CONTACT

Christ's Church Cathedral

Christmas 2023





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FROM THE EDITOR

Hope, faith, love, peace: these are the names of the four candles of the Advent wreath, with the Christ candle in the middle. They are the stepping-stones on a path toward the Christ child.

Peace.

This issue was planned in July, the theme developed, contributors solicited and then my role was to wait for the material to land in my in-box. Meanwhile, south of our the American border. House Representatives ousted their Speaker of the House, worsening an already strong divide within the Republican party over who his successor ought to be (no love there). Funding for Ukraine's war effort was dependent upon a Speaker being in place so that budget legislation could be voted upon (very little hope there right Then, Hamas attacked Israel in now). October causing an immediate and shocking world-wide effect. In major cities everywhere, people protested, rallied, and demanded the return of hostages. Despite the horrors on all the news channels, I see a tremendous out-pouring of hope and love for the hostages and faith that they will be returned. Will there be a lasting peace? Well, that remains to be seen. How do international events affect our own corner of the world? Amid large consequential events, it is difficult to find peace: peace of mind, quietude, comfort.

Could I still have a Christmas Contact issue focused on peace? What would my contributors deliver? As you will see, there

is a pleasing variety of perspectives on the theme. While hope, faith, love, and peace go together, it's not possible to have peace without its opposite: conflict and injustice. I think my contributors have covered it all in this issue. Rev. Monica describes lamentation, a form of prayer that cries out to God one's deepest discomfort and wish for deliverance. Rev. Sharyn's reflection reminds us that the baby Jesus was born in an occupied territory. The Community Engagement article details how our parish is providing some comfort for our neighbours who are precariously housed or homeless thanks to support from the City and from community partnerships. Elizabeth Wensley discusses dealing with conflict in her role as a warden and James Newman updates us on the activities of the Climate Justice Cathedral group. Meet the leaders of the liturgical teams and discover what brings them to this ministry. Read Bruce Burbidge's account of how his pandemic experience of playing quiet music after services has led to a new Cathedral Oasis offering.

May you all have a peaceful Christmas season.

Sally Braun-Jackson Editor



FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

Christmas 2023

Henri Nouwen, one of best loved Catholic spiritual writers of the late 20th century, reflected extensively on the spirituality of peace. Over and over again, reminded us that our vocation to be people of peace issues from our identity as beloved children of God. The more we plumb this core spiritual truth of our belovedness in Christ, the more we find ourselves reaching out in love to every member of the human family. He drew a distinct connection between intimacy with Christ and solidarity with a broken world. 'For Jesus,' he wrote, 'there are no countries to be conquered, no ideologies to be imposed, no people to be dominated. There are only children, women and men to be loved.' It's for this reason that God's relationship with us in Christ can never be a private affair; God sends us into a hurting and conflicted world to love and serve the entire human family - including those we might regard as enemies. 'Nobody can be a Christian today without being a peacemaker,' Nouwen wrote in Peacework, his major work on the duty of disarmament. We strive together, with God's help, for peace and a fullness of life and living that we all can enjoy.

Peace is something we pray for. Nouwen teaches us that when we pray we enter into the presence of the God of peace, who pacifies our hearts and blesses us with the gift of peace: 'Prayer is the beginning and the end, the source and the fruit, the core and the content, the basis and the goal of all peacemaking.'

And peace is something we promote through understanding. Dartmouth

College in New Hampshire for ex, ample, has set up forums where students and the public alike can learn more about the Israeli-Hamas conflict and its history. Susannah Herschel, Chair of the Jewish Studies Programme and Tarek El-Ariss, Chair of Middle Eastern Studies, have facilitated conversations in hundreds with auditoriums attending online where attendees come together to listen, reflect and ask questions. These professors helping are others understand the complexity of the situation in Gaza, to place the present in the larger context of the past, and to imagine a better future.

At this time of the year, we reaffirm the Christ child as the Prince of Peace. May this Advent and Christmastide be for each of us a time when God deepens our understanding of what it means to be agents of peace and fullness of life for all. May we pray for it and may we promote it through understanding. As Nouwen reminded US. 'Blessed are the peacemakers' key for are words Christians.

A blessed and peace-filled Advent and Christmastide to you all.

Tim+

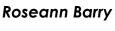
Tim Dobbin +



MEET OUR LAY LITURGICAL TEAM LEADERS

One of the easiest ways to become more involved with Sunday services and to get to know other parishioners is to be on a lay liturgical team. Our congregation is organized into four liturgical teams, all named after saints - Andrew, Bede, Thomas and Veronica. Each team takes turns every four weeks to organize the greeters, lectors, communion ministers, intercessors, and hospitality. Most people in the parish are on a team, but if you're not yet and would like to be please speak to one of the team leaders. As with all groups, leaders come and go, and we've had significant turnover in the past few months and thought it was time for our current leaders to introduce themselves.

St. Andrew





When I first decided to get involved in the Cathedral community, David Savage pulled me into the St. Thomas team. I met quite a few people and started to feel at home. I love the idea of participating in all

aspects of a Sunday Eucharist. Now as a co-lead on St. Andrew's I hope to welcome new people to the Cathedral and continue to get to know more parishioners. At the same time I also want to be more open to learning all roles on the team.

Sue Crowe Connolly



I was invited to join a liturgical team not too long after I'd started to attend the Cathedral regularly. In time, Dale Guenter asked me to be a

co-leader of St. Andrew with him. It has been a joy to serve our community through the teams. I learned more about how we celebrate the liturgy in this place and leadership helped me to get to know people through shared tasks.

