

Crosstalk

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF OTTAWA | SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL | SEPTEMBER 2024

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED



Parishioners from St. John the Evangelist in Ottawa spent National Indigenous Peoples' Day in June on a Medicine Walk at Mud Lake led by Louella Tobias, a Cultural Grandmother and Keeper of the Delaware Nation, who shared teachings about plants and animals. It was organized by St. John's Indigenous Engagement Coordinator Kimberly Johnson of the Cherokee Nation.



Seniors' affordable housing project approved for \$9.5 million

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

Plans to more than double the capacity of Ellwood House, the affordable housing residence for seniors in Alta Vista, have moved forward with the approvals of \$9.5 million in capital funding, a site plan and rezoning applications.

"Ellwood House is thrilled at the success of its funding request through the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's Housing Accelerator Fund," Janice Horton, chair of the Ellwood board says. "This will be a significant contribution to the project, which will also require mortgage funding and a capital campaign."

She says the funding allows Ellwood to work with partners, St. Thomas the Apostle parish, the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and the City of Ottawa, in completing the project to deliver 38 more affordable housing units for seniors.

Before the \$9.5 million can be accessed the board must:

- negotiate a long-term lease with St. Thomas the Apostle and the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, owners of the land;
- complete architectural drawings as required to get a building permit; and
- apply for the building permit.

While the outcome isn't in doubt, negotiating the lease is the top priority because it is a condition

for getting CMHC funding. And when it's obtained the lease has to be approved by the City – and it all takes time.

The Rev. Tim Kehoe, rector of St. Thomas, says the parish is in "full bore" negotiations with Ellwood's executive board and representatives of the diocese. The agreed lease terms will go to a parish town hall to be followed by a special vestry council meeting, both expected in October. The next step will be approval by the Diocese's property and finance committee.

The board has hired Turner & Townsend, a project management firm specializing in affordable seniors housing. Horton says the

firm "has a deep understanding of capital programs and will apply this expertise to finding the best value for money and highest quality for the realization of the Ellwood House Extension."

Greg Stallard, the senior project manager, is working with the Ellwood board to compile the cost of pre-development work and to secure funding. There will be legal fees to finalize the lease. Architectural drawings must be 80 per cent completed – up from 30 per cent at present – to apply for a building permit. The permit itself comes with a fee.

► Alta Vista project, p. 4

FROM OUR BISHOP

Encountering the rock of our faith

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



BY THE RIGHT REVEREND SHANE PARKER

In a gently rounded bay on the northwest shore of the Lake of Galilee is a place called Tabgah. There, nestled close to the water, is the “Church of the Primacy of Saint Peter” where pilgrims remember the risen Christ calling the disciples to join him for breakfast.

After they had eaten together, Jesus asked Peter, three troubling times, if he loved him. Some people say the three questions are in counterpoint to Peter’s three-fold denial of Jesus before he was crucified. Others say the reason Jesus asked the question three times is because Peter did not understand the first two questions—when Jesus asked, “Do you love me with the same other-serving, self-denying, sacrificial love I have shown?” and Peter responded, “I love you with familial, fraternal love.” The third time, Jesus asked, “Do you love me with familial, fraternal love?” and Peter said, in his anguish and

confusion “Yes, that is how I love you.”

In any event, Jesus’ questions gently reminded Peter that he was a less than perfect disciple (because there are no perfect disciples), and restored him as “the rock” upon which the Church would be built. Jesus also tells Peter that his life, as chief among the followers of Jesus, would henceforth be one where he will be led where he does not wish to go.

The Church of the Primacy of Peter is built on rock, and a large swath of the floor, extending up to the altar, is exposed limestone—which is less a tribute to Peter than a memorial of the place where Jesus served breakfast to his disciples (it is called Mensa Christi or the table of Christ). It is a visual reminder of the strong love and indestructible hope of the risen Christ—the true rock upon which our faith is founded.

In July, I took a time of “sabbath rest” to step back after four years of intense episcopal ministry and refresh my spirit. Rather than slip away on a quiet retreat in some holy place, I chose to build a small addition to the home of one of my children (for me, a perfect way to cleanse the mind and awaken the body). My design called for a pier foundation, which meant digging two four-foot-deep holes to establish footings and forms for concrete posts.

