

Of NYC, ON diocesan synod and additions

Bishop Ralph reflects on summer 2004

By DIANA HUTTON
 Editor

Summer 2004 was a busy, hectic time for Niagara's top priest. Bishop Ralph Spence spent time abroad including a visit to our partner diocese, Keewatin, and to England, where he visited his daughter, Sarah, and met with the Archbishop of Canterbury.

After the travel came some duties back home. Those included his annual visit to the Niagara Youth Conference – which he calls the highlight of his year – his midnight address to 1,600 young Lutherans at listenUP!, a youth conference which invited and received 40 Anglican youth from the Diocese of Niagara, and many, many other ministry matters. He eagerly awaited the dual Order of Niagara ceremonies Sept. 19 and Sept. 26 at Christ's Church Cathedral.

Order of Niagara

"It's a wonderful thing," he said in an interview with the Niagara Anglican. "When I go around the diocese and there are people wearing their Order of Niagara medal, well, it's just really moving."

The annual Order of Niagara ceremonies, he says, are "a wonderful recognition of lay clergy. They are moments when people can look back on. Receiving the Order of Niagara can have a wonderful impact on a person's life."

Niagara Youth Conference 2004

This year's youth conference was held Aug. 29–Sept. 3 at Canterbury Hills, Ancaster. Bishop Spence said he "really, really enjoyed myself" and admitted it's hard to stay away.

"Oh, it's one of the highlights for me," he said. "I was on staff for 10 years and that first year when I wasn't returning, it was really awful for me to not be there. I was going through NYC withdrawal."

"We have super youth and children programs in Niagara," he said.

See BISHOP SPENCE / page 2

Peacebuilders

Friday, August 27, 2004

By PHILIP MAHER
 Team Leader
 Gulu Peacebuilders

Today was yet another amazing day here in Gulu, Uganda. Florence, one of our staff, has been waiting for her daughter to be flown back from southern Sudan. She was kidnapped more than eight years ago. Florence had heard nothing about her until just a few weeks ago.

Today Florence's daughter returned home to her family.

While the volunteer team continued to toil away at the centre, I went to the airport with Florence and her family. About 1,000 people crowded the tiny one-room See LOCAL PEACEBUILDER / page 8



Canterbury invited to Niagara

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, has received an official invitation from Bishop Ralph Spence to visit the Diocese of Niagara. Bishop Spence, who met privately with the archbishop in August during a trip to the United Kingdom invited the head of the Church of England to Niagara during the House of Bishop's meeting, scheduled for May.

It is not yet known whether a day-long visit can be accommodated.

October 2004

Deadlines	4	People in the News	12
Editorial	4	Viewpoints	5-6
Fellowship of Prayer	11	Youth Page	9
Getting to Know You	11		

'...the best thing I've ever done'

Niagara Youth Conference 2004 – another 'wow' experience!

By JOYCE WILTON

The Niagara Youth Conference (NYC) is still going strong after 59 amazing years! This year "a packed house" of 110 participants from across the diocese – and further beyond – gathered at Canterbury Hills in Ancaster Aug. 29 – Sept. 3.

Throughout the week, we explored the theme of "Home Improvement". We learned about taking care of ourselves as children of God. We discussed what "home" means to each of us. We looked at our world as "our home". And we talked about how important it was to find and nurture your "House of God".

NYC is "a life-changing event", glowed one participant.

"I make friends here that I find nowhere else in my life," said another.

"NYC is the best thing I've ever done", and "I never realized until now how much God means to me."

The purpose of NYC is to provide an environment that encourages spiritual growth while creat-

ing a forum for young people to feel free and safe to explore issues important to their lives.

I have been blessed to be part of the NYC staff team for 20 years and, each year, I am amazed and proud of the profound effect NYC has on all its participants, delegates and staff.

As one parent said at the end of the week, "Niagara needs an NYC for adults!"

A highlight of the year was the awesome NYC Band, who led us in song every morning. They made our worship a celebration each day. At the end of the conference, we surprised each delegate with a CD of the music they had been singing all week, recorded by the NYC Band.

It gives each NYC-er an opportunity to continue singing those songs every day – and not just in their heads, but sharing the music with everyone around us.

Another wonderful aspect of NYC 2004 was the presence of three youth delegates from our partner diocese, Keewatin. The

See NYC / page 2



NYC Base Group - Hanging out in their "office" Bottom: Katie Peach, Sarah Bird, Lindsay Stewart, Carolyn Pugh, Ben Howells. Middle: Erin Gravelle, Craig MacNair, Rebecca Donaldson, Rachel Doran, Vanessa Rundle. Top: Jamie Barnes, Peter Wright, Ben Holtam-Prodger, Graham Nicolls



ARCHDEACON KEN PATTERSON (left), the Rev. Robert Linklater, Canon Eric Mills, Archdeacon Laughton Binns, the Rev. Alex Dobson and the Rev. Graham Thorpe were honoured by Bishop Ralph Spence (centre) and the diocese at a special eucharistic service

Celebrating 40 years of ordination

A eucharistic service of celebration was held at Christ's Church Cathedral May 17 as six diocesan clergy celebrated 40 years in ordained ministry.

Celebrating the milestone were Archdeacon Laughton Binns, the Rev. Alex Dobson, the Rev. Robert Linklater, Canon Eric Mills, Archdeacon Ken Patterson and the Rev. Graham Thorpe. More than 200 people from various parts of the diocese and beyond attended the service.

Dean Peter Wall was the principal celebrant and the designated clergy concelebrated the eucharist.

Bishop Ralph Spence gave an inspiring sermon in which he spoke of the role of the ordained ministry in the Anglican Church.

Various family members also took part in the service. A time of fellowship was followed in Myler Hall.

Bishop reflects, responds to issues near and dear

Continued from page 1

"They may be small but when they get together in regions, they make a big impact. I encourage others to support our youth and children's ministries."

listenUP!

Another highlight this summer came for Bishop Ralph as the invited guest speaker at a mid-night midweek service at listenUp!, a Lutheran youth conference held in Hamilton in late August.

"I spoke before 1,600 young people," he said almost incredulously. "To see St. Paul's (Presbyterian, Hamilton) packed, I couldn't help but think how the world has come to be in a very dif-

ferent place."

He said he became "terribly conscious" of the importance of his words and message. Gales of laughter through some of his address reassured the bishop he had won over the young folks.

Seniors programming

Seniors programming is another area where the church is engaged in some "very creative programming," said Bishop Spence. "The church is making a difference," he said. "People live out their life and faith regardless of their age."

30something struggles

He said he recognizes the particular struggle of those in their 30s-40s.

"I think those are the hardest ages," he said. "People are under horrendous strains with families and having to work two jobs. They have terrible financial responsibilities."

Bishop Ralph said he's always excited to see those in their 30s-40s take part in the life of a parish community.

"I've seen people come straight from the GO station to a meeting and I think, 'You didn't have to do this.' That impresses me. Their commitment is huge."

Diocesan Synod

Like any cleric in the diocese, Bishop Ralph feels a certain amount of "anxiousness" around November's Diocesan Synod.

"I'm looking forward to it, but I'm preparing to work hard."

Growth in church

Something else giving Bishop Ralph reason to smile are the many additions under construction, completed or planned for existing church buildings, including those in Fergus, Ancaster, Dundas, St. Catharines, Burlington and Hamilton.

"We always seem to hear doom and gloom, so it's fun to see some really good ministry going on across the diocese. I'm pretty excited about it."

Sanctuary

Responding to the story of a woman's claim for sanctuary in a

Toronto Anglican church, Bishop Ralph said he isn't aware of any such cases in Niagara Diocese.

But, sanctuary is not something the Church takes lightly, he said, and in fact, "the Church offers sanctuary in many other ways". Bishop Spence said that through parish sponsorships of displaced Vietnamese families in the 1970s, Latin American families in the '80s, and Bosnia in the '90s, offering "new beginnings" was an act of sanctuary.

The tradition continues today with parishes reaching out to families in the Sudan and Somalia, through the Primates' World Relief Fund.

NYC 2004 another 'wow'

Continued from page 1

Youth Ministry Committee, along with Partners in Mission, sponsored their travel and participation at NYC.

One of the delegates wrote upon his departure, "This has been the best time I have ever had. I have learned so much and it will always stay with me, thank you NYC!" Thank you Niagara for your continued commitment to youth ministry and especially NYC!

Joyce Wilton is a youth consultant with the Diocese of Niagara's Youth Ministry (and tireless camper!)