Ven. Bede



Elizabeth Wensley

What called you to this lay ministry? I'm not sure it would be accurate to say I felt a call to do this. John Watts asked and I said yes, mostly because I was

looking for a way to get to know more people at the Cathedral. Taking on a team leader role seemed like a good way to do that, and it definitely has been.

What skills or interests do you feel you bring to the role? I have some practical skills that have been helpful, specifically good computer skills and the ability to organize details, and I'm able to get along with most people. I love the diversity at the Cathedral in terms of personality, skills, gifts, life experience, and I love that most people are willing to pitch in and help where they can.

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I'm so grateful for all the ways members of my team make the team leader's job easier, and I try to ensure people know that their efforts are recognized and valued, not taken for granted.

What do you hope to learn, share, or help our community life through this role? believe that working together, even on small events or projects like Sunday coffee hour, is a great way to get to know each other and make friends. That then strengthens the bonds community, which has always been an important part of church for me. I hope to encourage people to take on roles they aren't necessarily familiar with, and to let them know that the Cathedral is a safe place to try new things - reading scripture, praying the intercessions, setting up for coffee hour - with preparation, support and without fear of failure.

St. Thomas



Sandra Cross

A core value of mine is the importance of volunteering and sharing my time and energy whenever possible. Being a co-leader of the St. Thomas Team is a

great way to serve our parish and say thank you to both the amazing people at Christ Church Cathedral and God.



David Savage

Angela and I have been members of the Cathedral Congregation since about 1976 and we found the implementation of the liturgical teams as it provides an excellent way

to get to know parishioners and become part of the Cathedral community. I particularly enjoy being a greeter or helping with hospitality as it is a great way to connect with wonderful parishioners on a Sunday morning. I feel that participating in the liturgy as a lector, intercessor or Communion Minister is such a privilege and makes the liturgy more meaningful. even Cathedral continues to be an important part of ours lives and we have learned so much from interaction with parishioners past and present. We are motivated to do what we can to contribute to the vibrant life of the Cathedral and its missions.



(Cont'd on page 7)

St. Veronica



Matthew Green

Matthew is involved in various, haphazard ways around the cathedral, so why not add liturgy team

lead to the list? He hopes that in leading a team, he might be better able to put names and faces together, though this may be a vain hope. Dry humour is probably not especially helpful to leading a team, but he brings it nonetheless.



Susanne Prue

As a relatively new member of CCC, I felt that this ministry would be ideal to engage with others in the community. I bring my years of experience in liturgy and hospitality at St.

John's Convent to my role as Team Leader. My desire is to meet and work collaboratively with others in our community.





Peace is not the product of terror or fear.

Peace is not the silence of cemeteries.

Peace is not the silent result of violent repression.

Peace is the generous, tranquil contribution of all to the good of all.

Peace is dynamism.

Peace is generosity.

It is right and it is duty.

Oscar Romero R.C. Archbishop & Martyr, San Salvador

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

When Sally asked for articles on the theme of "Peace", I automatically thought of the Israel-Hamas war or the Russia-Ukraine war and hoped for peace. Wondering how I fit the Community Engagement Committee into this theme, I thought of the lyrics from a favourite hymn/song, "Let there be Peace on Earth", from the 1955 song written by Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller. It is so interesting that Jill Jackson -Miller had stated she wrote this song after a traumatic life event and discovered the "life-saving joy of God's peace and unconditional love." Peace begins with me (and you) ..." With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother In perfect harmony."

Peace can be a personal state of tranquility, quiet or harmony. These are some of the words we can use to describe our mission with our community and neighbours, whether it is the tranquility and peaceful gardens around the Cathedral, the quietness of the Cathedral during the tours, advocating in harmony against injustice or coming in out of the cold to the Cathedral Café to sit with our brothers and sisters.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23).

Starting December 1st, until March 31st Cathedral Café will be open six days per week, Monday to Saturday, from 9 am to 4 pm, offering people seating, warmth, washrooms, food and peace from the trauma of living on the street or in

precarious housing. In November, we received notice from the City of Hamilton that our application to the Winter Response Fund for a housing focused day time drop-in, in partnership with St. Matthew's House, was approved in the amount of \$322,450. This funding will support St. Matthew's House in hiring staff to support the drop in at the Cathedral Café (Program Supervisor/Volunteer Coordinator, 3 Social Workers/Housing Support Workers, Mobile Team of Workers, 1 Security Guard and 1 Cleaner), training and support for staff and volunteers and supplies (food, kitchen equipment, cleaning supplies, first aid supplies and other).



Artist: Glenn, a guest of Cathedral Café

St. Matthew's House has a 59-year history of being a valued agency in our community, working with the most vulnerable. St. Matthew's House is also an outreach ministry of the Diocese of Niagara. In addition, Hamilton Out of the Cold is committing to assist with this

(Cont'd on page 9)

expanded model of Cathedral Café which also builds on the significant partnership and collaboration with an agency which has been serving the most vulnerable during the winter for 25 years. Café has created Cathedral and provided a safe and supportive day time drop-in space for homeless individuals and at risk of homelessness. those atmosphere will continue as our volunteers will augment this new staffing model from St. Matthew's House and maintain the integrity of the ministry we have created at Christ's Church Cathedral. In April 2024, Cathedral Café will return to its normal days and hours of operation.

