

Active in Remembering
The Reverend Pamela Guyatt
reflects on Niagara's unique
connection to the war effort.



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Thank you, Peter!!



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NOW
PLAYING



Page **10**

Synod Gathers to Consider New Directions

BY THE REVEREND CANON BILL MOUS, SECRETARY OF SYNOD

Drawn from Psalm 96 and chosen by Bishop Susan Bell, the theme for the 145th synod of our diocese reflects a focus on renewal and our work towards a new mission action plan.

Each fall, our annual synod brings us together as a diocesan family for the building up of our Church through discernment and decision-making, sharing and learning, relationship-building and worship. Close to 300 members, guests, and displays will gather together over the course of two days on November 8 and 9. As Anglicans, we are

episcopally-led and synodically-governed and synod creates the sacred space for both aspects of our polity to be lived out.

One of the exciting components of our synod this year will be an engaging and much-anticipated presentation by our Mission Action Plan leadership committee. They have been faithfully gathering hopes and dreams for our diocese alongside environmental scan reports, community interviews and organizational data. The key themes arising from their prayerful work of discernment will be

shared with members of synod; themes which will ultimately guide the development of a new diocesan mission statement as well as our first-ever mission

action plan. The agenda committee has been hard at work in recent months to weave this and the many other components of

synod together into a spiritually invigorating experience. Members of synod will share in

See *SYNOD* Page 2



Mission Action Planning Update #3



We are beginning to see our diligent research, analysis and prayerful discernment take the shape of a Mission Action Plan. We still have many steps to take and people to hear from before we

are ready to present the plan to Synod in November. We feel confident that our process of discovery and discernment at the Diocese of Niagara has been inclusive and thorough.

Those who were able to attend

our reflection and discernment on Sunday, September 8th had the opportunity to gather, reflect and worship together. The event at the Cathedral, Come Down to the River and Pray, allowed us to ground our Mission Action Planning process in prayer.

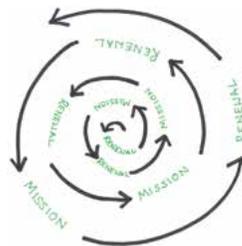
As we listen to God's Call for this diocese during this Season of Transition and begin to discern our Vision and Mission, we ask you to pray with all of us in the Diocese of Niagara:

Mission Action Planning Prayer

Beloved God, we are your people, faithfully living into the way of Jesus yet, a people asking questions and uneasy about the future. We are also a people of the story,

inspired by visions of renewal and transformation. In the opportunity presented by uncertainty, we gather as a people hungry for a renewed mission. Be with us, we pray, as we open our hearts to linger in your presence. Free us from fear, and guide our journey as we seek to co-create with you the compassionate kingdom. Raise up in us words that enliven our hearts; words that give power and rootedness to our missional call. We ask all this in the name of Jesus. Amen

Thank You! We will be sending out MAP updates through our monthly Diocesan E-news, which you can sign up for at the Diocese of Niagara's website, and through Facebook and Twitter.



Synod Will Be a Time of Discernment

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the joy of some of our exciting ministries, consider several changes to our diocesan canons, including a new canon that will foster new missional endeavours, elect regional representatives to synod council, and approve our diocesan budget for 2020.

In addition to a charge by our bishop, we are delighted to welcome the Right Reverend William Cliff, Bishop of Brandon, as our featured synod speaker. Bishop Cliff is a pastor, musician, and liturgist who has served in the dioceses of Huron and Brandon and is well known in our diocese as a member of the group "The Three Cantors."

Consistent with our theme, synod will take place at a new venue this year, the Lincoln Alexander Centre in downtown Hamilton, which will allow greater flexibility for breakout space and partner displays, offer

delegates a comfortable experience, and keep our meeting costs reasonable.

The full and complete convening circular will be posted on our synod webpage (niagaraanglican.ca/synod/2019). You can also follow all the happenings from the floor of synod as it happens through our diocesan Facebook and Twitter accounts.

Please uphold the work of our synod and its members in your prayers as we strive to sing a new song through our many ministries, empowered by the Spirit working through us.



People in the news

Sympathy to The Reverend Deacon **Janice Maloney-Brooks**, Church of the Ascension (Hamilton), her husband, Bill, and daughters, Greer and Hannah, on the death of their son and brother, Andy.

Sympathy to **Marion Binns** and her family, upon the death Archdeacon **Laughton Binns**

Laughton retired from full time ministry in 1998, after ministering in the Diocese of Moosonee and in Niagara at St.Christopher's (Burlington).

Church of the Good Shepherd (St.Catharines), and Holy Trinity (Welland).

Congratulations to the Reverend **Daniel Bennett** on his appointment as Regional Dean of Brock.

To Our Readers ...

Is your parish engaged in a unique ministry, or celebrating an anniversary, or has a story to tell about how your faith is touching your community? Please tell us about it !!! Send us a story (approximately 500 words) and a picture or two, and we will do our best to share it with the diocese through the *Niagara Anglican*.

All submissions can be sent to editor@niagaraanglican.ca

Bishop Susan in Stoney Creek

On Sunday, September 8th, Bishop Susan visited the Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer (Stoney Creek) and what a joy it was to have her with us.

Bishop Susan officiated and preached an amazing sermon based on the readings for the day. The children of the parish wrote their own prayers about the sayings of Jesus and presented Bishop Susan with a special gift from the parish – a portrait of the church, created by a parishioner many years ago.

