on the roof at Brock University had children worshipping with a parachute centerpiece led by the creativity of our celebrant, Rev. Vickie.

"Children left with a General Synod bag filled with a Niagara

Children's Ministry water bottle, flower bulb, garden basket and other goodies!

"During the session, children made friends, and above all, had fun in learning about God."

Greater Wellington Children's Festival

God is with us always!

By MATT ADAMS
and JUDY-ANNE CHAPMAN

It was another great year at the Greater Wellington Children's Festival, full of fun and adventures.

As every year, kids loved seeing old friends and making new ones.

The Children's Festival is a great way of facilitating these important friendships through many different activities.

The music, led by The Reverend Steele Lazerte, was a fan favourite. The songs we sang weren't just boring old songs, they were full of actions and rhythm.

It was a blast! It's so good to remember that praising God can be so much fun.

Canon Rainey pointed out eagerly we not only praise God with our voices but with our hands, heads and feet too.

This got us thinking "why can't we worship God by playing some of our favorite games?" How ingenious! Who ever thought you could worship God through games? At the Children's Festival, we certainly did. I know God was pleased seeing His children having fun in all sorts of games.

We played games like octopus tag, chain tag, cat and mouse tag, number

games and duck-duck-goose.

One of the most important events of the day was crafts. Children made banners we would later use in the parade down the main street in Rockwood.

Each child had the opportunity to write something special about God on their banner. When it was time to use them, the banners flew in the air like a bunch of beautiful flags for everyone to see that Jesus was our friend and King.

Symbols

Canon Rainey pointed out our Christian faith and churches are full of symbols. This was developed in crafts.

Everywhere we looked, St. John's, Rockwood, was decorated to celebrate God's 24/7 care of us. Silver and gold archways were the backdrop for banners that read: "I am with you always", and "His Banner over me..."

We learned God is always with us. This is such an important thing to learn as we grow up. With all the difficult things that happen in our lives and world, it is so comforting to know we are not alone.

Jesus promised He would always be with us, we just have to learn to trust that promise even if or when we don't feel it's true. God will never leave us or forsake us, and that's a fact!

St. Matthew's House is having a 40th Anniversary Party

You're invited to celebrate
"Building Hope for People"

Thursday, September 30

Reception - 5:30 p.m.

Dinner - 6:30 p.m.

Live Auction & Musical Tribute featuring

Hamilton Youth Steel Orchestra

Flat Street

St. Christopher's Choir Show Tunes

Brian Hayman & Getting in the Groove... a unique jazz experience

Liuna Station

360 James St. N., Hamilton

Tickets: \$100 each (GST included)

Tax receipt provided for part of cost



Looking back on 2003-2004

Top-Left: (Photo 1) The parish hall of St. Thomas' Anglican Church, St. Catharines, was full when Alpha kicked off an 11-week program in the Garden City last fall. St. Thomas' Nancy Moffat was one of the organizers of the kickoff dinner.

(Photo 2) Surrounding Archdeacon Ken Cardwell, Sunday school children presented the archdeacon with their handcrafted garden stepping-stones. Archdeacon Cardwell retired after 17 years from St. Paul's, Fort Erie, more than a year ago.

(Photo 3) Models from Christ Church, Flamborough, show off the latest trends at the fundraising fashion show held

last year. The parish's Outreach Committee each year raised funds outside the usual parish commitments. They raised \$1,400 for Doctors Without Borders. The group received support from local merchants for the show, which was held at Canterbury Hills.

(Photo 4) It was nearly a year ago when barbecues lined the alley beside Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton, and the smell of hamburgers and hot dogs wafted through the air. The occasion was Praise All Ways, a celebration of contemporary and traditional worship. Musicians from St. Peter's, Hamilton, kept crowds entertained. Members of Undermount Regional Council

organized the event. The photo shows worshippers enjoying each other's company.

(Photo 5) Children from St. John's Nelson, St. Luke's, St. Matthew's and St. Philip's, in Burlington, enjoyed Summer Club last year when it was held at St. Luke's. The theme was Treasures of the Nile. Activities included music, drama, games and Bible study, which highlighted the journey of the children of Israel from slavery to the Promised Land. Co-directors of Summer Club were Melissa Kennedy and The Rev. Rob Salloom of St. Luke's. The Rev. Vickie Edgeworth-Pitcher of St. John's led the music, while Barb Wassiljew of St.