As we prepare for Jesus's birth and pray on hope, peace, love and joy, we are also preparing for the 2nd Annual Cathedral Café Christmas Dinner being held on December 25th from 1 pm to 3 pm. This dinner is made possible by the generosity, leadership and culinary skills of Richard Cunningham and Gen McIntyre and the support and creativity of Roseann Barry in seeking your help in donating gifts. We are pleased to announce we have enough volunteers to serve and clean up after the dinner.

Let there be peace on earth as we walk with our brothers and sisters during the coldest and loneliest days of the year.



Kerry Lubrick

In partnership with St. Matthew's House, Hamilton Out of the Cold, 541 Eatery and Exchange, and City of Hamilton

CATHEDRAL CAFÉ IS OPEN

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday December 1st until March 31st

To volunteer: Kerry Lubrick, Centre Coordinator <u>Kerryllubrick@gmail.com</u> 905-679-2818.

Off-site support or in-kind donations: David Savage <u>dsavage3@cogeco.ca</u> 905-520-5173.

Onsite supervisor: Liz Cronk. cathedralcafe@stmatthewshouse.ca 905-923-5471

The Cathedral Café is funded in part by the City of Hamilton and by donations from parishioners and friends throughout Hamilton and beyond.

HAVE YOU MOVED OR CHANGED YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION?

Be sure to contact the church office with new/ changed addresses,

phone numbers & email addresses to help keep our database up to date.

It is important that we have up-to-date contact information for all parishioners.

In the event of a change in plans, we need to be able to inform you.

Let Bruce (Interim Parish Coordinator) know by calling 905-527-1316, ext. 240, or cathedral.admin@niagaraanglican.ca

MONICA'S MUSINGS

If someone were to ask me what spiritual discipline could help them grow in the way of peace, my answer might surprise them. I would suggest that they begin intentionally praying prayers of lament. Laments are an ancient Biblical form of prayer. Nearly a third of the Psalms could be classified as lament, as well as the entire book of Lamentations. Additionally, Jesus prayed lament prayers (e.g., Mark 14:36, Matthew 27:46). Lament prayer is more than just expressing one's sorrow, pain, or confusion; it is expressing those emotions to and with God.

At the mid-November Lost for Words meeting, where a small group of us gather to learn about and practice creative ways to pray, we attempted to write our own prayers of lament, using the Psalms as examples, and following the structure of lament prayers as outlined by Mark Vroegop in his book Dark Clouds, Deep Mercy: Discovering the Grace of Lament. He notes that lament prayers generally have four parts. First, the prayer turns to God and addresses God directly. Second, the pray-er brings their complaint to God. The pray-er honestly identifies expresses the frustration, questions, and pain they are feeling due to some personal or corporate experience. Third, the pray-er boldly asks God for help. By identifying and stating what action they would like God to take, the pray-er dares to hope for a different outcome, for God's promises to be fulfilled. And fourth, the pray-er ends their prayer by choosing to trust in God, stating а renewed

commitment to God's goodness, even within the brokenness of life and the world.

By praying prayers of lament, we stand in solidarity with those who are suffering from injustice. We grow in compassion by expressing to and with God the pain we feel living in this world that does not yet know peace. And we dare to hope and ask for what God promises through Christ – love, grace, mercy, justice, and peace. Prayers of lament change us from the inside out into people who deepen their trust in God, while we simultaneously sharpen our awareness of the effects of sin and evil and strengthen our vision for what a peaceful world can look like. I hope you will join us as we bring our prayers of lament to the Prince of Peace.

Rev. Monica Romig Green



When the power of love overcomes the love of power, there will be true peace in the world. Sufi Wisdom

WARDENS' WORLD

I love being a warden at Christ's Church Cathedral. I was in the workforce for about 50 years, from the time I was 15 until I was over 65, and over that time I was privileged to be part of some great teams. The team that I work with most closely now at the Cathedral – the staff and Corporation - is among the most collaborative and (in my opinion, anyway) effective that I've ever experienced. Individually, each member is a wonderful person: smart, wise, experienced, skilled, and committed to getting things done. Like all good teams, because we bring a range of different strengths and skills to the table, the staff/ Corporation team is stronger than the sum of its parts. Together, with God's help, we are able to accomplish more than we could as individuals working on our own.

However, it's not all roses. One of the less delightful parts of being a warden is being aware of, and sometimes being the recipient of, negative feedback. Someone doesn't like something that happened at church and expresses that, occasionally quite harshly. These situations don't arise all that often, but when they do, there is potential for harm to the spiritual wellbeing and mental health of individuals, and to our collective sense of community.

If you've been around the Cathedral for a while, you may have participated in the focus groups held last winter to develop our parish Mission Action Plan. We followed the process laid out by the Anglican Diocese of Niagara and addressed three themes: faith formation (how we grow as Christians to become more like Jesus), fullness of life in

our neighbourhood (how we witness to God's love in our community, through service to and with others), and reshaping parish culture for mission (how we relate to each other as a Christian community, particularly with respect to generosity, hospitality, and governance). How we give, receive and use feedback, and particularly feedback that might be difficult to hear, is an important part of that last theme.

I believe strongly that a healthy community is characterized by free flow of information, including all kinds of feedback. The purpose of this article is definitely NOT to send a message that we should all keep our concerns and opinions to ourselves, so that the rector, wardens and others in leadership roles don't have to deal with unhappy people. When something important isn't working for us, I hope we'd feel free to let someone know – although admittedly that's hard for a lot of people. For some, it's easier to leave a community than to speak up, and that is a real tragedy.