My brother was on hand to assist with the foundations and framing of the addition, and we each took

on the hole-digging. Almost immediately, we encountered rocks, some almost a foot in diameter. About a third of the way down, I encountered what seemed to be a large rock, but when I tried to dig around it to find its edges, its enormous size became evident: it was a boulder that could not be moved. I stood on it, weighing my options, and realized that I needed to clear space around it and underneath it if I had any hope of having a concrete pier anywhere close to my original plan. After considerable effort and salty prayers, the mould for the footing and a hollow tube were put in place, the concrete was poured, and all was well.

It strikes me that while we can and must guide change in our personal lives and in our diocesan church in order to “proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ,” we are not without a solid foundation—and we can’t simply do whatever we want. The rock of our faith is the grace of the risen Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy



Sometimes our best plan gets changed.

Spirit. We acknowledge this and become more deeply aware of who we are called to be when we pray, alone and together, listening to words of scripture and the creeds and liturgies of our church, singing hymns, and sharing bread and wine at the table of Christ. The rock of our faith is solid and real.

The rock of our faith will not budge to suit our plans, but as we take time to explore its generous contours and let ourselves be led to places we might not otherwise wish to go, we can be secure in the knowledge that we have solid footings.

PERSPECTIVE
ADO online newspaper

SUBSCRIBE

Perspective is ADO’s new online newspaper.
Enjoy *Crosstalk* featured news and updates plus more – read it anytime and from anywhere in the world.

Don’t miss out **Sign up today!**
ottawa.anglican.ca/subscribe



Ottawa.Anglican.ca

Read ADO Perspective → ottawa.anglicannews.ca

CLERGY NEWS

The Rev. Canon Catherine Aschah has been appointed as Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, effective June 1, 2024.

Dr. John Gibaut retired on May 31, 2024. Announcing the news, Bishop Shane Parker described his career as “forty years of outstanding ministry as a priest, professor, theologian and ecumenist.”

The Rev. Tom Hubschmid has been appointed as the full-time Incumbent of the parishes of Holy Trinity Metcalfe and St. Mary’s Russell, effective Sept. 5, 2024.



The Rev. Maria Nightengale has been appointed Associate Incumbent of the Parish of St. Thomas the Apostle Ottawa, effective Oct. 1, 2024.



The Rev. R. Susan Smandych has been appointed Incumbent of the Parishes of Emmanuel Arnprior and St. Paul’s Renfrew, effective Sept. 5, 2024.



Diocese celebrates ordination of two new deacons

PHOTO: DOUG MORRIS

Two new deacons, the Rev. Liana Gallant and the Rev. Karen McBride, were ordained at Christ Church Cathedral in Ottawa on May 26.

The Rev. Canon Ken Davis offered the sermon that he began with an unexpected pause of silence, a reminder “that all faithful ministry begins by waiting on God.” He noted that such waiting is intentional in Anglican worship. In the “arrangement of the elements in every sacramental liturgy we offer, God always speaks first. Prayer, maybe ordination, and Eucharistic sharing and sending out into the world only happens after we have waited on God, listened for a word, and then only then do we respond and act.”

Although the silence was only 30 seconds, he noted that it likely seemed much longer in a society where silences generally are uncomfortable and filled as quickly as possible. Taking time to pause for quiet reflection is counter to the pressure to do everything faster, he said. “Some things need to be done fast, of course they do, but there is a kind of tyranny of fast in so many other aspects of our lives. And so, in reaction to this, we get things called slow movements, the slow food movement, the slow art movement, the slow music movement.”

But long before those movements were movements, there was a slow teacher offering an example of it in popular culture, Davis said. The Rev. Fred Rogers, a graduate of the Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, “was careful and gentle and thorough with everything he did. And he did something unique in his time on television as many of us or our children might remember fondly.... He would stop ...and he would listen, and he would give space for his listeners to answer his questions. Fred said in an interview once, ‘I don’t think we give that gift anymore, the gift of silence. He was afraid that we were more interested in information than in wonder, and in noise rather than in silence.’” Davis suggested that everyone could benefit from a bit more of Rogers’ “attentiveness, his sincere affirmations of others, and his quiet vulnerability.”

Davis added that the first line of the reading from Paul’s letter to the Corinthians that day: “Look at what is before your eyes,” goes with the notion of slowness or of letting God speak first. And he observed that both deacons being ordained would have done a lot of listening and waiting to hear what God’s spirit was saying as they discerned their calls to ministry.

He explained that Gallant is a vocational deacon, “called and equipped, nurtured and affirmed to be set apart as a model servant



Processing out of Christ Church Cathedral, the Rev. Jarret Carty (front), newly ordained deacons the Rev. Karen McBride (left) and the Rev. Liana Gallant (right) with Bishop Shane Parker.

leader, set apart to herald and then find ways to help the whole church meet the needs of others in the world.”