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY WORKSHOPS

Puppet Ministry Workshop

Sunday, October 17, 2004 - 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Hosted by St. George's, Georgetown

All are welcome! This workshop is for beginners and people who want to refine their puppet skills.

Pre-register by October 13th

Christian Parenting Workshop

Saturday, November 20, 2004 - 9:30 a.m. - Noon

Hosted by St. George's, Georgetown

Helping families raise Christian kids and tools for providing positive connections along the way.

A children's program for 12 and under will be available while adults participate.

Pre-register by November 15th

Both workshops are free if you pre-register!

For Registration/Information contact 905-527-1316

Jane Stewart at ext. 420 or

Dawn Alexander-Wiggins at ext. 440

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 Relax and Enjoy
Network and browse the resource table Dinner and a Guest Speaker

Please pre-register by November 14 - and save!

\$10 per person

\$15 at the door



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

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



New Niagara

By ROBERT MORROW

WHY AND HOW

The following “positive core statements” represent the culmination of a series of events that have led to an initial awareness and fuller understanding of who we are and where we want to be as a diocese. Information was gathered at the parish level using a method called “the appreciative inquiry model”; peak stories were heard, experiences shared and values and wishes were clarified.

The information gathered from parishes was categorized into similar themes by a group of dedicated clergy and lay people. In mixed pairs, they summarized the information for each category into a short but powerful statement. Each category was given a title and passed along to other groups for their input and editing.

What evolved from this process, which started from literally hundreds of individuals’ stories, is a list of statements that can provide the diocese with guiding principles for future endeavours, ministry emphases and spending within the diocese.

The statements define our pathway for “becoming more than we can ask or imagine through the power of God!”

Positive core statements

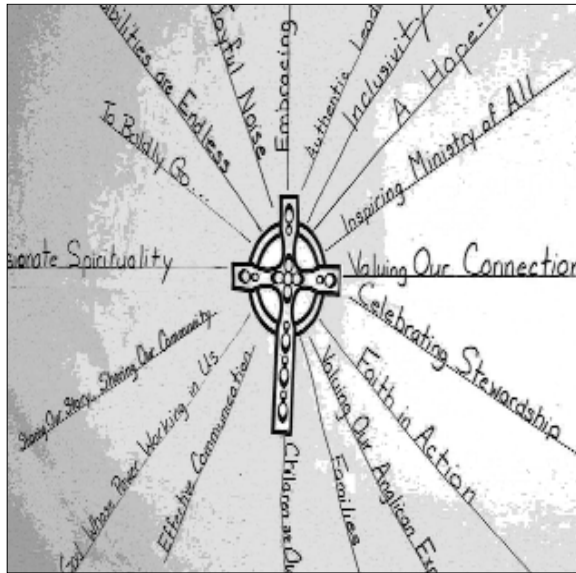
Youth: We celebrate the presence and participation of youth and young adults in all aspects of our community, valuing and embracing their gifts, strengths and their example of membership in the body of Christ. We invite and equip our young people through relevant worship and programs (both parish-based and diocese-wide) that foster leadership skills, spiritual exploration and relationship building.

Faith in Action : Through justice-oriented, faithful, cooperative, informed action, and in loving, compassionate and healing ways, we use our resources of people, prayer, partnerships (with social service providers and other faith groups), physical plant and finances to express our Christian voices, advocating for the needs of all age groups, social levels and environments – locally, nationally and internationally – on social and political fronts.

A Hopeful Community of Loving Relationships: We are a vibrant, passionate, faith-based community, grounded in unconditional love, committed to grace-filled, accepting and inclusive relationships which compassionately heal and support each other with authenticity, trust and integrity.

Glorious to God Whose Power Working in Us: Within the diversity of worship styles throughout the diocese, our worship is uplifting, engaging and enriching. Our commitment to include all people in meaningful worship shapes our decisions about the creative and flexible design of our worship.

Passionate Spirituality: We are a passionate community of faith, connected to the past, alive in the present, and growing into the future. Through faith, prayer and scrip-



ture, we are connected to God, creation and our community in our diverse and creative spiritual expression.

Sharing Our Story, Our Community: As God’s people, we are committed to sharing our faith story through dynamic worship, authentic words and Spirit-led action. Our vital faith communities attract, invite and warmly welcome all those who are searching for spiritual meaning and a relationship with God.

Embracing Faith: As a community we devote leadership and resources to discerning, relevant Christian education for all ages that reflects reason, tradition, experience and scripture. We utilize a variety of modalities to meet the varying needs of all.

Children Are Our Present, Not Our Future: We honour children of all ages and backgrounds and foster their spiritual development in a welcoming, safe, creative, enjoyable and inclusive environment where they know they belong. Through relevant and dynamic Christian education, programs, worship experiences and special events (e.g., Children’s Festivals) children are equipped and invited to share their gifts as essential members of our faith communities.

To Boldly Go: Trusting in the presence of the Spirit in our communities, we find creative and exciting ways to express and explore our faith. We enjoy a diversity of expression that allows us the freedom and security to fol-

low the path that the Spirit unfolds before us.

Valuing Connections Within the Diocese: Under the leadership of the bishop, our diocese upholds certain Christ-centred guiding principles which are deeply rooted in our faith experience, our sense of community and our strong commitment to respectful and healthy relationships between individuals, parishes, the Synod and the wider Church. Guided by these shared values, diocesan decisions about staff and resource allocation are developed through open, consultative communication so that the ministry of all is affirmed, supported and celebrated.

Effective Communication: We use diverse methods to accurately and completely communicate a broad range of information to the general public, parishioners, target groups, seekers, other parishioners and the diocese for the purpose of evangelism, outreach, corporate needs, social, Christian education, fundraising, pastoral care, mission, worship and parish life.

Authentic Leadership: The bishop, clergy and laity of all ages are mutually encouraged and empowered to exercise shared caring and loving leadership from their point of passion; to live, model, preach and teach the Good News. Calling, training, mentoring and recognizing needs-oriented leaders of all ages in a team ministry model that respects boundaries inspires thriving, vital Christian communities.

Inspiring the Ministry of All: We respect and invite the ministry of all members, honouring our baptismal covenant in sharing a bigger dream of God, widening the circle of believers and challenging all to set a faithful example of the Christian life.

Celebrating Stewardship: We are a community entrusted by God with the care of all creation. We freely and responsibly commit our skills, time and financial resources to effectively nurture our faith communities, the environment and all of God’s people. We celebrate the gifts of our people and our accomplishments.

Valuing Anglican Expressions: We hold in tension a preference for earlier and evolving expressions of Anglicanism (theological interpretation, liturgical practice, behavioural norms).

Make A Joyful Noise! Hallelujah! Music plays a key role in the life of our faith communities. We look for opportunities to creatively and flexibly meet diverse needs and preferences by respecting a wide variety of musical styles within our services and celebrations.

Further information

If you are interested in finding out more about New Niagara or about how you can be involved in this exciting process, please contact Christyn Perkins at christyn.perkins@niagara.anglican.ca, (905) 527-1316 ext. 460; The Reverend Erin Marriott at reverinm@golden.net, (519) 587-5565, or Robert Morrow at robertmorrow@sympatico.ca (905) 627-3685.

Editorial

Saving the Church

Archdeacon Vincett in her pastoral letter published on the Niagara website and carried in this newspaper has aptly discussed the issue of parish church closings and their effect on our diocese.

She indicates that although many parishes have had to close due to financial difficulties, some have chosen to close because they are tired and can no longer carry on the burdens of ministry in our society.

Although we support these parishes in their decisions, we cannot help but feel that there are issues that must be addressed – and they must be addressed very quickly.

Many of our churches in this diocese are worrying about whether or not they have enough money to keep their doors open for the next several years. People are concerned about the aging population in our churches and conspicuous absence of younger people in many parishes.

Extinction

The result is that many parishes begin to think of ways to raise funds to save their church from extinction, while at the same time accepting the fact that their parish will not grow and that the young are disinterested.

We have to ask – what church are they trying to save? If it's the building, then our efforts are only temporary at best. If it is the actual Church, the Community, then we had better begin to think of new and creative approaches.

The only answer to good stewardship in our parishes is to build our communities. It is true that some of our older and faithful members will pass on to new life and leave the church funds that are desperately needed. But even this is Band-Aid at best.

Our parishes need to be vital places of worship and outreach to whom folks in our society are attracted and with whom many new people will want to journey. The Church that needs to be saved has little to do with buildings and more to do with vital and caring communities.

Evangelism

Our bishop, in his wisdom, has appointed a director of evangelism. It is the responsibility of this office to help us to find ways to be vital and to reach out proudly in our communities. We have everything in the world to offer to society.