I'm also not writing this because I think I'm an expert in the art of giving, receiving and making use of feedback. I may believe strongly in feedback, but someone at church the other day asked me about a decision that was taken in connection with the work we've been doing to refresh Myler Hall. I sensed what my kids would call "a tone" in the question, and before thinking I snapped back an answer – also with a "tone" - that probably communicated I thought the question was stupid. In all honesty, I did resent having my judgment questioned having worked hard on getting

the room into good shape, but that's not an excuse for the tone and content of my response. Snapping didn't help me understand where the other person was coming from, and it didn't nurture the community characterized by respect for everyone that we're trying to build at Christ's Church Cathedral.

One of my most valued colleagues at Joseph Brant Hospital in Burlington used to talk about the value of being "curious, not furious" when she found herself faced with people and situations at work that made her frustrated or angry. Instead of leaping quickly to the conclusion that someone was misguided, lazy, incompetent, or completely out of date, she'd try to stand back a bit and start a conversation about whatever the issue was with a question beginning with "I wonder why . . . :" "I wonder why so-and-so feels so strongly about this?" or (when something had gone badly wrong) "I wonder why so-andso felt that this would be the best course of action?" Of course, it takes a lot of emotional maturity to do this. Putting our immediate, angry reactions to someone or something on hold for a bit while trying to enter another person's frame of reference requires the ability to delay the satisfaction that can come with venting feelings, and it requires a lot of self-discipline. I believe, however, that the effort is worth it, and that the world would be a better place if more of us used the "curious, not furious" approach, including at church.

The theme of this Christmas issue of CONTACT is Peace. As we emerge from

the pandemic and work together on all manner of projects at church, we're not always going to agree, and we're not all going to be happy with the changes we experience. Keeping lines of communication open is critically important, but we need to do so in a way that's characterized by the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, forbearance, faithfulness. kindness. goodness, gentleness and self-control (Galatians 5:22 -23). If we pray for the peace of the world Sunday by Sunday before receiving God's gifts of bread and wine, we need the integrity to demonstrate that peace at 252 James Street North in Hamilton. Each one of us has a role to play in creating that culture of peace and goodwill at Christ's Church Cathedral, and "curious, not furious" is maybe a good place to start.

Elizabeth Wensley on behalf of the CCC Wardens



Do not be daunted by the world's grief.

Do justly, now.

Love mercy, now.

Walk humbly, now.

You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

From the Talmud

AN OASIS OF PEACE



One of the many things I love about music is the way it can communicate emotions and feelings. We can express our own emotions by singing or playing an appropriate song. We can also choose music to listen to, to awaken or reinforce feelings within ourselves.

Three years ago, during the pandemic, I was organist in a parish in England. There was a long period in the spring during our first lockdown when churches had to remain closed. Finally, the day came when we were allowed to open up for a few brief periods each week. Many people came to the church to pray for the sick and vulnerable, to remember those who had died, to seek hope and peace amid all the anxiety of that time.

As we were preparing to reopen, the priest asked me if I could play quiet organ music while the church was open. I jumped at the opportunity. But I had one little worry in my mind. Like everyone else, I could only come into the church during the designated periods when it was open. That meant I would not be able to come in to practice the music I wanted to play. What could I do about that?

The best response seemed to bring along the music I was working on, and to play it slowly enough to minimize mistakes. What I discovered was that lots of pieces, even if they could be played in a fast and cheerful way, would take on a very peaceful character just by being played slowly and thoughtfully.

The idea of playing quiet, peaceful music while the church was open worked very well. We had the church windows open for ventilation, and lots of people who were passing by were drawn to come into the church by the calm, soothing music.

Cathedral Oasis is a new initiative this fall, where we open the cathedral for a time of peace and quiet, offering an oasis of peace and divine grace to anyone in the neighbourhood. To accompany the offer of a peaceful space, there will be calm, peaceful music played while the church is open, until a short Evening Prayer begins towards the end of the time. Cathedral Oasis is currently planned to take place once a month, usually on the fourth Sunday, from 12:30-2:00pm.

Bruce Burbidge
Director of Music Ministries

THE CHILD OF PEACE

Said the little lamb to the shepherd boy, Do you hear what I hear? Ringing through the sky, shepherd boy, Do you hear what I hear? A song, a song, high above the trees With a voice as big as the sea.

This popular Christmas song was written in New York City in 1962. It was composed as a song for peace during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the threat of nuclear war. The song describes how news of the Christ Child begins in the natural world with the north wind and the little lamb. The lamb tells the humble shepherd boy who, in turn, tells the mighty king.

The sequence of revelation in the song is similar to the gospel stories. The first creatures to witness the birth of Jesus are the animals in the stable. Then the angels announce the birth of God's Son to the shepherds on the hillside. Later the unusual star in the East leads the kings to pay homage to the Infant in Bethlehem. In this song, the Child becomes the symbol of peace on earth. The mighty king tells everyone to pray for peace and the Child will bring goodness and light to the world.

Our world today needs goodness and light. We are again in a frightening and dark place with the threat of nuclear war and the suffering of thousands of people. War is a reality in different parts of our world and what has been most distressing is the plight of children – children in Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan and many other places.

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ Child, we sometimes gloss over the hardship and danger in the Christmas story. Mary and Joseph lived in a land oppressed by overlords. They made an arduous journey from Galilee to Bethlehem to be counted as legitimate members of society. The Child was born in impoverished surroundings. When the Magi told Herod that a new king was born in Bethlehem, the family had to flee to Egypt to escape the slaughter of innocent children.

