

CHURCH AND CLIMATE CRISIS: HOW ARE WE DOING?

As you look at your vestry reports, consider how your church is doing Page 7

EARTHRISE: CAMP HURON **ANNOUNCES 2023 PROGRAM** See Earth from afar... Save Earth up-close! **Register online starting FEBRUARY 23!** Page 11



I CAN'T HEAR THE PREACHER

Improving church sound systems – our journey continues: CHURCH ACOUSTICS (part 1) Page 4



Life transfigured at the changing of seasons



Building a new church: Not an everyday sight in the diocese. (All Saints', Waterloo, January 2023)

Following the rhythm, surrendering to God

Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD, the LORD himself, is the Rock eternal. Isaiah 26:4

By Rev. Kimberly Myer

ANGLICAN **F**ELLOWSHIP OF **PRAYER**



There is a beautiful rhythm in the changes during the church year that replicates life itself.

Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it, they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay. Mark 2:3-4

Page 2: ACEDIA, or Living through a remaking of the Church (Bishop Todd Townshend)

Page 4: Roof trusses, crank beams, and hurricane pins (All Saints', Waterloo update)

Page 8: At the changing of seasons (Education for Ministry)

finally surrender to God? To place our lives into God's hands? To openly say I trust God with every aspect of my life?

May you embrace God's love through prayer and find a grace-filled peace in knowing that God loves you and wants a full relationship with you every day. Rev. Kimberly Myer is an AFP Executive and the Rector of St. John the Evangelist, Learnington.

he time between Christmas and Lent always feels so short. We move from Christmas to our Vestry meeting and then into Lent.

We go from celebration of the birth of Christ to making plans for the future of our church and into a

solemn time of repentance and prayer. Slowing down to look at our past and discern God's will for the future. There is a beautiful rhythm in the changes during the church year that replicates life itself.

Our prayers are one of

thanksgiving for Jesus, our family, and friends during Christmas. Then our prayers change to asking God to help us discern God's will for our church, so we can bring the Good News through our words and actions into our larger communities, always

remembering those who are struggling with life. Finally, in Lent, to prayers of what do I need to ask God to help me change or to continue to do to further the kingdom of God here on earth.

What does it look like, feel like, sound like when we

Huron Church News Annual Appeal PAGE 12



Acedia, or Living through a remaking of the Church

espite the promise of a new year, many of us are already feeling exhausted. It's nothing new to feel a

little tired and to need refreshment but I'm getting the sense that the things that brought us restoration in the past, may not be working any more.

It may be that it's not just exhaustion that is afflicting us after three years of pandemic struggle. It's probably also discouragement, and world weariness, and a general state of anxiety. It may be that we are being worn down by both the righteous and fabricated rage

that is constantly "in the air". There also may be an affliction involved that has definitions going back to ancient times and has been used to describe an enemy of human and Christian well-being: acedia.

Sometimes acedia is defined as sloth, passivity, despair. It



TOWNSHEND

can be a debilitating condition. Author Kathleen Norris believes that it is more like a state of restlessness, of not living in the present and seeing the future as overwhelming.

I know from the many conversations I have around the church that many of you are feeling somewhat overwhelmed by the future-the future of the Earth, the future of our loved ones, the future of the Church.

There is no doubt that we are living through a re-making of our society and, therefore, a remaking of the church that serves the world – the world

that God loves so much. I feel the strain of trying to help guide us through this re-making. But I do not feel despair about it. I see that some of this collapse is making room for God to create anew.

We have the opportunity to be participants in this newness. We have the opportunity to be bearers of hope, real hope, in what the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus has shown us—that God is not done with us, God is not done with Creation, and that death and decay will not have the last word.

Our hope is not dependent on our personal skills or the newest models of Church organization. It is not dependent on lovely, well-maintained buildings or people. It is dependent on what God wants, what God gives, and how we receive it and respond to it.

The story thus far has shown us that God will take ordinary, despairing, old, worn-out people and make them into a light to the nations, the body of Christ, a company of witnesses.

We don't need to be stuck in our fear and disorientation. We can turn to God and intentionally deepen our participation in the central Christian practices that foster hope and reveal new life.

What are these practices? I encourage you to ask one another this question. Worship, prayer, bible reading, stewardship, confession, forgiveness, acts of love and mercy-what else? Perhaps this is the time to immerse ourselves in the richness or our traditions and plunge into these activities anew. We may surface to see a whole new world.

+ Todd



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Submissions

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Editor

Davor Milicevic huronchurchnews@gmail.com 519-434-6893, ext. 251 c/o Huron Church House 190 Queens Ave. London, ON N6A 6H7

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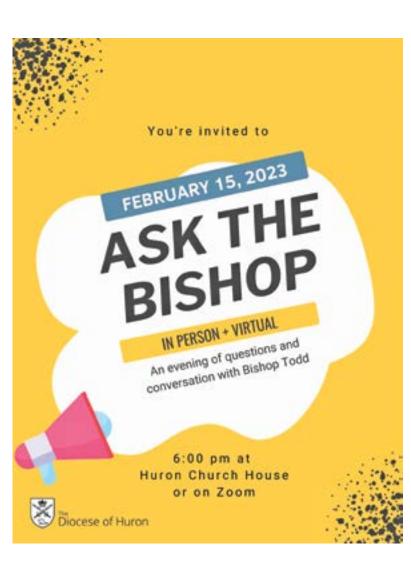
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The Right Reverend Todd Townshend **Bishop of Huron** Diocese of Huron Huron Church House 190 Queens Avenue London, Ontario N6A 6H7



Do you have questions about faith? The church?

What does it mean to be a follower of Jesus in today's world?

You are invited to join Bishop Todd for an evening of conversation guided by what's on your mind.

Participate in the discussion either in-person at Huron Church House or virtually on Zoom.

RSVP by February 14 for in-person attendance or for the Zoom link to the **Rev. Sarah Armstrong:**

sarmstrong@huron.anglican.ca

YOUTH VOICES ARE PARTICULARLY WELCOMED IN THIS INTER-**GENERATIONAL DISCUSSION!**

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St. Paul's, Essex: We are known by the story we tell

By Rev. Chris **Brouillard-Coyle**

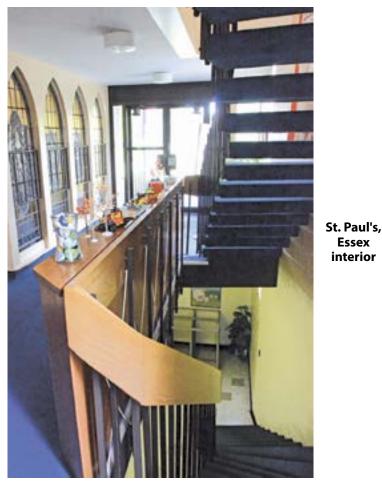
he story felt like one of those feel-good Christmas movies. A mother with four children, working three jobs, and still struggling to make ends meet reached out for help.

