



FINDING COMMON GROUND
The importance of becoming aware of inherit biases in time of political diversity.
Page 9

**ON CAKES AND ASTRONAUTS:
SENDING THE RICH AWAY EMPTY**
Surpassing the glittering trinkets and monuments to Mammon.
Page 11



**RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS
OF GENERATION ALPHA**
What does it mean for Church and future ministry roles?
Page 12

HURON CHURCH NEWS

ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF HURON • Huron Church News is a section of the Anglican Journal • JUNE 2025

Bishop Robert F. Bennett (1949-2025)



"Two things I remember clearly about the service on the day I was installed as Bishop: the sense of awe as I banged on the Cathedral door and, with ultimate joy, the children of the Diocese presenting me with a cope." Over the course of his ministry, Bishop Bob has seen both society and the church change in dramatic ways. We are grateful for his ministry as bishop, priest and deacon.

The Right Reverend Robert F. Bennett, the Twelfth Bishop of the Diocese of Huron, passed away on Monday, April 14, in his home in London, Ontario.

His departure leaves his immediate family deeply grieved – his wife of 53 years Kathleen, and their daughters Meghan and Jessica with their families. The entire Huron family grieve with them and treasure the memory of Bob Bennett’s decades of dedicated service.

Robert Bennett spent his entire church life, spanning for more than 50 years, in the Diocese of Huron. He was deaconed on May 1, 1974 and ordained priest a year later. For almost three decades, he served parishes in different parts of the Diocese and provided various ministries – from Trinity Simcoe (serving Woodhouse and Port Ryerse), to the parishes of Chesley, Paisley and Tara in Bruce County, to St. George’s of Forest Hill in Kitchener. Later he was appointed to Brantford, as the Rector of St. Mark’s Church, where he also served

as the Regional Dean and later as the Archdeacon of Brant.

His longest serving post as a priest was in Essex. In 1991 he was appointed the Rector of All Saints, Windsor. He became Archdeacon of Essex in 2000.

Robert Bennett served as the Eleventh Suffragan Bishop of Huron from 2002 to 2008. On January 10, 2009, he became the Twelfth Bishop of Huron, heading the Diocese for eight years, until November 2016, when he retired.

Deeply immersed in the life of the Diocese of Huron, Bishop Bob remained active in church service after his retirement. His last appointment was at St. Paul’s Cathedral in London, as Interim-Bishop-in Charge, in 2022 and 2023.

Over the course of his ministry Bishop Bob has seen both society and the church change in dramatic ways and he has touched many lives. We are grateful for his ministry as bishop, priest and deacon in the church of God.

Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

▶ PAGE 2-3: REMEMBERING BISHOP BOB BENNETT

Volunteers needed for General Synod

Diocese of Huron is hosting General Synod in London, Ontario from Monday, June 23 to Sunday, June 29. Opening service is planned for June 23 at St. Paul's Cathedral. Primatial election will also be held at the Cathedral, as well as the installation service for the newly elected Primate on Sunday, June 29. Plenary sessions will take place at RBC Place (London Convention Centre) 300 York St.

Local Arrangements Committee is looking for volunteers to help delegates have the best experience possible in London. Volunteer opportunities include reception/help desk duties (4-hour shifts) at RBC Place (for the entirety of Synod) as well as in the lobby of the Double Tree hotel (for June 22 and 23 only). Volunteers for Registration desk are needed for June 23 and 24 at RBC Place. Greeters are also in demand— for London train station (June 22 and 23), for the Cathedral (Opening service; Primatial election; Installation service) and the RBC Place for plenary sessions.

For more information and how to apply go to: <https://diohuron.org> > Resources > Synod Resources > General Synod 2025 — Local Arrangements.





GENERAL SYNOD 2025

JUNE 23-29, 2025



A child of the diocese – and its shepherd – has departed



BISHOP
TODD TOWNSHEND

BISHOP Bob (Bennett) was deeply committed to Christ and the work of local church communities. Especially in Huron. As he said himself, he was a “Huron boy”. Born, raised, nurtured, supported, loved by the people of Huron. He knew the land and the people well and offered his best to every person in every situation.

An energetic extrovert, he loved to laugh, tell and hear stories, connect with people, and connect communities to one another. He was a very good leader and a passionate wise human being.

I knew him from early days in my life because we lived in the same area and his ministry guided and influenced me many times along the way.

I remember him as a young priest at a children’s festival in Owen Sound in the late 70’s leading music with guitar, wearing shorts and a T-shirt, sitting on the edge of the pulpit - showing respect for the life of the church and expressing comfortable informality at the same time. He was always serious about faith in a fun-loving way.

I also remember him visiting and embracing my father near the end of his life about 10 years ago. They were friends and his love for my Dad was something personal but that embrace was also representing the love of God and the whole church at the same time.

We are very grateful for his gifts and his whole family, who we love.



ARCHBISHOP
LINDA NICHOLLS

WHEN I arrived in the Diocese of Huron in 2016 as Coadjutor Bishop, Bishop Bob immediately made me feel welcome! His warmth, humour, ready wit, and energy made the office a wonderful working environment and he readily shared his wealth of knowledge of the diocese with someone new to it.

It was clear that Bob was beloved across the whole of the diocese as a pastor and leader. He was a supportive colleague through the transition as he prepared for retirement and I prepared to be diocesan bishop, and remained supportive whenever I had questions or needed more history!

The hospitality he and Kathie shared with me and so many others was infused with his joy and faith.

He will be deeply missed in the diocese and remembered in the diocese and the wider church with joy as a faithful servant of God in the challenges of episcopal ministry.



BISHOP
TERRY DANCE

ON MONDAY of Holy Week, the Diocese of Huron lost Bishop Bob Bennett, a child of the diocese who grew into a vibrant and gifted priest, a hardworking and insightful archdeacon and ultimately the Twelfth Bishop of Huron. Through it all his impact on the life and mission of our beloved diocese was beyond measure. He will be both missed and remembered by the Anglican family in Huron.

For my wife Diane and I however, Bob’s death was a crushing loss. Bob and Kathie were our dearest friends for more years than we could begin to remember. We travelled together often, both in Canada and in the Dominican Republic. When home we would often get together for dinner and perhaps a bit of wine. Whenever we were together, we would tell tales, laugh the night away and leave feeling blessed to have such amazing people in our lives. When our daughter Erin was dying of leukemia, Bob and Kathie helped us keep our sanity and our faith. Bob was with us in the hospital as Erin breathed her last breath and he preached at her funeral. After the funeral, Bob and Kathie helped us learn how to live and laugh again. And now, an important piece of our life has been taken away and we are still processing what that means. For me, the grieving was exacerbated by a knee replacement that made being part of the funeral impossible.

Now, as we in the Church make our way through Eastertide, we will be reminded week after week of Christ’s victory over death. Week after week we will be reminded that we are not stuck in the mud of Golgotha, we are an Easter people. Week after week we will be reminded that as Jesus burst from the tomb everything changed, for his followers, his friends, for you and for me ... forever. As we make our way through Eastertide, I will cling to that hope ... that belief ... and thank God for the gift of Bob Bennett, my friend, my colleague, my brother and trust that he is being held close by the one who will never let him go.

Finally, to Kathie and all of the family ... we love you.



HURON CHURCH NEWS

Volume 75, Number 6

Submissions

Huron Church News welcomes news articles, commentaries, photographs and story ideas. Publication is at the discretion of the editor.

Editor

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

Deadline

Monday, July 28
for the September edition

Subscriptions

To subscribe, unsubscribe, change address or name, report a delivery problem, contact:
Circulation Department
1-866-924-9192, ext. 245
Fax: 416-925-8811
Email: circulation@national.anglican.ca
Via Web: www.anglicanjournal.com/subscribe

Individual suggested donation:
\$15 per year in Canada.
\$23 in U.S. and overseas.