In the Rev. Karen McBride, a transitional deacon, he said, “God is about to bless this church with a faith-filled, accomplished, loving, and inspiring new deacon ... on her way to continue growing into God’s call to serve us as a presbyter or a priest among us, God willing.”

Both kinds of deacons are servants of the Word, and “both Liana and Karen ... will be living proclamations of the good news of our Lord Jesus, who came not to be served, but to serve and give his life for healing and wholeness of life for the whole world.”

Davis concluded with an excerpt of the poem *Continue* by Maya Angelou.

My wish for you
Is that you continue
Continue
To be who and how you are
To astonish a mean world
With your acts of kindness.
Continue
To allow humor to lighten
the burden of your tender heart.
Continue
In a society dark with cruelty
To let the people hear the
grandeur
Of God in the peals of your
laughter.
Continue
To let your eloquence

Elevate the people to heights
They had only imagined.
Continue
To remind the people that
Each is as good as the other
And that no one is beneath nor
above you. ...
Continue
To dare to love deeply and risk
everything for the good thing.
Continue
To float happily in the sea of
infinite substance
Which set aside riches for you
before you had a name.
Continue.
And by doing so,
You and your work
Will be able to continue
Eternally.

The Rev. Liana Gallant told *Crosstalk* she felt called to a life of service from her youth when she was deciding whether to study nursing or social work. She chose nursing and says that over the years both career and volunteer opportunities opened pathways that further developed that initial call. “This was especially so in my awareness of a desire to serve people who often experience illness, poverty, loneliness and marginalization within today’s busy society.”

With time, she said, her sense of vocation became led her to investigate becoming an Anglican deacon. “In simplest terms, the role of the deacon is to have “one foot in the church and one foot in the

world” — and this is clearly where my heart lies.”

She is currently involved in a new initiative to provide hospice care in the Perth and Smiths Falls area as a member of the board of directors of The Hospice Hub. Ordination brings with it new responsibilities, new relationships and new paths. Most especially it brings a new and deep grace, a fresh outpouring of God’s Holy Spirit, for which I am immensely grateful,” she said. “It’s with a profound joy that I look forward to what lies ahead of me, in my own life and in the lives of those whom I will love and serve as an Anglican deacon.”

Prior to pursuing her call to ordained ministry, the Rev. Karen McBride held senior roles in national education associations, working with universities, colleges and school boards across Canada. She was also very active in lay ministry in the last decade at her home parish of Christ Church Cathedral, notably as “lead parent” for the Cathedral Girls’ Choir for seven years and as a member of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa’s Refugee Ministry Management Board. With degrees in history and international affairs, Karen is now completing a Master of Divinity degree at Saint Paul University.

She says she feels “blessed and enthusiastic to begin ordained ministry, at a time of great vibrancy in the diocese and to continue to share the good news of God’s love for all in this new capacity.”

Persistence pays off for Perth affordable housing project

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

Lanark County has approved the affordable housing project in Perth, led by St. James the Apostle church, along with a forgivable loan of \$2.5 million.

The decision means that after more than three years spent enlisting support within the community and the town and county councils there is a realistic hope of getting shovels in the ground by year's end.

St. James has played a leadership role in Community Housing Initiative Perth (CHIP) the organization that successfully lobbied the town council to transfer town land at 63 Halton St. The council approved the transfer to Carebridge Community Support for one dollar in April, allowing Carebridge to respond to Lanark's Request for Proposals for capital funding. The Carebridge – CHIP proposal won over three other applications.

CHIP is embarking on a \$300,000 fundraising campaign. The Rev. Canon Kenneth Davis, rector of St James and co-chair of CHIP, says the first contribution will be \$10,000 from St. James. The funds come from a portion of the sale



of St. Augustine's chapel on the Franktown Road which the Diocese allowed St. James to retain. The amount happens to be equal to the seed money provided by the Diocese to St. James to help get the project started.

Canon Davis has encouraged anyone in the congregation who wishes, to make a donation to St. James and it will be added to the \$10,000.

He has also challenged all churches in Perth to match St. James's donation. "I'd like us as Christians in town to aim for at least a third of the \$300,000 goal."

Carebridge Community Support, as owner and developer, (with the Saumure Group as contractor), has offered to match CHIP's fundraising from its own equity, effectively doubling the total. CHIP's fundraising co-chairs Claire Smith and Linda Chaim are optimistic about finding another matching donor.