Following the service we enjoyed an amazing potluck lunch together! It was a wonderful day and we all agree that



Bishop Susan Bell and the Rev. Bahman Kalantari enjoying themselves at the potluck.

the diocese of Niagara's future is looking bright under Bishop Susan's guidance.

Submitted by Bev Groombridge, Rector's Warden, The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer

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IT IS GOOD TO DEMONSTRATE ENTHUSIASM

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From the Editor

For most of my life, I have held the belief that every moment is historic. This is based on the old philosophy that you cannot step into the same river twice ... that it is always changing, moving. The same with life—it's always flowing and changing—so every moment should be honoured as historic and one of a kind.

However, there are some moments which we know are historic as we witnessed them;

- the Kennedy assassination in 1963
- the moon landing in 1969
- the events of September 11, 2001

The same holds true with the people we meet. All are created in the image of God and need to be honoured ... but a special few

stand out in our minds.

- Terry Fox as he ran through our town in 1980
- the Queen when she visited Canada
- and a handful of friends or family members who had such a profound influence in our lives that we couldn't possibly forget them.

For me, and I would suggest for the Church, Peter Wall is one of those people. I first met Peter 33 years ago in seminary, and I was instantly struck by the way he filled a room. He was never one to be afraid to voice his thoughts or even get into an argument about his beliefs ... and he was always the first to offer an apology (and truly mean it) if one was required.

As his ministry progressed, from the Diocese of Huron through to our own Diocese of Niagara and the wider church, we all became very aware of Peter—as his life touched our own. He taught us so much about ourselves and our church.

- He instructed us in the importance of knowing our past, but not living there. That church history (and indeed our own personal history) is filled with many wonderful stories and lessons, which we would be foolish to ignore. "Remember" Peter would remind us, "but please don't go back there".
- He showed us the importance of living in the moment ... the here and now. Of celebrating one another and respecting

the dignity of every human being. He used his life to model that and instilled in us the truth that everyone has a gift to offer (God given gifts), which should be used and not hoarded; used for the Glory of God and God's mission.

- He proclaimed—to us and to the community in which we live—a vision of the future. The vision was not his, but God's. He unapologetically spoke about matters of love and justice and the Kingdom of God, every chance he could. He would hold up an image of how our world should be, and used his life as an example of how to get there. At times he was a beacon in our darkness, and at times he was a thorn



in our side, as he held us all to the vows we made and the creed we profess.

Peter's personality is his greatest gift ... supplemented by many other talents and abilities ... and he used them all for the advancement of the Kingdom, and the betterment of the world, the church, and each of us.

We thank God for Dean Peter Wall. We thank Anne, and their children, for the generosity and understanding they demonstrated in sharing him with us. We wish them well as they all enter this new stage of ministry.

Active in Remembering

BY THE REVEREND PAMELA GUYATT

I am a Veteran of the U.S. Army, from the Vietnam era, as well as a parish priest. In the U.S. Memorial Day at the end of May, is the day when Veterans are remembered and honoured. When I moved to Canada over 30 years ago I had a steep learning curve in discovering why November 11th was the main focus for Remembering those who served.

From my 'new' family, I discovered what it meant to be a young person in the era encompassing The Second World War. One brother-in-law flew Spitfires, another was a Tail Gunner in a Lancaster, and a third was part of the liberation force in Holland. Each told their stories in very different ways.

At St. Paul's (Mount Hope), my new home parish in Canada, I learned about the English pilots who had come to Canada to learn how to fly in a 'safe' environment. Every year that



parish honours the thirteen Anglican airman who lost their lives in training accidents and are buried in their cemetery.

My first year as a Curate at St. John's (Ancaster), I had the privilege of leading the

Remembrance Day service at the Cenotaph for the community. The crowd who came to remember surprised me in it was so large. I had more to learn.

When I arrived at St. James (St. Catharines) I became

involved with the annual Remembrance Day service, by laying a wreath at the Cenotaph. So many people gathered to remember loved ones that Merritt street was closed from the time the Legion members

arrived until the service concluded. I was even asked to preach one year at the Legion Service which took place prior to the parade. There was another tradition in Merritt: Legion members would march, with a Piper leading them, to one of the three area churches on the Sunday prior to the 11th. It was always a special day in the life of the parish when it was our turn.

Canadian's have much to be proud of, whether they served personally or if a family member served. The stories of courage are awe inspiring, I love to make time to listen, whenever someone feels like talking...

As November 11th approaches this year, remember to pause and give thanks, for those who have served, those who serve today, and those that will be called to serve in the future.

The Reverend Pamela Guyatt is Rector of St. John's (Jordan)



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Works of Faith



BY PIPER FERGUSON

Earlier this year, the Niagara Anglican ran a story about the preparations for a mission trip by some members of St. Simon's (Oakville). We are happy to now share the following ...

On June 28th, 14 members of St. Simons (Oakville) travelled from Toronto to San Pedro, Belize on a mission trip.

Ten months of planning and fundraising had been leading up to the day when we would board a plane to Miami, then from Miami to Belize. From Spaghetti dinners and monthly cafés where we would sell baked goods, to bottle drives, each person worked hard to achieve our goal of helping Holy Cross Anglican School in San Mateo, a town in San Pedro. The mission trip was for 11 days; 2 days spent travelling there and back, 6 days working at Holy Cross Anglican School, and the other 3 days doing fun activities and exploring some of the country.

In the last few weeks before going to Belize, we collected 17 suitcases full of donations (school supplies, books, shoes, toothbrushes, backpacks, teacher supplies, etc.) from members of our church to donate to the school.