Advertising

Angela Rush
huronchurch.ads@gmail.com
905-630-0390

Huron Church News shall not be liable for damage arising out of errors in advertisements. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by the Huron Church News or the Anglican Church.

Publisher

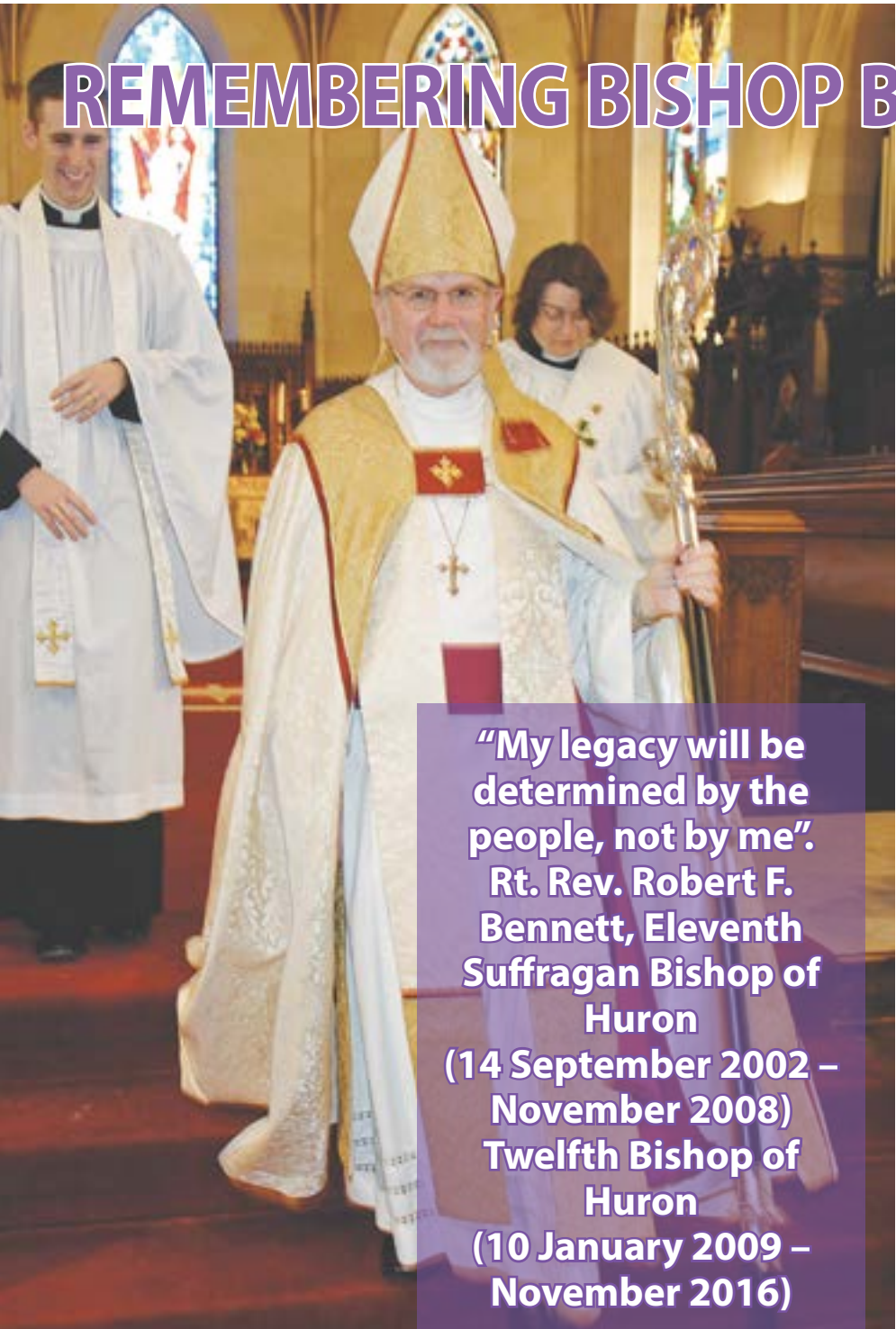
The Right Reverend
Todd Townshend
Bishop of Huron
Diocese of Huron
Huron Church House
190 Queens Avenue
London, Ontario N6A 6H7
Phone: 519-434-6893

Huron Church News is published by the Diocese of Huron as a section of the Anglican Journal.
Approximate circulation 3,500

Printer

KT Web Printing
287 Bridgeland Ave
Toronto, Ontario M6A 1Z6
Mailed by Elite Bindery and Mailing Services
1860 Midland Ave,
Scarborough, Ontario M1P 5A1

This newspaper is printed on partially recycled paper using vegetable-based inks.



REMEMBERING BISHOP BOB BENNETT

**“My legacy will be determined by the people, not by me”.
Rt. Rev. Robert F. Bennett, Eleventh Suffragan Bishop of Huron (14 September 2002 – November 2008)
Twelfth Bishop of Huron (10 January 2009 – November 2016)**



“So many things ran through my mind that day... I had a profound sense of unworthiness. I sensed that I was leaving a safe place to take a new path that was unknown. At one point I realized I really don't know how to be a bishop!”



“This is a heavy mantle to carry. While parish ministry prepared me for this calling, I came quickly to recognize, that unlike in a parish, as Bishop you don't have that visible community around you constantly.”



Bob Bennett as deacon, with his father, in 1974...



...with his wife Kathie on the last day of service in Woodhouse



“I have felt the prayers and the love of people in this Diocese and from other parts of the Communion. It has been quite a journey.” Huron Synod 2016



“Clergy spouses do not choose the lifestyle, cannot choose whether to attend church or not and sometimes are squeezed in a role not of their making. Kath has been there through thick and thin, has always remained true to herself. Words can never capture the love and respect I hold for her as my life partner.”

Making birthdays special



Parishioners from St. Paul's-Trinity Anglican Church and Trinity Church Blyth donate 40 birthday cake kits a month to local food banks to help brighten someone's day. From left: Nancy Jardin, Jackie Riggs, Bill Farnell and Hilary Gillespie met on Thurs. Apr. 3 in Wingham to assemble the well-received birthday surprises.

By Cory Bilyea

SOMETIMES, it's the little things. A small act of kindness or a thoughtful gesture can make a big difference in somebody's life. Choosing between paying rent or buying groceries is an unfortunate reality for many people, including folks right here in North Huron.

With this in mind, several local parishioners from St. Paul's-Trinity Anglican Church, Wingham and Trinity Church, Blyth, began to wonder how many kids go without a birthday cake on their special day and decided to start packaging the fixings into a "birthday cake kit" to donate to the local food banks.

Since 2020, the group of various volunteers has met once a month in the back of the Wingham church to assemble the kits, which consist of cake mix, ready-made icing and birthday candles. If needed, the group also provides a cake pan.

To date, the group has made 2,520 birthday cake kits that have been distributed to local families via the North Huron Food Share and the Salvation Army Food Bank.

No eggs or milk? No problem. The volunteers suggested that a can of Sprite could be used in place of those expensive items to leaven the cake.

"Some people look down at those in need, but others, the special ones, look for things

to do to lighten their burden" said volunteer Pauline Kerr. Every time the group gathers to put together the birthday cake packs, all I can think of is the smiling face of a child blowing out the birthday candles—a child who might otherwise not have much of a birthday celebration."

Volunteer Bill Farnell said the St. Paul's-Trinity Birthday Cake Ministry has gift certificates for purchase in a loved one's name. They are available for \$5 and include a note saying, "A Birthday Cake Kit has been donated to the Food Bank in your honour."

Reprinted with permission from Wingham Advance Times (April 10, 2025)

Through the eyes of dragons'



On Saturday, April 26 St. George's of Forest Hill, Kitchener held a "Through the Eyes of Dragons" Visioning Day lead by Rev Paul Poolton. It was a very successful day of lis-

tening, visioning and preparing for our future.

St. George's of Forest Hill's Outreach Committee with Charlotte Cromarty hosted a successful Stew Luncheon.