In the scope of Christian religions, we are a Church that is progressive and open, always willing to meet contemporary needs.

We need desperately to work with the director of evangelism and then we will find a way to save our Church.

All the fund raising schemes in the world will be in vain if we do not find a way to proclaim our goodness and our vitality to the world around us and hence invite people in our cities and towns to journey with us in our important ministry and mission to the world.

We urge every parish to set a goal for 2005 to bring in three, five, 10 or more new families or individuals to their parish, and then to do everything that then can to reach that goal.

Working together, and with God's grace, it will be done!

Summers is newest PAB member

Carol Summers, a member of St. John's, York, is the newest member of the Publisher's



CAROL SUMMERS

Advisory Board to the Niagara Anglican. Carol is a warden of St. John's and president of the Altar Guild. She is in the process of becoming a lay reader. Honourary lay secretary to Synod, she is also a member of the Evangelism Committee, provincial synod and General Synod.

Born in Herefordshire, England, Carol is married to Richard. The couple met at

school, where they had the same geography master who inspired both to travel.

They married and, two years later, they arrived in Canada to begin the first leg of their tour of the world.

The couple has three children, Emily is a teacher in Toronto, Owen is in college, and Lloyd is in high school.

Carol has held a variety of jobs, going in quite different directions.

She began her career as a librarian, then moved into nursing as an assistant on a geriatric ward in a day clinic. She has worked with Alzheimer patients, providing home care.

Volunteer work in the local school and community has also kept her quite busy.

REVEREND FUN



You see us as the church that repeats songs more than others ... I, however, see us at the church that saved 50% on transparency sheets last year.

Thank you, good & faithful servant

Regarding the closure of six parishes in our diocese in the past year, Archdeacon Marion Vincett wrote a pastoral letter which appears on page 5 of the Niagara Anglican. (It can also be found on the diocesan website at www.niagara.anglican.ca.)

In her insightful piece, Archdeacon Marion identifies this situation as a reality across our nation and writes, "Canada, once a nation of churchgoers, can no longer be identified in this way and we, who love our buildings and value our parish identities, are compelled to face that reality."



The Rev. Canon Michael Patterson

Director of Evangelism
mpatterson@niagara.anglican.ca

In our website discussion forum, the suggestion was offered that the closure of these churches reinforces the secular notion that "the Church is redundant and has outlived its usefulness."

The secular press, in recent years, has focused primarily on the negative conditions of mainline churches: misconduct lawsuits, internal strife and conflict, declining membership and church closures.

It seems at times our church is under siege and there is very little good news to share. In such an atmosphere, it is difficult to embrace evangelism and to get excited about the faith when the faithful seem to be dwindling and all the news we seem to get is bad!

I want to say nonsense to the notion that the church is in crisis. While this is one of the most challenging periods of history, it is also one of the greatest times to seize the moment, respond to the tremendous needs in the world, and deliver the good news of Jesus Christ in new and imaginative ways.

The closure of churches is not a sign of redundancy, failure or the Church having outlived its usefulness. To close and sell a church building is good stewardship, responsible decision-making and a faithful response to the will of God. As difficult and as painful as it is to the many whose lives have been enriched by the life and witness of these parish communities, we know that in all things there is a season and we say: Thank you good and faithful servant; it is time.

Need to respond

As the world moves and changes, we – as the visible body of Christ – need to respond and meet people where they are; we need to bring the Good News to them, to offer new ways for people to experience the living presence of God.

When the vast majority of our parishes were established and built – 50 or 150 years ago – it was a radically different world. In the 1950s, 78 per cent of Canadians attended church on a regular basis. The Church responded by constructing lots of buildings. Were people more spiritual, more religious and more faithful in these good ole days? I suspect not. People attended church as a cultural prerequisite as much as an act or discipline of faith.

In the 2001 census, two in 10 Canadians claimed to attend church on a regular basis; the fastest growing religious affiliation was "no religious affiliation" at 17 per cent. Yet the majority of Canadians believe themselves to be "spiritual" and believe in God. But attending church is no longer part of our cultural milieu.

We can no longer expect people will just show up in our buildings, ready and able to engage in our traditions and culture. We must adapt to this volatile environment. This may mean letting go of some of our cherished buildings and exploring new ways to be the Church.

This is a very exciting time for our Church and our diocese. The opportunities for ministry and evangelism are endless.

In the meantime, we mourn the parishes which fulfilled their ministries and died so others may live. We give thanks to God for them. Yet we move forward, confident the Holy Spirit will continue to reveal the vision and mission of what it means to be the Church of Jesus Christ

Niagara Anglican
News Perspective Reflection
for a growing church

Editor/Advertising:
Diana Hutton
(905) 573-0962
dhutton@mountaincable.net

Mailing Address:
Cathedral Place
252 James Street North
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
L8R 2L3

Diocesan Website:
www.niagara.anglican.ca

The official, independently edited publication of the Anglican Diocese of Niagara. Published 10 times a year (no issue in July or August) in Hamilton, Ontario. Printed by Signal Star Publishing, Goderich, a division of Bowes Publishers Limited.

Please note: some of the editorial material sent to the Niagara Anglican may appear on the diocesan web site as well.

Advertising Policy

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.

Subscriptions
\$12 per year

New subscriptions, cancellations, changes of address (please attach label) should be sent to:

Circulation Department
Anglican Journal
600 Jarvis Street
Toronto, Ontario M4V 2J6
(416) 924-9199 x 241
circulation.national.anglican.ca

Circulation
16,175

Deadlines for Submissions:

Nov. 2004: Oct. 5
Dec. 2004: Nov. 3

The Bishop's Publishing Advisory Board includes:

Pam Claridge
John Janisse

The Rev. Canon Charles Stirling Carol Summers
The Rev. Kristine Swire

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, e-mail address or physical address of the author for verification purposes. The newspaper reserves the right to edit submissions.

Viewpoints

General Synod – Whew!!!

Although in many ways it seems like a long time ago, in many other ways General Synod 2004 is still very much fresh in our minds. It was a distinct honour for us in Niagara to host General Synod, and getting ready for it involved the hard work of a large number of people.



The Very Reverend Peter Wall, Dean

As well as being a member of the General Synod Planning Committee, which starts planning the event more than two years before it begins, I was greatly privileged to be chair of the General Synod Worship

Committee, the group which bears responsibility for planning and executing a large number of worship services – some very complex – over a relatively concentrated period of time.

It was great fun to work with Archdeacon Lynne Corfield, the Rev. Sharyn Hall, the Rev. Val Kerr, and the Rev. Michael Thompson – all from Niagara – as well as others from across the country in planning these services. The worship experienced at General Synod by its members was varied, interesting and accompanied by wonderful music, and all happened without too many hitches! Another miracle.

As always at General Synod, several resolutions were passed about our worship patterns and liturgical lives. As diocesan liturgical officer, and as a member of General Synod I think that it is appropriate to bring these before you.

The major issues concerning the blessing of same-sex unions have been widely reported: any decision by General Synod on the matter was deferred until 2007 and the primate's theological commission has been asked to deliberate on the doctrinal nature of the issue.

Marriage canon

There were, however, other matters before the House. We passed through second reading several amendments to the Marriage Canon - Canon XXI. Specifically, we repealed the section which left the admission of communion of divorced persons at episcopal discretion; changed the section dealing with the place of marriage to provide more pastoral latitude to clergy and bishops to allow marriage services in places other than church buildings; and moved the compulsory nature of Matrimonial Commissions, so that individual bishops and dioceses can make their own pastoral arrangements.

In terms of worship materials, liturgical concerns and related things, we:

- added both Florence Li Tim Oi and Emily Ayckbom to the Calendar of Holy Persons (Li Tim Oi was the first Anglican priest; Emily Ayckbom is the founder of the Community of the Sisters of the Church)

- authorized for use, where permitted by the Ordinary the "Blessing and Celebration of a Civil Marriage" (as found in the Book of Occasional Celebrations, and amended)

- authorized for use where permitted by the Ordinary the "Renewal of Marriage Vows" (as found in the Book of Occasional Celebrations)

- changed the language of the Episcopal ordinal in the Book of Alternative Services to employ language inclusive of both men and women.

- asked the Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee to "produce a guide for dioceses to assist in the development or adaptation, and adoption, of codes of ethics and of best standards for those authorized for the practice of ministry", asking each diocese to develop such codes of ethics during the next six years and to report on progress at General Synod 2007.

- welcomed the re-establishment of a formal dialogue relationship with the United Church of Canada.