Matthew's guided the children through arts and crafts. Thirty-one children from the parishes attended Summer Club.

(Photo 6) Dual anniversaries were celebrated in Christ Church, Niagara Falls, last September when Bishop Ralph Spence joined The Rev. Duncan Lyon, rector of Christ Church, in honour of the 40th anniversary of his priesthood. It was also the bishop's seventh anniversary of his consecration as Bishop of Niagara. The parish's children presented both Father Duncan and Bishop Spence with crosses made in Sunday school.

(Photo 7) St. John's, Nassagaweya, held its second Truckload Soil and Mulch Sale

this past spring. In its first sale, about 100 families participated in the sale. This photo shows just how many bags of soil and mulch were prepared.

(Centre photo) Ralph the Hamster, poses for a photo for his namesake. Dayna Hayward, 9, of St. John's, Thorold, was so impressed by Bishop Ralph Spence's visit to her church's 150th anniversary celebration late last fall that she named her new hamster, Ralph.

"For Christmas, I had a hamster and I called it Ralph after you, Henry after my grandfather and Hayward after me. I thought you would like to know this. I am sending you a photograph of Ralph so you can see how cute he is," Dayna wrote.

St. Luke's finds success in stewardship relay race

For several years, St. Luke's Church, Burlington, has held two consecutive Stewardship Commitment Sundays in November.

Parishioners were encouraged to sign commitment cards at coffee hour, pledging how much they would give for the coming year.

Although St. Luke's is a large corporate church with 925 families on the roll, response to these Commitment Sundays was poor and the dollar amount pledged was low.

One possible reason for this was that not everyone came to coffee hour, which is held after the

second of three services. What was needed was a new way to approach parishioners to give them the opportunity to renew their stewardship commitment to St. Luke's to help the wardens and financial officers plan realistic budgets.

The concept of the Stewardship Relay Race was presented at the Spring 2003 Stewardship Conference. It was decided St. Luke's would try the relay as part of the regular parish stewardship program.

The plan was to make a list of parishioners who had given any amount that year and divide them

into manageable teams with a route manager responsible for each team.

Team managers received a saddlebag containing commitment packages. The bags were passed to each person on the team, and eventually returned to the team manager.

In this way, many more parishioners would be given the opportunity to make a commitment to St. Luke's.

At the end of July, 2003, a list of those who had previously given was produced.

The list included 493 names and, from this, teams were created.

Seventeen families who lived a fair distance from Burlington were grouped together and information was mailed to them.

The remainder were divided by postal codes into 50 numbered teams of up to 10 families.

Fifty team managers were chosen from each team and overseeing them were a further five supervisors.

The saddlebags were reusable canvas bags, designed and sewn by a member of the parish. They were professionally screenprinted with the parish name and logo. Each route manager received a saddlebag and a list of names on her team.

Each bag contained a household package of information inside an envelope with an address label on the front. Each contained a letter from the rector, a letter from the Stewardship Chair describing the program, a commitment card, updated narrative budget brochure and a list of special worship services from Advent to Ash Wednesday.

During the relay, each family was asked to read and digest the information, sign their commit-

ment card and pass the bag along to the next person on the list.

On Commitment Sunday, all bags were piled around the altar at each of the three services.

Once the bags were received at the church office, the amounts pledged were entered on a spreadsheet in the parish data bank.

Was the stewardship Response Relay a success?

Of 493 cards sent out, almost 80 per cent were returned with some indication of intent. Of that 80 per cent, more than half gave a specific dollar amount pledge for 2004. The rest said they would continue to give at the same level or to the best of their ability.

Only about 20 per cent were returned unopened.

Commitments increased by 242 per cent, from 88 families to 213.

The overall dollar amounts committed for 2004 more than doubled the amount committed for 2003.

For those parishioners whose material was mailed with no personal followup or connection, the rate of response was almost reversed. Just over 20 per cent gave any kind of response.

From the completed cards, only three had negative comments. One complained he/she did not like the process. A few parishioners were confused by the process.

Future relays will emphasize more training and explanation for office staff, team leaders and supervisors.

Another area for improvement will be to make sure address lists are completely up to date. Also, some older parishioners needed physical help getting the bag to the next person on the list. The stewardship package was missing pre-authorized payment forms, which will be included in the future.