Many thanks to the team and attendees who raised \$606.65 for Amazonia, Alongside Hope and Migrant Farm workers.

Mary Ann Millar

Cauliflower Cheddar wins the Ascencion Superbowl



Church of the Ascension, where we don't just nourish the soul!

2025 marks year # 30 for this annual event pitting culinary creativity and time-honoured family recipes in a friendly competition that warms hearts and stomachs.

The contest featured nine entries and following the morning service. The congregation sampled each soup, casting ballots for their favourite.

This year's winner was first-time entrant, Arlene MacDonald with 'Cauliflower Cheddar'. Arlene joins the ranks of fellow kitchen gourmets with her name on the esteemed trophy, not to mention bragging rights.

Father Lance Smith presented the coveted trophy, and she now holds a place with Ascension's honoured aprons.

Church of the Ascension, where we don't just nourish the soul!

Randy Cyr

Holy Trinity, St. George outreach for Brant Community healthcare



Holy Trinity, St. George and St. George Legion working together. From left to right: Haidee Scheers (Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation), Larry Travers (Holy Trinity Church parishioner), Leslie Hendrickson (St. George Legion), Crystal Godwaldt (Assistant Director of Healthcare System)

Holy Trinity Anglican Church St. George was very excited to partner with the St. George Legion this year. On Shrove Tuesday, we served pancakes, pure maple syrup, sausages, beans, coffee and tea to the village and made \$1,269.20 to benefit the Brant Community Healthcare System Foundation. This partnership will continue again next year.

In past years, we would serve the community from our basement. We have also partnered with the St. George Children's Centre in a new daycare for children up to 5 years of age. After extensive renovations, we now welcome 24 children. This has been by far our largest and most successful outreach to the community.

The community of St. George is involved with our numerous outreach collections for those less fortunate namely, food for the Brantford Food Bank, clothing for Migrant workers, school supplies for students, shoes for Africa, and warm socks, scarves, mitts and hats for those in need.

Sharon Travers

PASTORAL PROGRESSIONS

Appointments

Bishop Townshend appoints the Reverend Canon Rob Lemon as the Archdeacon of Northern Huron (Deaneries of Huron-Perth, the Saugeens, and Waterloo), effective 1 June 2025.

Canon Rob will continue on a part-time basis as the Rector of St. James', Stratford, St. Paul's, Stratford, St. Stephen's, Stratford, and St. James', St. Marys with the assistance of a Curate.

Bishop Townshend appoints Ms. Tianna Gocan as Curate to the Rector of St. James', Stratford, St. Paul's, Stratford, St. Stephen's, Stratford, and St. James', St. Marys, with primary responsibility for St. James', Stratford, effective 1 September 2025.

Tianna will be ordained to the Diaconate on 11 June 2025.

Bishop Townshend appointed the Reverend Sherry De Jonge as the Interim Priest-in-charge of the parish of St. John-in-the-Wilderness, Bright's Grove, effective 1 May 2025.

Bishop Townshend announced the appointment of the Reverend Stan Fraser as the Interim Priest-in-charge of St. Mary's, Windsor (Walker-ville), effective 1 May 2025.

Ordinations

Bishop Townshend announces that the following

will be called to the Diaconate at a service of Ordination to be held on the Feast of Saint Barnabas the Apostle, 11 June 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at a location in London to be confirmed.

Clergy are invited to vest, the colour being red.

- Mrs. Allison Agius
- Ms. Tianna Gocan
- Ms. Maya-Melé Okazaki
- Mr. Gerard Phillips
- Ms. Janet Ternes

Inductions

On behalf of Bishop Townshend, the Venerable Amanda Longmoore inducted the Reverend Canon Dr Osita Oluigbo as the Rector of the Church of the Ascension, London, and the Rector St. Mark's, London, on Sunday, 18 May at 4:00 p.m. at Ascension (2060 Dundas St.).

The preacher was the Venerable Sam Thomas.

On behalf of Bishop Townshend, the Venerable Amanda Longmoore will induct the Reverend Andra O'Neill as the Rector of St. George's, Middlesex Centre, on Sunday, 8 June at 4:00 p.m.

The preacher will be the Reverend Patricia Allison.

Special Mission of the Bishop

Bishop Townshend announced the establishment of the Community of the Good Shepherd as a Special Ministry

of the Bishop under Canon 12, effective 13 April 2025.

The Good Shepherd is a ministry to the Filipino community (and friends) in London and surroundings and is led by the Reverend Agustin Lizardo. The Good Shepherd has been meeting as a Special-Ministry-in-formation since Easter Sunday 2024 and is now gathering at the former Trinity Church, Lambeth.

Retirements

Bishop Townshend has accepted the request of the Reverend Lorraine Brooks to retire as Deacon with special responsibility for pastoral care, St. Paul's, Stratford.

Lorraine was ordained to the diaconate on 31 May 2016 and has been an active member of the College of Deacons since that time. She had a significant part in the life of in the parish even before her ordination, serving as a licensed lay reader, treasurer, and churchwarden as well as beginning the pastoral ministry that she exercised as a deacon. We are grateful for Lorraine's faithful service to the Church and wish her well in retirement.

Bishop Townshend has accepted the request of the Venerable Megan Collings-Moore to retire from her role as the Archdeacon of the North, effective 31 May 2025.

Archdeacon Megan served as the Archdeacon of Waterloo

from 2018 and the Archdeacon of the Saugeens from 2021 until she became the Archdeacon of the North with the new configuration of archdeacons in May 2022. Megan was ordained deacon (1998) and priest (1999) for Huron by her father, Bishop Tom Collings, and began her ministry at All Saints, Woodstock. She oversaw the creation of the Church of the Epiphany, Woodstock, from All Saints and New St. Paul's, before becoming the Chaplain of Renison College and the Incumbent of St. Bede's Chapel in 2006. In May 2007, Megan was made a Canon of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul.

Archdeacon Megan's service to the Diocese of Huron and the wider Church has been exemplary. Over the course of her ministry, she has been a member of Diocesan Council and Sub-Council, the Postulancy Board, the Bishop's Clergy Conference Committee, and the Nominating Committee. She is currently serving as the Chair of the Worship Planning Committee for General Synod 2025.

We are grateful for Archdeacon Megan's many years of ministry and wish her well in retirement.

Rest in Peace

Ms. Janet Bowyer, mother of The Rev. Daniel Bowyer, Associate Priest, All Saints',

Waterloo (Sarah Franklin) and daughter of The Rt. Rev. Geoffrey Parke-Taylor (d. 2009, Sixth Suffragan Bishop of Huron, 1976-1981 and Ninth Suffragan Bishop of Toronto, 1981-1985) and Mrs. Mary Parke-Taylor (d. 2014), died on April 28th, 2025.

Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon her.

Funeral service took place on May 5 at All Saints' Anglican Church, Waterloo.

It is with profound sadness that we announce the death of The Right Reverend Robert F. Bennett, the Twelfth Bishop of the Diocese of Huron.

Bishop Bob passed away on Monday, April 14, in his home in London, Ontario. His sudden departure leaves his immediate family deeply grieved – his wife of 53 years Kathleen, and their daughters Meghan and Jessica with their families. The entire Huron family grieve with them and treasure the memory of Bob Bennett's decades of dedicated service. The funeral liturgy for the Right Reverend Robert Bennett was held at Metropolitan United Church, London, on Wednesday, 23 April 2025.

Please keep Kathie, Meghan, and Jessica and their families in your prayers. Rest eternal grant unto him, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon him. May he rest in peace.