She missed the deadline to register for Christmas hampers. Could the Church provide food for her family for Christmas? I got the call at 8:30 Tuesday night and said, let me see what we can do. Texts to the wardens were quickly answered. Within an hour, a plan had been formulated.

Once we confirmed what the family needed, a call was put out via texts, email, and a single post on social media. By Sunday, there was a trunk load of food for the family including all that was needed for a traditional turkey dinner plus resources to make soup with the leftovers. On Tuesday, a second trunk load of food had emerged.

The response in an of itself is not surprising. People are generous at Christmas time. While St. Paul's is a small congregation, it is known to have a BIG heart. Of course, people would step up.

What makes this situation interesting is that it wasn't only those on the parish list who stepped up. Posting to social media had a ripple



effect. That one post reached more than 1200 people. We are continually learning the extent to which the wider community has respect for St. Paul's. On multiple occasions folks have heard people who tend to be disconnected from Church say that St. Paul's is different, in a good way.

Much of that second trunk load of food came largely from the wider community. It was dropped off at the

clothing cupboard, a ministry that is well respected and supported by the wider community.

Essex

In fact, a single request for girls clothing in early November reached over 11,000 people on social media and led to a major influx of clothing.

The wider community also donated some 60% of the funds raised in our clothing cupboard Giving Tuesday campaign.

Perhaps what this story reveals is that those impacted by this work are not only those who received food, and those who receive clothes, it is also those who are empowered and inspired by the ways in which a small church in a small town seeks to live the **Marks of Mission**

It is said that Church is the only organization that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members (Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple).

So often we think of those benefits in terms of our impact in whatever ministries in which we engage and/or charities we support. Perhaps what this story reveals is that those impacted by this work are not only those who received food, and those who receive clothes, it is also those who are empowered and inspired by the ways in which a small church in a small town seeks to live the Marks of Mission.

We are known by the story we tell. How many of our social media posts, one of the most significant ways we can communicate to a wider audience, illustrate our honest efforts to live the story of Christmas, the stories of the Gospels 365 days of the year?

If random individuals on the street were asked about our churches, what would they say? For what are our

congregations known? What does it say if the best that can be said is that we have good fundraising meals?

What does it say if people don't know anything about us? How do we collectively get to that point where people will happily say we are that church, the one that is different, in a good way?

We are known by the story we tell. As we reflect on 2022 and decide on ways forward for 2023 through our annual vestry meetings, how much energy will be spent on considering what story we are telling?

What story do we want to tell? What do we need to make that happen?

The choices are ours to make. The possibilities are endless and significant. May we all find ways to live the Gospel that proclaim the Good News to our neighbours in meaningful, engaging, and inspiring ways.

Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle is the rector of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Essex.

Nativity exhibit scene panel at Holy Trinity, Lucan

By Rev. Steve Greene

n a cool Wednesday winter evening (Nov 30), as the Christmas lights glimmered in the streets, sixty-three nativity creches adorned the beautiful space of Holy Trinity.

People came in from the cold to see the incredible variety, sizes and geographical origins of the multiple stables. As the clock slowly approached 7pm, six critical voices and influential contributors of the Lucan-Biddulph community were asked to sit at the steps of the Chancel and prepare themselves for some "fun and laughter!". Each person was selected due to their phenomenal leadership, servant hearts, their desire for crucial partnerships and community impact. The clock stroke "7pm" and I was honoured and blessed to introduce: Cathy Burghardt-Jesson: Mayor of Lucan-Biddulph



stores...what does Christmas mean to you? What did Christmas mean to you in 2022?

As the night progressed, we were so blessed to hear the reasons of the importance of Christmas from the panelists. We were humbled to hear the meals that will be prepared, the excitement of gathering with loved ones, blessed with food on one's table, fellowship and love around the table and a deep and abiding appreciation, a real thanksgiving for each other! The night was divided into two parts-the first part, questions for the panelists (i.e., 1) Do you think there is a difference between Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays? Why or Why not? 2) Does Christmas present values beyond our Christian beliefs? 3) Who are you in Luke 2:8-20 and Matt 2:1-13? The shepherds? The angels? Herod?). The second section was our "Rapid Fire"! To give you a

glimpse into the frenzy and fun, how would you answer the following:

1. Egg nogg or hot apple cider

2. Top of your tree: angel or star

3. Plum pudding or Fruit cake

The night was amazing! It was an opportunity to connect with the great contributors of the area and to have fun with those who graciously attended the event.

From left to right: Cathy Burghardt-Jesson, Mark Chortos, Jacob Shaw, Gail Lewis, Don Hiscox, Leigh Robinson and Friedhelm Hoffman

Don Hiscox: Pastor of Ministries at Community Bible Church

Leigh Robinson: Supervisor at the Lucan Library

Jacob Shaw: United Minister at Granton (Villages United)

Gail Lewis: Poppy Campaign Chairperson Royal Canadian Legion Branch 540

Mark Chortos: Principal at

St. Patrick's Roman Catholic **Elementary School** To start the evening activities, I asked, "What does Christmas mean to you?" I ask you the reader to pause for a moment and answer that question.

Amidst the hustle and bustle, the frantic plunge into the deep waters of Cost-Co, Wal-Mart and the many retail

Many thanks to those people who attended. Many thanks to the phenomenal panelists. Many thanks to our Wardens, Heather and Karen for their leadership. A huge thank you to the incredible and hard-working team (Friedhelm, Ruth, Terri, Jean) that organized the Nativity Scene Exhibit and the panel night.

HINT...HINT...We may have an Easter event!

Rev. Steve Greene is the pastor of Holy Trinity (Lucan).



The structural integrity of any building begins of course with the foundation, but the roof, interestingly enough, is just as important to keeping walls standing and a building functional.

Photo: Marty Levesque

Roof trusses, crank beams, and hurricane pins: All Saints', Waterloo enters 2023

By Rev. Marty Levesque

Roof trusses, crank beams, and hurricane pins. Some of the things I didn't learn in seminary.

There is much that must come together to keep the walls of a church standing against the winds of a blizzard. The structural integrity of any building begins of course with the foundation, but the roof, interestingly enough, is just as important to keeping walls standing and a building functional.