Every day on our television screens, we see innocent people in Israel and Gaza trying to escape the dangers of war in the same land of the Christmas story. Despite all our human failures in the midst of chaos, God reaches out to offer hope and peace to all people in the Child of Peace.

Said the king to the people everywhere, Listen to what I say!
Pray for peace, people everywhere, Listen to what I say!
The Child, the Child, sleeping in the night, He will bring us goodness and light.
He will bring us goodness and light.
Do you hear what I hear?

Sharyn Hall †
photo: © Alexander
(Sandy) Darling



A VISUAL ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

During readings from scripture, I often find an associated image in the cathedral and examine it as I listen to the reading. The nine lessons of the Advent Carol Service can all be linked to an image in the cathedral, so I invite you to reflect on an image as you listen.



Lesson 1: Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden. The apple tree behind Mary in the Annunciation window is a symbol of her purity by alluding to the Garden of Eden before the fall.



Lesson 2: God comforts his people and calls them to prepare for redemption. "He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in his arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young," as in the Good Shepherd window.

Lesson 3: The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us. The reredos image

of Jesus ministering to the people captures "Then will the eyes be opened. And the ears of the deaf



unstopped. Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy."



Lesson 4: God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as 'God with us.' The Nativity scene behind the bishop's cathedra is directly related to this reading.

Lesson 5: The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will have the son of the Most High. This is portrayed in the Annunciation window.



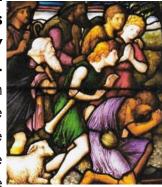
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Lesson 6: John the Baptist is born and his father rejoices that his son will prepare the way of the Lord. Zecharia and Elizabeth, parents of John, appear in a north window. Lesson 9: The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory. John the Baptist, the subject of a carving in the pulpit, testified ... "He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me."



Lesson 7: Jesus is born in Bethlehem and worshipped by shepherds and angels. Annunciation The window shows the shepherds coming to the after manger proclamation of "Peace on Farth!"



I invite you to reflect on these images, or others, while listening to the familiar words.

Sandy Darling

Article and photos





Lesson 8: Jesus receives his name and is presented to Simeon in the temple. The Presentation appears in what I call "The Young Jesus" window near the font.



Photo: SCC

NOTES & NEWS

Wow, what a season! The Cathedral is firing on all cylinders following a little summer lull of travel and vacations.

As I write, we are just finalizing the installation of our new assistive hearing system. We are immensely grateful to the government of Canada's Community Services Recovery Fund and its local partner, United Way Halton and Hamilton. \$400 million fund strengthens community organizations to respond to increasingly complex local needs as communities continue to recover from COVID-19. As our beloved Cathedral becomes a more significant community hub, in addition to its core historic role as a centre of worship, this grant will make our space more inclusive and accessible. We did our homework to select a system, reading and visiting installations of both FM and loop-based technology, and chose the latter for its superior match with our needs. Stay tuned - literally!



Lori-Lyn Bradley and Bishop Susan Bell

We've also been hosting crowds! opened the doors during the Grey Cup Festival on James Street North. AND we welcomed 870 quests at this Fall's two Order of Niagara services, including one at which our own Lori-Lyn Bradley was honoured. Congratulations! We are so proud of you, and we are blessed by your continuing contributions to our life. This hosting takes a huge staff and volunteer Thanks to all who prepared, photocopied, and distributed bulletins, to all who areeted and seated our visitors, to all who continue to make this historic building a place of welcome, sanctuary, and celebration.

A New Project

We are blessed indeed to be recipients, together with our partners Matthew's House, of a grant from the City to extend Cathedral Café to a full five days a week, 9 to 4, during the coldest months, from December to the end of March. As we are ever more painfully aware, the housing crisis and increased cost of living have driven more and more of our neighbours into emergency shelters, to tent encampments, and every alcove imaginable. The Cathedral Café offers a warm and respectful daytime environment, along with food and coffee and some gently used clothing. staffing plan is to combine paid staff with social work expertise with volunteers from the Cathedral and wider communities. . Please support this essential ministry, jointly led by the amazing Kerry Lubrick and David Savage, with your time, talent, and treasure. Training is provided.

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149th SYNOD



The 149th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara was held on Saturday November 4, 2023, through the medium of Zoom.

What is the Synod anyway, you ask? Well, it can perhaps best be described as the annual general meeting of the diocese where accounts of the year's work are presented, the financial reports are submitted, the budget for the next year is presented, and the bishop (the CEO) sets the direction and goals for the future.

In attendance at Synod are the clergy of the diocese, lay regional representatives and lay representatives from each parish. In the case of Christ's Church Cathedral, your lay representatives are Sue Crowe Connolly, and Janina Vanderpost. Parish lay representatives are elected at our annual vestry meeting (the AGM of our parish).

Bishop Susan Bell's charge (command, request, exhortation) to Synod opened with a reference to the parable of the Talents in St Matthew's gospel. In this story, a master gives his three servants sums of money to keep safe while he is away. On the master's return he praises two servants who have invested and grown their portion of the money, but he is not pleased at all with the one servant who has done nothing with the money.

Bishop Susan said "I think we can see ourselves in this parable. God has richly blessed us in a thousand ways..." He asks only that we use, spend, invest, grow the multitude of gifts we have been given to serve God's interests and promote the Kingdom of Heaven. We are to use our capabilities, our capacity, our know-how in the service of God, and we will hear the

(Cont'd on page 19)



The Rev. Don Brown

Another celebratory item: congratulations to our own Rev. Don Brown, who has been given an Economic Leadership Award from the City of Hamilton. Don, a founding member of the Cathedral's Climate Justice group, was honoured for his work in raising awareness of the climate emergency and divestment practices and opportunities.