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

In Memory		
Delaware Deanery	Kent Deanery	St. Thomas Chapel of Ease
St. Thomas' Church, St. Thomas	Christ Church, Chatham	Dover Township
Carol Burrell	Katrine Mary Donaldson	Amanda Bradley
Ann Rutter	Marian Elizabeth Gamester	Cathy Doherty-Bradley
Winnifred Oldham	Elaine Hook	Maria Perry
Marion Richardson	Shawn Lorraine Jordan	Shirley Ostrom
Carolyn Wallace	Nadine Jean MacDonald	
Huron/Perth Deanery	Christ Church, Dresden	Oxford Deanery
St. James Church Stratford	Pat Brewer	Christ Church Huntingford
Dorris Dodd	Ethel McVean	Mary Walton
Marie Jones	Janice Unsworth	Saugeens Deanery
London Deanery	Holy Tirnity/St. Paul's, Chatham	Christ Church Markdale
Church of the Ascension London	Lois Gertrude Bachynski	Marilyn Wiley
Ruth Galecki	Andrea Eves	Waterloo Deanery
St. Jude's London	Mary Louise Hawley	St. John the Evangelist Kitchener
Gladys Lave	Anna Louise Lamb	Grace Logan
Myfanwy Mathews	Faye Letts	Mindy Hurley
	Janet Markowiak	
	Katherine Lois Prout	
	Hilda Schorgalla	
	Charla Mae Sparrow	
	Carol Jeanne Stevens	
	St. Matthew's, Florence	
	Marjorie Anne Baillargeon	

Retirement (times two!)



St. James' Church, Cambridge recognized Canon Christopher Pratt on his last day offering interim ministry. The parish also thanked Archdeacon Megan Collings - Moore for her guidance during the extended interim and wished her well as she enters into retirement.



The Right Reverend
R. Todd Townshend



Join AFC’s 2nd annual Say Yes! to Kids Sunday celebration June 22, 2025

Say Yes! to Kids 2025: Join the Movement

Camp Huron is partnering again with the Anglican Foundation’s *Say Yes to Kids!* Campaign. Camp Huron gives children and young people a chance to spend a week (or more) on the beautiful shores of Lake Huron, their days filled with games, crafts, worship, swimming and learning about God, nature, and themselves. Six-year-olds start to learn independence; teens learn how to be leaders. Life-long friendships are forged over campfires and conversations under the stars. Everyone should have the chance to go to camp!

Unfortunately, not all families can afford the cost of camp. Through generous bursary programs, the people of Huron have a long history of reducing financial barriers to attending Camp Huron , but we would like to be able to do even more.

I invite all Huron Anglicans to take part in building up camp bursaries for the 2025 season. For every \$20 donated to our Huron team, \$4 will support the Anglican Foundation’s grants toward youth programs throughout Canada. Last year we raised \$26,188.00 in support of the ministry of Camp Huron and the Anglican Foundation ministries. Let’s help even more kids this year! ■



The 2nd annual *Say Yes! to Kids* Sunday will take place on Sunday, June 22, and will once again be supported by a SYTK Sunday liturgy. The liturgical resource has been developed by a team of AFC’s clergy board directors from across Canada and is meant to be used with the permission of the Ordinary.

It is a flexible resource that any church can use, whether it has an active campaign or not. Churches that do not have youth to involve as readers, greeters, or elsewhere, can use the service as a

time of prayer for children and their communities and across the country. “What matters most,” says Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director, AFC, “is rallying Canadian Anglicans to celebrate children, youth, and young adults in our midst.”

Participating parishes can order special SYTK Sunday offertory envelopes and use the offering to support their SYTK fundraising campaign, or other local or diocesan outreach to children and youth. There are also bulletin insert graphics and templates available. ■

\$755,000
150+ Beneficiaries

Faith Formation
\$260,000

34%

Arts & Education
\$125,000

17%

Outdoor Recreation
\$110,000

15%

Food Security & Poverty
Reduction \$95,000

13%

Reconciliation
\$90,000

12%

Health & Well-being
\$75,000

10%

Say Yes! to Kids Impact Keeps Growing

Say Yes! to Kids is an annual fundraising appeal sponsored by the Anglican Foundation of Canada. Launched in 2021 to encourage church-led pandemic recovery programs and initiatives, the SYTK movement has now provided \$755,000 in funding to more than 150 beneficiaries and fundraising partners for youth-focused ministry and outreach across the Anglican Church of Canada.

“The top three ministry impact zones have been faith formation, arts and education, and outdoor recreation,” says Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director. “It’s wonderful to see the year-over-year impact as so many churches and dioceses are using SYTK to invest in youth retreats, Vacation Bible Schools, and

part-time staffing to revitalize children and youth ministry programs.” Other impact zones include food security and poverty reduction, reconciliation, and health and well-being.



At the close of the 2024 campaign AFC surveyed past SYTK participants. “Seventy-five percent of respondents told us they use SYTK to create a sustainable revenue stream for an ongoing ministry and that it’s an important source of funding for them,” says Brubacher. “We also heard how influential the AFC Angel Donor matching gift program has been to local campaigns. We are all very grateful to the lead donors who, over the past 4 years, have championed this cause with donations totaling more than \$100,000.” ■



Good News from Camp Huron. Registration is now open!

Just imagine sitting under your favorite tree.
Look up into its leafy canopy of **green, green, and more green**,
rustling in the summer breeze... shelter and shade,
and nourishment for the earth, a home for wild-life,
a source of beauty, wonder, and delight!

Come and gather with us at Camp Huron!

Under the trees let us worship, work and play.
Like the trees themselves, let us root ourselves
in our faith as we grow in God’s fresh,
evergreening, gracious, love.

Let our arms be like branches spread wide,
stretching out towards one another in Jesus’ name,
here in this place... and beyond!

Go to www.camphuron.ca to find out more, see great pictures,
and sign up today!

For more information do not hesitate to contact
gerryadam@diohuron.org 519-434-6893 ext 217



evergreen

thank You God for most this amazing
day: for the leaping **greenly** spirits of trees
and a **blue** true dream of sky; and for everything
which is natural which is infinite which is yes

e. e. cummings

Week-long Camps for ages 6-14, grades 1-8 \$740.

Evergreen Session 1	July 6-12
Evergreen Session 2	July 13-19
Evergreen Session 3	July 20-26
Evergreen Session 4	July 27-August 2
Evergreen Session 5	August 3-9
Evergreen Session 6	August 10-16

Day Trippers: Join us at breakfast and stay the day, Monday – Friday inclusive for ages 6 – 12, grades 1-6, \$325

Day Trippers Session 1	July 7 – 11
Day Trippers Session 2	July 21 – 25
Day Trippers Session 3	July 21 – July 25
Day Trippers Session 4	July 28 – August 1
Day Trippers Session 5	August 4 – 8
Day Trippers Session 6	August 11 – 15

LIT 1, 2, 3 Grades 8-11

LIT1 (finishing grade 8)	July 6-19 or July 27-August 9	\$1600
LIT2 (finishing grade 9)	July 6-19 or July 27-August 9	\$1600
LIT3 (finishing grade 10)	July 6-26 or July 27-August 16	\$2100

Bursaries and payment plans available. Please ask!

Huron ACW issues nationwide challenge to support Say Yes! to Kids

The Anglican Foundation of Canada’s (AFC) 2025 Say Yes! to Kids campaign has received a powerful boost from the Diocese of Huron ACW, who are once again offering a \$10,000 matching gift in support of the Huron Says Yes! to Camp Huron team. This marks the second consecutive year the Huron ACW has stepped forward with this level of support.

“Our Diocesan ACW has long supported both Say Yes! to Kids and Camp Huron,” says Pam Walters, Diocesan ACW President. “We were proud to offer a matching gift in 2024, and we’re just as proud to do so again in 2025. It’s our way of showing continued commitment to young people and the power of Christian camping. We also hope other ACWs in Canada will support some of the other 30 teams participating in the Say Yes! to Kids campaign this year.”

The matching challenge will help the Huron team toward its \$20,000 goal to fund bursaries for campers in financial need and support the planting of a grove of native trees at Camp Huron as part of the Communion Forest.