The roof has more than one function. It sheds water and snow to prevent either from standing on the roof surface and increasing the live load on the roof structure.

The roof protects the building interior from the effects of weather elements such as rain, wind, sun, heat, and snow. It also provides thermal insulation to keep heat in during the winter and cool during the summer. But most importantly, it holds the walls together and provides stability to the structure.

This December and January the slope roof and flat roof along with windows are being installed at All Saints Waterloo's new church build. This will seal up the building allowing heat inside so that electrical, HVAC and plumbing can begin inside the structure. Interestingly, while the structure begins with the foundation and moves up, the electrical and HVAC begin at the top and work their way down.

From foundation to walls to roof, the structural integrity of any building comprises all three components. And now that all three are almost finished, it is time to move inside and begin to form the space that will welcome all, just hopefully through the front door and not lowered through the roof.

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

I can't hear the preacher: Church acoustics (1)

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! [Psalm 100:1]

By Rev. Paul Wooley

One of the most important considerations, when either planning or attempting to improve a church sound system, is to consider the acoustics of churches or parish halls.

When a sound system is underperforming, there is a tendency to attempt to solve these situations by spending money on electronics, microphones, and speakers. However, this often doesn't help.

Often, I have dealt with people that have made a statement such as, "I don't need a microphone or system, because I can project my voice loudly". However, loudness doesn't solve basic acoustics problems, it can even make things worse.

I tell people that they are always 'fighting with' the acoustics of the room. A basic understanding of room acoustics can help you avoid many pitfalls. Imagine two people standing two metres apart and who are on a 20-metre-high platform in the middle of a 50-hectare farm field on



One of the most fundamental concepts in solving acoustic problems is the Ratio of Direct to Reflected Sound!

a windless day. When one of these people is speaking to the other we can say that something like 99 44/100% of the sound is travelling from the mouth of the first person directly to the second person. In acoustics, this is referred to as Direct Sound. The situation that places these people away from any sound-reflecting surfaces is termed 'Free Field Acoustics'. reflective walls, floors, and ceilings. The listener is now receiving a mixture of direct sound and sound that is being reflected from many surfaces with each path causing a delay in time. Our ears and brain will struggle to sort out the received sound mix in attempting to understand the speaker.

Hopefully, you can now see that the size of a room, the reflecting surfaces, and the placement of the sound source and the hearer/receiver of the sound is critical to our understanding of a room's describe both the nature and amount of reflected sound:

EARLY REFLECTIONS these are sounds that arrive at your ear less than 1/10 second after the direct sound which are caused by surfaces very near the source and give 'life' to the sound. Without them, things sound 'dead'.

REVERBERATION is complex reflected sound energy which is perceived as separate from the direct sound. This is due to continued reflections in the room after the original sound has stopped. It has these three basic characteristics:

Strength – the loudness of the reverberant sound in comparison to the original direct sound.

Decay – the time that it takes for the reverberation to die away after the direct sound stops. This is given as RT60, which is how long it takes to decay by a factor of a million (60db). A 'dead' room, such as a movie theatre, will be less than one second. A concert hall for frequencies gives a "warmer" sound while more high frequencies will sound "brighter."

ECHO is a long-distance reflection of the sound source, which is perceived as a separate sound source. A surface would have to be at least 17 metres from a sound source to create a perceivable echo.

The purpose of this series of articles, and particularly this beginning article on acoustics is to give you at least some basic understanding so that you might at least be able to evaluate suggested solutions to acoustical problems.

Often there are simple and inexpensive solutions, such as adjusting how speakers are aimed to avoid highly reflective surfaces and to focus the sound on the congregation. Additionally, microphones often need to be adjusted to avoid picking up reflected sounds and preferentially picking up only the speaker.

Questions: If you have questions about church sound systems, email Paul+ at churchsound@techie.com. We will try to answer them in future issues.

Now imagine placing these people still two metres apart in a small room, with highly acoustics.

One of the most fundamental concepts in solving acoustic problems is the Ratio of Direct to Reflected Sound! From this follows some important primary measurements of any space, which symphonies might be around two seconds, whereas a very large cathedral will be more than ten seconds.

Frequency balance – some frequencies in the reverberation may be louder than others. The persistence of low Rev. Paul Woolley is a retired priest in Huron. He has 55 years of experience working with audio equipment of every description for varied venues.

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For more information contact Kyle at kgascho@huron.anglican.ca





A Jeremiad for a New Year – with a question that matters

How do I respond as a Christian who is called to love my neighbour as myself to things which hook me and arose my anger in ways that are not helpful?

jer·*e*·*mi*·*ad* ,*jer*-*∂*-*'mī*-*∂d*., *ad*.: *a prolonged lamentation or complaint. also: a cautionary or angry harangue.*

By Rev. Greg Little

am starting this year in a place where I don't often go – but where I am finding myself more often than I would like. It is a place where I find myself hooked i.e. have an angry reaction to what is happening in the world generally but especially in Canada. What seems to be generating more reaction and The program played excerpts of the testimony of some of the witnesses at the hearing.

There was much to consider from the testimony including the action and inaction of the police and the relationship between law enforcement and the government, to the less than stellar cooperation between federal, provincial and municipal leaders.

However, what did hook me and caused a strong reaction in me was the testimony of some of the convoy self-appointed or presumed leaders. There was, what seemed to me, to be an attempt at self-justification which came down to the belief that because they were being treated unfairly by the governments, they had the right and even an almost holy ordained duty to impose their will on anyone and everyone regardless of who they were and whether or not they were involved in the decisions that they were protesting. Let me give you a couple of examples to illustrate this. There was one witness who was asked about the impact of the continual round the clock blaring of truck horns for weeks on the residents in the protest area. He had laughed at this and said to the effect that what's a few weeks inconvenience when he had to deal with the impact of the COVID mandates for two years.

When asked if he thought this was a laughing matter, he paused and back-tracked and said – to my mind disingenuously – that, no he was just the kind of person who laughed at everything (this is not a direct quote but my impression of his attitude).

There was also the general feeling by some of those protesting that they had the "right" to protest at the Capital regardless of what laws they were breaking or the impact on others and had at no time been told to leave despite the court orders and direction of the police to leave. There was no apparent awareness or concern for the impact of their actions on people who had no involvement in what they were protesting including small businesses that had to shut down or people threatened for wearing masks - apparently a mask wearer was a dupe of government conspiracies intended to create fear in the pub-

lic and had to be confronted. There was also the case of the freedom loving convoy protesters swarming an Ottawa soup kitchen and demanding food. Things like that – especially hypocrisy – truly hook me.