The approved project is for 15 units, seven designated for rent-geared-to-income tenants (to pay no more than one third of household income), the remaining eight at rates well below market rents (\$720 a month for a single bedroom apartment and \$895 for two bedrooms). Tenants will come from Lanark County's wait list of about 450, half from Perth.

CHIP plans to host two meetings this fall to address concerns of neighbours. Town officials will be invited to attend. The first meeting, likely in late September, will be to hear any recommendations and concerns. Detailed building design and plans will be introduced in a second meeting about a month later.

Canon Davis says neighbours are divided, some enthusiastically in support. "There are still some NIMBY people (not in my back yard) — no question." He puts some of the concerns down to poor communications with the town over several years.

Concern that the project may be enlarged in future will be allayed by a firm undertaking that it will not be. The site will be 40 feet from the nearest private property and adjacent green space will not

be encroached. Recognizing that tenants may not have experience living in a new home, a team of trained volunteers with lived experience be available to help them. The model will be a team of volunteers that St. James organized to help settle Syrian refugees.

"We have to work with the town's poison pill (unique in our county) of not waiving taxes and development fees," Canon Davis says. Considering taxes over 20 years, he estimates, this is adding close to a \$1 million to the total cost. The cost, set at about \$3 million, will now be more than \$4 million.

"Our town wants to profit financially from an affordable housing project...on a piece of property from which it has never received a dime of taxes," he says. "It's town-owned land that used to be a public works site."

Lanark County on the other hand has waived its share of the taxes, providing an annual operating grant equal to the taxes to Carebridge.

Carebridge already has 221 units in the county, including the 34 in the Smiths Falls project supported by St. John the Evangelist, providing a mix of rent-geared-to-income, affordable and market units.

► Alta Vista project, from p. 1

The goal is to file for a building permit by November. Allowing for a month that is required for the City to review the application and given that the City is strongly supportive of the project, the building permit may well be issued by year's end.

The \$9.5 million is part of \$176.3 million allocated by the CMHC Housing Accelerator Fund to the City of Ottawa. The fund is designed to provide incentives

to municipalities to encourage local initiatives such as Ellwood that remove barriers to affordable housing.

The board expects to mount a capital fundraising campaign to complete the financing. But until all government subsidies are in place it's impossible to establish a realistic goal.

The extension will be located on the site of the former rectory which has been rented out for

many years. The tenants have been kept informed as the project has progressed. The parish is providing them with information to assist them in their search for new accommodation before the end of the calendar year.

The project builds on 35 years of successfully providing safe, affordable housing for seniors in Alta Vista. The common areas of existing Ellwood House will be renovated to accommodate more tenants.

Two lots, with separate buildings and services, will be integrated into one campus with expanded utility services, more parking, more trees, landscaping and a new drop-off area for Ellwood House.

Sixty per cent of the apartments will be earmarked for tenants listed on the City's housing registry and the remaining 40 per cent will be available for online applications subject to approval by Ellwood's housing manager.



Crosstalk

A publication of the
Anglican Diocese of Ottawa
www.ottawa.anglican.ca

The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker
Bishop of Ottawa
Publisher

Leigh Anne Williams
Editor

Jane Waterston
Production

Crosstalk is published 10 times a year (September to June) and mailed as a section of the *Anglican Journal*. It is printed and mailed by Webnews Printing Inc., North York.

Crosstalk is a member of the Canadian Christian Communicators Association and the Anglican Editors Association.

Subscriptions

For new or changed subscriptions, please contact your parish administrator or visit: www.anglicanjournal.com
Suggested annual donation: \$25

Advertising

Crosstalk welcomes advertising from parishes, agencies and enterprises wanting to support our mission and reach our readers. Publication does not

imply endorsement by the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa (ADO) or any of its principals, and *Crosstalk* reserves the right to decline advertisements.

Advertising enquiries should be directed to: advertising@ottawa.anglican.ca

Submit a story

Editorial enquiries and letters to the editor should be directed to: crosstalk@ottawa.anglican.ca

Leigh Anne Williams,
Crosstalk
71 Bronson Ave.
Ottawa, Ontario K1R 6G6
613 232-7124

Please contact the editor for submission deadlines.



Crosstalk acknowledges that we publish on traditional Anishinabeg Algonquin territory. We recognize the Algonquins as the customary keepers and defenders of the Ottawa River Watershed and its tributaries.