Though there were some areas that needed improvement, the Stewardship Relay was a success, given the increased rate of commitment. With a few adjustments, it should continue to be successful.

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- Understanding and Ministry for the Homosexual
- The New Spiritual Age – Prophetic or Pathetic
- The Holy Spirit
- Spiritual Gifts: Beyond Playing Church
- A Messianic Jew's View on Prophecy

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- Register by mail or fax (registration form available Sept. 1 from office, information below)
- Call the Registrar, The Renewal Network, Etobicoke at (416) 233-1743
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The mark of a good newspaper, pundits say, is how many calls and letters of complaint it receives. If a newspaper is not upsetting someone, it just isn't doing its job. By that criteria, the Niagara Anglican is doing its job rather well. Certainly, an issue doesn't go by without some criticism, most often constructive.

One of the greatest complaints we receive, however, isn't about the stands we take on the issues of the day. The greatest number of complaints we receive is from people who are upset that their particular item or photo-

graph did not make it onto the pages of the Niagara Anglican.

A number of factors go into the decision-making process about what is published and what is not.

Although we endeavour to include as wide a variety as possible in each issue of the Niagara Anglican, we cannot accommodate everything. Ultimately good stories get left out. Good stories are often accompanied by photos. Here are some submissions that didn't make it during the 2003-2004 year of the Niagara Anglican. Enjoy!

Looking back over the last 12 months...



Photo explanations can be found on page 8.

Opens doors and open hearts

St. Matthew's House, Hamilton is a beacon of hope for people in need

Canon Wendy Roy's ministry reaches out to everyone



CANON WENDY ROY

Energy? Commitment? The Reverend Canon Wendy Roy is richly blessed with those qualities, essential in her service on behalf of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara as executive director of St. Matthew's House, Hamilton.

Asked about her work, Wendy's first response is praise for the "big team of people" who share her work at St. Matthew's House, celebrating its 40th anniversary this autumn.

"They all work together," she emphasizes, "different roles and responsibilities, staff, volunteers, and members of the board of directors."

Ninety-five staff members (a full-time equivalent of 74) serve across the newly amalgamated City of Hamilton in three family resource centres – 414 Barton Street, Roxborough Centre in east Hamilton, and St. John's Community Support program in Winona – offering child care and family workers, drop-in programs and light meals for seniors "with comfy chairs so they can snooze," as well as food bank services.

Children with special needs are provided with their own program, and staff also offer support and housing for single men at risk. The goal is to help residents achieve stability and develop a healthy lifestyle and life skills which enable them to move into the community and sustain themselves, though available jobs are often low-paying and unstable.

St. Matthew's is in partnership with SISO, the immigrant settlement organization which helps refugees and immigrant families recover, often after many moves through refugee camps.

"We're serving many more refugees than ever – it reflects the changing face of Hamilton," Wendy said.

Staff from Kenya, the Caribbean and eastern Europe

offer skills in translation and sensitivity to diet and culture of other lands. Two students, one a francophone from Congo, the other Vietnamese, add to the "welcoming presence" of understanding and building trust that is essential for helping newcomers from around the world find their way into life in Canada.

Wendy and her team, which includes "at least 100 volunteers – there's always room for more!" – are also deeply involved in housing projects for immigrants, refugees, visible minorities, low-income families and older adults, all at risk of homelessness.

"The challenge ... is that so many people didn't think there was a problem with income for older adults, and the situation is worsening."

Staff who work with seniors "are trained to respond, to go to their homes or the hospitals where they work with other professionals to help people ... maintain their independence as long as possible."

Assuming her position in 1992, after Canon Joe Rogers retired, Wendy brought important experience to her task.

In second-year divinity studies at Trinity College, Toronto, Wendy accepted a placement at St. Matthew's, which involved "a lot of visiting (she rode a bicycle in good weather), and helping in the food bank, which was a lot smaller than it is now."

Wendy organized a program for local parishes to bring Sunday dinner to share with the poor at St. Matthew's.

"There are many different ways to have the Eucharist. There wasn't any wine – but there was bread! To see Christ in others, we have to see each other face to face."

Wendy also participated in the Canadian Urban Training Program for

human social ministry, which included training in social analysis, visiting different sites, and "lots of theological reflection," (which, simply put, means asking "Where is God in all this?").