“There is a saying that wise ones plant trees in whose shade they will never sit,” says The Rev. Canon Gerry Adam, Director of Camp Huron. “This summer, we hope to do just that—offering the gift of camp to children who might not otherwise be able to attend, and planting trees alongside them as part of our theme, Evergreen. These acts of generosity and growth are signs of God’s evergreening love for all who journey here.”

Diane Dance, AFC’s Diocesan Representative for Huron, says this renewed leadership gift is a testament to the ACW’s vision and generosity:

“Huron Anglicans have been faithful supporters of Say Yes! to Kids since the campaign began in 2021. The ACW’s matching gift last year helped make Camp Huron’s campaign the most successful in Canada—and now they are raising the bar again. I hope ACWs in other dioceses will be inspired to get involved.”

With 30 teams in 15 dioceses participating in the campaign, Dance says there is “tremendous opportunity” for ACWs across Canada to be a force for good and help every team reach its goal.

For every \$20 donated to the Huron Says Yes! to Camp Huron team, \$4 will support AFC’s national youth ministry grants, extending the impact of local gifts across the Church.

For more information, contact Michelle Hauser at mhauser@anglicanfoundation.org.



\$10,000 Matching Gift!

- Make a donation to the Huron team at: diohuron.org/sytkdonate
- Celebrate a Say Yes! to Kids Sunday on June 22—or any Sunday in June—with liturgical resources from AFC: <https://www.anglicanfoundation.org/sytksgiving/>
- To donate by mail: Make cheques payable to the Anglican Foundation of Canada with “Huron Says Yes!” in the memo line. Mail to: 80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2

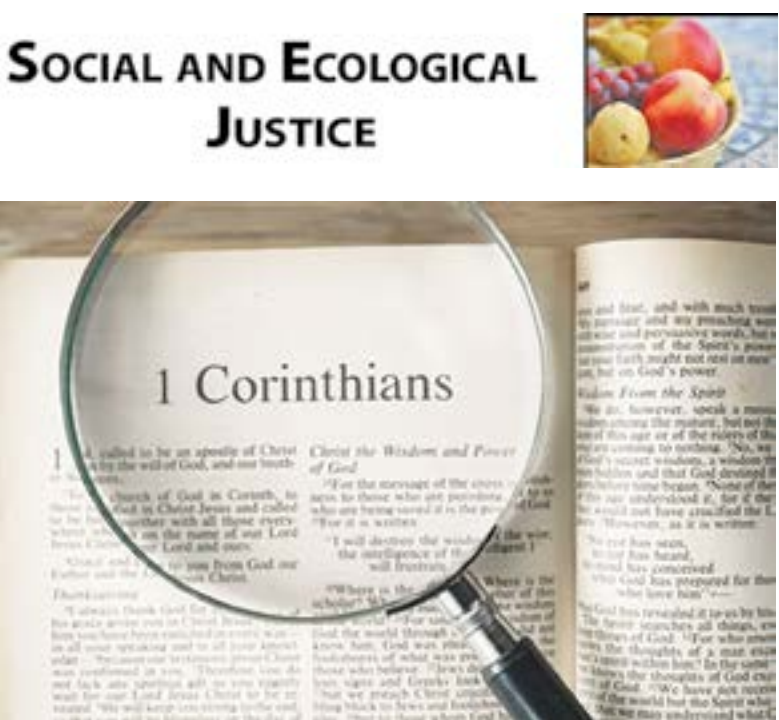
When theology intersects with politics: On Bible translations (one in particular)

By Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle

RECENTLY I had the opportunity to watch the documentary 1946: The Mistranslation that Shifted Culture. This movie follows the stories of three individuals whose life experiences lead them to struggle with questions about whether one could be a member of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community and Christian. This search brings these three individuals together and ultimately leads to this project. A key part of this journey was to explore how homosexuality found its way into the Bible.

As it happens, the first time the word appears is in the 1946 English translation of the Revised Standard Version (RSV). In developing this edition, the group of 22 white men, chose to combine two words from the original Greek, *malakoi* and *arsenokoitai*, found in 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, to become 'homosexuality'.

The documentary spends time exploring the potential meaning of the words based on context and other uses. This includes acknowledging that these words are typically used as action words. Thus, translating them into a state of being is problematic. Shortly following the release of the 1946 RSV, a gay seminary student from Quebec raised these questions with the head of the translation team.



Enter the Rev. David Fearon from the United Church of Canada. The documentary team actually found him, living in Vancouver!

He shared how, when reading 1 Corinthians 6:9-10 as it appeared in the 1946 version of the RSV, he felt a sense of discord. This did not feel true of his experience of the God who had cured him of his stammering so that he could be a minister and yet had not cured him of his homosexuality. Drawing from his studies, he felt compelled to write to the translation team who were open minded enough to hear what he had to say such that subsequent translations of the RSV and New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible have been adjusted to reflect this wisdom.

Unfortunately, the damage was done, in large part because other translations of the Bible simply relied on the work of the RSV team to produce their editions. Some doubled down on the point, adding other places where homosexuality was emphasised as sinful and punishable by death. This included the Living Bible, a favourite of Billy Graham which went on to sell millions of copies and has been one of the most popular editions in the United States.

When this theology intersects with politics, things get even worse for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community who become the scapegoats for the ills of society.

"Family values", that is a very particular version of cis-gender, heterosexual,

patriarchal presentation of family, becomes idealised to the point that all those who are outside this framework become villainized.

This gives permission for people to mistreat, devalue, and undermine the lives and loves of the community. It gives permission for family to disown those who are members of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. It can even enable the violence done to the community. Thus, the documentary reinforced that congregations, denominations, and other Christian spaces that are public, intentional, and explicit about affirmation and inclusion remain vital to the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.

Following the viewing of the documentary, we had a panel discussion. One of the members was particularly gracious in sharing their story of religious trauma. They shared how this theology impacted their life, undermined their relationships, especially with their mother, and made it difficult to find a faith community in which they felt they belonged.

The feelings associated with the years of trauma continued to surface throughout the conversation. In the end, however, they shared how grateful they were to find a congregation that fully accepted them for who they are and who they love to the point of enabling them to take on a leadership role.

Healing can happen, even though the wounds and scars remain.

There is much we, as Church, need to atone for. The spiritual and religious trauma inflicted on the 2SLGBTQIA+ community continues to impact lives in profound ways. We need to continually reflect, learn, and do better. It literally can make the difference between life and death.

To those who think that statement is an exaggeration, let me share one quote from the many resources I have read on spiritual and religious trauma:

"The most interesting thing for me has been that since I have been fully out and in an affirming church, and all that kind of stuff, for the first time in 30 years, I am not suicidal. And that is huge. In some ways, I don't know a bigger sign of grace than that. It's nice not to want to kill yourself."

(Joel Hollier, Shane Clifton, and Jennifer Smith-Merry, 'Mechanisms of Religious Trauma amongst Queer People in Australia's Evangelical Churches', Clinical Social Work Journal 50, no. 3, 2022: 283.)

This is not an isolated sentiment. What we do matters. May we all consider ways to be public, intentional, and explicit in our affirmation and inclusion of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community this Pride month and throughout the year.

Rev. Chris Brouillard-Coyle is a co-chair of SEJH.



Services at the Mohawk Chapel for 2025
Sunday, October 5 (Thanksgiving Service) at 2 pm
Sunday, December 7 (Christmas Service) at 2 pm

H. M. Royal Chapel of the Mohawks • 301 Mohawk Street, Brantford • 519-445-2953



ROCKY RIDGE RANCH

Your Place to Connect

905-854-2584

info@rockyridgeranch.org
www.rockyridgeranch.org
10486 5th Line NASS RR#2
Rockwood, ON

- Horseback Riding
- Birthday Parties
- Picnics/Retreats
- Leadership Training
- Chapels
- Summer Camp
- Family Outings
- Swimming
- Hay Rides/Roasts



A toast to a friend of the Diocese: Celebrating the ministry of the Huron Church News

THIS ARTICLE marks the fiftieth that I've written for Huron Church News. Looking back on the discussions we've shared together, I am thankful to the man who has given me the prompting, the joyful encouragement, and the monthly writing deadlines to make this possible: our friend and editor, Davor Milicevic.