PARISH NEWS

New youth ministry for the diocese coming this fall

BY DEAN BETH BRETZLAFF

Gathered by our bishop, animated by our dean, and anchored by our cathedral, ADOy (Anglican Diocese of Ottawa Youth) represents a new expression of ministry, for, with, and by young people within the life of our diocesan church. ADOy will be rooted in the ministries of local parishes and congregations. Parish clergy will play a critical role as connectors, helping to draw together young people from all regions of our diocese, inviting them into an ever-deepening relationship with God and with each other.

Opportunities to gather young

people from across our diocese will be offered on a seasonal basis, in conjunction with the life and work of our parish ministries. The overarching aim of ADOy will be the building of meaningful and trusting relationships through experiential learning. The vision for ADOy is to intentionally cultivate spaces of safety and creativity in parishes across our diocese, where young people can explore and test their vocations, exercise leadership, grow in their baptismal faith, and—most importantly—have fun!

ADOy will be for young people ages 12 to 18, broadly speaking—recognizing that age is a spectrum



and that some participants in ADOy activities may be slightly younger or older. To ensure continuity, we will establish ADOy+ to enable and support those in their 20s to self-organize, connect, and gather. A resource hub and a knowledge network will also be developed for those providing ministry to young people.

Please mark your calendars for the ADOy Meet and Greet at Christ Church Cathedral on Saturday, Oct. 19th from 10 am to 2 pm. It will be a fun day of getting to know one another and our Cathedral. Watch our website and social media platforms for more details.

St. Albans' campus food program grows

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

This fall, St. Albans is continuing and expanding a pilot project it started last year at the University of Ottawa in response to food insecurity experienced by many university students. Last year, the parish began serving a meal once a month for students who do not have meal plans at their campus residence. This year, the plan is to serve a meal to the students twice a month, and St. Albans is looking for groups from other parishes, churches or faiths to partner in the project.

The Rev. Michael Garner began the project last winter after being dismayed by the number of students he met as a campus chaplain who could not afford adequate food and hearing that the campus food bank often ran out of food mid-week. He met with the head of residences for the university and learned that there are five buildings where students do not have meal plans and must provide their own food. Many of those students are in those residences because the meal plans are beyond their means. He suggested that St. Albans could host a meal for those students once a month and was pleased that the offer was welcomed.

With some funding from Open Table, an ecumenical project that St. Albans used to participate in with United and Presbyterian churches to host meals on campus before the pandemic, and a \$5,000 grant from the Anglican Foundation of Canada, St. Alban's hosted three meals at the Friel residence last winter.

Ironically, St. Albans is the only Anglican church in Ottawa that doesn't have a kitchen, and the Friel

PHOTOS: ANGLICAN FOUNDATION OF CANADA COMMUNICATIONS



The Rev. Michael Garner of St. Albans preparing to serve dinner at a University of Ottawa residence.



Homemade cookies ready to be enjoyed for dessert.

residence doesn't have one either, so parishioners did all the cooking in the homes (and one man brought a crock pot to his office to cook while he worked and then delivered it directly to the residence.) The meals were well-attended. About 150 students came to the first one, and the second time there were more than 200. There were some communication problems with the university for the third one, but there were still about 130 students

for that meal. The first one for this coming school year is planned for Sept. 11.

While providing a meal once or twice a month won't solve the problem of student hunger, it is a way of highlighting the problem, which is widespread through universities across the country. Garner has been involved with a working group focusing on the problem at the University of Ottawa campus. One of the things they are advocating on campus is a communal kitchen space for students for programming like cooking classes. Many students don't have the skills to shop or to know how to cook healthy, inexpensive meals. "Given all of the challenges right now around the cost of food, those are even more important," Garner said.

"The university asked us to continue the program, so we are going to do six meals this [school]

year, every second week. St. Albans is going to do three, and I'm trying to get church partners, both Anglican and non-Anglican, to do the other three," Garner says, adding that he is open to other faith groups who might want to participate as well. A Reform church is planning to do one meal.

This year, the Open Table fund provided \$12,000, half of which is being used to pay a student co-ordinator, and the other half will pay for food and supplies. The alumni association heard about the project and donated \$2,000 for equipment such as bain-maries to keep food hot while it is being served.

Garner says one of the goals this year is to build on the social aspect of the meals. Students in the residences without meal plans usually eat alone in their dorms. They have located bigger tables for this year and want to encourage the students to stay to talk with one another. The residence lead is also keen to make it a bit more of a social event to build up residence life. Garner added that he is encouraging St. Albans volunteers serving the meals to also talk with the students. "If there's nothing to do in that moment, grab some food and sit down and have a conversation with a student. There's so much information that loneliness is an epidemic in our society," he said.

