



ACW Newsletter Summer 2024

Anglican Church Women

Diocese of Toronto

135 Adelaide Street East Toronto

▪ ON ▪ M5C 1L8

PRAYER LINKS

July

Deanery of Peterborough
ACW Sisters in the Dioceses of Kootenay,
New Westminster, Eastern Newfoundland &
Labrador
Primate's World Relief and Development
Fund

August

Deanery of Scarborough
ACW Sisters in the Dioceses of Ontario,
Quebec, British Columbia
Women in Diocese of Bungoma, Kenya

September

Deanery of St. James
ACW Sisters in the Dioceses of Western
Newfoundland, Arctic
Mission to Seafarers

NATIONAL PRAYER PARTNERS

The ACW's in the Diocese of Toronto are
praying for the ACW's in the Diocese of
Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador.

The ACW's in the Diocese of Western
Newfoundland are praying for the ACW's in
the Diocese of Toronto.

Please send us your photos and
news of your women's activities.

Deadline for next issue September 13, 2024

COMMUNICATIONS

Website: www.toronto.anglican.ca
(under About Us / Departments)

DO NOT WORRY ABOUT CHURCH

I am going to paraphrase Matthew 6:25-33 a little bit, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your parish, what you will eat or what you will drink in order to keep folk coming to church, or about your building, what you will do to make it look attractive. Is not life more than church, and the building more than a list of repairs? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single person to your congregation? And why do you worry about building? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more nurture your faith — you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

As important as the parish we belong to is and as important as it is for us to provide welcoming hospitality in a nice building, all the worry in the world is not going to halt the decline in church attendance or make people come back to church after Covid or increase the offering in the plate or deal with all the defects in the building or create an environment that folk feel comfortable coming to. As important as it is for us to address these things – as it is for us to feed and clothe ourselves so we do not starve or wander around naked – no amount of worry is going to have an iota of an impact.

Excerpt from sermon by Rev'd Canon Simon Bell at the Nottawasaga ACW Deanery Day at Trinity, Barrie.

2024 Special Project

BARRIE NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRE

The BNFC was established in 1988 and has been in their current location since 1993. They serve Barrie and the surrounding area and also bring in people from across the province for special programs that they often run. They work with thousands of people throughout the year, individually and in groups. Their official office hours are Monday through Friday 9-5 but are open evenings and weekends for special programs. The centre has 24 paid employees and are in the process of building the number of volunteers.

Hope to Hunger is a program that assists with food insecurity. Their clients are both those that are homeless or hungry. On Tuesday and Fridays, they provide either Good Food boxes or supplies from their pantry. The pantry specializes in supplies that can be consumed by clients that do not have access to kitchen equipment (cans with pop lids or food that does not need heating). Alison Henry is the director of this program. Any monetary donations are used to refresh their pantry supplies.

Christ Church Stouffville Muffin Breakfast

On April 21, Christ Church held their twice-annual Muffin Breakfast before church. Speakers were parishioners Jane Smith and Anne Embleton who shared their experiences of joining mission trips to Ghana as an optical assistant and nurse. They wore outfits from Ghana and brought other items for display. Where there were just rural clinics before, a new hospital has been erected to better serve the people who travel long distances to obtain medical help. They worked with local interpreters and medical personnel and were encouraged daily by inspirational input.



President's Message

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank Enid Corbett on behalf of the Board for being a valuable and dedicated leader for the past 5 years as Diocesan President. We are grateful for her time and leadership. Enid will continue her leadership as Past President and as a member of our Finance Committee.

As the incoming President, I'm looking forward to getting to know everyone meeting you and visiting many of your churches across the Diocese of Toronto. There will be Women's Gatherings on June 1st at St. James, Orillia and on October 26th at Christ Church, Stouffville. A great opportunity to meet for fun and fellowship! In addition, ACW's are continuing to plan Deanery Days.