The protesters against vaccine and mask mandates apparently want to go back to a time before public health measures and lead a natural life without vaccines and health measure to prevent things such as diphtheria, measles, mumps, rubella, polio, tetanus, whooping cough (pertussis) as well as pasteurized milk which prevents such things as listeriosis, typhoid fever, tuberculosis, diphtheria, Q fever, and brucellosis. I guess we could go back to a time when there weren't rules against drinking and driving and wearing seat belts, and smoking in public places and on and on. After all, they are all rules which imping on our freedom and we can live our lives regardless of how it affects others. I do try to understand the anger and resentment of the protesters, and believe that from their perspective they

believe they have legitimate complaints. Perhaps some of the rules went too far and were not well thought out, and were overreactions. Governments do sometimes use a sledgehammer to kill a mosquito.

However, my main concern is two-fold. First how do I respond as a Christian who is called to love my neighbour as myself to things which hook me and arose my anger in ways that are not helpful?

Second, how can I work to support the institutions and attitudes which have made Canada the wonderful country I have lived in all my life? It has certainly been an imperfect union and needs to be held to high standards if it is to remain that way. There are troubling signs that the fabric of this country is becoming seriously frayed if not breaking down. We all need to work to strengthen and improve those things which make Canada a place we all want to live in. I hope each of you have a blessed 2023.

energy is that which divides rather than what unites.

On Saturday I listened to the CBC program The House, as I usually do on Saturdays. It is a thoughtful and intelligent exploration of current affairs which I would recommend to anyone who might want to be engaged on current topics in Canada.

This edition focused on the Trucker Convoy protest early this year and the hearing on the implementation of the Emergency Act by the Trudeau Government to deal with the protests primarily in Ottawa but at border crossings such as Windsor.

Rev. Greg Little is the Honorary Assistant at St. James, Parkhill and St. John the Evangelist, Strathroy. In Memory

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ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN - DIOCESE OF HURON

ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

"Walk Humbly with God"

St. Paul's Cathedral London, Ontario Saturday 29 April 2023

Registration @ 9:00 a.m. Meet & Greet – Coffee/Tea Morning Prayer – Followed by Meeting – 10:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker Diane Dance on the Anglican Foundation topic "Say Yes to Kids"

> Holy Eucharist – 2:00 P.M. Bishop Bob Bennett Celebrant



PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS

Appointments

Bishop Todd Townshend Bishop Townshend appointed the Reverend Hana Scorrar as the Indigenous Ministries Missioner for the Diocese of Huron effective January 1, 2023.

In this role, Hana will work closely with the Venerable Rosalyn Elm, Archdeacon for Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministry.

Hana will also continue as the Priest-in-Charge of St. Andrew's, Muncey and Zion Oneida.

Dishan Taumahand an

Chapel of Ease) effective January 15, 2023.

Bishop Townshend appointed the Reverend Craig Love as Assistant Curate at St. Luke's, Cambridge and St. Thomas', Cambridge effective December 15, 2022.

Bishop Townshend appointed the Reverend Wendy Mencel as the Rector of Trivitt Memorial Church, Exeter effective January 15, 2023.

Interim Appointments

Bishop Townshend appointed the Reverend Kevin Dixon and the Venerable Ken Anderson as interim priests at St. James Westminster, London effective January 1, 2023. Bishop Townshend appointed the Venerable Jim Sutton as interim Priest-in-Charge of St. James', Brantford effective January 1, 2023. Bishop Townshend appoints the following as interim clergy: The Venerable Peter Townshend and the Venerable Neil Carver as interim priests at Holy Saviour, Waterloo effective November 16, 2022 until January 2023

Regional Dean Appointments

Bishop Townshend appoints the Reverend JoAnn Todd as the Regional Dean of Huron-Perth effective December 1, 2022. JoAnn is also the rector of the Regional Ministry of Hope (Trinity, Blyth; St.Paul's-Trinity, Wingham and St. John's, Brussels).

Bishop Townshend appoints the Reverend Kim Myer as Regional Dean Essex effective November 25, 2022. Kim is also the rector of St. John's, Leamington.

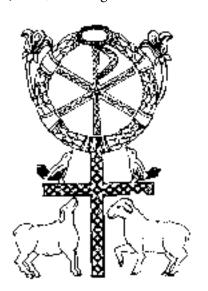
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Bishop Townshend appointed the Reverend Hilton Gomes as the rector of Church of the Redeemer, Colchester North, St. Stephen's, Oldcastle and Trinity, Cottam effective February 1, 2023.

Hilton will also continue in his role as a chaplain at Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare.

Bishop Townshend appointed the Rev'd Quenton Little as the rector of St. Peter's, Dorchester and the Parish of the Thames (St. John's, Thamesford, St. George'son-the-Wye, Thorndale and Christ Church, Lakeside



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Church and climate crisis: How are we doing?

By Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle

eading up to Christmas 2022, a winter storm hit that wreaked havoc throughout Ontario.

People were stranded at stores. Some froze to death in their vehicles waiting for help. Churches had to make hard decisions about whether it was safe to offer Christmas worship in person or if there was a need to pivot again. By New Year's Day, most of that snow was gone, melted as we were hit with significant rainfall.

Winter storms are not new to our region. What we are noticing is that storms are becoming stronger and more frequent in recent years. There have been hotter hot spells and colder cold spells. There has been more significant rain events and deeper drought. The extremes can be disconcerting. Evidence suggests that these are signs of climate change. Many wonder what the future will bring

Evidence also suggests that humans have contributed to this climate crisis. Acknowledging this evidence there have been conversations about what human beings can do to slow the environmental decline.

Stepping out in faith, in February 2020, the Church of England voted to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 committing to safeguard the integrity of God's Creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

The Diocese of Huron has made commitments too. In 2019 a motion was passed to encourage parishes in the Diocese and Church House to reduce the purchase of products with single use plastic, includ-

SOCIAL AND ECOLOGICAL JUSTICE





As you look at your vestry reports, as you attend vestry meetings, consider how your Church family is doing. What can be done better?

ing rigid foam (Styrofoam and other brands), and to end such purchases by the beginning of 2023.

In 2021, the Synod of the Diocese of Huron passed a motion that Church House and all the churches in the Diocese of Huron commit to achieving a minimum standard of 'light green' by the end of 2022 and that a review of these efforts is included in vestry reporting (by lay delegates and/or clergy) in 2023. In 2022, Synod reaffirmed these commitments.