You have likely heard by now that Davor is soon to retire from this position with the Diocese. In celebration of his work and ministry among us, I wanted to share a few thoughts on the impact of the outreach of our HCN among its readership in Huron.

For several years, there have been discussions about the possibility of print newspapers disappearing from the landscape of the Anglican Church of Canada. Following similar trends of declining membership and financial resources, church newspapers have been hard-pressed to reinvent themselves, year after year, with reduced budgets and, in many places, declining readership. Supporters of print newspapers are deeply thankful for the existing relationship we have with the Anglican Journal, that allows for dioceses, large and small, to partner with them in the printing and delivery of diocesan news. It is this writer's opinion that this relationship has been the backbone and lifeblood of communication among Anglicans across the country.



Huron's clergy raising a toast to our friend, Davor. Cheers and thank you!



**GROWING
BEYOND THE
DOORS
REV. CANON
GRAYHAME
BOWCOTT**

In the May 2025, edition of the Anglican Journal, a report from the Council of General Synod was shared, which recommends that the publication of the Journal be budgeted for at least three more years of print circulation. The alternative, as is being explored at this time, is to transition away from print newsletters to e-news (virtual newspapers). Although there is a premium to being able to provide print newspapers in a day of shrinking budgets, I would argue that these are resources well-spent.

For a moment, join me in reflecting on the ministries that are shared in our monthly, print copies of the Huron Church News. In each edi-

tion we are provided a direct connection with our bishop, and his vision for the Diocese of Huron. We also celebrate a cross-section of ministry news from communal events large and small. It is through the newspaper that most in the diocese hear of any pastoral progressions (the retirements and ministry appointments in Huron).

We have also made space in our monthly news conversations to hear ministry reflections from columnists who hold one foot in the canoe of ministry practice, while situating their other foot on the shore of theology, life and learning experiences. I believe that most readers find the Huron Church News, with its partnership with the Anglican Journal, to be one of the greatest tools of fellowship and evangelism available to us today. Simply put, it's the media by which our Christian family shares, seeks, doubts, learns and encourages one another. It's the backbone of

our party line of communication.

Here I want to express my appreciation to the generous man behind the scenes who makes our Diocesan conversations possible. Davor Milicevic has been a catalyst and a support of ministries throughout the diocese. He has done this by telling our stories and celebrating them in such a professional manner through the Huron Church News. If you have ever read the newspapers from other dioceses in Canada, you would quickly recognize that Huron's is of the highest quality and character. It's for this reason that we have been an award-winning church newspaper for many years.

As a reluctant writer, I want to say 'Thank you' to Davor for his humour, his support and his flexibility in encouraging so many of us over the years. I can tell you honestly that I would not have been able to contribute fifty articles had it not been for the

monthly nudging of this good friend.

So, by way of honouring Davor and his years of ministry in Huron, may I propose an action that might be mutually beneficial, both in celebrating him and in supporting our beloved HCN? In the weeks ahead, it is my intention to revisit my parish membership roll and, with the help of some volunteers, call each and every member on my list to ask if they are currently receiving the Huron Church News. If they aren't, I'm going to share the many blessings of this ministry with them, as I just have with you, and encourage them to sign up and join in the conversation! I have a hunch that if all the churches in our diocese took this same action, that we might be able to share the gift of 'Our Christian Story' with a new generation of Anglican readers.

Let us raise a toast to our faithful Editor, Davor Milicevic, and let us do so by further supporting the work that he has poured his life into on our behalf. I invite all the congregations in the Diocese to consider joining me in this celebration!

Rev. Canon Dr. Grayhame Bowcott serves as Rector of St. George's, The Parish of The Blue Mountains, and as Program Director for the Licentiate in Theology program at Huron University.

grayhamebowcott@diohuron.org

Finding common ground (in times of political diversity)

POLITICAL issues are becoming more complex as our society grows more diverse and less tied to traditional beliefs.

This diversity makes conversations on these topics increasingly challenging. Often, people do not share the same values or understand each other's views, making it tough to find common ground.

For instance, when discussing school policies, some individuals advocate for including religious teachings, while others support a secular approach to education. These contrasting beliefs in education mirror similar divisions in other areas, such as healthcare, where opinions often clash regarding the fundamental right to access services.

In healthcare debates, perspectives differ: some argue that free healthcare is a basic right, while others maintain that individuals should bear



AS I SEE IT

**REV. JIM
INNES**

the costs of their own services. These discussions have revealed significant divisions within our society.

Consider the topic of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID), which highlights how our moral compasses can point in different directions. Alternatively, reflect on the landscape in Canada and the United States, where the gap between political views is becoming more pronounced every day.

The bottom line is to be careful about whom we tell what and how we say it when we do decide to open up. It is unfortunate that not everybody believes in creating an inclusive and nurturing com-



munity, nor do folks necessarily accept or agree with the boundaries of a 'woke' mindset. Many are finding themselves confused or pushed too far.

If someone is brave enough to discuss a controversial topic, especially with strangers, they risk encountering views that clash with their own. I have made the mistake of expressing viewpoints that, surprisingly to me, have sparked resentment, arguments, and even distance between me and the other person. It was never my intent to do so, but one never knows how strongly people feel about certain issues, nor how they will react when provoked.

When individuals hold tightly to their beliefs, it hampers collaboration. Some shy away from sensitive topics for fear of backlash, while others raise their voices too loudly, creating animosity. Both behaviours can lead to isolation and deeper divisions.

Many others, perhaps less opinionated, choose to stay in the background, hesitant to express their opinions on controversial issues out of fear of conflict. This trend is increasing as our communities become more diverse and demand greater political and social sensitivities. This manner of silence, though safe, can lead to fragmentation and even deeper divisions and misunderstandings.

Understanding and compassion are crucial in our diverse society; however, many roadblocks hinder our ability to express these feelings. Not the least of these are cultural misunderstanding, moral

entrenchment, ingrained prejudice, lack of education, and plain-old emotional defensiveness.

There is no easy answer to managing the intricacies of our contemporary social sensitivities and the growing complexity within political viewpoints. Many well-intentioned efforts can, unfortunately, make matters worse. As I see it, the best we can do is to become aware of our subtle opinions and inherent biases and engage honestly and sincerely with the things we struggle with. And, as we do, so it is important to accept that we're going to make a lot of mistakes. Most likely, we will get bitten on occasion.

Rev. Jim Innes is the rector of St. John's, Grand Bend with St. Anne's, Port Franks.
jiminnes@diohuron.org

Looking ahead to new and returning opportunities

A revised version of Education for Ministry’s Classic program will begin together with a new one-year option that has been called “Wide Angle”.

This new one-year option invites participants to experience an introduction to scripture, history, spiritual practices, ethics and theological reflection.



EfM online Open Houses:
Tuesday, June 4, 7:00-8:00 pm
Wednesday, August 27, 7:00-8:00 pm

To indicate your interest in attending one of these sessions, or to register for Fall classes in the Diocese or to discuss possibilities of beginning an EfM group in your area, please contact Libi Clifford, the Diocese of Huron EfM Coordinator or Val Kenyon at EFM@huron.anglican.ca

By Rev. Canon Val Kenyon

AS WE BEGIN the month of June, as Canadians we are so grateful for the warm and sunny weather that lies ahead of us. Education for Ministry classes have now all finished, and everyone is on a much-appreciated break.

While I would never wish to hurry these warm, and somewhat relaxed months, before we know it September will be upon us with all the newness that comes with that season, including the beginning of new sessions of Education for Ministry within the Diocese of Huron.

Part of the commitment made by Education for Ministry to both participants and potential participants, is to continue to review the “what and how” of the program so that it continues to speak to those that it serves. Consequently, this past Fall a revised version of Education for Ministry’s Classic program will begin together with a new one-year option that has been called “Wide Angle”.