Our Annual General Meeting theme was "Hope and Peace in Today's World" and was held on Zoom with 42 individuals in attendance. Our special guests were: Reverend Virginia Gabriel, the Toronto Diocesan ACW lay ministry bursary recipient, who spoke about how appreciative she was for the bursary and how it helped her; Jim Harris from New Path Youth and Family Counselling Services of South Simcoe County talked about youth and mental health. New Path was a 2022-2023 recipient of one of our Special Projects (Mental Health: Children and Youth); as well as Niambi Martin-John and Ida Mukuka from the Stephen Lewis Foundation educating us on their work with the HIV and AIDS epidemic and its effects on the communities in sub-Saharan Africa. They talked about what gives them peace and hope for the future.

Our Special Project Theme for 2024-2025 is Food Insecurity. To date, the Central Archdeaconry and North Archdeaconry have chosen their projects.

As your President, I attended the Catholic Women's League of Canada 103rd Annual Convention on April 29th in Ajax and on May 7th I attended the annual meeting of the Garnsworthy Trust.

Thank you for placing your faith in me as your new Diocesan President.

I can be reached via email (janicehodgson@rogers.com); phone #905-898-8112; and cell phone/texts #905-960-8112.

Best wishes for a good Spring and Summer!

Janice Hodgson

Chaplain's Reflection

Who Packs Your Parachute?

Charles Plumb, a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, was a jet fighter pilot in Vietnam. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a surface-to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He was captured and spent six years in a Communist prison. He survived that ordeal, and now he lectures about lessons learned from that experience. One day, when Plumb and his wife were sitting in a restaurant, a man at another table came up and said, "You're Plumb! You flew jet fighters in Vietnam from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk. You were shot down!". "How in the world did you know that?" asked Plumb. "I packed your parachute" the man replied. Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said, "I guess it worked!" Plumb assured him. "It sure did – if your chute hadn't worked, I wouldn't be here today."

Plumb found himself unable to sleep that night, his mind consumed with thoughts of that man. He reflects, "I couldn't help but imagine what he might have looked like in a Navy uniform – a Dixie cup hat, a bib in the back, and bell-bottom trousers. I wondered how many times I might have passed him on the Kitty Hawk. I wondered how many times I might have seen him and not even said, 'Good morning, how are you?' or anything because, you see, I was a fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor. Plumb thought of the many hours the sailor had spent on a long wooden table in the ship's bowels, carefully weaving the shrouds and folding the silks of each chute, holding in his hands each time the fate of someone he didn't know. Now, Plumb asks his audience, "Who's packing your parachute? Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day."

How often in this world of "isms," particularly consumerism, where the emphasis is always on what we don't have, do we take the time to think of those behind the scenes making our lives better? People who support us quietly, efficiently, and without recognition. Perhaps we need to slow down and ask ourselves, "Who folds my parachute?"

Cont'd next column

Chaplain's message cont'd

Plumb's story serves as a potent reminder to us all. Take a moment to acknowledge and express gratitude to the people who fold the parachutes in your life. Their contributions are vital.

I can't remember who or where this story came from. I read it several years ago, but it speaks, although most of us are not folding life-saving parachutes, that we can be a life-giving source to others with our presence, words and actions. We need to recognize we influence others, sometimes more openly, and other times more silently, but influence we do.

Blessings

Rev. Canon Joan Cavanaugh Clark,
ACW Chaplain, Diocese of Toronto

2024 Special Project,

Angus Foodbank Inc. and Elmvale & District Food Bank

In these perilous times of food insecurity, these two community food banks are answering a crucial need. They have both been in operation for more than 40 years. Their catchment areas cover a large part of the north and west of Simcoe County – in particular small communities and rural areas.

Although they have scheduled pickup times for clients, volunteers will always accommodate their clients' needs. This is particularly impressive as they are completely run by volunteers. Both are feeding an average of 50 – 70 families every week and noticing a clear increase in their numbers. Any monetary donations are used to fill in food gaps in their donation program.