It is now 2023. How are we doing?

As you look at your vestry reports and review the work of the congregation, what efforts have been made to eliminate single use plastic and take steps towards a 'greener' church?

How confident are you that your congregation has achieved these goals? What challenges continue to exist that prevent accomplishing these? What motivation is still needed? What motivation can we use to further support these efforts?

There is more and more information about what happens to single use plastics when they are thrown away. How many have seen photos of turtles with distorted shells because of the plastic rings used to hold cans together? How big do the islands of refuse in the Pacific Ocean need to get before we realize that there is no 'throwing away'?

Our garbage doesn't magically disappear when we no longer see it. All around us there is evidence of discarded stuff that

In 2019 a motion was passed to encourage parishes in the Diocese and Church House to reduce the purchase of products with single use plastic, including rigid foam, and to end such purchases by the beginning of 2023. In 2021, the Synod of the Diocese of Huron passed a motion that Church House and all the churches in the Diocese of Huron commit to achieving a minimum standard of 'light green' by the end of 2022 and that a review of these efforts is included in vestry reporting in 2023. It is now 2023. How are we doing?

could serve as a motivation to reduce our own waste and thus our own contributions to the mounds of garbage in our world.

We know that LED lights and Energy Star appliances reduce our energy consumption and the associated costs. We can save money when we switch!

We have also learned that email, social media, and even texts can be effective ways of communicating. We can reduce paper by using existing resources (liturgical books), adding worship projection, and emailing announcements. Less paper, less printing, also saves money. As does the use of programmable thermostats which only heat spaces when needed. To what extent does the budget at the church reflect savings from going green?

There are multiple reasons to continually explore safeguarding the integrity of God's Creation and sustaining and renewing the life of the earth. We have made the commitment via Synod. We also make the

commitment every time we renew our Baptismal Covenant and through our Marks of Mission. As you look at your vestry reports, as you attend vestry meetings, consider how your Church family is doing. What can be done better?

For more information on how to engage in the work of caring for Creation, check out the webpage for Social and Ecological Justice Huron on the diocesan website at: https:// diohuron.org/ministries/ social-ecological-justice The committee is preparing a 'medium green' standard to support more active engagement in the a move towards becoming carbon neutral. We look forward to working with congregations seeking to become even 'greener' in response to our Baptismal Covenant and Marks of Mission. Blessings as you plan for 2023.

Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle is a tri-chair of SEJH and a tri-chair of Justice League of Huron.

On a street corner, next to your church

(From our archives)





At the changing of seasons

By Rev. Canon Val Kenyon

s we enter this month of February, we continue in the season of Epiphany, the season of light. However, in the space of a few weeks, we will find ourselves at the transition point between Epiphany and Lent, that point we know as Transfiguration Sunday.

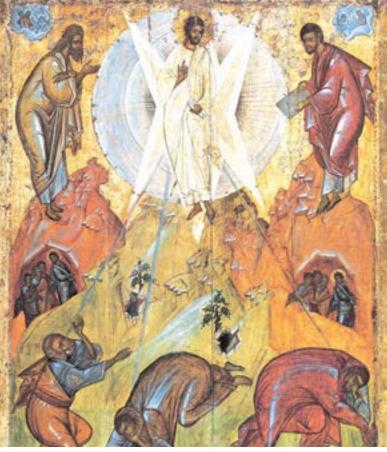
The word Transfiguration – in which two words and so two ideas come together - (trans – meaning across or through) and figuration (appearance/form) – together explode into the idea of a form or an appearance changing, however not in some small, insignificant way, but rather changing completely which, we known, is what we see in the Gospel reading of the day with Jesus and his disciples atop the mountain.

We understand this process to some degree, as we also have examples of what we might call transfiguration (though no doubt in scientific theory other terms might be more precise, more correct) in the natural world – seeds that change into plants, caterpillars that change into butterflies, and tadpoles that become frogs. And while it may feel far away at this point, with time the barren trees of winter, so lovely and delicate in their own right, will change as spring awakens them.

Epiphany began with a great burst of light, and



Education for Ministry is spiritual, theological, liturgical, and practical formation for laypeople. EfM is about integrating faith and life, and communicating our faith to others.



Teophanes the Greek: Transfiguration of our Lord

coming full circle that is exactly how it will end, with the blazing, blinding, brilliant light atop a mountain. However, very shortly, Jesus

will descend to the desert, and we into the purple season, the season of reflection.

In this quieter season of Lent, each day brings

At the heart of becoming a disciple of Jesus lies the process of transformation, a process that is nurtured and supported through the EfM sessions.

us closer and closer to the central point of our faith (the great light of Easter Sunday), but first we will pass through another time, a time of great darkness, in the death and resurrection of Christ, the central truth around which our entire year and our entire faith life swirls.

In this mountain top experience, Jesus will have to scoop up as much of the light of that season, of those moments when the light was shining at its most brilliant, and hold the wonder and the marvel of them in the darker times, the times when his resolve would be tested, when doubt would dance before him, waiting for him to bite. And having scooped up this light, he would store it in his heart, returning to it as needed, and in returning to it, he would be sustained and supported through the challenges that lay ahead.

These seasons invite us all to remember that whether we find ourselves basking in the light of a great star, or searching for the light that seems hidden in the moment, the brilliance and brightness of Christ found in the transfiguration moment still shines and are

alive in each of us.

As we take this step into the next season of Lent, a time of making space in our lives for deeper reflection and examination, we know that God continues to work in our lives, taking us, as the Spirit took Christ, to those places that need some light shone upon them to both equip us for all to which we have been called, and to remind us that whether in brilliance or shadow, we never are beyond the love of our God, the redeeming of Christ, or the guidance of Spirit.

At the heart of becoming a disciple of Jesus lies the process of transformation, a process that is nurtured and supported through the EfM sessions.

If you would like to learn more about all that is available to you at Education for Ministry, please reach out at any time to either Libi Clifford, the Diocese of Huron EfM Coordinator or myself Val Kenyon, Huron's EfM Animator at valeriekenyon@ diohuron.org as we would be pleased to hear from you.

Rev. Dr. Canon Val Kenyon is EFM Animator in Huron.

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Cost to register is \$325 for Full Credit, \$150 to audit. To register, please contact Dr. Grayhame Bowcott at: grayhame.bowcott@huron.uwo.ca.or by calling (519) 438-7224 ext. 832

\$300 to register for all three courses. Recipients completing all three courses will receive a Certificate of Parish Administration and Leadership grayfuarse.) by calling \$29.438.7224 ext. 832 which is endorsed as a training program for Church Warders in the Anglican Diocese of Huron.