The new one-year option invites participants to experience an introduction to scripture, history, spiritual practices, ethics and theological reflection. Like the Classic EfM program, the Wide



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

Angle option is facilitated by an accredited mentor.

The revised version of the EfM Classic program continues to offer opportunities to grow in community with others, participate in worship and prayer, study our Christian tradition, practice theological reflection, all while considering how what we are learning, and expressions of our faith are and can be part of our lives on a day-to-day basis.

Past and current participants have noted that EfM challenges them to:

- look at the Bible and Christianity differently as our preconceptions are challenged
- live into their faith is an all-week endeavour. I volunteer my time for lots of different things, but EfM... I do that for me ... and
- Keep coming back to give themselves the time they need to think and to reflect.

Registration, Information and Open Houses

Why not consider if this coming September is the year, you will try something new and begin a new adventure with others actively exploring their faith. Registration takes place in late spring and the summer for classes that begin in September. A series of Open Houses are scheduled for June and August. As well, if you have questions but are not available on these evenings, we are always pleased to find a time to connect.

Zoom Open Houses:

- Tuesday, June 4, 7-8 pm
- Monday, August 27, 7-8 pm

For any additional information, please contact Libi Clifford, the Diocese of Huron EfM Coordinator or myself Val Kenyon at EFM@huron.anglican.ca

Rev. Canon Dr. Val Kenyon is EfM Animator in Huron.
EFM@huron.anglican.ca

The Forge: Everything begins with prayer

By Rev. Kimberly Myer

WE HELD a movie study during Lent and the name of the movie was “The Forge”. This movie comes from the same writers as “The War Room”. Powerful movies about prayer and how it can change your life.

This movie is about a business owner, Mr. Moore, who sees something in a young man by the name of Isaiah, who would prefer to play video games than do anything else. His mother does not know what to do since he has not found a job yet.

Isaiah puts his foot in his mouth, when he is disrespectful to Mr. Moore not knowing it is him, when he is applying for the job at Mr. Moore’s business.

Yet, Mr. Moore doesn’t get upset with him but takes him out for breakfast and gives him some questions to think about. How does Isaiah see himself right now? How he would like to see himself in the future along with how he would like others to see him?

ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP OF PRAYER



Isaiah thinks about the questions and returns to see Mr. Moore. Mr. Moore offers him a part-time job and asks him to come in to see him two times each week before he begins work to be mentored.

Mr. Moore teaches Isaiah what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. What it means to give his life fully to

Christ even if it means giving up something he loves, like video games, to continue Jesus’ mission here on earth.

Over time Isaiah learns how to pray to Jesus and see Jesus as his guide, friend and saviour.

What would it look like to take a new believer or even an older believer and mentor them in the way of prayer and what it means to follow Jesus. To Forge a new relationship with another Christian. Helping them through Bible study to gain a better understanding of what it means to be a disciple and to build a strong relationship with God.

Everything begins with prayer. Ask God to send you someone to mentor if you have the time and the ability to accept this calling. “Lord Jesus, open to us the scripture; make our hearts burn within us while you speak”. Luke 24:32

Rev. Kimberly Myer is Diocese of Huron AFP Rep and Rector of St. John the Evangelist, Leamington.

A woman wearing a blue cap and a patterned sweater is smiling and holding a small, dark-colored cat. The background is a lush green field.

Our name has changed. Our work stays the same.

PWRDF is now Alongside Hope

After two years of discernment and consultation, PWRDF’s members* have approved a new name. Alongside Hope emphasizes themes of partnership, accompaniment, community and teamwork that have always exemplified the way we work.

With its tagline — Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world — Alongside Hope honours the legacy of PWRDF as an agency of the Anglican Church of Canada, and it will carry us forward into the future.

As we walk alongside our partners and many supporters, listening and sharing with one another, we embrace and embody the hope of a truly just, healthy and peaceful world.

Scan the QR code to view a video about our new name and read our list of Frequently Asked Questions, or visit pwrdf.org/our-new-name.

* The PWRDF Board of Directors, Diocesan Representatives and Youth Council comprise the voting membership.

Alongside Hope
Anglicans and partners working for change in Canada and around the world

Auprès de l'espoir
Anglicans et partenaires œuvrant pour le changement en Canada et à l'échelle mondiale

On cakes and astronauts: Sending the rich away empty

WHILE EVERAGE, working class people feel the burden of increasing economic pressures and political turmoil, the North American culture of celebrity and wealth persists in levels of decadence that teeter on self-satire.

The ability to watch and hate on the antics of the world's wealthiest people has never been more available, thanks to the interconnect-edness of today's world. The lifestyles of the ultra-rich have always possessed a quality of detachment from reality and it is nonetheless infuriating when the dynamics of fabu-lous indifference to the plight of working and poor people are drummed up for our en-tertainment and outrage once again. Is there anything sub-stantially different between Marie Antoinette offering cake to the starving hordes of France and Katy Perry's declaration that "we are going to put the 'ass' in astronaut" ahead of last month's horri-fically tone-deaf celebrity space launch?

Speaking of which, said space launch, the pet project of Amazon's Jeff Bezos and his space exploration com-



FIELD NOTES

REV. ALLIE
McDOUGALL

pany Blue Origin, essentially an advertisement for private space tourism, has resurfaced the 1970 Gil Scott-Heron poem "Whitey on the Moon": "I can't pay no doctor bill, but Whitey's on the Moon. Ten years from now I'll be paying still, while Whitey's on the Moon."

While Scott-Heron's senti-ments were rooted in the Space Race, they're sadly still applicable. The HBO series White Lotus, an anthology which studies the salacious and often-hilarious social dynamics of wealthy guests at luxurious resorts in exo-tic destinations offers both a voyeuristic look into a world inaccessible to most and an outlet for mocking the sane. A-lister events like awards shows, charity balls, and the Met Gala are no longer relegated to magazine spreads but dominate large chunks of the social media algorithm for viewers to pore over the

eye-watering displays of wealth, red carpet antics, and perplexing fashion choices.

I would like to say that none of this truly matters, that the ultra-rich are irrelevant, and that their estrangement from the reality of the common person ought to be mean-ingless, but this is simply not true. We are all guilty of consuming and contributing to the hubristic lifestyles of the elite, whether we follow these figures with interest or enjoy criticizing and mock-ing them. Outrage is the fuel that keeps our social media engines firing and drums up engagement across platforms. As out of touch as they may be, these are the people who influence and shape taste and culture, and for those who are watching with a less critical eye, the ones to emulate. Meaningful and much-needed change in patterns of resource management and consump-tion will be difficult to achieve while the richest and most influential remain invested in flaunting wealth and innovat-ing at any price.

The least popular and palat-able dimensions of the Chris-tian faith are undoubtedly Christ's teachings on wealth. The Gospels routinely con-

demn the rich, demand their repentance and submission of their resources to God's purposes, and remind them of their responsibilities to those who lack material security.

As easy as it is for any person to get sucked into the trap of leering at the excessive wealth idolized by Western culture for entertainment or for an outlet for their own class tension, it is incumbent on Christians to retain clar-ity on what Christ instructs. Wealth is heavily scrutinized by Jesus as a barrier to the Kingdom and a stumbling block for those who wish to serve God. While I don't see the top 1% clamoring to con-vert to Christianity and sell all their possessions for the good of the poor and marginalized, I do believe that the Church can retain a prophetic voice as alternative to despairing or delighting in the activities of the elite.

While the world watches with passivity or horror or curiosity as the richest among us burn money and resources for their own gratification, the Church is in the unique position to proclaim with boldness the ancient hymn, first sung by the Mother of Our Lord:

"My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath re-joiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden: For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek.

He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:

As he promised to our forefa-thers, Abraham and his seed for ever."

This is the world Jesus has come to build, the Kingdom that will surpass the glittering trinkets and monuments to Mammon, the place where all we be brought into equal standing before their God.