During the 6 days of work, we split into 3 groups to tackle different tasks. One group painted 6 primary classrooms including a long hallway and the floors while another group did construction on a guest



house for visiting clergy. The final group worked on extending the playground - this meant shovelling huge piles of sand into wheel barrels, then using the sand to fill in a section of land outside where mangroves once grew. The work was very physical, the days were long, and it was extremely hot and humid.

On the days we weren't working, we focused on bonding and exploring the country. We took a ferry to the island Caye Caulker, visited the Mayan Ruins on the mainland, snorkelled in the barrier reef, zip lined over the Belizean jungle, and did some "cave tubing" in an ancient cave deep in the rainforest.

Every night, we would share our experiences from the work-day and read a passage from the bible: James 2:14-17, which

reminds us that faith without works is dead. During those 11 days we would reflect on our faith and talk about the passage - what it meant to us, and how what we were doing tied into that passage.

This was my first time going and I loved every moment of it. From the work we did, to the activities and the group bonding, I had an amazing time. It felt good to give back and help other children have better lives and education. This trip has taught me so much and helped me grow in my faith and learn to appreciate things more, and to be more grateful for the things I have.

We would like to give a huge thank you to everyone who helped make this mission trip possible.

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BY THE REVEREND DEACON JEAN RUTTAN-YATES

In the beginning there were seven—seven men selected by the early church to be deacons. They were commissioned with the task of ministering to the needs of the early Christian communities. There's was the challenge of giving shape to Jesus's message of love. The needs of the needy were addressed by this diaconal ministry, a servant ministry. Over time a deacon, at least in the Anglican Church, identified as a person who was to eventually be ordained a priest. It was a transitional role, not really functioning in the tradition of the scriptural diaconal ministry. In 2003 the College of Deacons was created in the Diocese of Niagara. It would consist of individuals whose ministry would be that of a deacon on a

permanent basis. These individuals would be called vocational deacons. Presently there are 17 active deacons engaged in ministry in their parishes: The servant ministry of love. Their ministries are different depending on the needs of the parish and the gifts of the deacon. I became an Anglican later in life. My membership in my parish church involved me learning as much as I could about Anglicanism specifically and Christianity generally. At this stage I had no intention of becoming a deacon. That thought was the furthest thing from my mind. I liked my life just the way it was—I had a loving husband, two dogs and a lovely home. I was very much involved in FORT (a resource center for teens), volunteered at the food bank, attended church and bible studies—life, as I said, was good.

Throughout my life, at various times, I felt God's nudge—a nudge towards something. It was the something that was not at all clear to me. As an Anglican, the obvious was the priesthood. I knew in my heart that was not my call. But if not that, then what? Then one day I heard a woman speak of the diaconate—could this be it? I was hesitant. I knew my life would change, and I liked my life very much the way it was. Ordination—the word filled me with anxiety. Ordination would involve going to school, and I hated school. A few years passed—when I was very near the end of my Bachelor of Theology Degree (yes—I went to school) I began to explore with my rector, the possibility of becoming a deacon. The seed had been planted. And so it happened on May 3, 2006—I along with six others became deacons in the Church

of God. We were seven very different people—a rather motley crew. We were full of hope and passion—still somewhat dazed that the church, the people of the church, affirmed our call. I know when the bishop laid the hands on me, I felt my soul take flight. That was 13 years ago. Over the past 13 years, my life has changed dramatically and my ministry has changed as well. Today I work with widows. I am a Chaplain to the widows of the Ontario fallen firefighters, a role which I hold dear to my heart. I provide support for the rector of my home parish. And currently, I am the director of the College of Deacons Niagara. What started out 13 years ago was so much hope has faced, as one might expect a multitude of challenges. By and large, parishes with deacons accept and appreciate their ministry. As one can expect there have been occasional hiccups. Those who

are deacons continue to provide the servant ministry that the original seven did. We live with our call—to be servants of Christ. We are called to minister to the church scattered, the homeless, the marginalized, shut-ins, the lonely, the widows and the orphans. We go into the community and we share the good news. We are the hands of Jesus for the church.

The Deacon's Bench is a new feature in The Niagara Anglican. Each month we will hear from a Deacon serving a parish under a Bishop's Letter of Permission. Each will inform us about the ministry s/he conducts in their parish and the wider community. We begin with The Reverend Deacon Jean Ruttan-Yates, of St. Andrew's (Grimsby)

Century Celebration



Lona Felker O.N. was born on August 9th, 1919. Baptized at The Church of The Redeemer (now The Church of Our Saviour The Redeemer) she has been an active member ever since. As a young person, Lona recalls people arriving for services in horse and buggies and she has seen many changes to the church buildings over the years and many rectors come and go. Until very recently Lona has attended services at the church, but now church comes to her. Lona has contributed to the life of our parish in many ways. She was part of a parochial guild, a member of the altar guild, helped on the funeral and reception committee and is still to this day sending cards and making calls to keep in touch with parishioners. Lona is a proud recipient of the Order of Niagara and a very much cherished member of our parish family. We all feel blessed to have her in our midst. She is an inspiration!

Rev. Bahman Kalantari presents Lona with a 100th birthday cake, birthday card and flowers.

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JUST LOOK AT THIS MESS ADAM ... WHY DO YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO TRACK MUD ALL OVER CREATION?