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PAGE 9

A season for relational renovation

Christmas Eve 2022: The pews were prepared with candy canes, carol books, Christmas costumes and "Welcome to St. George's" brochures. Our three services were prepped and ready to go: 5:00 p.m. Children's Pajama Mass; 7:00 p.m. Carol Sing Eucharist; and our 9:00 p.m. Traditional Candlelight Communion.

Trays of Christmas cookies, cranberry cocktail and eggnog were faithfully waiting for the hundreds of visitors that we expected that night, but in the end, and for the third year in a row, I sat alone in an empty church, talking into a livestream camera and drinking a bottle of eggnog by myself. Who would have thought that after another year of relational disruptions, 2022 would go out with a whimper (compliments of a surprise two-day blizzard)?

For even the most optimistic of church leaders, 2022 was another heartbreaking year.

Heartbreak was found in the uncertainty of whether or not to mask or unmask: ironically, I ended up catching Covid on the day I returned to my first in-person Clericus (clergy) meeting – figures!

Heartbreak found among the hesitancy of trying to restart communal events like congregational social time and coffee hour. Even getting comfortable in returning to regular in-home pastoral visits felt like another anxious hurdle to overcome.

2022 was a year in which church leaders tried desper-



GROWING BEYOND THE DOORS REV. GRAYHAME BOWCOTT

ately to resume our relational Christian routines only to find that half of the time the rug was being pulled out from under us by things that were beyond our control – right, so now we have to cancel Christmas Eve for the third year in a row!

I share these reflections with you today for two reasons:

1) because it needs to be clearly stated that our lay and clergy leaders have been remarkably resilient with more change in the last three years that most of us have likely faced in leadership roles in our lifetime (this needs to be recognized and appreciated!), and

2) because the relational bonds of our Church, which are the lifeblood of our

For even the most optimistic of church leaders, 2022 was another heartbreaking year.

congregational communities, have been under such immense strain, that the Church needs to be aware of this and be carefully attentive to investing in a form of "relational renovation" for our parishes and congregations.

What do I mean by relational renovation?

Well, in the same way that buildings are assessed and re-evaluated for future health and sustainability following a devasting storm or a physically compromising event, so too do faith communities need to assess and re-evaluate their own needs following periods of disruption and trauma. I don't know about you, but I would certainly classify the last three years as a time of disruption and trauma!

Recognizing the concerning context of our ministries as we have entered into 2023, that the average return rate of parishioners and guests returning to in-person Sunday worship services is between 50-60% of pre-pandemic levels, I propose that this year's topmost priority in our congregations and Diocese needs to be a deliberate tending to the relationships that are the foundation of our faith communities: a Season of Relational Renovation!

2023 needs to be a year re-embracing the lost sheep – visiting those who we don't see in Church on Sunday and making sure they know that they are missed, needed, and still supported by the prayers and pastoral care of the congregation.

This year needs to be a year of kindness and generosity, in the ways that support and uphold each other. We need to create spaces for fellowship, sharing and laughter to be heard once again in our sanctuaries and parish halls.

This year lay and clergy leaders need deeply consider how we communicate the Good News of our Christian faith with non-members and the wider community.

The past three years were immensely difficult, but churches have survived and are continuing to do the transformative ministries that make a difference in our neighbourhoods: from foodbanks to poverty advocacy, programming for seniors and youth, teaching ministries, caring ministries and ministries of presence – God's churches continue to serve. How might we invite newcomers to join us in these activities? How might we embrace them to explore the meaning and fellowship of being a member of the Church and a follower of Jesus?

In our process of relational renovation we also need to pray for each other. We need to invoke God into the midst of our anxieties around struggling trends of membership, praying that God will enable us to be welcoming of others, more resilient to the changes of our times, and more devoted to the ways that we share our Christian faith with others.

Having been deprived of so many of our communal aspects of being Church over the last three years, I am longing for this Season of Relational Renovation. I'm looking forward to rekindling distant faith relationships and the excitement of forming new ones. I will be dedicating this column to sharing stories of these attempts throughout this next year, or where we are reinvesting in the people who make our churches possible.

If you have stories of your own congregation's efforts, I'd love to hear and share them!

Rev. Dr. Grayhame Bowcott is passionate about fostering congregational relationships and sharing our Anglican vocation with others. He serves as rector of St. George's, The Parish of The Blue Mountains. grayhamebowcott@diohuron. org

Be transparent (and loud) about your mitigation measures!

The Covid 19 pandemic continues as we learn, adapt, and implement mitigation measures to keep ourselves and those we love safe.

We have learned much since

Advertising the measure your church has put into place will go a long way to welcoming those who are immunocompromised and those still hesitant to return to church. OSPE recommends units in high occupancy settings, like our worship spaces.

For more information on the OSPE recommendations, please visit ospe.on.ca/indoor-air-quality Transparency and public education are key to coming out of the pandemic. By sharing information about your facility on your media channels you will be creating a welcoming environment that puts the safety of all God's children first. And what a wonderous demonstration of the love of neighbour that would be.



March 2020, and it is important that not only do we put into practice safety measures, but it is also important that we communicate to the world the measures we have put into place on our websites and social media channels.

The Ontario Society of Professional Engineers has some core recommendations for safer indoor air that will allow congregations to gather safely indoors as we still navigate the pandemic. Advertising the measure your church has put into place will go a long way to welcoming those who are



immunocompromised and those still hesitant to return to church.

The OSPE recommends a minimum of six air changes per hour. This can be done using a combination of ventilation, filtration, and ultraviolet germicidal irradiation systems. The air exchange can be monitored and confirmed through the installation of CO2 monitors.

All air filtration in any forced air systems should be upgraded to Merv 13 or higher filters and also include the use of portable HEP filters or DIY CR boxes in each of the occupied spaces. Ultraviolet Germicidal Irradiation systems (upper room UV lighting -the kind used previously against TB) are recommended to be installed

by a qualified professional in high congregant settings. The Rev. Marty Levesque is the diocesan social media officer and rector of All Saints' in Waterloo.

martylevesque@diohuron.org



https://www.youtube. com/user/diohuron



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I am not a hoarder! (I keep telling myself)

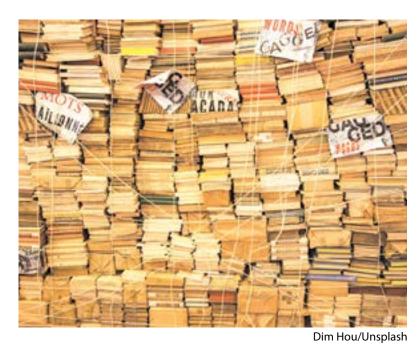
keep telling myself that I am not a hoarder. There is, however, some mystical attraction that exists between me and paper. It is difficult for me to pass by a rack where pamphlets of freely available items are on display without having one (or more) of those items leap out and cling to my fingers.