Calendar changes

Bishop Ralph Spence has already informed the diocese of the changes to the Marriage Canon, and I will endeavour, before the beginning of Advent, to make sure that calendar changes are communicated throughout the diocese.

Many of these items reflect a great deal of work done by the national Faith, Worship and Ministry committee of General Synod over the last triennium, and much work lies ahead in these and in other areas.

As a member of FWM and as the diocesan liturgical officer, I welcome your comments and input for the triennial work which lies ahead.

I also think that we, in Niagara, should be proud of the 37th General Synod and proud of the role we all played in hosting the Church in our midst.

Well done, everybody!

Disestablishing parishes: a pastoral reflection

During the past nine months, six parishes within the Diocese of Niagara have elected to disestablish and, by year end, all but one will be fully closed.

Most of the buildings, once much-loved parish churches, have been sold, and some are now being used for secular purposes.

This is the reality across our nation for not only the Anglican Church but other denominations also.

Canada, once a nation of Christian churchgoers, can no longer be defined in this way, and we who love our buildings and value our parish identities are compelled to face that reality.

Niagara has been taking the challenges, which such a reality presents, very seriously.

Mission and vision

Led by Bishop Ralph Spence, we are seeking to encourage congregations to be clear about their sacred mission and their vision for their future.

Whereas in the 1950s it was possible merely to build a church building and place a sign outside to attract flocks of new adherents, we now need to work hard at defining our market and sharing our faith in new and imaginative ways.

That is why we now have a Director of Evangelism in Niagara – the only diocese in the



– Executive Archdeacon Marion Vincett

Canadian Church to do so.

That is why we have worked hard with many of our congregations to assist them in developing long-term plans to ensure a lively, faithful and healthy future for themselves.

That is why we are encouraging parishes in close geographic proximity to share resources and work together wherever possible so that precious creativity and people skills are used as widely as possible.

That is why we have a series of tools and consultants to assist a parish which wishes to change its culture and transform its identity.

That is why we have embarked on New Niagara to energize the people who make up Niagara and to listen to each other as we struggle to understand the challenges and identify the appropriate response to them.

I write as someone who has played a key role in both challenging and supporting Niagara parishes facing serious issues of viability.

I also write as a member of the Church of the Resurrection, our

newest congregation, and one which has redefined itself since it was formed by the merger of two former congregations on Hamilton Mountain in 2000.

A church is called to be a voice for justice, a signal of transcendence, a mediator between the mundane and the transcendent.

Live in love

For sure it is, or should be, a community of people who try to live in love and fellowship. But, church members will be able to do that only if they remember their purpose for being. A church, if it is to be authentic to Christ's calling, can never be a mere building.

Unfortunately, as the people and financial resources cease to be adequate in some congregations, the building takes priority and the ministry either ceases or suffers from lack of volunteer and financial resources.

In other words, the priorities are all off. Several of those churches which have closed this year have done so not because they were in serious financial difficulty – yet. The members were, however, visionary enough to know that they were no longer able to do the work which Jesus was calling them to do because they had become so focused on mere survival as a separate congregation.

They were approaching burnout, and they knew it. So,

See FUTURE / page 7

Achieving equilibrium

"John the Baptizer came fasting and you called him crazy. The Son of Man came feasting and you called him a lush. Opinion polls don't count for much, do they?" Luke 7:35. (The Message)

It was a typical fall day for Vancouver – overcast sky, a fine spray of rain floating down, thoroughly soaking everything, misting out the view of the rising hills across the bay – cool, damp, dull.

But I wasn't observing the weather in Vancouver, and it wasn't fall. In fact it was a day in the last week of July in Hamilton, or, more specifically, the Dundas Valley. But the weather situation didn't become clear until I'd driven out of the valley, up onto the escarpment and into Sam Lawrence Park, where the view was much different.

While the valley, Hamilton Harbour and Lake Ontario, lay submerged under a surface-hugging cloud, the rest of the visible world was bathed in sunshine and clear (if somewhat hazy), typically warm summer air.

Unique moments

It was one of those unique moments when local variations in topography and surface resulted in radically different weather in adjacent areas.

I found it an enlightening metaphor for the current state of the Anglican Church of Canada. What some experience as a dampening fog and pall, others see as a local phenomenon which distorts our view of the rest of the world or of the Church. And others, basking in the warmth of the familiar, seem unaware that local conditions are radically different in other parts of the world, even right next door, and require a different response.

There is no doubt that the Church is in a critical time of transition, and that where one stands – both geographically and theologically – exposes one to very different perceptions of what is going on. What

Signs & Wonders

– The Rev. Canon William C. Thomas



wthomas@interlynx.net

God may be inviting us to choose between – including the possibility that two very different sets of environments may need to exist side by side for a time – is as different as the weather in the valley and the top of the hill.

But we'll never be able to sort it all out, and truly discern God's will for us, if we are absolutely convinced that the view from where we stand is the only true perspective on the situation.

The way forward

And we'll certainly never be able to discern the way forward if we cease to move from our own position, or refuse to continue the relationship and dialogue with those who are looking from a different place.

Ah, say some, "but not to decide is to have made a decision." What happens if we don't merge to a common position – or if we maintain separate tracks for too long?

Again I find nature helpful in its illustrations. In central North America, in the summer months, if an outbreak of dense cold air rushes too quickly down from the north and overrides the lighter hot humid air to the south, what results is a violent change: first a squall line forms, then tornadoes erupt as the atmosphere seeks equilibrium.

By the same token, in the subtropics, as the tilt of the earth's axis causes trade winds to cease its slow and gradual movement to the north, and stall out

See ACHIEVING / page 6

We can learn from these good parish websites

This month I'd like to say more about the good things I've noticed on the parish websites of the Diocese of Niagara.

Browsing on the Internet, I've discovered our parishes are using their websites for five important purposes. One is simply to share information and news with any who might be interested. Our websites publish service times, driving directions, reports of activities and pictures of events, among other things.

Support faith journey

A second purpose is to support the faith journeys of members and friends. As I said in my December column, one obvious way to support parishioners theologically is to publish Sunday sermons.

Almost no clergy in Niagara currently do this. Perhaps they fear that some theological profes-



The Itinerant Churchgoer

— The Reverend Alan L. Hayes

sor will see what they're preaching and critique them mercilessly! So I tip my hat to the exceptions I've found: these are the clergy of St. David and St. Patrick, Guelph (<http://stdandpchurch.netfirms.com>); St. Philip and St. Luke, G r i m s b y (www3.sympatico.ca/stphiluk); and St. Alban, Glen Williams (www.saintalban.ca). What courage they have!

Other Niagara churches provide other devotional resources. Ascension, Hamilton (www.ascensionhamilton.ca), has

a helpful set of links to daily bible studies and meditations, and also a link to the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer site, where people can register their prayer requests. St. Alban, Glen Williams, publishes the weekly Scripture lectures. And St. Luke, Hamilton (www.parishofstluke.org), has a short course in Anglo-Catholic worship and an up-to-date weekly festival calendar.

Tell the world!

A third important purpose of a parish website is to tell the world about God's love and justice in Jesus Christ, and about God's Church. Call this evangelism, or a strategy for church growth, promotion or sharing things that are important to us, or call it responsible self-disclosure. Call it what you will, but it's part of the joy and the duty of the Gospel.

The website for All Saints, R i d g e w a y (<http://allsaints.ridgeparish.com>), offers a "jargon-free account" of the Christian faith, which might be just the right kind of introduction for many non-Christians.

A fourth purpose for our parish websites is to invite new residents, lapsed Christians and others into our church communities. A recent study reports many new residents do their church-shopping on the web. It's a lot easier than dragging two small children to different churches Sunday by Sunday. For people like them, St. Matthew on-the-Plains, Burlington (www.bserv.com/community/stmat.html), publishes a "welcome guide" introducing newcomers to the various activities of the church and anticipating the questions they might ask.

It's not always easy for people to visit a church for the first time. St. Mark's, Orangeville, has a website for seekers who might be asking, "What would I find if I visited your congregation this Sunday morning?" Its easy-to-understand description of "what to expect at worship" (www3.sympatico.ca/saintmarksorangeville) will give confidence to those who are attracted to us but are maybe a little timid.

Another way to de-mystify ourselves is to publish pictures of the interior of our church building. A few websites that do this particularly well are St. Mark, Niagara (www.niagara.com/~stmarks); St. George, Guelph (www.saintgeorge.ca); and St. John, Ancaster.