Wendy took the opportunity to take "The Plunge," staying on the streets overnight.

Before her divinity studies, Wendy was a research associate in health sciences education at McMaster University. She also worked in a community outreach program for the Ontario government in collaboration with other agencies. It was "an attempt to respond to people in greater need across the province."

Those experiences formed Wendy's understanding of ministry to those in need now.

"Ministry comes in different shapes and sizes. We're grounded in our tradition, but it's important to remember that we need the nourishment of church on Sunday, which sends us out.

"So many people who come to St. Matthew's don't feel comfortable in church. It may be their clothes, or lack of a shower – community comes in different forms for them. There are lots of reasons, I don't pretend to know them all. People relate to God in different ways."

Prayers

These days at St. Matthew's, people are invited to write their prayers on the paper provided and drop them into a box.

Wendy admits she is "always very moved" by these prayers.

"They are so revealing of the depth of people's faith in a God who hears prayer."

Prayers come for help in illness, the need for housing, help for families and children, and "to have enough to eat and keep a roof overhead. Lots of times they are expressions of thanks and prayers for hope in the world – amazing. Prayers are a microcosm of the people we serve; they're not necessarily literate, their first language isn't necessarily English, but we just make it available and

people take it up. There are new prayers every day."

As executive director, Wendy's "overall responsibility for daily activities" encompasses a daunting list: "I work with the board of directors to strengthen and promote (our) mission, vision and

Getting to Know You

– The Rev. Fran Darlington

values. Working with staff in the operation of all programs, funding and fundraising is non-stop."

Wendy oversees the computer system and all St. Matthew's locations. As director of the charitable, non-profit organization and ministry, Wendy writes proposals, serves on community committees and works as a partner in local initiatives.

"Carrying the message and stories into the community increases awareness, knowledge and sensitivity. People don't necessarily have the experiences we have, so we enable support so we can carry on."

She grins, "I wear multiple hats!"

As preparations for the Sept. 30 celebration of St. Matthew's House 40th anniversary unfold, Wendy comments, "The founders probably never envisioned it would still be around."

"Today the situations of people's lives are far worse than ever before, the numbers of people, the magnitude of need and poverty... the risks of becoming homeless, the very, very limited resources people have to live on."

In 2003, St. Matthew's helped 58,448 people with basic needs, an increase of nearly nine per cent over 2002.

Because it is structurally unsound, the main building is to be redeveloped.

Following considerable research and consultation, the result will overcome current inefficient heating and design, "to be even more helpful to the people we serve. It's long overdue and very expensive, but we've got to start somewhere. We're in a good area, so we want to maximize the footprint and go up!"

Wendy is also an Anglican priest, ordained in 1982.

"It's fundamental and integral to who I am. I try to bring the pas-

toral side in terms of who we are and how we try to respond to people. I can provide for someone who has no one to bury them, and I do some weddings and baptisms."

Those ministries are above and beyond praying for everyone involved with St. Matthew's ministry.

Wendy's ministry has included service as priest associate at St. James', Dundas, and as rector of St. Thomas', Hamilton.

Though St. Thomas' closed some years ago, Wendy affirms, "Its ministry is alive and well everywhere!"

For Wendy, who moved to Ontario from Vancouver in the early 1960s, renewal of energy comes in several ways, especially outdoors.

"Creation is engendering; the wonder feeds and sustains," she explains. "I enjoy walking, hiking, cross-country skiing and camping," especially in the cabin she and her husband, Dean, built by hand in the bush.

She grins, "I've developed a great passion for sea-kayaking, canoeing and snorkeling."

Wendy also enjoys "doing fun things with family and friends and having a meal together."

Travel is another interest; Wendy and her husband recently took their niece to Cuba, bringing medicines to the parish of Santa Clara.

She is "a great reader of Canadian literature, mostly fiction but some historical and biographical, and mysteries, especially ecclesiastical ones."

In Wendy's time as executive director of St. Matthew's House, the number of sites and staff have more than doubled.

"It's a challenge to maintain a sense of connectedness and family," Wendy said, "But I think we do a good job of that. There's not much turnover in staff and volunteers, some have been with us for years."

Wendy extols "the dedicated, compassionate, giving people in all our programs."

She also deeply affirms "the people we work with; they are remarkable in themselves in their resilience, their humour in tough situations, their hopefulness – they're very appreciative."