Christmas Market and Silent Auction

Saturday, November 23, 2019 ~ 9am-2pm
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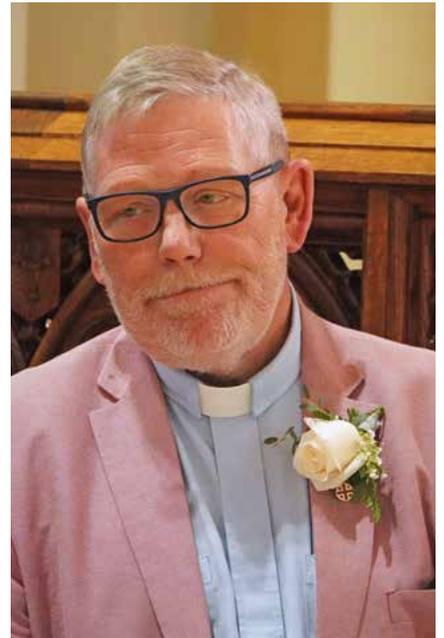
Featuring: baked goods, knitting & crafts, penny sale, gift gallery, used books, Kids' Korner, bistro (lunch and tearoom)
The historic church of St. John's will be open for tours.

They Came From Far & Wide

To Say Thank-you, Peter Wall

(September 22, 2019)

Dean Peter Wall listens to presentations honouring his ministry



Left: Lutheran Bishop Michael Pryse pays tribute to Peter's commitment and contributions to Full Communion and the Waterloo Declaration.



Left: Bishop Bill Cliff congratulates his fellow Cantor.

Right: Archbishop Fred Hiltz shares his memories of Peter



Right: General Secretary of General Synod, Michael Thompson, greets the Dean



General Synod Prolocutor Canon Karen Egan (Montreal), Former Prolocutor Cynthia Haines-Turner (Eastern Newfoundland), Former Deputy-Prolocutor Dean Peter Wall, Former Deputy Prolocutor Bishop Lynne McNaughton (Kootenay)





Peter and Anne enjoy a private moment in the midst of a public celebration



Archbishop Fred Hiltz and Bishop Susan Bell



Peter addressing his well-wishers



Left: Peter is recognized by the Hamilton Fire Chief Dave Cunliffe (and will continue his ministry to them as Chaplain)



Peter Wall in the early years of his ministry as Dean



Bishop Susan Bell honouring Peter

To the Mountaintop

BY THE REVEREND
ANTONIO ILIAS

In 2019 The School of Theology, University of the South in Tennessee established the Sewanee Ministry Collaborative (SMC), a three-year ministry program that creates mutual mentoring groups for clergy. The purpose of these groups is to provide a means for clergy to empower one another to flourish in their particular ministerial contexts.

The SMC focuses on contexts where mentorship is known to be important: Latino/Hispanic ministries; Black ministries; rural ministries; and for clergy trained in non-traditional theological education programs, with a focus on women across all four groups. The goal is the creation of clergy groups that represent the wide-range of diversity in The Episcopal Church—age, ethnicity, region, etc.

I was selected to be a participant in the SMC and in

September travelled to The School of Theology, University of the South located on 13,000 acres atop the Cumberland Plateau for the first ministry summit. My class consists of 28 participants from Episcopal dioceses throughout the United States, Guam, Sri Lanka and me now serving as the Migrant Farmworkers Missioner in the Anglican Diocese of Niagara.

We came together to work in our mentor groups and develop the skills for flourishing individually and collectively. The summit consisted of lectures in Spiritual Practices and Purpose in Ministry both facilitated by The Rev. Julia Gatta, Ph.D. and The Rt. Rev. Robert Wright, Bishop of the Diocese of Atlanta. The lectures were enriching and challenged the participants to self-examination, discipline and to develop a rule of life that will result in personal and collective flourishing. A guiding theme during the entirety of the summit was that in order

to have a renewed sense of call to ministry in the participant's particular context he or she must flourish.

Having been born in Puerto Rico and my ministry experience working in multicultural and bilingual (English / Spanish) settings in the Diocese of West Texas and Diocese of Olympia (Seattle, Washington) I was assigned to the Latino/Hispanic Ministries Mentor Group. Although, my ministerial experience could overlap with the Rural Mentor Group as I have served rural parishes in Raymondville and San Benito, Texas, near the USA-Mexico border, and am currently serving the seasonal migrant farmworkers in rural areas of the Niagara Region.

The Latino/Hispanic Mentor Group consists of seven clergy participants: two women and five men. The two women are Anglo (white), one is fluent in Spanish (and also serves in an African-American parish – Black



ministries) and the other does not speak Spanish. There are four Latino/Hispanic males (originally from Colombia, Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico) and an Anglo (white) male fluent in Spanish. One of the participants is openly a member of the LGBTQ community. These participants represent dioceses from the states of Alabama, Florida, Kansas, Georgia, Texas, Wisconsin, and me representing the province of Ontario.

This is a diverse group, and provides an enriching forum for the participants to come together to be mentored and to be mentors as we share our

stories. The collegial structure, bonding, friendship and sharing of experiences should provide a way forward to help us flourish individually and collectively.

As we continue in this three-year journey and return to our ministerial contexts, I realized that although I would have enjoyed the blessing of staying on the mountaintop, I had to come down to the Niagara Peninsula, where together with the migrant farmworkers, we can build the kingdom of God and flourish.