Feedback

The fifth purpose to which some of our parishes are putting their websites is inviting feedback. It's important for us not only to communicate "out" but to encourage communication back "in". Two Niagara websites which make a serious effort to invite feedback and have even designed a special form for this purpose are St. George, Lowville (www.stgeorgeslowville.org), and All Saints, Ridgeway.

More of us need to think about how to do this. Studies of congregational websites say that inadequate interactivity is a common failing.

Diocesan website

And I hope you're frequently checking the bright new redesigned diocesan website (www.niagara.anglican.ca)! It's full of news, commentary and helpful links, and it's always being updated.

Finally, here are a few resources on congregational websites which helped me think about this column. The "some studies" I mentioned above include one by the Pew Foundation (http://www.pewinternet.org/reports/pdfs/PIP_Religion_Report.pdf) and another by the Episcopal Foundation (<http://www.episcopal.foundation.org/research/vestry/papers/vpapers10k1.pdf>). And Hartford Seminary (http://hirs.hartsem.edu/cong/cong_designing_church_sites.html) has some very helpful advice on how to design an excellent church website.

Achieving equilibrium

Continued from page 5

before changing direction and heading south, the spin of the earth, acting on the hesitation and lack of direction, results in the formation of hurricanes.

Rushing too fast, or failing to decide, can both have severe local consequences. But in either case, the global atmosphere remains in balance.

For some 30 years now, I've been watching the fog thicken around issues of gender, orientation and behaviour as they relate to the operation of the Church in this Diocese of Niagara.

That's twice as long as it took us to pray and work our way into an affirmation of the ordination of women. If we don't move now, the climatic change sweeping this continent may indeed leave us shattered and devastated.

"But for right now, friends, I'm completely frustrated by your unspiritual dealings with each other and with God. You're acting like infants in relation to Christ, capable of nothing more than nursing at the breast.... As long as you grab for what makes you feel good or makes you look important, are you really much different than a babe at the breast, content only when everything's going your way?" 1Cor. 3:1-3. (The Message)

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

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.

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

We are offered a role in God's creation

Reflections on a personal theology of giving

Part one 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.

The process of discovering God's will about money and possessions has been tremendously liberating for me.

Recently I found some excellent thoughts in a little book called "Giving – Unlocking the Heart of Good Stewardship" by Ortberg, Pederson and Poling. It begins with a passage from St. Mark's Gospel – the story of the woman who came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on Jesus' head.

Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, "Why this waste of perfume? It could have been sold for more than a year's wages and the money given to the poor." And they rebuked her harshly.

A beautiful thing

"Leave her alone," said Jesus. "Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to Me. The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for My burial. I tell you the truth, wherever she



**Give your grace to your world
and make it a better place**

The word GRACE means the spirit of unconditional love working in man to regenerate and strengthen.

Gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

The authors note, "This touched Jesus' heart so deeply that he memorialized it forever. One might have expected a grand sacrifice, or something of high impact. But it was a woman named Mary and her alabaster jar.

"We all have an alabaster jar. They come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. Sealed in our alabaster jars are our treasured earthly possessions. Occasionally we break the seal and share more than usual – maybe it's for Survive and Thrive, or the Residential Schools Appeal – and then we put the lid back on.

"Much of our life is spent preserving and conserving the contents of our alabaster jar.

"The question is, What will you do with

your alabaster jar?

"Do we understand how extravagantly the love of Christ was shown for us? The Saviour Christ came to earth to break an alabaster jar for humanity. And Mary had come that night to break one for Him."

In the words of another writer Michael Morr, "God gave us an extravagant gift in the person of Jesus Christ. It was an outrageous gift, worth far more than what we deserve."

Extravagant grace

Grace is extravagant. Jesus gave everything He Had for us. He gave His very life. And it was even more than necessary – he died for the whole world, and yet the whole world does not accept Him. He died even for the people who reject Him.

Some said, "That can't be right. That's not the way God normally acts with us."

But God does things out of the ordinary. He shows us total commitment, total sacrifice, so that we might respond to Him with all that we have."

I've thought a lot about my own response over the years. I've come to the conclusion that there's a strong tendency to make giving conditional. And there's certainly an inclination to give less than one could give. You know, "I'll give more if I have some extra at the end of the month ..." or "if the sermons improve ..." or "if the bishop does ..." You can fill in the blanks.

But that's not the way God acts with us.

Upon reflection, I realized that I had to learn about giving from a spirituality of abundance before I was able to learn about spiritual growth.

In order to grow spiritually, I had to first understand the true meaning of stewardship.

One would think it would be the other way around, but it's not. The more I have been enlightened about giving, the more I understand about faith, trust, grace and commitment.

We are called to give out of a spirituality of abundance, not scarcity. God deserves better than leftovers. God deserves first fruit giving.

In the next issue I'll write about adopting a personal approach to year-round stewardship and what that will mean to you and your parish.

Jim Newman is a volunteer parish planning consultant for the Diocese of Niagara. He helps parishes with long-range planning, stewardship, narrative budgets and planned giving. He can be contacted at newmanj@cogeco.ca.

Future may see fewer church buildings

Continued from page 5

they made the difficult and heart-breaking decision to close and move on rather than to die.

I recognize that to be a courageous decision. I pray those who made it in faith will be welcomed joyfully into another parish community and be given the opportunity to serve God in a meaningful manner.

When I look around at the Church of the Resurrection on those Sundays when I am present, I see people who are energized, enthusiastic, faithful and committed.

Long time members naturally know who belonged to which of the two former congregations

which merged. Those who have joined since the merger (and there are many of them including myself) have no idea of that history, nor does it matter to them. What matters are the present and the future, not the past.

Contrary to popular mythology, we at the Synod office do not have a list of churches we should like to see closed. Our only agenda is to encourage and support every one of our parishes in using its resources (buildings, people, finances,) to support its mission.

The best news I can share with you from my experience at the Church of the Resurrection is that the closure of one building need not destroy community or mission.

Sometimes, it enhances community and encourages a stronger sense of mission because it takes away the burden of having to carry a building which has become an onerous duty. So I encourage you to look around you for the myriad of opportunities to share and to work together.

Work together

Because of our history, we have a terrible tendency to try to work in isolation and distrust. The culture in which we find ourselves will no longer allow us to thrive in such circumstances and I believe the Holy Spirit is challenging us to throw caution to the winds and to work together in ways in which we have never, or only rarely, done in the past.

I promise the Synod office will be there to support you, to pray with you and to encourage you as you step out in faith.

I have directed that we no longer call ourselves "the Synod Office" but "the Diocesan Resource Centre" since this more accurately represents the role we claim for ourselves at Cathedral

Place.

Act now to ensure a relevant and future ministry for the community which you care so much about.

If that means we have a few less buildings to maintain, then so be it.

I do not remember Jesus telling us that we needed them in the first place!




**We Need
Ambassadors**

You know people. You know business.
You know a lot of Anglican dollars go to
businesses in your area who want to attract more customers.

We know we need you to introduce us to your local market so
advertising can find us.

**The Niagara Anglican is looking for commissioned advertising
representatives throughout the diocese. For more information,
contact Canon Charles Stirling at (905) 383-1088.**



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

**A night of fun, games and music
& Leaders' Workshop
with Resource Sharing**

Friday, October 22, 2004
7 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
at St. Paul's, Caledonia
\$4.00 per person
plus donation of
personal hygiene product

For more information contact:
Christyn Perkons 905-527-1316 x 460
or christyn.perkons@niagara.anglican.ca

Peacebuilders make difference in Uganda

Continued from page 1

airport building and the paved airstrip; 45 children were due to arrive from Juba via Khartoum.

The plane was about two hours late. Of course, the heat was intense, so we all stood under the small eaves of the building trying to stay out of the sun. World Vision traditional dancers and musicians, all children from our centre, entertained the crowd.

Welcome home!

When the plane arrived, the dancers beat their drums louder, almost drowning out the jet engine. Ladders were brought out since the airport does not have stairs for disembarking from large jets.

Crowds pushed in on the tarmac, and Florence, supported by friends and family, walked to the bottom of the ladder.

Her daughter was first off the plane, and they knew each other right away.

The flight from Sudan only took an hour, but their embrace was eight years in the making.

Florence seemed whole again. Family members, most of whom



TEAM LEADER PHILIP MAHER, and his team of volunteers – including Anglican resident Mark Miller – are pictured here with some children from the Children of War Rehabilitation Centre in Uganda. The centre works to help counsel and support children who have been abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army in Sudan.

would barely remember Florence's daughter, gave her huge hugs.