Those qualities are part of Wendy's personality also, as well as her incredible energy and commitment.

As we appreciate her leadership to our life and ministry as Anglicans in Niagara, let us make continuing prayer part of our support of her ministry and of St. Matthew's House.

To support or make a donation to St. Matthew's House, Hamilton, please call (905) 523-5546.

'There are many different ways to have the Eucharist... To see Christ in others, we have to see each other face to face.'

'The people we work with are remarkable in their resilience, their humour in tough situations, their hopefulness – they're very appreciative.'



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2004 Order of Niagara

The following people will receive the Order of Niagara in services on Sept. 19 and 26 at Christ's Church Cathedral at 4 p.m.

- Frank Adams, Christ Church, Flamborough
- Margaret Brisley, St. Philip's, Burlington
- Neil Cassidy, St. Simon's, Oakville
- Vivian Chadder, St. James, Fergus
- Judy-Ann Chapman, St. John's, Elora
- Jean Coon, St. George's, Homer
- Lynne Coull, St. Martin's, Niagara Falls
- Hal Devins, St. John the Evangelist, Hamilton
- Lynne Dole, All Saints, Erin
- Alice Duby, St. Alban's, Acton
- Dorothy Dundas, St. George, St. Catharines
- David Eccles, St. Mary's, Hamilton
- Eva Edgeworth, St. Elizabeth's, Burlington
- Rick Etherden, St. Paul's, Caledonia
- Adele Fletcher, St. James the Apostle, Guelph
- William Forsythe, St. George's, Guelph
- Jean Giddens, Christ Church, Niagara Falls
- Dorothy Grant, Grace Church, Waterdown
- Katharine Greenfield, Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton
- Vivian Greenwood, St. Alban's, Grand Valley
- Ronald Holman, St. Michael's, Hamilton
- Ethel Holmes, St. James, Dundas
- Grant Johnston, St. George's, Georgetown
- Berkeley Lambert, Christ Church, McNab
- John Lewis, St. Alban the Martyr, Hamilton
- Cassie McCollum, St. John's, Winona
- John McLean, St. Aidan's, Oakville
- Louis Merrick, Good Shepherd, St. Catharines
- Byron Nicholson, St. John's, St. Catharines

- Ian Pratt, Church of the Redeemer, Stoney Creek
- Mary Jane Price, St. Christopher's, Burlington
- Eleanor Proctor, St. Paul's, Dunnville
- David Roland, Holy Trinity, Fonthill
- Edward Rogers, St. John the Evangelist, Thorold
- Diane Schofield, St. Paul's, Hamilton
- Harold Sears, St. John's, Burlington
- Penny Siebert, Incarnation, Oakville
- Alfred Smith, St. Luke's, Burlington
- Margaret Wall, St. Matthew's, Burlington
- Joan Walker, St. Paul's, Glanford
- Frank Winnington, St. Columba's, St. Catharines
- Mary Winter, St. David's, Welland

Bishop's Appointments 2004

- Peter Bedford-Jones
- Donna Bomberry
- Mary Clunes
- William Filer
- Edith Elliott
- Joseph Greenwood
- Ellie Johnson
- William Hyslop
- Beth Kerley
- Harold Leece
- Betty Nancekivell
- George Neale
- Ken Roberts
- Mr. Peter Scott
- Carol Schram
- Betty Smith
- Jette Thomas
- Dr. John Watts



CLIFF JOHNSTON, ONE of St. Jude's nonagenarians, cuts the cake at the reception. Assisting him is Margaret Brockett, Sharing in Caring team member.

Celebrating the 90s!

By JULIE A. HUDAK

St. Jude's Church, Oakville, held a special birthday party on June 27. It was a day set aside for the parish to honour and celebrate with all those who will turn 90 or older in this calendar year.

Thirty-four people were invited and 21 were able to be present, including three couples.

Each of these guests was given a corsage or boutonniere on arrival at the church.

One focus of the service was that of thanksgiving for the continuing contributions of the nonagenarians to the life

of St. Jude's.

A parish party with strawberries and birthday cake was held in a suitably decorated Victoria Hall, after the service.

A quiz encouraged those who were a little shy to begin talking to one another.

The event was also an opportunity for the parish's new rector, The Reverend Michael Thompson, to get to know our older members.