Rev. Allie McDougall is the Vicar of St. Paul's and St. Stephen's, Stratford. alliemcdougall@diohuron.org




Colin Kirby
QAFP, CKA, FIC, RIS
CKirby@serenialife.ca
519-658-2621

Alberto Salguero
M.Sc., RRA, RLIS
ASalguero@serenialife.ca
519-830-0974

www.kingdomfirst.ca

Life Insurance Living Benefits Investments

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well - Matthew 6:33



PROMOTING GODLINESS, REVIVAL & REFORMATION

Store Hours: Mon.-Wed. 10-5 • Thurs. 10-9 • Fri. 10-5 • Sat. 10-3

16 Roy Blvd. Brantford ON N3R 7K2
T: 519.304.4709 • E: sales@reformedbookservices.ca

a great selection of christian books at low prices


Niagara Depot
195 Victoria Ave., Fenwick, ON L0S 1C0 T: 905.714.6257

RENISON INSTITUTE OF MINISTRY

Renison is pleased to provide the Renison Institute of Ministry (RIM) programming as our gift to the Anglican community. All we ask is that you bring your openness to sharing your thoughts and opinions, and a willingness to embark on this journey with us.

We invite you to join us at one of our upcoming events. Participation is free, but you can support the work of the Renison Institute of Ministry by making a donation during registration. Each event includes parking and refreshments as part of the day's activities.

Find out which of our events will interest you at www.renison.ca/RIM



RENISON
UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE

AFFILIATED WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

'We'll take it from here' (We are the ones we have been waiting for)

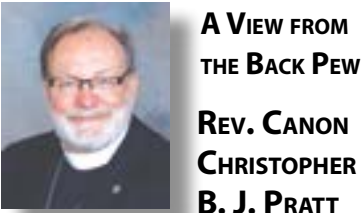
TIMES OF TRANSITION often prove to be challenging. Change, in any form, is sometimes welcomed and at other times may generate feelings of anger, frustration, or even grief. The way in which we view ourselves or others, may lead to satisfaction or disappointment, if the threshold of expectation is either met or if it falls short.

I write this article days after the Diocesan Family gathered to celebrate the life and ministry of Bishop Bennett. In a few days the global community will focus its attention on St Peter's, where the life and ministry of Pope Francis will be remembered. The absence of these two leaders will be felt by us in different ways. The loss of both of these leaders generates in us, our own sense, both of loss and change.

In a few days, I will conclude a transitional ministry which has lasted for five months. During that time relationships have been formed and experiences have been shared. Recognizing that for most of us the work that we do demands the use of our hands, this past Maundy Thursday I invited members of the congregation to come forward, providing me with the opportunity to honour their labour by washing their hands. In the midst of that devotional moment, one of the folks who came forward took the water pitcher from me and washed my hands. It was an experience that is now



Pentecost. A miniature from a Coptic-Arabic Gospel, 13th century



**A VIEW FROM
THE BACK PEW**
**REV. CANON
CHRISTOPHER
B. J. PRATT**

The Gospel message is a message of change. It is not a message which weighs heavily, or causes frustration, grief and disappointment.

forever etched in my memory. When you read this article, we will have a new federal government. The election of 2025 will be remembered in many ways. From my perspective, recent events have changed the way we look at ourselves as Canadians and the way in which we view the world around us. The list of those who we name as our friends and allies as a part of the international community has experienced a seismic shift. Change, at that global level of our lives, is an inescapable reality. It is something over which we have no control. As I try, in a word, to describe my feelings as a citizen of this wonderful country, and view the wreckage of past international relationships, the word, simply, is "sadness".

As I read back over the words that I have written, this really feels like a doom and gloom article. Yet on the horizon, as people of faith, it is possible to catch a glimpse of the glimmer of light shining in the distance.

The loss of spiritual leaders, either by death, or by transition, does not serve as an end point of ministry. The values and messages which we have heard or experiences we have shared become not only treasured memories, but also those sparks of faith which generate and empower our own ministries.

Whether it is a new Pope, new episcopal leadership or new parish ministry, all we do is pass along the baton of ministry to the one who follows, just as we have received that ministry from those who

have gone before us.

The writer, Azul Thome, has offered a poetic reflection on the ministry and faithful witness of Pope Francis. It is entitled *Praise Be The One Who Walked Barefoot in the Corridors of Power*. The work concludes with these thoughts:

*You are in the roots of sacred resistance
You are in every hand that plants justice
You are in the breath of those who still dare to say;
Another world is not only possible —
She is already here
And She is rising.
Rest, prophet of the poor,
We'll take it from here.*

On the Feast of Pentecost, after the experience of the Crucifixion and facing the reality of the Resurrection

and Ascension, St. Peter, empowered by the Holy Spirit, speaks to a crowd and offers this insight, "When that time comes, my Spirit will rain down on all who serve me, both men and women, and they will boldly speak my words." (Acts 2:18 "Walking the Good Road" – First Nations Version).

The simple reality is "that time" has come. We are the people who are called to "boldly speak" to the world. The Gospel message is a message of change. It is not a message which weighs heavily, or causes frustration, grief and disappointment. The Gospel message reminds, or informs, all who hear it that the world is loved by its Creator. We are called to make the necessary changes in our lives so that we may most fully express our love for our Lord by the way in which we love and serve others in His Name.

When it comes to making transformational change, when it comes to being the catalyst for positive, Gospel motivated change, we do not have the luxury of looking to others to be identified as the ones who might offer that ministry.

The simple reality is... we are the ones we have been waiting for. "We'll take it from here."

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

Meeting the needs and career aspirations of Generation Alpha

GENERATION ALPHA, born after 2010, is growing up in a world fundamentally shaped by digital technology.

A recent glimpse into their career aspirations reveals a striking reality: their dreams are increasingly intertwined with the online world. When asked what they want to be when they grow up, the top answers aren't solely traditional roles; topping the list are YouTuber (32%) and TikTok creator (21%). Combined, over half aspire to roles defined by online content creation and social media platforms.

Other digital-centric careers like mobile app/video game developer (19%) and professional online streamer (15%) also feature prominently, alongside more traditional aspirations like doctor/



**MEDIA
BYTES**
**REV. MARTY
LEVESQUE**

nurse (20%) and teacher (14%). Even roles like artist, musician, and entrepreneur are now heavily reliant on digital platforms for visibility and success.

What does this mean for the church?

It signals an urgent need to embrace social media not just as a communication tool, but as a primary space for connection, community, and outreach. If the future generation dreams of creating content and building communities on platforms like YouTube and TikTok, the church must be present and

active in those same spaces. It's the modern equivalent of setting up in the town square; it's meeting people where they naturally gather, learn, and aspire. Ignoring these platforms means potentially missing a vast opportunity to connect with Gen Alpha on their terms.

The desire to be a YouTuber or TikTok creator reveals a value placed on visual storytelling, authenticity, short-form communication, community building, and creative expression. Churches can learn from this. Effective engagement won't come from simply broadcasting services, but by creating content that resonates with these values – content that is engaging, relatable, offers value, and fosters genuine interaction.

As Gen Alpha navigates the complexities of the online

world, the church has a role to play in modelling positive, ethical, and faith-filled digital citizenship. By actively participating and creating meaningful content, churches can demonstrate how faith intersects with online life, offering guidance and a spiritual anchor in the digital realm.

These aspirations hint at future ministry roles. Imagine church tech teams led by former aspiring game developers, or online ministry programs spearheaded by those skilled in video creation and streaming.

The career dreams of Generation Alpha are a clear indicator of where their attention and energy are focused. For the church to continue its mission of outreach and discipleship with this emerging generation, a robust, authen-

tic, and engaging social media presence isn't just helpful – it's essential. It's time to log in and meet the future, right where they are.

Rev. Marty Levesque is the rector of All Saints' in Waterloo. He served as diocesan social media officer.
martylevesque@diohuron.org