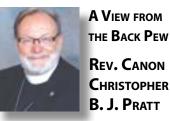
Watching videos of Marie Kondo, or any other de-cluttering advisor does not help. As soon as I pick up a piece of paper, a service bulletin, a picture, a newspaper article, a framed certificate, or any other printed material, I am drawn back to that moment of significance that has linked that particular item with my life.

Suddenly I am mentally and emotionally transported to a memory. It may be of a person, a place, an experience or an emotion that is connected with whatever printed material is within my grasp, but the memory causes me to stop and dwell in that moment of the past.

Going through "stuff" takes time.

A key question that arises time and time again, is, "Do I really 'need' this...?". What will happen to those memories if the item which I have deemed to be so precious, for so long, gets torn into pieces and tossed into the conveniently placed blue bag beside me where all the other





bits of torn up paper have been consigned in preparation for the recycling bin?

A number of years ago, comedian George Carlin offered a reflection on how we deal with the "stuff" which we carry around with us. He talked about the fact that where we live may be viewed as where we keep our "stuff" and put a roof over it. He commented that if we appear to be overburdened with our "stuff", we are able to recogGoing through "stuff" takes time. A key question that arises time and time again, is, "Do I really 'need' this...?".

nize the fact that if we utilize a storage facility, that we are supporting an industry that is simply in the business of looking after our "stuff". His insights (which you may view on YouTube), are made all the more humorous because of their reflection of reality.

Another incentive of going through my collection of "stuff" is my concern for my family. Do I want them to be Lent is a time for self-examination. It is a time for penitence. It is a time when we come to grips with the challenge of what burdens we carry, what "stuff" weighs us down, what barriers separate us from an awareness of God's never-failing Love.

burdened with my "stuff"? Will they value and appreciate the material which I have deemed to be so important over time ? Will they know the names and the faces that are so familiar to me?

In the midst of this reflection, I am mindful of one of the petitions offered during the service on Ash Wednesday which begins our observance of the Season of Lent:

"For our waste and pollution of your creation,

and our lack of concern for those who come after us. Accept our repentance,

Lord." (BAS page 285)

From the micro experience of my personal journey, it is really not too difficult to make the leap to a place of viewing any other person, organization or even the Church, who in these transformative times need to go through the same process of examining the extraneous "stuff" which is hampering their ability to function. Weighed down by that which has been collected over time, whether it is as personal as a collection of papers or from

an institutional perspective, a collection of aging buildings, the need to divest and dispose of the burden of "stuff", demands our attention.

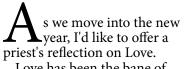
Lent is a time for self-examination. It is a time for penitence. It is a time when we come to grips with the challenge of what burdens we carry, what "stuff" weighs us down, what barriers separate us from an awareness of God's never-failing Love. We are reminded that –

...you are dust, and to dust you shall return...

So, I suggest that the opportunity for all of us, as we enter into the experience of Lent 2023, recognizing that we live in a fragile world that cries out for us to live lives unfettered by "stuff" and to truly offer the heartfelt petitions of Ash Wednesday and seek to observe a holy Lent as we anticipate the joy that Easter brings to us all.

Rev. Canon Christopher B. J. Pratt has retired from full time parish ministry, but continues to offer priestly ministry in the Diocese. chrispratt@diohuron.org

Inclusive, all-embracing energy of LOVE



Love has been the bane of my existence. Since childhood, Love has been a very messy and frightening reality. Given up for adoption at 5 weeks, raised by parents with many problems, choosing marriages that couldn't work out, and failing many parenting tasks, I can more or less say that Love triggers PTSD in me. As I see it, God loved us into existence (at whatever evolutionary starting point we believe in). Love is the defining intent within the created order. God formed us from the dust of the ground and breathed into our nostrils the breath of life, and we became a living being (Genesis). Love is also the clay from which we're sculpted. We are Love fashioned into form. Love is who we are. Science tells us that when people experience Love (Love as a



By all accounts, God's Love is the



as the air we breathe.

Love will wear us down to open us up. We may deny it and run from it (for many good reasons). But, it is our ultimate destiny to be reined in and absorbed into this inclusive, all-embracing energy.

It was once said, "Love is an energy which exists of itself. It is its own value." It wants to permeate everything, to restore all things to their original vitality. So despite Love wounding me over the years (of course, with no fault of my own), Love will also save me. When I read bumper stickers that tell me 'Jesus Saves,' what I interpret as the saving element is not so much Jesus the Son, but the Love from which he was created, sent to emulate and teach us, and finally, that he viciously died trying to protect. Rev. Jim Innes is the rector of the Regional Ministry of South Huron. jiminnes@diohuron.org

uniting connection to all creation.

feeling), our bodies (Love as form) vibrate and buzz with increased life. There is a measurable increase in the body's dopamine, adrenaline, and norepinephrine levels. Love's influential energy is not only in our DNA; it is the lifeblood of all that will and will always be. It carries the whole of history. In Christian scriptures, this dynamic Love is interwoven through all of the Biblical narratives. It is there in the account of creation, the stories of our selfless prophets, our redemption by Jesus' sacrifice, and the ongoing process of restoration (the everyday activity of the Holy Spirit).

Yet Christianity does not have a corner on this dynamic concept. Creative Love is also there in various myths of old. One such Greek story teaches us: In the beginning, there was empty darkness. The only thing in this void was Nyx, a bird with black wings. With the wind, she laid a golden

egg. Then sat upon it until life began to stir. Out of it rose Eros, the God of Love. Half of the shell rose into the air and became the sky; the other became the Earth. Eros named the sky Uranus and the Earth he called Gaia. Then Eros made them fall in Love. By all accounts, God's Love is the uniting connection to all creation. We are brothers and sisters living upon Mother Earth, held fast by Father sky, resonating with everything everywhere. It is as undeniable

Say Yes! to winter composting

A couple of months ago, I decided to start a winter compost pile. I know, right now you are thinking, "What a fun gal!",

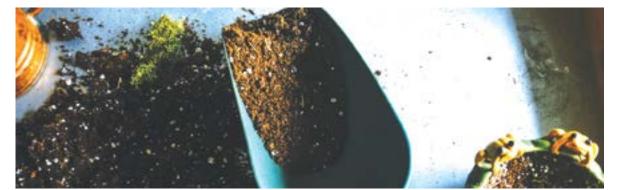
and you would be right! Looking into this adventure, I learned that there are many different methods and means to make compost piles. Much of this information most of you probably know but it was all new to me.