It was a happy occasion, made possible by the team effort of the St. Jude's Sharing in Caring Program.

Julie Hudak is business manager at St. Jude's Church in Oakville.

Blessings surround us

To be able to relax and blend into a contemplative state of mind and prayerful communication with God gives us the freedom to embrace all we are and all we want to be. It enables us to be led gently into a place that opens us up to the Holy Spirit, and lets

Him take our hearts and minds into the presence of God, where we can talk to the Father.

We all live lives of our own, but the one common thread we have is that we are Christians who have an individual belief in God, who is only accessible through His son Jesus Christ. We all believe our God is the one

provider, and that all we are and have are the result of our use and acceptance of His provision. We ask and we receive, giving thanks for the blessings we have been given.

In His sermon on the Mount, Jesus told us how blessed by God were those who chose to follow His path. The choice is ours to receive God's blessing through a relationship of divine benevolence, or to create our own blessings through self-achievement. In the former, we can be thankful to God. In the latter we can only be thankful to ourselves. We must always guard against any inclination to self, and maintain a constant relationship with God.

Once we have chosen our path, God's blessings do not come to an end. Nurture becomes a part of His plan as we tread the path of time and distance. For each beatitude, more blessings will be provided sometimes without asking, for God knows what is in our hearts and minds and acts and provides accordingly.

Wherever we are in mind or body, wherever we are in situations or locations, God has provided for us. Should we ever feel that there is a vacuum in our lives, we need to return to the greatest blessing God has given to humanity, Jesus himself. He is the one who is able to breathe the breath of God into us and fill us with new life.

Blessings come in many forms but only from one direction, God. He is the source of all that is, and from His bountiful storehouse there is nothing that He is unable to provide. We only need to reach out in faith to be the recipients of all that God wants for us, wherever we may find ourselves at the time, and to accept all that He gives us, even though it may not be what we seek.

Jesus has given us an indication of true blessedness and its opposite (Luke 6 v20). He encourages us to be content with what we have and where we are, and only to seek God's provision in living it. He tells us not to ask for more, only for what God wants to bless us.

We are given one day at a time. Let us give thanks in prayer each day for each blessing God has given us. Let us also give thanks and a blessing to God for making us His.

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer

— By Roger Harris

Bishop's itinerary for September

- Sept. 1, Canterbury Hills, Ancaster, Niagara Youth Conference visit
- Sept. 2, 4:30 p.m., Toronto, dinner with Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops
- Sept. 7, 2 p.m., meeting of archdeacons
- Sept. 7, 5 p.m., meeting of Synod Council: St. John's, St. Catharines
- Sept. 8, evening, disestablishment service, St. Martin's Church, Niagara Falls
- Sept. 10, dinner, Canterbury Hills, General Synod Local Arrangements Committee
- Sept. 12, 8-10 a.m., St. Cuthbert's Church, Oakville, parish visit
- Sept. 12 to 14, Detroit — meeting with the Episcopal Church
- Sept. 19, 10 a.m., St. Stephen-on-the-Mount,

- Hamilton, anniversary service
- Sept. 19, 4 p.m., Christ's Church Cathedral, Order of Niagara Service
- Sept. 21-22, visit to Niagara Falls and meeting with clergy team
- Sept. 26, 10:30 a.m., St. Matthew-on-the-Plains, Burlington, parish visit
- Sept. 26, 4 p.m., Christ's Church Cathedral, Order of Niagara Service
- Sept. 28, 7 p.m., Christ's Church Cathedral, Integrity service
- Sept. 29, 4 p.m., Wycliffe College, Toronto, celebrant at chapel service and dinner with students
- Sept. 30, Liuna Station, Hamilton, anniversary banquet for St. Matthew's House



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Resources
Spirituality and Prayer

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

Rev. Suzanne Craven priest associate at St. Matthew's, Burlington

Effective May 30, The Reverend Suzanne Craven was issued a license as priest associate (former assistant curate) at St. Matthew's Church, Burlington, under the direction of the rector and during the diocesan bishop's pleasure.

Noseworthy at St. Christopher's

The Rev. Deacon Joseph Noseworthy was issued a bishop's permission as deacon at St. Christopher's, Burlington, under the direction of the rector and during the diocesan bishop's pleasure, effective July 12.