Wendy Newman on behalf of the CCC Corporation



Master say, "well done, thou good and faithful servant."

Bishop Susan went on to enumerate some of the many ways parishes and parishioners in the Diocese of Niagara are using their "talents" to do God's work, such as:

- Refugee sponsorship over 500 people resettled in the last decade:
- Promoting peace and supporting relief efforts, especially in Ukraine and the Holy Land, through the Primate's World Relief Development Fund (PWRDF);
- Climate Justice Niagara, in addition to its zero-emission church commitments and many other initiatives, is participating in the Communion Forest movement;
- Responding in a tangible way to the housing crisis, the diocese has partnered with St Mathew's House to provide affordable housing to Black and Indigenous seniors;
- The anti-racism program is in a pilot stage with trainers training trainers;
- The ministry to support migrant farm workers operates in the Niagara peninsula, especially through St Alban's and St John's Jordan:
- The Mission in Acts in Oakville welcomes Chinese Christians who may have experienced persecution for their beliefs in China;
- The All Saints Mission under Canon Mike Deed, and Rev's Susie Kim and Rob Miller are all working to establish new Christian communities.

Bishop Susan went on to say that we cannot just do more of the same, but we must do things differently, because the world has changed. To do that **we need**

to get to know Jesus better, and that is happening through programs such as Revive, Alpha, Cursillo, Christian Foundations, and Bible Study. She said, "working on deepening our faith is foundational to our sustainability and growth as a Church."

We are, Bishop Susan said, building a mixed ecology church where we build faith and then work to change God's world with efforts such as breakfast programs, drop-in centres, mental health initiatives, clothing distribution, community hubs and so on. A mixed ecology church supports the traditional but also explores and promotes missional forms of church.

She emphasized that the MAP process (Mission Action Plans) of parishes and the Diocese is helping us immensely to revitalize our vision and understand what we need to be doing both now and in the future. What I know for sure, she said, is that as Proverbs 29:18 says, "Without vision, the people perish," but that the opposite is true too: "with vision the people flourish."

Moving on to discuss the upcoming discernment process around a possible *capital campaign*, Bishop Susan acknowledged that it "is a risk. But it is a faithful one. There's never a perfect time for a campaign; we know the Church has prospered through hard times many times before." We are a people of love, hope, expectation, hard work, and resilience replenished by the Holy Spirit. Emphasized was that 65% of the money raised will go directly to parishes.

Much of the remainder of Synod comprised reports from Synod Council Committees, Bishop's Committees, and

(Cont'd on page 20

reports on various initiatives such as climate justice, anti-racism, human trafficking, and refugee sponsorship. These reports, in **The Convening Circular of the 149th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara**, can be found on the diocesan website. This 46+ page report provides a comprehensive overview of activity in the diocese.

One initiative that many of us may not have heard of before is the **Communion Forest**, heeding the call of the Lambeth Conference. Headed in our diocese by Irene Pang and Deirdre Pike, this new project of the Climate Justice Committee aims at tree preservation and preventing deforestation, restoring wastelands through tree planting, and enhancing biodiversity through building pollinator habitats.

Finally, in presenting the 2024 budget for the diocese it was acknowledged that we have gone through some pretty tough times, but that we seem to be turning a corner. The bishop referred to the 2024 budget as a "mission-shaped" budget that is aimed, through several initiatives, at building up God's church in Niagara. Noted was the effort made to cut certain costs such that the overall diocesan budget increase is only 0.64%.

"You Know, a lot of nonsense gets talked about the church being done. Don't you believe it Niagara, don't you believe it one bit."

Bishop Susan Bell, 149th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara



Janina Vanderpost Sue Crowe Connolly



CLIMATE JUSTICE

What's happening at Climate Justice Cathedral!

In the spring of this year, a group of parishioners gathered together on Monday afternoons for an interesting and vitally important series "Following Jesus in a World of Climate Breakdown" offered by the Niagara School of Missional Leadership. It explored the future of society if we stay on the current path of disregarding our environment, and it was both disturbing and inspirational.

We agreed that faith communities could not sit idly by, knowing that the mission of the Church is the mission of Christ. And the Marks of Mission of the Anglican Church of Canada are quite explicit:

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

And so we began the work of a group called Climate Justice Cathedral, a parish level counter part to the Diocesan Climate Justice Niagara committee. Our primary purpose is advocacy, education, and the mobilization of our faith community.

Climate Justice Cathedral:

- Declares, in solidarity with the most vulnerable of our society, that there is a worsening global climate emergency.
- Encourages all members of this parish and other faith communities to make safeguarding the integrity of God's creation a priority in our faith and our actions.

(Cont'd on page 21)

- Advocates for this parish, other faith communities, industries, governments, and all of society to reduce GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions to help Canada reach a realistic level below 2005 levels by 2030. (Level is under review.)
- Endorses a broad-based approach and ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) investing by our own faith community which considers people, society, and the environment as important as financial performance.
- Encourages our parish community to publicize our efforts as a Christian witness to their communities at large as a means of demonstrating our deep and abiding commitment addressing the climate crisis.

Our current projects and activities include: ESG investment policies, prayers for climate justice, our physical plant, communications, and Action of the Month.