Garner is also looking for ways to help other parishes and churches participate. "I think a lot of churches feel a diminished capacity," he said, encouraging them to get in touch with him if budgetary concerns are an obstacle. "I'll get you the groceries if you can cook," he said.

Gathering to support and strengthen Inuit ministry in Ottawa

PHOTOS: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Bishop Shane Parker brought parishioners from several parishes together in mid-June at St. Stephen's Church in Ottawa to talk about ways that Anglicans across the diocese could help to better serve the large and growing community of Inuit living in the city.

The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak, who grew up in Arctic Bay is associate incumbent in the parish of St. Margaret's Vanier, which has an Inuit congregation as well as a non-Inuit congregation. She conducts services, offers sermons and pastoral care in Inuktitut in the parish and beyond. Aided by simultaneous translation in Inuktitut, much of the discussion centred on how much the need for care and services there is in the Inuit community beyond the parish, needs that far exceed what one priest and current volunteers can provide, and how Anglicans in the rest of the diocese may learn from Inuit how to act in solidarity with them to make the changes they want to see happen.

There are thousands of Inuit living in Ottawa and the surrounding region. They travel or move to the South for a variety of reasons — to access specialized health care not available in the North and sometimes to accompany a family member in Ottawa for medical treatment, for educational and job opportunities, better housing, and a lower cost of living. Some are only here temporarily; others move to the city permanently.

Whatever brings them to the city, Canon Aigah said it is common for those arriving to feel lost in a big city and culture very different from their own. They may be unaware of services and Inuit organizations that can help them navigate this new experience.

Bishop Shane noted in his remarks that because of the Anglican Church's relationship to the Inuit in the North, many Inuit may look to the church for pastoral care, community, and support in Ottawa. Canon Aigah said that St. Margaret's Inuit congregation can be a source of comfort and cultural connection.

"It's so wonderful to be hearing the sermons in Inuktitut," St. Margaret's parishioner Jukeepa Hainnu said. She is an instructor at Nunavut Sivuniksavut, a two-year post-secondary program of Inuit Studies in Ottawa that will serve about 70 students coming from all over Nunavut in the coming year. Hainnu explained that there is a huge rate of language loss. Among the youth that come to Ottawa, she said only about five percent speak Inuktitut. "And it's very important that we have an Inuktitut church



(L to R) St. Margaret's parishioners Jukeepa Hainnu, Ame Qaqasiq and Jeannie Okalik.



(L): The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak lit a quilliq (oil lamp). (R): Deborah Tagurnaaq is Inuit advisor to Bishop Shane Parker.



The Rev. Colin McFarland, the Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak, translator Leonie Kunnuk, and Shirley Brathwaite.

to support our language... because it is our grounding in who we are. I think a lot of the youth lose their grounded image of themselves, and they have more problems because they don't really know who they are."

She added that at Nunavut Sivuniksavut, "We teach the history of Inuktitut, Inuit culture, and we see a big change in their attitude and way of understanding."

The Rev. Colin McFarland, incumbent priest at St. Margaret's, explained that the church is part of an ecosystem of Inuit organizations in the city, and anything that benefits St. Margaret's Inuit congregation benefits the whole ecosystem and vice versa.

Canon Aigah is a key figure in the Inuit community. She is often called upon to visit Inuit in hospital or to conduct funerals. On the day of the consultation, she had only had a few hours of sleep because just as she arrived home from a visit to the North, she received a phone call to go to an Inuk in hospital. This is especially challenging because she doesn't drive and relies on others to help her get to all the people and places she is asked to go to, she said.

Deborah Tagurnaaq, who is Inuit advisor to the bishop, works closely with Canon Aigah and expressed concern about the high level of demand for her time and pastoral care. As someone with an extensive history of work in the Inuit community and in reconciliation work, Deborah spoke about how hard hit the Inuit community has been by the pandemic and opioid

► Inuit ministry, to p. 7



Members of All Saints Westboro, St. Margaret's, St. Stephen's and St. Thomas the Apostle gathered on June 15 to discuss ways to serve the growing Inuit community in Ottawa.

► **Inuit ministry, from p. 6**

crisis in addition to other struggles such as addiction and violence. Inuit people go missing at an alarming rate, she said. Deborah has become the person Inuit people call on for help when they have lost a loved one in Ottawa and she explained that she has helped repatriate the bodies of 22 people who have died in Ottawa to their families in the North – a long, labour intensive process that can take weeks.