How (Not) To Be Secular: A (Sort of) Book Review



BY THE REV'D DR. DANIEL
TATARNIC

It's not often I recommend a ministerial must read; but if you're a person in ministry in the modern age, you should own a copy of James Smith's, *How (Not) to Be Secular* (Eerdmans, 2014). The book is as provocative as the title suggests; an accessible guide to the oft times inaccessible work of the popular Canadian philosopher, Charles Taylor's 2007 Templeton-winning, *A Secular Age*.

Why this book? This book is as much about interlocutors as it is about anything else. It's one thing to recommend a good book—that would suffice. It's another thing to recommend the paper trail one follows after reading a good book; that's where it gets fun!

Paper trails: about three years ago, I noticed a trend. Reputable publishing houses were releasing books inspired by the thought of Canadians: Bernard Lonergan, theologian (University of Toronto, Regis College) and Charles Taylor, philosopher (McGill University, Montreal). Important

works such as *Meaning and Authenticity* by Brian Braman (University of Toronto Press, 2008), and Randall Rosenberg's, *The Givenness of Desire* (University of Toronto Press, 2017), were distilling very difficult contemporary theological and sociological issues.

I wasn't surprised that many people in the church had not heard of Smith's book. I was surprised that most people knew little about Charles Taylor, a popular guest of the CBC; fewer still could say anything about Bernard Lonergan, one of the 20th century's most prolific theological minds.

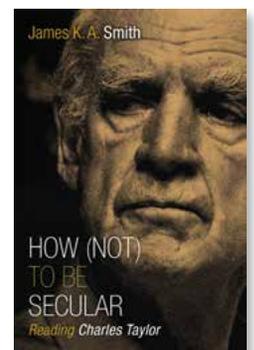
The themes inspired by our two Canadian thinkers are quite timely; they constellate around matters of faith: authenticity & meaning, personhood & identity, formation & witness. Why the lack of familiarity with them? That's a whole different article notwithstanding. James Smith's *How (Not) To Be Secular*, stands in a long line of continental authors looking to "we the north" for a confident word in the storm of secularism. So, my intent is two-fold. First, this is a thumbs-up for Smith's book.

Second, it's a shout out for the distinctively Canadian, the milieu that made people like Lonergan and Taylor fruitful.

What Smith's book does well is to begin with deep feeling: what does it feel like living the secular world (Canada) today? The milieu we inhabit is haunted by transcendence, yet it fastidiously maintains "buffer zones to protect ourselves from such incursions". While the book re-presents Charles Taylor's 900 page *Secular Age* into an easy-to-read, accessible, and witty guide on how not to be secular in the secular age; Smith's book challenges the ways the Church can (and should) be a force of resistance. By naming the transcendent, opening up the secular, and embracing an uncomfortable cross-pressure within the "malaise of imminence", he proposes nothing less than the living of a courageous, authentic Christianity within the fastidiously defended buffered zone (i.e. 'public' space).

And while the thought of ringing church bells daily, or of cassock clad clerics appearing on the streets alongside Steam-punkers might not be

every one's cup-of-tea, after reading Smith's book, I'm almost tempted to propose that it might not be far off the mark. Retreating from the realm of the secularized buffered zone is not the answer, kowtowing to secularism isn't the answer either. But, creating cross pressure from within the zone—appearing as a witness—that's where we need a boost of confidence. *How (Not) to Be Secular* is a must read, because to quote another Canadian, we need to "ring the bells that still can ring."



New Deacons

Five people were ordained at Christ's Church Cathedral in Hamilton on Sunday, October 20.



The Reverend Jodi Balint is continuing her ministry at St. John's (Rockwood) as Deacon in Charge. She will also assume responsibilities as Pastoral Associate at St. Luke's (Palermo). A graduate of Humber College and St. Michael's College, she has tremendous history in Youth Ministry as well as working with the homeless and marginalized. She continues her Theological studies at Trinity College.

in-the-Field in Toronto; his post-ordination appointment had not been announced as of press time.



The Reverend Judy Steers is Assistant Curate at St. John the Evangelist in Elora. She is a graduate of Ottawa University, St. Paul's University Ottawa, The Centre for Christian Studies and Toronto School of Theology, and most recently Western University - MA (Theology). She has served in a number of Christian Education leadership positions, including 16 years as the Director of the Ask & Imagine program at Huron University College. She will also continue her ministry as Program/Partner Animator at Five Oaks Centre (Paris, Ontario).

ing and dying in her full time work as a hospital chaplain. Within the parish, Ann will be involved with the development of new forms of church community with special attention to developing servant ministry. She assists the parish, region and Diocese will by offering teaching and facilitation in the area of pastoral care. A graduate of Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (currently known as Martin Luther University College), she is also certified as a Spiritual Care Practitioner through Clinical Pastoral Education with the Canadian Association of Spiritual Care.



The Reverend Fran Wallace has been appointed Deacon In Charge of St. Aidan's (Oakville). A graduate of Trinity College, Fran is passionate about initial and on-going formation as apprentices/disciples of Jesus the Christ. As well as how we discern and respond to the call to God's mission of love and justice. Her focus of ministry includes working with others to explore how we are being the church, through, with, and in Christ, to realize missional opportunities, and to connect with people and engage in pastoral care.