Our Fall 2023 headliner was the Climate Justice Cathedral Chat Event held on November 8 featuring Dr. Lynda Lukasik, City of Hamilton's Office of Climate Change Initiatives Director, and Senior Project Manager Dr. Cathrin Winkelmann. They discussed Hamilton's climate



activities and plans and shared the city's upcoming Better Homes Hamilton pilot program which will offer interest free homeowner loans for retrofitting. We were thrilled with the participation: 36 in person; 25 on the livestream, plus well over 100 views of the recorded event. The 30-minute Q&A session was especially lively.

On other fronts the Weekly Climate Justice Action notice in Chronicle has been generating lots of interest. We are investigating the possibility of a Letter Writing Workshop in the new year, and we have a request from our neighbouring Lutheran Church Climate Justice group to attend our next meeting!

James Newman, Co-Chair,
Climate Justice Cathedral



PASSAGES

Baptisms & Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows November 26, 2023

Friedrich Tianyu Liu Michael Geoffrey Walter Hobbins Jasmine Marie Christiansen (reaffirmation)



Weddings



Brian Kreps and Dale Guenter October 15, 2023

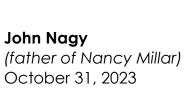


Harout Kokedjian and Lauren Mulholland November 24, 2023

Deaths



Heather Lynn Cooper (friend of Dean Tim) October 30, 2023





Dedication of Bishop Joachim Fricker's Mitre



"Wonderful to see Shirley Fricker and daughters Ann and Lisa, pictured with Dean Tim Dobbin, as we dedicate the beautiful mitre of Shirley's late husband, Bishop Joachim Fricker, lovingly remembered here as former Dean of the Cathedral."

December 3, 2023 Advent 1

Photo: Monica Romig Green

A REFLECTION ON GENEROSITY

Why would a doubter tithe? Reflection from a Generosity Team Member.

I am going to start with making a confession. Are you ready?

I don't always believe in church. I don't always believe that the time and energy and money that go into "running the show," shall we say, is doing much for the world. I am a doubter. An over-thinker. I have questioned whether paying to keep walls, windows, roof and furnace in good condition is what God really cares about. Shouldn't we be supporting initiatives that are focused on ending hunger, homelessness, war, planetary warming, or sex trafficking? Oh, and then, do I even believe in God?

And yet, Brian and I have been part of Christ's Church Cathedral for about 20 years. He is a much more consistent member than I am. He attends more Sundays and pours his heart and soul into volunteering more than I do. I love my hospitality team and participating with them. I have helped with some of the administrative roles over the years. I try to apply some of my gifts to keeping things going at CCC—keeping it healthy and on track to do good work.

And yes, Brian and I have consistently tithed over these years, and have included Christ's Church in our wills. We have taken money from our earnings every month to give to church. But here is one more confession. We have defined church to include outreach and social justice kinds of organizations that are not Christ's Church Cathedral. They are not even Anglican. Our hearts long to support things like scholarships for students in

Philippines and building new affordable homes in Hamilton. And we feel deeply that this is part of "church work." In fact, this is what Jesus, who I do adore without doubt, would support. Maybe this is Big 'C' Church? What do you think?

OK, final confession. It has taken me awhile, but I can say today without any hesitation, that the stones and windows, stories and sonas, baptisms and weddinas and funerals, carvings and organ pipes, lituray and love, coffee and clothing and warmth and unconditional welcome of everyone, are all one big Good and Godly Work. CCC has been around almost 200 years. The Jesus story more than 2000. This very old and well-worn path has been formed and kept alive by very many wonderful souls for a very long time. It counts. It matters. It makes a huge difference in a very unique way. Yes, it is sometimes hard to figure out, but over 2000 years, there is still a diamond to be found in the midst of it all.

And as we enter this advent season, we are beckoned into an unfolding, mysterious faith journey with the promise of a brilliant light. Faith is not something that will grow on its own. We have to be in it in community with others. Being generous with our talents, or with our money, will keep the light shining, the stories building, and the faith deepening in the long arc of time.

Dale Guenter, on behalf of the Generosity Team



FINANCIAL REPORT

For the period ending October 31, 2023

Parishioner Giving continues to be behind plan although it's encouraging to note that we are ahead of last year at this time by \$17,528! Expenses are lower than the budgeted and those savings, along with the Diocesan grant for the completion of our MAP strategy and a special donation towards the entire cost of our 2023 long term debt repayment to the Diocese, are driving the lower deficit. We are in the final couple of months and it is hoped that we may be able to, with your support and consideration, bring giving up to budgeted amounts in order to negate our having to end the year in a deficit position. We want to thank all of you who are giving so generously (!) and that as you consider making special donations at Christmas to causes you support that the Cathedral may be one of them.