This is one of the many areas where support is needed, Deborah said. "I cannot do it alone. Aigah cannot do it alone. We need search and rescue. We need a one-stop place where Inuit from the Arctic can look for information and keep contact with the family members."

Dr. Vera Etches, medical officer for Ottawa Public Health, is also a St. Margaret's parishioner and participated in the consultation. She observed that there is great strength and leadership in the Inuit-

led organizations in Ottawa. "As the church is looking for direction, it is important to listen to people here but also to listen to what these organizations are saying." And affirming the dire situation Deborah spoke of, she said, "It is very important to hear about the mortality. It's the worst possible outcome, and it's disproportionate and very real. Community members have ideas for solutions, but these organizations don't have everything they need to implement solutions. I think that definitely includes housing...land to build housing and spiritual care."

Attempting to serve the large Inuit community in the city keeps St. Margaret's parishioners busy too. Bernie Delmaire explained that St. Margaret's has made attempts to offer spiritual care to Inuit who are staying at Larga Baffin while in Ottawa for medical treatments. He and his wife Dora used to help with worship services there that were once held weekly and then reduced

to monthly and ended during the pandemic. "There are 200 or more clients there at one time, and there is a real spiritual need that could be addressed if we could get on track to do regular visits there, but we most probably need support to get that going again."

Delmaire added that they also tried providing transportation from Larga Baffin to St. Margaret's, but the cost and distance from St. Margaret's proved to be too much for the parish. "There are, however, some volunteers from St. Margaret's that continue to pick up people from Larga Baffin to come to our church for Sunday services. It is really beautiful to have them there," he said. "There is a very similar need at Embassy West [which provides long-term care for Inuit seniors]. We never could provide the service to them as we did at Larga Baffin, but there is real need there as well. There is usually around 75, 80 elders there that would gladly receive services from the church."

McFarland reassured all who attended from All Saints Westboro, St. Margaret's, St. Stephen's and St. Thomas the Apostle parishes that the expectation for the consultation was not to find immediate solutions but to begin to listen and learn. "It's a humble, modest beginning....It can be a beginning of getting to know one another better," he said.

Bishop Shane added, "As we have benefited from translation this morning, we need to continue to ensure that we can hear and understand one another from the language of our hearts, speak in our own way and be heard and understood. We're not going to nail down solutions this morning.... But we have heard need. We have heard of goodness that is happening. We've heard challenges. And I think God the Holy Spirit will continue to help us to hear in our own ways as individuals and parish communities that are here, and certainly in terms of our diocesan church."

Walking for the Centretown food centre

Food insecurity in Ottawa continues to be a tough reality for many people. All community food banks have concerns with the increased number of people accessing their service and the dwindling supply of food available. The Centretown Community Food Centre (CCFC), located at 370 Catherine Street, is no exception. CCFC's purpose is to help their neighbours in need. For the past few months, more than 1500 people, including a large number of children, have been served by the Centre's friendly staff and volunteers.

Centretown Churches Social Action Committee (CCSAC) is a collective of 22 churches in downtown Ottawa. Since 1978, CCSAC's main project has been oversight of the CCFC. The new location for the Centre is accessible and a welcoming place for everyone.

CCSAC's main fundraising event is the annual Walk for the Centre. This year's Walk will be held on Sunday, Oct. 6. Arrive early (at 1 pm) to enjoy the festivities at the Jean Pigott Place at Ottawa City Hall. There will be terrific music from a Barbershop quartet and guest speakers including Ariel Troster,

city councillor for Somerset Ward. Pipers from the Sons of Scotland piper band will lead the walkers out the doors of City Hall as the official opening of Walk begins at 2 pm. The two to four km walk is along the picturesque Rideau Canal Western pathway from Confederation Park to the Pretoria Bridge.

Local businesses sponsor the walk with generous donations and prizes. We will be encouraging participants to submit photos for the photo contest, so keep your cameras and phones ready!

We ask for your support of this worthwhile and necessary fundraiser

PHOTO: PETER TOBIN



for the CCFC. Online donations can be made at

www.centretownchurches.org/walkathon Alternatively, donations can be made by cheque (made payable to CCSAC) at the registration desk on Oct. 6 or mailed directly to CCSAC at 507 Bank Street, Ottawa K2P 1Z5. Receipts will be issued for donations over \$20.

Looking forward to seeing you!