People In The News

– Alison D'Atri

Gorle at Ascension

The Rev. Howard Gorle was issued a license as deacon assistant at Church of the

Ascension, Hamilton, under the direction of the interim pastor and during the diocesan bishop's pleasure, effective July 1.

Congratulations!

Gorh

Happy 60th wedding anniversary to Ted and Vi Gorh, long time parishioners of St.

George's Church, Georgetown, who celebrate this significant event Sept. 6.

Smith

Happy 50th wedding anniversary to Pamela and Douglas Smith, faithful members of St. George's, St. Catharines. They celebrated this significant event July 3.

Thomas

Happy 40th wedding anniversary to the Rev. Bill Thomas and his wife Yetta who celebrated the milestone on Aug. 22.

Sarah Kinkley

On June 22nd Sarah Kinkley, daughter of Canon Gordon Kinkley (St. John's Church, Port Dalhousie) and Diana

Duncan-Fletcher, flew to Germany to begin her Ph.D. studies at the University of Hamburg. Sarah will be doing her research and thesis in the field of ovarian cancer. The University of Hamburg is a leading center in this field. 2004 has been an important year for Sarah. After receiving her M.Sc., from Queen's University in October 2003 in Pathology and Molecular Medicine, she was chosen to represent Queen's at Tours in France at a learned conference in late April 2004. There she presented her paper before 500 doctors and academics. Her thesis topic that she successfully defended for her M.Sc. was entitled: "An EM Autoradiography & Immunofluorescence Study – Examining the Pathway of Serum Amyloid 'A' Through the Murine Macrophage." Congratulations Sarah.

Condolences

Hawthorne family

Doreen Hawthorne, O.N., died peacefully on Aug. 2. Our thoughts are with her husband, Jim, their daughter, Susan, her husband, Martin, and their son, Liam. A memorial service was held Aug. 9.

Clark family

Robert Clark, an active member of St. John's, Ancaster, died peacefully in New Orleans. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Heather, their children, Rob, Sarah and Allison, and grandchildren Brandon, Michael, Shawn, Danielle and Devin. The service was from his parish church Aug. 6.

Snider

Sympathy is expressed to the family of Geoffrey Snider, an active member of St. James, Dundas, and a formerly member of St. Paul's and All Saints, Hamilton. Mr. Snider passed away May 16.

Honourary assistants

Phin

The Rev. Joyce Phin was issued a bishop's permission as honorary assistant at St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, under the direction of the rector and during the diocesan bishop's pleasure, effective June 1

Hornby

The Rev. Muriel Hornby was reissued a bishop's permission as honorary assistant at All Saints Church, Erin, under the direction of the rector and during the diocesan bishop's pleasure, effective April 15

Edwards

The Rev. Melodie Edwards was issued a bishop's permission as honorary assistant at Grace Church, Hamilton, under the direction of the rector and during the diocesan bishop's pleasure, effective June 1.

Layreaders

The following were licensed as layreaders: at All Saints, Church, Erin, under the direction of the Rev. Amy Cousineau: Kathy Dancy, Lynne Dole, George Graham, Christine Priestman, Fred Provis and Irene Walback; at St. Alban the Martyr, Acton, under the direction of the Rev. Mark Tiller: Patricia Stone; at St. James the Apostle, Guelph, under the direction of the Rev. Kevin Bothwell: Terry Raybould, Michael Bladon, Kate Slein, Toni Bothwell, Russell Millner, Terence Crowley and Adele Fletcher.

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(Yes, these are the budget meetings – new format)

Define the new budget based on what you think is important.
Decide how to allocate our resources to support your values, wishes and initiatives as we collectively create the budget that goes to Synod Council.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| September 20, 2004 | St. Simon's, Oakville
1450 Litchfield Road |
| September 21, 2004 | St. Mark's, Orangeville
5 First Avenue |
| September 22, 2004 | Church of the Resurrection, Hamilton
435 Mohawk Road West |
| September 23, 2004 | Church of St. Columba, St. Catharines
7 St. Columba Drive |



**All meetings are from
7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
Coffee: 6:30 p.m.**



Diocese of Niagara

For more information, contact:

Wendy Duncan @ (905) 527-1316 ext. 560 or Christyn Perkons, (905) 527-1316 ext. 460

Send us your special announcement and we'll include it in the monthly People In the News column. Items can be sent to dihutton@mountaincable.net