All compost piles need a selection of Browns and Greens. So what are Browns and Greens? Browns are the dry brown leaves, straw, shredded paper and sawdust that produce carbon. Greens are the wet vegetable scraps and grass clippings that produce the nitrogen.

Layer these organics and stir occasionally. Add some moisture and it does all the work. Sounds simple enough to me.

So the newly purchased pristine, silver pail has been placed beneath the kitchen sink to collect our veggie scraps, tea bags and coffee grounds. The instructions failed to mention the chance of an arising organic aroma, aka stink, that can be detected if this pail is not emptied often enough. Plus washed. The picture on the box, that my pail came in, no longer resembles the messy, stinky can under the sink.

Moving on to gathering more greens, I have noticed a great shortage of grass cuttings





in December, January and February. So just a heads up. If attempting winter composting you may run into a shortage of said clippings unless your grass grows greener on your side.

That being said, winter composting actually needs more browns than greens. Small blessing here! Browns are dryer and keep the pile from getting too wet.

Now I found out the trick to the brown compost is to have it cut, chopped or torn up into smaller pieces before layering it. Always trying my best to follow instructions, I spent hours at our little home shedder feeding it all the packing paper that comes with online shopping. Why it took hours was because my husband could smell the tiny motor overheating. Kindly informed me I could only shred so many minutes in a ten minute period. So the motor could cool. Who knew there would be so many boundaries to this free spirited, environmental endeavour to produce compost!

Next was the easy step to gather the dry leaves. Not even thinking that leaves would behave in a non-compliant manner, but given the time of year, they were all wet and mucky. Probably should have been mulched in November. So I added the leaves, whole and mucky, with a dash of prayer.

The compost pile was completed now. Layered properly to my diminishing standards. I placed a tarp on top that was held down by large chunks of wood.

After the cold Christmas storm I eagerly took off the tarp. Of course, first I had to chip the ice off the chunks of wood before peeking under the tarp. With amazement I saw the top layer of leaves still whole with their tad of frozen muck!

Not allowing myself to feel defeated, I dug down a little hoping to feel the start of a little warmth. Pulling out my frozen hand covered in coffee grounds, I placed the tarp lovingly back, tossing the wood pieces on to hold it down, I promptly went in the house.

Did I mention starting a compost pile in winter is a very difficult thing to do? Have I written that you can purchase compost starter mix? I purchased some immediately.

Sometimes, I can feel like that winter compost pile. Lovingly put together and full of expectations. Hoping that I have the right amount of Browns and Greens to produce a warm spirit. The right mixed ratio to create the warm heart of a compost pile.

However, life interruptions and loss can cool our spirits. Accomplishments not achieved, being busy, striving hard to remain relevant can cause what I call "winter spirit". Just as it is very hard to near impossible to compost in the winter, the world today is harsh on our spirits.

This is when I promptly return to the house and order some starter mix.

There are two starter mixes that have found me over the past year that helped alleviate "winter spirit".

The first is a blog by a Canadian spiritual director, Esther Hizsa. The name of the blog is "An Everyday Pilgrim" and if you sign up it arrives quietly every Friday in your email inbox. Delightful reflections and poetry that can add warmth our "winter spirit". Esther has also written three books and you can find the titles online.

The other resource is also online called the SALT Project. It has a collection of reflections, poetry, art and biblical topics. Some starter mix for you. Enjoy them!

I don't seem to always have access to all the browns and greens I need. I don't have fresh grass clippings in January. Finding spiritual resources for "winter spirit" is like finding fresh grass clippings! I remain hopeful for my winter compost pile. A little starter mix and the sun returning will warm its heart!

Laurel is retired and likes to spend her time in her art studio.

BirdsOfAFeatherPaper@gmail.com



Earthrise

This amazing photo was taken over 50 years ago, as Apollo 8 circled the Moon.

Imagine how it felt to see Earth, our island home, from so very far away! What a marvelous, awesome sight!

Can seeing our blue planet this way inspire and call to us to love and care for God's wondrous creation?

Let's find out! See Earth from afar... Serve Earth upclose!

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huron NEWS

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In honour of our readers

n three years – in no time at all – Huron Church News will reach its 75-year milestone.

That with each new edition of the Huron Church News the chronicle of our diocese is being enriched, reshaped and re-written should not be considered as a statement of too much wisdom. But what may surprise you – and what has certainly surprised me when I recently went through some of the old copies of our newspaper – is that this mirroring of the diocesan life in words and pictures was a quality that could not be attributed to any individual article or a group of articles but rather to the Huron Church News as a whole: to each edition, each separate annual volume, and finally to all these seventy-odd years of printed words. Almost as if the form of the newspaper itself has had this mysterious ability to carry certain wisdom of its own.

So what is the source of this "wisdom" if editors and authors have changed over the years?

The answer is as natural as surprising: it is YOU, OUR READERS, the ever-changing but ever-constant body that defines the life of the church in Huron. And the history of our newspaper represents the interaction between you and those who have been addressing you through printed words and photos – a lenghty list of Huron Church News editors and contributors.

Thus the commitment to continue with our Huron Church News in this format, as long as you find it beneficial and suitable. After all – as we have stated again and again – your relationship with your newspaper has been most honest even when it comes to its financial backing: Huron Church News is financed by its readers; we depend solely on your support.

So yes, we have embraced the change and we have been constantly adding new tools to reach broader audience. Our stories have been posted daily on the diocesan website, and we are exploring possibilities to dive more deeply into video format. But while trying to communicate in a manner of a truly Learning Church, we continue to make a mark in the form that is familiar and dear to you.

In the previous year, Huron Church News was awarded another national prize by the Canadian Christian Communicators Association (CCCA). The newspaper of the Anglican Diocese of Huron won second place in the general excellence category among dozens of newspapers representing various Christian denominations in Canada. One more reason to continue our journey and to be hopeful about our future. Your generosity will make this journey possible.

With gratitude,

Davor Milicevic Editor

Sharing your stories: Huron Church News is the public communication device for our Diocese

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