The Reverend Michael Coren is a best-selling author, columnist, and broadcaster. While he will work in all aspects of ordained ministry, he strongly believes that there can be a vital symbiosis between media and priesthood, and as a deacon is looking forward to communicating and proclaiming the gospel. Most of all, he wants to be present to all who may need help, support, community and affirmation in their Christian lives. He currently worships at St. Martins-



The Reverend Deacon Ann Vander Berg serves at St. James Anglican Church (Dundas). She exercises her vocation by serving those who are sick, heal-



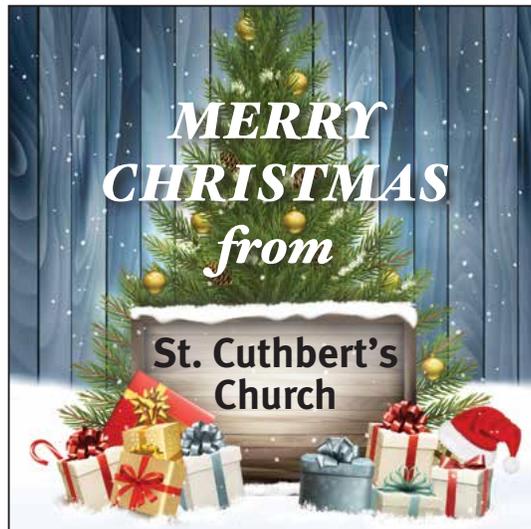
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Ellen and I were with friends, enjoying ourselves and engaged in a fun, fast moving conversation. And then, like a boulder falling from the sky, a portentous question came out of nowhere: "What's the most embarrassing moment of your life?"

I immediately thought of the most embarrassing moment of my life. Citing the call of nature, I diplomatically excused myself

from the table. They still might be at the restaurant.

It wasn't until I started to write this column that the second most embarrassing moment of my life returned to precise, colourful, burning, flaming memory—like the premiere of a big movie—all the characters were there. Only the pressure of a looming deadline could have found a plunger heavy enough to suck that humiliating long

ago evening from the depths where Freud would never dare to tread: the unconscious crank-tank of my mind where the shades and lepers play beyond the reach of dignity, the admiration of others or public office.

It all began on the green sward of the baseball field. Children playing, the evening drawing nigh, the quiet satisfaction of watching inconsequential little league baseball. This happened to be only one evening of many where a species of holistic enjoyment was virtually guaranteed – elements of drama, benign bias, rootin' for the team, neighbourliness and a chance for a good, long sit down and chat with my sweetheart.

On the evening in question, the game had gone long. The evening was pretty well night time as Alex, maybe 11 at the time (he is now 30!) and I packed up

the baseball gear and walked to the subway station. All was bliss.

Upon entering the subway station we found the ticket office closed and quiet. Nobody around. Hmm...where do you put your money? Oh, look over here...here's a place where you put your money! It must allow you then to enter that tall, floor to ceiling turnstile and then go down those stairs over there. OK. Wait a minute ... I asked Alex: "What will I do with my bike? There's no place to bring it through." I looked all around—no entry point for the bike. Hmm ... pacing back and forth for a moment, inspecting things, I started looking closely at the floor to ceiling turnstile. A lightbulb went off in my mind unfortunately sending shards of illogic right across the brainpan. Every hemisphere of my brain was blinded to the truth by the

brilliance of my insight.

I stayed trapped in the turnstile for roughly an hour—bicycle pinned to my chest and face flat against the spokes. Each new train disgorged a new parade of fascinated onlookers. Comments were made. I was offered a smoke. An argument threatened to break out as two folks vehemently disagreed on how best to liberate me.

The Metro dispatched a crew to disassemble the entire apparatus. They were very kind to me. As was Alex, who throughout the drama, stood a discrete distance away from the centre of attention.

Max Woolaver is Rector of St. Andrew's Grimsby, and Archdeacon of Lincoln. He is gifted at making us see beyond the immediate, often by helping us laugh at ourselves.

CANADA BRIEFS

A roundup of news from other diocesan papers in the Anglican Church of Canada Compiled by the *Anglican Journal* staff.



Diocese of Ottawa plans affordable housing development

A new project in the diocese of Ottawa is set to provide between 70 and 200 affordable housing

units in the Nepean area of the diocese.

The parish of Julian of Norwich and the diocese of Ottawa have signed a memorandum of understanding with two equity partners, Cahdco—

an Ottawa-area non-profit real estate developer—and Multifair Housing Initiative. By the end of 2019, a master plan will be developed with an architectural team for a property development that will likely

include up to five new buildings, outdoor community space, a community kitchen and multi-use spaces.

The Rev. Monique Stone, rector of Julian of Norwich, says "We are looking at new ways of being church," she says. The new build will be a "collaborative community," she says.

The diocese and parish have committed to creating sacred space and shared community space on the property, and L'Arche Ottawa—the local arm of the international organization that brings people with and without disabilities into shared living spaces—will continue to partner with the parish in the new space.

The diocese of Ottawa has committed to creating 125 units of affordable housing by 2021. The new project will not be completed by 2021, with timeline estimates ranging from three to five years.

—CrossTalk

was up for sale. Hayes asked the vestry to consider re-opening St. Andrew's; a year later, the parish had nearly doubled in size,

he says. Now about 60 people regularly attend the parish's two functioning churches, and its members are less worried about its survival, he says.

Hayes says the parish has had success reaching out to the community in various ways. After receiving funding from a number of local organizations as well as the Anglican Foundation of Canada, it built a playground in front of St. Andrew's. The playground, he says, has become something of a local meeting place.

Meanwhile, after hearing from local parents that there wasn't much for local children to do socially, the parish decided to host dances for elementary school students. These events have attracted up to 150 people, Hayes says—and the church has acquired a certain amount of expertise when it comes to putting them on.