Income	31-Oct-23	2023 Budget	Variance	2022 Actual
Parishioner Givings	\$247,703	\$282,500	-\$34,797	\$230,175
Other Income*	\$27,816	\$19,288	\$8,528	\$27,587
Open Collection	\$4,646	\$2,000	\$2,646	\$1,313
Misc Income	\$2,012	\$417	\$1,595	\$1,973
Fund Income	\$104,558	\$104,558	\$0	\$135,833
PWRDF & St Matthew's House	\$3,335	\$3,450	-\$115	\$3,645
Special Offerings	\$48,018	\$5,000	\$43,018	\$156,897
Diocesan MAP Grant	\$4,583	\$0	\$4,583	\$0
City of Hamilton Grant (Café)	\$5,000	\$0	\$17,773	\$0
Government of Canada Grant (Hearing)	\$17,773	\$0	\$5,000	\$0
Transfer in from Funds	\$9,123	\$0	\$9,123	\$1,810
Total Income	\$474,567	\$417,213	\$57,354	\$559,233
Expenses				
Staffing	\$259,351	\$279,013	-\$19,662	\$264,412
Diocesan Assessment	\$45,833	\$45,833	\$0	\$42,271
Property	\$70,125	\$65,240	\$4,885	\$61,197
Admin and Programs	\$51,439	\$63,974	-\$12,535	\$38,983
Transfer out to PWRDF, St. Matthew's	\$3,335	\$3,450	-\$115	\$3,645
Transfer out to designated funds	\$47,076	\$0	\$47,076	\$159,323
Long Term Debt Repayment (Diocese)	\$16,667	\$16,667	\$0	\$16,667
Total Expense	\$493,826	\$474,177	\$19,649	\$586,498
Net Income (Deficit)	-\$19,259	-\$56,964	\$37,705	-\$27,265

^{*}Other Income includes Choral Scholarships, Dean's Discretionary, Memorial Flowers and Festivals, and Outreach.

^{**}We received special one-time offerings of: \$20,000 to assist with the payment of our long-term debt, \$2,500 donation for the purchase of new chairs for the Cathedral Livingroom, \$1,100 to help offset the cost of the Easter brass, \$1,930 in General Memorial donations, a one-time donation of \$8,000 to be used at the Corporation's discretion towards the maintenance and upkeep of the property, \$1,800 to Cathedral foundation repairs, \$1954 for the Francine Campbell-Rich Music and Arts Fund, \$145 for the Coldest Night of the Year (which were forwarded to Hamilton Helping Hands), \$250 towards the Rev. Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall Arts Fund and \$10,339 for the McCoy Organ Fund.





DECEMBER 2023 - JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Advent 3 17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choral Eucharist Lessons & Carols 10:30 am (V) Ven. Bede Team Digging Deeper 12:15 pm	Contemplative Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Contemplative Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM Holy Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group 1-3 pm	Brass Monkeys Christmas Cleaning 9:00 am	Contemplative Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12 pm (V)	
Advent 4 24 Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choral Eucharist 10:30 am (V) St. Andrew Team Christmas Eve Family Service 4:30 Ven. Bede Team	Christmas Day Eucharist & Carols 10:00 am (V) Contemplative Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Contemplative Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	27	28	Contemplative Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12 pm- In person & ZOOM	30
Choral Eucharist 10:00 pm (V) St. Veronica Team	Church Offi	ce closed Dec.	25- Dec. 27			
Epiphany 31 of the Lord First after Christmas ONE SERVICE: Choral Eucharist 10:00 am (V) St. Thomas Team	January Contemplative Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Contemplative Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM Holy Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl Knit- ting Group ,1-3 pm	4	Contemplative Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12 pm- In person & ZOOM	6
The Baptism of The Lord Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choral Eucharist 10:30 am (V) Ven. Bede Team Digging Deeper 12:15 pm	Contemplative Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Contemplative Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM Holy Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl Knit- ting Group ,1-3 pm Movie Night 7 pm	11	Contemplative Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12 pm- In person & ZOOM	13
Second after Epiphany Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choral Eucharist 10:30 am (V) St. Andrew Team Digging Deeper 12:15 pm	Contemplative Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Contemplative Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM Holy Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl Knit- ting Group ,1-3 pm	Lost for Words: Creative Ways to Pray 1-2 pm	Contemplative Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12 pm- In person & ZOOM	20

- (V) indicates that service is both in person and livestreamed on YouTube
- Info about Contemplative prayer groups lynn.godfrey79@gmail.com Winter's Theme for Movie Nights: "Won't You Be My Neighbour?"

JANUARY - FEBRUARY 2024

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Third after Epiphany Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choral Eucharist 10:30 am (V) St, Veronica Team Cathedral Oasis 12:30 pm Digging Deeper 12;15 pm	Contemplative Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Contemplative Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM Holy Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group ,1-3 pm	25	Contemplative Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12 pm- In person & ZOOM	27
Fourth after Epiphany Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choral Eucharist 10:30 am (V) St. Thomas Team Digging Deeper 12;15 pm	Contemplative Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Contemplative Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM Holy Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group, 1-3 pm	February 1 Lost for Words: Creative Ways to Pray 1-2 pm	Contemplative Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12 pm- In person & ZOOM	α
Fifth after Epiphany Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choral Eucharist 10:30 am (V) Ven. Bede Team Digging Deeper 12;15 pm	Contemplative Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Contemplative Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM Holy Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group, 1-3 pm Cathedral Chat 7-8:30 pm Movie Night 7 pm	8	Contemplative Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12 pm- In person & ZOOM	10
Last Sunday 11 after Epiphany Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choral Eucharist 10:30 am (V) St. Andrew Team Digging Deeper 12:15 pm	Contemplative Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Contemplative Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Ash Wednesday Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM Holy Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group ,1-3 pm	Lost for Words: Creative Ways to Pray 1-2 pm	Contemplative Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12 pm- In person & ZOOM	17
First in Lent 18 Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choral Eucharist 10:30 am (V) St. Veronica Team Digging Deeper 12;15 pm	Contemplative Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	20 Contemplative Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Lynn Godfrey	Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM Holy Eucharist 12:15 pm Prayer Shawl Knitting Group ,1-3 pm Cathedral Chat 7 pm Theme: Solutions to Homelessness	22	Contemplative Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12 pm- In person & ZOOM	24

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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP