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Theme: HOPE AND PEACE IN TODAY'S WORLD

The Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women Annual General Meeting was held by Zoom to allow for easier access for women throughout the Diocese. We also continue to encourage Women's Gatherings for Fun and Fellowship being held in person in various parts of the Diocese during the year. This year the Annual Meeting was held on Saturday April 20. Approximately 40 participants were welcomed into our Zoom room for the Meeting.

The meeting began with a warm welcome from our President, Enid Corbett ODT, the reading of the Indigenous Declaration representing our Diocese, the singing of the Hymn "This is the Day" and the Toronto Diocesan ACW Prayer.

Greetings were brought by Bishop Andrew Asbil on behalf of the College of Bishops. We welcomed our guests and received greetings from: Kate O'Quinn, president of the Catholic Women's League of Toronto, Savitri Rose, secretary of the Women's Inter-Church Council Toronto. Past Presidents of Diocesan ACW, June Dyer, Marion Saunders and Anita Gittens ODT were welcomed.

The business meeting opened with a devotion by our chaplain, the Rev'd Canon Joan Cavanaugh, followed by opening remarks on our theme "Hope and Peace in Today's World". The minutes of the 2023 AGM were presented and accepted. June Dyer presented the Nominations report which was displayed on-line. We welcomed Janice Hodgson ODT as our new President. The Board of Directors and members of the Finance Committee were installed by Bishop Andrew. Sandra McPhail, our treasurer, presented the 2023 financial reports, referring to the figures printed in the on-line Annual Report and shown on the Zoom screens. The review engagement statements were accepted and the 2024 budget was presented. Special Guest the Rev'd Virginia Gabriel shared with us her appreciation for receiving our Lay Ministry Bursary. Special Guest Jim Harris, CEO of New Path Youth and Counselling Services shared how our Special Project money has helped youth in our Diocese.

Sandra McPhail presented the Special Projects report, giving an overview of the 2023 recipient organizations. The theme for Special Projects for 2024/25 is "Food Insecurity". Marlene Gardiner read the names of the many members whose names were inscribed in the Diocesan Anglican Church Women's Memorial Book in 2023.

Words of appreciation were expressed to the Board for their support during the past year. Special thank you's were extended to Sandy McPhail, our treasurer (working mostly from Nova Scotia), June Dyer who cheerfully works behind the scenes putting together the newsletter, Rev'd Canon Joan Cavanaugh Clark, our Chaplain, Judy Beal, our Office Administrator, and Cheryl Gallagher who acted as co-host manager for the meeting.

We were privileged to hear from our guest speakers representing the Stephen Lewis Foundation, Miambi Martin-John, Director of Development and Ida Mukuka, Special Advisor, Grandmothers to Grandmothers. The question and answer format gave us much information about the foundation's work in Africa, honouring the impact grandmothers have had in fighting the challenges created by HIV AIDS.

Our meeting closed with the hymn "Let There Be Peace on Earth", a prayer from our Chaplain and a blessing from our Bishop.

Ecclesiastical Needleworkers

These are pictures of work being done to repair and restore a superfrontal for St Martin-in-the-Fields. The embroidery has been removed from the original worn fabric. In the first picture the worn embroidery is being repaired and restored. In the next picture larger sections are being worked-on on a large frame. In the last picture some repaired elements are positioned on the new fabric for the superfrontal. The new fabric will then be placed in a larger frame and each piece of the design stitched down to match the original, and then the superfrontal will be put together and returned to St Martin's. We can be reached at the ACW office (416-363-0018). Leave a message for the Needleworkers.



ACW Deanery Day for Nottawasaga

Tuesday May 7, 2024 Host: Trinity Barrie

We were blessed with a beautiful warm spring day. Six churches were represented.

After a brief time of coffee and sharing news, Canon Simon Bell led us in a communion service. He encouraged us to do God's work, but not in some frantic way where our idea of success focuses on the numbers involved with our projects. That was a good message for many of us where numbers are small and many of the churches have women members who are older.

Each church presented a report of their activities and invitations to upcoming events. The common thread from the groups is their wish to support agencies in our communities and beyond as best possible. Enid Corbett (Past President, Toronto Diocesan ACW) spoke that all women within Anglican churches are Anglican Church Women. Specifically, she reminded us that the Chancel Guild were one of the four founding members. Mae Harasymiw, (Past President of Trinity Barrie ACW), spoke about her experiences serving in various churches including Trinity for over 35 years and also in the Diocese of Moosonee. She also served as Executive Vice President of the Toronto Diocesan ACW. It was Mae's suggestion that started Deanery gatherings in the local areas to make communication and fellowship easier.

After our business meeting, we enjoyed a lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches and sweets.

Louise Jones from Youth Haven Barrie spoke to us after lunch. Youth Haven will be tearing down their existing shelter home on Wellington St. East, Barrie. By fall 2024 they will have a new larger home able to accommodate 31 youth. Their shelter and transitional housing programs are for young people between 16 and 24. These youth are supported by counsellors and are expected to attend school or hold a job. Louise shared her passion for supporting youth experiencing homelessness. Our attendees were able to support her agency with a donation of \$465.

Christ Church Ivy – St. Jude's promised to host the 2025 Deanery day.

Faithfully submitted, Lana Johnson President ACW / Ladies Fellowship for Trinity Barrie.

2024 Special Project

YORK REGION FOOD NETWORK (YRFN)

In York Region, approximately 25,000 households experience food insecurity and only 25 percent of them, or 1 in 4, use emergency food services. York Region Food Network's dignified approach uses food to bring people together.

In 2022, we served:

5972 Good Food Boxes

7167 Breakfasts

9809 freshly prepared meals to community

538 staff led hours in community gardens

Good Food Boxes offers fresh, quality fruits and vegetables from local farmers purchased at wholesale pricing and passes that pricing along to the community on the third Wednesday of the month at various locations in the region. There is a Drop-in Breakfast service every Tuesday as well as Virtual and In Person Food Classes.

They also operate 2 allotment gardens and 3 collective community gardens in York Region. Allotment gardens provide community members with access to a 10 x 20 ft plot of land, offering a chance to grow food, form social networks and connect with the land. Collective Community gardens are designed to bring the community together by sharing the work and sharing the harvest.

YRFN provides support to community agencies and local schools in starting breakfast, snack and/or lunch programs for children and youth. Over the years, YRFN has helped 14 schools set up programs. YRFN is also a partner with the York Region Food for Learning Group.

These are just a few of the many offerings of the York Region Food Network, and we are glad to be able to support them with donations of \$500.00 for the next two years .



WOMEN'S GATHERING

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2024

10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

FOR

FUN & FELLOWSHIP

AT

CHRIST CHURCH ANGLICAN CHURCH STOUFFVILLE

254 Sunset Blvd, Stouffville, ON

www.stouffvilleanglican.ca

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Ida Morra-Caruso, MORRA CARUSO LAW
“Women & The Law”

Cost: \$10.00 (includes supplies for a garden craft to take home)

Coffee and tea available on arrival

Bring your own bag lunch (dessert and beverages provided)

Please note that we are a nut-free facility

Please register at admin@stouffvilleanglican.ca

For more information telephone 416-363-0018

or email: acw@toronto.anglican.ca

2024 June Callwood Outstanding Achievement Award for Voluntarism

Marion Saunders, Newcastle (President of Toronto Diocesan Anglican Church Women, 2004-2008)

As Chair of the Board for Lakeridge Health, Marion led the transition of Durham Region hospitals into a single corporation to better serve the community. As President of the Auxiliary, she leads 300 volunteers dedicated to improving care. With the Canadian Forces Chapel Guild, Marion supported the families of armed forces personnel. She also serves as a Lay Minister with the Anglican Church. Marion has developed a certification process for Volunteer Administrators, strengthening voluntarism in Ontario.