The parish's other forms of outreach include visits to seniors' care homes, vacation Bible school and a breakfast program for local elementary school children. St. Andrew's alone now hosts preschool and playgroup for children, yoga, soap making classes, community craft sales and more.

This sort of mission, Hayes says, is "not preaching, it's not giving out tracts. It's a step in a

'Long game' mission helps once-struggling N.B. parish return from the brink

A rural New Brunswick parish is thriving after several years of reaching out to the community with a new playground, dances for children and more.

Seven years ago, when the parish's current rector, the Rev. Chris Hayes, arrived, three of the four churches in the parish of Salisbury and Havelock were no longer being used. One of those three, St. Andrew's Anglican Church in Petitcodiac,





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Five Oaks – A Renewed Vision and Expanding Circle

A centre of learning, a gathering place, a retreat centre, a meeting space, weekly prayer...Five Oaks is alive and thriving with a new vision as an interfaith/intercultural spiritual centre.

Located just west of the Diocese of Niagara near Paris Ontario, Five Oaks is at the confluence of the Grand River and Whiteman's Creek. Historically, the place where waterways meet are sacred spaces for many of the first people of this land, thus this has very likely been a gathering place for cultural, spiritual and social purposes for hundreds of years – indeed, artifacts from a 13th c. Indigenous village have been found very close by. This is land with a sacred history.

Five Oaks went through a major restructuring over the past few years after the centre almost closed in 2015. A passionate and dedicated group of volunteers worked to create a renewed vision and expand partnerships. The United Church (who operated a lay training centre here for over 50 years) has been joined by new Vision partners: Muslim communities across southern Ontario, and the Six Nations of



Part of the rejuvenation of Five Oaks has included extensive renovation of meeting and bedroom spaces, while retaining a cozy, welcoming atmosphere. An interfaith prayer space at Five Oaks has sacred symbols and objects for ritual and spiritual practices from different faith traditions. All are welcome into this space, and groups often share prayer practices together.

the Grand River. A wide variety of Community partners such as the Grand River Outdoor Wilderness Education (GROWE) Centre help the centre live more deeply into caring for the earth and being transformed by the natural environment. All of the

Vision partners use the site for gatherings, educational programs, youth events, spiritual teaching, retreats and more. Anglicans are increasingly becoming part of shaping the future at Five Oaks. The Very Rev Peter Wall now serves as the



Five Oaks

Chair of the Five Oaks board. The Rev Judy Steers, Assistant Curate at St John's Elora works half time as a member of the staff as the Partners and Programs Animator. The Rev Roslyn Elm, Priest-in-Charge of the Parish of Six Nations serves as a board member.

Five Oaks continues to offer a wide variety of programs. Themes this year have included Celtic Spirituality, an arts and justice music festival, and a workshop on Social Enterprise. Upcoming programs include a four-day retreat in April on St Francis of Assisi, and coming soon in November, a 2-day interfaith program called "Healing and Wellness: Spiritual Wholeness in Light and Shadow" led by The Very Rev David Giuliano, Dr. Amira Ayad and Elder Renee Thomas-Hill from Six Nations, exploring themes of wholeness and wellness through changing circumstances in life,

from different spiritual perspectives. Registration for that event is still open.

A new opportunity is the Program Pitch, where individuals or small groups who have an idea for a program can propose it, then potentially work with the Five Oaks team to create, promote, and host a program as a collaborative effort. A recent program in this model called "Healing with Art and Stories" brought together Muslim and Christian women to see their lives as sacred story, and create images of healing for their own journeys.

Information about the program pitch opportunity and registration for all programs can be found on Five Oaks' website: www.fiveoaks.on.ca. Over the coming months, the Niagara Anglican will focus on some of the specific stories of Five Oaks renewed vision and upcoming programs.

CANADA BRIEFS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

relationship."
—*The New Brunswick Anglican*

Vancouver cathedral dean retires

Peter Elliott, who has served as dean and rector of Vancouver's Christ Church Cathedral for 25 years, was set to retire Sept. 30 as of press time.

Elliott, 65, began his role at Christ Church in August 1994. He had served as curate of Christ Church Cathedral in Hamilton from 1981 to 1985

before working for the head offices of the diocese of Toronto and then the Anglican Church of Canada.

A self-described "church nerd" as a teenager, Elliott served the national church in a number of capacities. He has attended eight General Synods, either as staff or delegate, including stints as deputy prolocutor and prolocutor, and was also a member of the Council of General Synod. He was chair of the Residential School Settlement Task Force,

tasked with negotiating a settlement for compensating former Indian Residential School students. Elliott also served for a time on the worldwide Anglican Communion's Anglican Consultative Council.

As dean of Christ Church, Elliott led a lengthy \$25-million process of renovating the cathedral. Its attendance also grew during his tenure, from an average Sunday attendance of 395 in 1994 to 492 in 2018. According to one estimate, Elliott's lengthy spell at Christ Church meant that some 85% of its current congregation has never known another dean at the cathedral.
—*Topic*

Peterborough church invites homeless to camp on front lawn

An Anglican church in Peterborough, Ont., has invited homeless people living in tents to set up camp on the church's front lawn after they were driven out of a city park.