The tiny group moved out of the crowd and sat together on the tarmac where they presented the returning girl with flowers and began singing. Music, it is the profound way Africans celebrate

occasions – with songs that reach down deep.

After singing on the hot tarmac, not quite in the shadow of the jet, an old lady an aunt I suppose offered a long thanksgiving prayer for Florence's daughter's return. Florence hugged her daughter once again. All across

the tarmac, other prayers were being offered for the other lost children who had returned home.

It is in these moments that one sees the horror of what is going on here in Uganda, pain unfathomable.

Florence's daughter will need a lot of understanding and love.

Fortunately, Florence has counselled hundreds of girls like her.

The volunteers (on the team) have had an amazing experience and it's not quite over yet.

Not simple

Things are not simple here, but they have coped well with the physical and emotional stress. And I believe they have come to love the people of Uganda, an easy, joyful job.

If we had come only to build relationships, this trip would have been a success, but we did more than that – we helped fix latrines too, but hey, that's the kind of thing friends do for each other.

Philip Maher is team leader of Gulu Peacebuilders. Burlington resident Mark Miller, a World Vision volunteer on Maher's team, recently returned home after working to restore the Children of War Rehabilitation Centre, which works to help counsel and support children who have been abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army. The Gulu Peacebuilders Team is an emergency specialist team which included a leader and four Canadian volunteers.

Are you Volunteers In Mission material?

Adventuresome may find their calling

By BEV GROOMBRIDGE

"I have learned a lot from the people here but it seems unfair that I should receive so much when I came here to serve."

– Written by from Sharon Low V.I.M., Diocese of Huron)

Have you ever wanted to travel to another country and have the opportunity to live and mingle with its people?

Have you ever considered sharing faith, knowledge, skills and personal presence in the service of

Christ or learning first-hand from people of other countries, cultures and churches?

Do you want to give and receive, listen and grow, and be part of both the challenge and the wonder of new experiences? The Volunteers in Mission Program is looking for you.

By becoming a Volunteer in Mission (VIM) you join in the life of other Christians and you may find yourself in Tanzania, Argentina, India, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Brazil, Canada....or wherever one of our partner churches or institutions expresses a need for a qualified

volunteer through Volunteers in Mission.

Canadians from all walks of life, lay or ordained, teachers, nurses, agriculturists, accountants, theological educators, auto mechanics etc., etc., may volunteer.

Are you interested? The first step is to contact the Volunteers in Mission office to receive application materials.

When the completed application form is received, the VIM co-ordinator will arrange a preliminary interview. If the interview is successful, the co-ordinator will arrange a second interview with

an interview panel in your locale. If successful

■ Your first job will be to form a support group. The support group gives prayer support, raises funds for your airfare, medical insurance and a modest living allowance and maintains contact with you during your placement. They will also give support upon your return and help you share your experience with others.

Your experience as a volunteer plays a vital role in forging personal links and greater understanding between Canadian churches and our partner churches. You will be expected to keep in touch with your support group during your placement.

* You will require a medical check-up

■ Attend a Missionary orientation conference.

■ Make travel arrangements

■ Attend a Commissioning service.

The approval and support of your parish/congregation is required before being considered for placement, during placement and upon your return.

For applications or more information about the Volunteers in Mission Program please contact Jill Cruise, VIM Co-ordinator

80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2 or e-mail vim@national.anglican.ca

Bev Groombridge is chair of Partners in Mission.

A Renewal Network Conference

Sponsored by the Renewal Movements in the Anglican, Presbyterian and United Churches of Canada

CHRIST OUR PROPHET

Saturday, November 6, 2004

Park Bible Church, 1500 Kerns Road, Burlington

Speakers include:

Michael Coren

Broadcaster, columnist, author and speaker

Rev. Canon Charles Masters

National Director of Anglican Essentials Canada

Workshops include:

- the Media and the Kingdom of God
- A Biblical Perspective on Sexual Purity: What's at Stake and Why
- Perspective on the Prophetic
- Being Prophetic in the Church Today
- Prophecy Team Workshop
- 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

For more information and registration

- Register by mail or fax (registration form available Sept. 1 from office, information below)
- Call the Registrar, The Renewal Network, Etobicoke at (416) 233-6851
- Register online after Sept. 1 at <http://renewalfewllship.presbyterian.ca/>

Registrar, The Renewal Network

3819 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, ON M9B 1K7

Phone: (416) 233-6851 Fax: (416) 233-1743

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 Barque Cruise, a Mekong River Boat Ride, an Elephant Ride and a Bamboo Raft Ride.



THERE IS A \$300 DISCOUNT for anyone signing on before Oct. 31, 2004. 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

An information night will be held on Tues., Oct. 19 at St. John's Church

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.n

Children & Youth Page

Anglican youth ready to begin his faith journey

listenUP! youth conference

The National Evangelical Lutheran Church hosts a biennial youth conference and this year invited Anglican youth from across the country to join them.

There were 1,600 youth in total, 40 of whom were Anglican.

Hamilton was honoured to be host city. The Rev. Canon Barry Randle worked on the planning team for the past two years as Niagara's Anglican voice. Niagara sponsored eight delegates to attend and our representatives. All our delegates are active in diocesan and local youth ministry.

A Faith Journey

The following story comes from Kristi Boulton, a Niagara delegate and a member of St. Matthias Guelph.

There aren't a lot of people who are as lucky as I have been with my faith experiences. Some people spend their entire lives looking for ways to express themselves and their faith.

When I began my journey, I wasn't even looking for a starting point. I was just kind of lazing around, not knowing what I wanted to believe, or even if I really wanted to.

But then, I was offered a chance to go as an Anglican delegate to a Lutheran youth conference in Hamilton in August.

To be honest, even though I said I would go, I wasn't excited. I didn't know a whole lot about that religion, and I was a little biased towards the conference itself. I set myself up to believe I wouldn't have a good time. I was honoured to be asked, so I couldn't turn down the offer.

When I arrived at the hotel where I was to meet my group, I was really nervous. I didn't know anyone, and I had been separated

from my friends. But, when I met people, they were incredibly welcoming.

So, I decided to let myself have a good time, because with these people around, it was kind of hard not to. They were every where. All the delegates, Lutheran and Anglican, were so warm and friendly. They didn't need to know your name to send you a smile or just say, "Hey there."

It was an amazing feeling. I found out quite a bit about Lutheran youth. They're quite similar in their beliefs to us, though slightly more evangelical.

The conference had a very warm and inviting aura to it, and it was really well put together, from the dramatizations to the non-stop music and talent portrayed every minute of every day.

Honestly, how many people can say they have been in a mosh pit at a Christian punk concert? Or that they've felt the floor under you nearly give way because so many people were jumping to the rhythm of the music?

It was definitely an experience, and I'm sure the other 1,599 youth there could tell you the same.

Over those four days, I was blessed to go on a journey that oth-



TEAM NIAGARA AT listenUP!, a Lutheran Youth Conference, held this year in Hamilton. St. Paul's Presbyterian, Hamilton, was packed to the rafters when Bishop Ralph Spence addressed the conference midweek at midnight.

ers would kill to have gone on.

While it was happening, I didn't realize it, but after the conference was over, and I had time to reflect while riding home on my dad's motorcycle, I found I had learned so much about myself. I learned

both pros and cons about how I feel about my faith and being an Anglican. I found out how I enjoy expressing myself and my beliefs. It was a little bit of a spiritual awakening that I needed to revive myself.

I was in a state of spiritual hibernation, and the conference woke me up.

Overall, it was a good experience, and it was a good starting point for a journey I'm now ready to face.

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

The Rev. D. Linda Corry
 B.A., B.Th., Dip.Min., OACCPP

Psychotherapist

◆

*Counselling with
 genuineness, empathy
 and respect for the dignity
 of each person.*

Inquiries welcome
 (905) 979-4570

526 Guelph Line
 Burlington ON L7R 3M4

◆

*A safe place
 to become...*

Director of Evangelism celebrates first year

“Eye-opening, frustrating, energizing, exciting, challenging – and absolutely fulfilling!” That’s the Reverend Canon Michael Patterson’s response as he celebrates his first year as Director of Evangelism for Niagara.

Rector of St. Simon’s Church, Oakville, when approached by Bishop Ralph Spence about the position, Michael then responded, “No, I’m not equipped.” My credentials were not a stereotypical idea of what an evangelist might be. But I thought about it, prayed about it. I wanted to do it, to take on the challenge, because we’re called to seek to be intentional and creative ... to be the Church ... in a completely changed world.”

Michael recognizes that, “Bishop Ralph took a risk when he had visions of hiring a Director of Evangelism. His vision was far-sighted, extraordinary, in response to the Church in transition. He had the foresight and courage to do something about it.”

Michael explains, “We cannot rest on our laurels. We are to be like the disciples... (Jesus) came to send them out, and He’s sending us. We have to find an effective way to do that... within our community as well as without. It’s not one-size-fits-all.”

Michael continues: “Often evangelism means exploring your heart, your faith, having the foundations shaken, rattled a little. In our Anglican tradition we have not done a good job of ongoing Christian education and formation. For most of us, our Christian education ended with confirmation. Our formation is based on an adolescent understanding of Christian life.

“Evangelism is being passionate about our faith, and the faith community, and sharing it with others.”

Michael poses his own challenging question: “We share our passions all the time. Why not Jesus Christ?”

One year in, and Michael is doing consultations in the dioceses of Huron, Keewatin and Ontario. So far, his ministry has attracted “over 40 parishes, most beginning the process of finding out about evangelism.”

Michael recognizes although “many parishes are embracing the



CANON MICHAEL PATTERSON
Director of Evangelism

initiative Bishop Ralph presented, others are fearful, uncertain, and not ready to engage with it ... it is my hope that within the next year or two, I will have been invited to consult with every parish in the diocese.”

Michael’s commitment and enthusiasm has meant the discovery and development of “lots of exciting resources. We’re collecting a ‘toolbox’ (for) in the fall, to help people find their own vision... Parishes need to determine what their needs may be.”

Some of “the most effective tools” are already available: Alpha, Via Media and Natural Church Development (NCD). Developed by the American Anglican community, Via Media is (in its process) “identical to” Alpha but “a theological alternative to” it.

Other tools available include workshops on the ministry of hospitality, a program called “How To Learn and Share Your Faith Without Losing Your Friends!” and more.

“In the beginning, people expected me to come to parishes and bring people in, but the real work is to support, nurture and offer resources so people can do that themselves.”

Michael recognizes “one of the challenges we face ... is how we can become relevant to a society that no longer sees the Church as relevant. How can we find a language people

in our secular age understand and find accessible?”

Michael continues, “... we do need to look at ourselves with a critical eye... As society has marginalized us, we’ve become protective of our traditions... Evangelism is not about being comfortable, but about discerning the movement of the Holy Spirit – and that may take us into places that are risky and uncomfortable.”

Affirming the contribution of his previous experience, Michael explains, “Evangelism is like hospitality, about inviting and welcoming ... about sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, the ultimate gift. It’s also an awareness that we do not convert people, or change their hearts. It’s Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit. It’s our role to guide, to invite people into community where the Holy Spirit is alive and vibrant.”

Michael’s children are contributing to that discovery. “As I travel through the diocese, I take my children, two teenage boys and my nine-year-old daughter. They provide some of the most honest feedback. For them it’s about language

Getting to Know You

– The Rev. Fran Darlington

and music, language they understand, music that speaks to them – that doesn’t necessarily mean contemporary, it means well-done.

“I want to assist our Church to be relevant to my children, where they can experience the living faith in Jesus Christ.”

Born in Hamilton, the son of a priest, as a youth Michael had that experience at St. David’s Church, Welland, when the Rev. Harold Thomasson became his mentor.

“I had the wonderful experience of having a priest I could relate to, who got me involved. It was his invitation ... to be part of something, ... an experience of evangelism, one of the most powerful moments. You know what I loved about him? He was human, he had a dry sense of humour. We need to learn to laugh more in church.”

As a fourth-year student in eco-

nomics and political science at McMaster University, Michael’s work in a restaurant led into management training and seven years in the business.

“Throughout it all, the ‘small voice’ was always happening.” At 30, he began studying at Trinity College, Toronto, and was ordained in 1988.

Ministry at St. Jude’s and St. Cuthbert’s, both in Oakville, then St. John’s, Nelson, led to a return to St. Cuthbert’s as part-time associate priest for three years while Michael was a “stay-at-home dad, “one of the most important ministries I’ve done.”

Michael proclaims Christopher, 14, Alexander, 13, and Stephanie, 9, all hockey players, are all “the apples of dad’s eye!”

To relax, Michael enjoys golf and gardening. Like most clergy, he reads “a great deal.”

Through our bishop’s vision and courage, this diocese has an exciting new opportunity for growth in learning and living out our faith. Through Michael’s ministry, may our parishes find vibrant hope and energy for ministry and life in Christ!

Unlike Alpha, Cursillo is not for everyone

By ZANDRA MILLER

Unlike the Alpha course, which is promoted as being “for everyone”, Cursillo is not necessarily. Although both courses have a similar core purpose – evangelism – and many of the Alpha courses in Niagara have cursillistas (a person who has attended a Cursillo weekend) in leadership roles, there are significant differences.

I have been a cursillista since 1991 and I have been

an Alpha leader and administrator since 1996.

For me, being a leader on the Alpha course is how I live out my 4th Day (every day of your life after a three-day cursillo weekend). It is how I change my environments for Christ.

So why is Alpha for everyone, and Cursillo is not?

If you would like to know more about Cursillo, please visit our website at www.niagaracursillo.org or call Susan Wells, Spiritual Director at (905) 547-8851

Alpha	Cursillo
<p>Consists of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 talks on the basics of Christianity – 10 on consecutive weeks (plus the introductory week) and four on the Holy Spirit retreat (day or weekend away) held in a non-church environment. 	<p>Consists of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 15 talks on various aspects of being a Christian - five each day over the course of a 3-day weekend* - and Holy Communion daily, held at a retreat centre. *The weekend begins on Thursday evening and concludes Sunday afternoon
<p>Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christianity, Boring, Untrue & Irrelevant? Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus Die? How Can I be Sure of My Faith? Why & How Should I Read the Bible? Why and How Do I Pray? How Does God Guide Us? Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How Can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? How Can I Resist Evil? Why and How Should We Tell Others ? Does God Heal Today? What About the Church? How Can I Make the Most of My Life? 	<p>Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideals Grace of God Laity in the Church Faith Faithfulness Study The Sacraments (2 talks) Action Obstacles to Grace Leaders Changing our Environment Life in Grace Christian Community in Action
<p>Is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an opportunity to explore the meaning of life for anyone interested in finding out more about the Christian faith an introduction to Christianity for non-churchgoers and new Christians, or those who may have objections to Christianity a refresher for mature Christians. 	<p>Is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a chance to strengthen and refresh your faith apart from the hub-bub of the world. a useful tool for Christian growth an experience of Christian community. a way of encouraging action in the Church and in the world
<p>Core Purpose:</p> <p>To assist individuals to develop a <i>personal relationship with God through Christ and become a disciple</i></p>	<p>Core Purpose:</p> <p>To encourage mature, active Christians to move from being a <i>disciple to being an apostle</i></p>
<p><i>Alpha means beginning, and is designed to start individuals on their Christian walk - it is absolutely for everyone - especially non-believers</i></p>	<p><i>Cursillo means “short course in Christianity” and is designed to move active Christians to the next level of their journey - as evangelists. Cursillo is not for non-believers. Christ commanded us to “go and tell others”, and Cursillo is one way we can learn to do this - are you being called to attend Cursillo?</i></p>

MasterPaints
FACTORY OUTLET STORE

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

33 Princess St., Hamilton

905/529-2205 or 905/529-2983



The Christ’s Cathedral Shoppe is now open

Devotional books, gift items, cards, good selection

of used books, Cathedral memo pads and pens, collectible silver, new or used.

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

(905) 527-1316

252 James St. North, Hamilton

A revised list of Order of Niagara recipients

Parish Appointments

Frank Adams, Christ Church, Flamborough
 Lynne Barker, St. James, Guelph
 Richard Beaudoin, St. Mark's, Orangeville
 Margaret Brisley, St. Philip's, Burlington
 Dorine Brough, St. Peter's, Hamilton
 Carol Burnell, Grace Church, Hamilton
 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
 Joyce Culp, Grace Church, Arthur
 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
 William Forsythe, St. George's, Guelph
 Darlene Genery, St. Paul's Church, Jarvis
 Jean Giddens, Christ Church, Niagara Falls
 Dorothy Grant, Grace Church, Waterdown
 Katharine Greenfield, Christ's Church, Hamilton
 Vivian Greenwood, St. Alban's, Grand Valley
 Ronald Holman, St. Michael's, Hamilton
 Ethel Holmes, St. James, Dundas
 Robert Howarth, St. Mark's, Niagara-on-the-Lake
 Grant Johnston, St. George's, Georgetown
 Berkeley Lambert, Christ Church, McNab
 John Lewis, St. Alban the Martyr, Hamilton
 Thelma Marray, St. Paul's, Mount Forest
 Guy McLean, Appleby College, Oakville
 Cassie McCollum, St. John's, Winona
 John (Dunbar) McLean, St. Aidan's, Oakville
 Louis Merrick, Good Shepherd, St. Catharines
 Byron Nicholson, St. John's, St. Catharines
 Larry Peyton, St. James, Port Colborne
 Ian Pratt, 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
 Steve Stephenson, Holy Trinity, Hamilton
 Margaret Wall, St. Matthew on-the-Plains, Burlington
 Christopher Walker, St. Luke's, Palermo
 Joan Walker, St. Paul's, Glanford
 Russ Weaver, Christ Church, Nanticoke
 Valerie Williams, St. John the Evangelist, Niagara Falls
 Frank Wittington, St. Columba, St. Catharines
 Mary Winter, St. David's, Welland
Bishop's Appointees 2004
 Peter Bedford-Jones
 Donna Bomberry
 Jane Caulfield
 Mary Clunes
 Isabella Daley
 William Filer
 Adele Fletcher
 Edith Elliott
 Joseph Greenwood
 Ellie Johnson
 William Hyslop
 Beth Kerley
 William Mous
 Betty Nancekivell
 George Neale
 Ken Roberts
 Peter Scott
 Carol Schram
 Betty Smith
 Jette Thomas
 John Watts

Bishop's Itinerary October, 2004

October 2, 1 p.m., Participate in St. Matthew-on-the-Plains walk-a-thon
 October 3, St. John's, Cheapside, parish visit honouring its 150th anniversary
 October 4, evening, annual dinner meeting of the Bishop's Company
 October 5, 5 p.m., St. John's, Ancaster, meeting of Diocesan Synod Council
 October 6, St. James, Dundalk, parish visit
 October 7, 11 a.m., Cathedral Place, meeting of regional deans
 October 10, 8 a.m./10 a.m., St. John's Church, Ancaster, parish visit on Thanksgiving Sunday
 October 12, Diocese of Huron, meeting of Quint Dioceses
 October 14, 7 p.m., St. Mark's Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake, concert and dedication service
 October 16, St. George's, Georgetown, "Wild Food Dinner"
 October 17, morning, St. Luke's Church, Burlington, parish visit
 October 17, afternoon, St. Luke's Close, anniversary of building
 October 19, 9 a.m., St. Christopher's, Burlington, bishop's day with clergy and licensed layworkers
 October 24, 9:15 a.m., Church of Our Saviour, Stoney Creek, parish visit
 October 25, 4 p.m., Wycliffe College, Toronto, Visioning Day
 October 29, 7 p.m., Diocese of Western New York, General Convention. Guest speaker
 October 31 to November 4 - Diocese of Saskatoon: National House of Bishops

**Please support
Your Niagara Anglican
The Diocesan Newspaper**

Please use the envelope
included in this month's paper,
and bring your 2004 contribution to your local parish
or
Donate Online - at www.niagara.anglican.ca/Newspaper

**Help us continue to bring
news, reflection and perspective
for a growing church!**

**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

Mother's Union Fall Retreat - Niagara Diocese

November 19-20-21, 2004

Crieff Hills Retreat
Puslinch, Ontario

Advent - Are You Prepared?

Our fall retreat will be based on an Advent theme, examining ways to prepare Christians for the incarnation of our Lord. As well as our spiritual services, fellowship, quiet time and meals, we will be presenting two workshops on Saturday, November 20:

- The Rev. Ann Macdonald - Spiritual Preparation for Advent
- The Rev. Canon Elaine Hooker - an Advent Labyrinth Walk

We are hoping to reserve two lodges for weekend delegates as well as offering a program for day delegates on Saturday, November 20. The cost is \$55 for Saturday delegates; \$175 for weekend delegates and \$160 for double occupancy. For more information, call Laurie Kondo at (905) 827-2673.

Christmas Market

Saturday, November 6, 2004
9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at

Grace Anglican Church

157 Mill Street North, Waterdown

Featuring:

- ◆ meat & fruit pies
- ◆ bake table
- ◆ trinkets and treasures
- ◆ Children's Corner
- ◆ Penny Sale
- ◆ Silent Auction
- ◆ and many more exciting items

For more information, call 905/690-2241



Cycle of Prayer



HAS MOVED
 onto the Diocesan Website
www.niagara.anglican.ca

Resources

Spirituality and Prayer

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

Struggles and celebrations in diocesan family

Happy 55th Anniversary Howard and Iva Alderson

Happy 55th Wedding Anniversary to Howard Alderson, Order of Niagara, and his wife, Iva. They will celebrate this special occasion on Oct. 1. The couple are faithful members of St. John's, Burlington.

Happy 50th Anniversary Ron and Betty Baum

Betty and Ron Baum celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Both are faithful

People In The News

– Alison D'Atri

members of St. George's, St. Catharines. Ron, ON, has been church historian for many years.

Happy 50th Anniversary Bud and Rowena Jeffreys

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary to Bud and Rowena Jeffreys. They were married on Sept. 4, 1954, in St. Paul's Church, Glanford. Bud and Rowena were long time members of St. Margaret's, Hamilton, until its closure, and have now made St. John's, Ancaster, their home.

Happy 50th Anniversary Pam and Doug Smith

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

Happy 90th Birthday, Idella

Happy birthday wishes are sent to Idella Rivers, a life long member of St. James, Port Colborne, who will celebrate her 90th birthday on Oct. 19th! Her parish family would like to wish her God's joy and blessings.

Condolences Williams family

The Reverend Neil Williams, retired priest of Niagara, died on Aug. 14. His funeral service was held from his parish Church of the Ascension, Hamilton, on August 18. Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved family.

Capper family

The Rev. Arthur Capper, retired priest of Niagara, died on Sept. 9. His funeral service was held from his parish church of St. James, Dundas, on Sep. 13. Our thoughts and prayers are with Mary Beth and the bereaved family.

Cosier family

Our deepest sympathy is sent to Keith Cosier, faithful member of St. Paul's, Caledonia, on the death of his mother, Megan, who passed away on July 9.

Thorpe family

Our deepest sympathy is sent to Peter Thorpe and family, son of the Rev. Graham and June Thorpe of Port Colborne, on the sudden death of Peter's wife, Susan, in Orangeville.

On the Move

McCarthy on the move

The Rev. Trish McCarthy will conclude her ministry as rector of St. James, Port Colborne, effective Oct. 31.

Interim pastor

The Rev. Ann Macdonald was appointed interim pastor at St. Paul's Church, Hamilton, effective Sept. 1, during the absence of the rector, Canon Patrick Doran, on sick leave.

Crippen at All Saints, Hamilton

The Rev. Gale Maccaulay-Newcombe is on sick leave from the parish of All Saints, Hamilton, and the Rev. Paula Crippen has been appointed to assume the role of interim priest in charge, effective Sept. 4.

Morgan moving to Fort Erie

The Rev. Timothy Morgan has resigned as rector of Grace Church, Hamilton, and has accepted the position as rector of St. Paul's Church, Fort Erie, effective Nov. 1.

Corry on the move from Palermo

The Rev. Linda Corry will conclude her ministry at St. Luke's, Palermo, effective Oct. 10.

Wells leaving Rockwood

The Rev. Susan Wells has resigned as rector of St. John's Church, Rockwood, effective Oct. 3.

Appointments

Cursillo

Cursillo has two new appointments: The Rev. Susan Wells has accepted the reappointment of a further three-year term to be spiritual director of Cursillo, and Brian Galligan, of Grace Church, Milton, has been appointed lay director of Cursillo, both of these effective Sept. 11.

Woods ordained deacon

The Rev. Peter Woods was ordained deacon on Aug. 24 at St. Mark's Church, Niagara-on-the-Lake and was issued a bishop's permission as honorary assistant in that parish under the direction of The Rev. Dr. Robert Wright, rector.

Prayer request

Pray for St. Martin's members

Our thoughts and prayers are with the former members of St. Martin's Church, Niagara Falls. The parish of St. Martin's was disestablished on Sept. 8.

Permission granted

Permission to administer chalice

Tom and Molly Inglis were given permission to administer the chalice at Holy Trinity, Niagara Falls, effective Aug. 18, under the direction of the Rev. Janet Cashin.

More Than We Can Ask or Imagine Through the Power of God in Dollars and Cents

Come and help resource the "New Niagara"

(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 Perkins, (905) 527-1316 ext. 460