Brad Smith, incumbent at St. John the Evangelist Church, welcomed people experiencing homelessness to set up their tents on church property last summer. His invitation followed an order by the city for homeless people to vacate the park across from the church, where many had begun sleeping in tents dur-

ing spring. The number of tents on the church lawn has fluctuated over the ensuing months. As of Sept. 4, there were 11 tents on the church lawn, including eight that were occupied and three being used for storage. While some parishioners have expressed dismay at the presence of the tents, Smith describes the campers as a peaceful and tight-knit community and says the church has been supportive. The incumbent has worked with police to address noise and trespassing concerns, and has created a Code of Conduct to which campers must adhere.
—*The Anglican*

Deadlines and Submissions for Niagara Anglican

Deadlines:

January – November 21
February – December 27
March – January 24

Submissions:

News, Letters, Reviews
(books, films, music, theatre) – 400 words or less
Articles – 600 words or less

Original cartoons or art – Contact the Editor.

Photos – very large, high resolution (300 ppi), action pictures (people doing something). Include name of photographer. Written permission of parent/guardian must be obtained if photo

includes a child. All submissions must include writer's full name and contact information. We reserve the right to edit or refuse submissions.

Questions or information:

Contact the Editor at editor@niagaraanglican.ca



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On The Way to Bethlehem



BY DR. ANDREA ROWBOTTOM

The Nativity pageant "On the Way to Bethlehem" has become an annual tradition in the town of Milton, although it does attract visitors from many parts of Ontario. The pageant is the major project of Milton Area Christian Churches Working Together. We are now preparing ourselves for "On the Way to Bethlehem", 2019, our 18th year. This three night performance is staged at the historic Country Heritage Park, Milton, regardless of the weather. The rural setting of the park with its dirt roadways and rustic buildings provides an ideal setting to "journey to Bethlehem."

This year I wish to honour the full 18 years of participation to the Rev. Dr. Mark McDermott.

To quote Mark, "Andrea Rowbottom ran past me in the summer of 2002 her idea for the Walk to Bethlehem, and I thought it a super idea! I have been participating in the walk virtually every year with participants from every congregation in Milton.

"My private joke is—if it is cold and dark and I am walking dressed in strange clothing, with sheep bleating in the background, it must be late November and I am in the Walk to Bethlehem.

"I have had a variety of roles over the years as we reenact the Christmas story. For the past few years I have been the Grouchy Innkeeper, who turns all the pilgrims away with my stern 'No room for you people here' gig.

"I must confess I play it

strictly for laughs and it is received as such ('Shalom to you, too!') though occasionally I make a small child cry (King



Herod and I compete as to how many children we can make cry tonight, but parents always assure the poor child that the man isn't actually being nasty, just being silly!

"My inn is a few stops away from the Nativity scene, which is always the last stop on the journey. And though participants enjoy the various stations along the journey, invariably this is the scene they like the best—and rightly so! The dark barn with a few farm animals munching away quietly and the Holy Family silently and reverently sitting is overwhelmingly glorious and moving, to the point of tears. And Baby Jesus is a real baby, not a doll. One of my granddaughters was the baby her first year and I was very honoured. The Walk to Bethlehem is a great event! After all it is modelled on God's own story! It still gets rave reviews."

I am honoured and blessed to



Over the years, Mark McDermott has appeared as the First Magi (far left, photo left), the First Inkeeper (above) and Herod (seated, below).

have Father Mark as a key member of the cast (now numbering about 200).

Originally, Mark was the 1st Magi in Herod's Court—stately and majestic; secondly, he was King Herod himself—stern and brooding; presently, he is the first innkeeper—the one people are anxious hear his lines (not necessarily in the script) "I suppose you are tired and hungry and you would love a lovely turkey dinner—well it's not going to happen!" For a couple of years Christmas Carols were reenacted for the visitors as they waited entry to the pageant. Father Mark was a perfect Good King Wenceslas trudging through the depths of snow (that barely covered the ground). A man of many talents!

We invite you to come and experience "On the Way to Bethlehem" Friday, Nov. 29, Saturday, Nov. 30 and Sunday, Dec. 1 6:30 – 8:30 pm each night at Country Heritage Park, Milton. Won't you journey with us to Bethlehem! Visit our web site at onthewaytobethlehem.ca.

Into the Mystic

BY BRIAN E. PEARSON



Our faith changes. We may like to think that God doesn't change, remaining "the same, yesterday, today, and forever." But for God's creatures, nothing remains the same but change itself, and that includes our faith.

When I was young my faith was all about images. Jesus was the Good Shepherd, depicted in Day-glo colours on a plaque that shone from my bedroom wall at night. He was carrying a lost lamb over his shoulders.

The church was the faithful flock gathering every Sunday with open ears and outstretched

palms to receive our feeding. The images were of love and of safety.

Then, as I grew, my faith became about words, fighting words. It was about sin and salvation, about incarnation and sanctification. The tensions between those of us who bandied these terms about, like swords, grew with the length of the words themselves.

Our words represented our understanding of God and of how God worked. In the battle over words, the one with the best words won.

Now, it seems to be all about the silence after the words. It is the stillness of meditative prayer, of being content to be in God's presence without the need for constant chatter, either from me or from God. It is peaceful on this side of the words, and I wouldn't want to be dragged back again to the noisy battlefields of the wordsmiths.

I wonder where things will go from here. For now, I know only that my faith will continue to change, as I change too. This is the nature of all things that have life and breath.

And it would appear to be the changeless nature of our Creator to look upon it all, and see that it is good, that it is very good.

Brian Pearson is a retired Anglican priest (formerly from Niagara) ... he continues to fill his days as a writer, musician, and public speaker. His reflections have emerged from his upcoming memoir Last Rites: A Lament for Church Land. You can access his daily blog, and experience more of his offerings at brianpearson.ca