— Elizabeth Kent

Belong Ottawa at Centre 454: Getting by with help from friends

PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

In its 70th year, Belong Ottawa at Centre 454 has a long history of offering compassionate care to the most vulnerable people in the city, but now on the frontline of the opioid crisis, that care can be a matter of life and death on a daily basis.

Operating from the basement of St. Albans church in downtown Ottawa, program manager Dean Dewar says the small staff of the Anglican Community Ministry is seeing increased rates of overdose and reverses an average of one overdose every day. Centre 454 is not a safe consumption site, and no one is allowed to use drugs on the premises, but they help deal with the effects of the drugs people use elsewhere.

Staff at 454 communicate with other downtown agencies to try to keep up with the everchanging toxic substances the drugs are laced with and to warn people who use drugs what they might encounter.

People who come to Centre 454 often struggle with homelessness, poverty, mental illness and addictions. They can access washrooms, showers and computers. They can wash their clothes and get help navigating the health care and social support systems, find connection and community.

Dewar joined Belong Ottawa in March 2023 in the midst of the opioid crisis. One of his first priorities was to get more training for the staff and refine their protocol for dealing with overdoses. Centre 454 staff now carry Naloxone kits with them at all times, which can reverse the effects of overdose with opioids such as fentanyl. Sometimes the drugs are laced with other substances, such as rat poison.

Centre 454 also increased the minimum number of staff from five to six, so that if an overdose happens, they can have a team of three to help while still having staff to manage the rest of the centre and participants.

The staff monitor people they have revived with Naloxone to make sure they are okay as well as people showing signs that they might be close to overdose. "If they were on



Staff of Belong Ottawa at Centre 454 — (left to right) Jason, Kim, Aaron, Habib, Dean, Lori, Mimi, Emma, Jade, Danielle — gathered for a team photo in the courtyard on a summer morning.

the streets, someone would call 911 and they'd be brought to the hospital, just because they're so unwell and the police officer doesn't have the time to sit with them and make sure that they're okay." On a busy day, staff may monitor as many as 11 people.

The causes of the crisis aren't all clear, but there has been a confluence of factors. The pandemic increased isolation for those who were already on the margins. The lack of affordable and supportive housing is a big part of the problem. The people who use Centre 454 are mainly accessing emergency shelters. "We also have a good chunk of people who are outside of the shelters, so living rough in tents, on grates at night, or who just walk around at night and sleep here during the day," Dewar said. A small number are in rooming houses or couch surfing, and an even smaller number are housed. For those who receive money through the Ontario Disability Support Program, most of their payments go to covering rent,

leaving very little for anything else.

Belong Ottawa's executive director Rachel Robinson noted that the move in previous decades to close psychiatric hospitals in favour of housing people with serious mental illnesses in the community resulted in many people living on the streets. "At the time, everyone believed community care was the answer," she said, acknowledging that there were very serious problems with the hospitals. Unfortunately, it is very expensive to give people the support they need in the community and in many cases, it doesn't happen, she said. "Many people ... don't have the capacity to live independently, and there's a shortage of supportive housing ... so we've got a crisis downtown of ... 200 people every night sleeping outside now."

Meeting needs

These are complex problems with no easy fixes, so Centre 454, open seven days a week, copes and cares for the people they serve in the best ways they can.

During the pandemic, 454 started providing a regular meal program, which it never had before, and now serves lunch to about 120 people a day. It is currently prepared at Belong Ottawa at The Well and is delivered to 454. Centre 454

began receiving increased food from the food bank during the pandemic, but when funding to the food bank was cut post-COVID, the amount of food distributed to day programs also had to be reduced.

Dewar is looking forward to the installation of new laundry machines. The old ones had been used all day, every day for about 10 years. The bathrooms and showers are also in high demand and show it. Small fixes like adding hooks for clothes and soap and shampoo dispensers add dignity to the experience, but Dewar hopes in the longer term to upgrade the bathrooms.

Another challenge is that the staff are not trained as health care workers, but their work can involve health care, mostly in the form of first aid. Collaboration and consultation with other agencies, such as the Sandy Hill and Somerset West Community Health Centres and Ottawa Inner City Health has helped 454 shape overdose protocols and deal with other health care challenges.

A nurse from the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre now visits Centre 454 weekly and does wound care, but even more importantly helps reconnect clients to health services, says Dewar.

Community relations

Not surprisingly, residents in the area have concerns. Among the neighbours, "there are fierce advocates for us, who love what we

GREAT WATERWAY HEARING

Locally Owned and Operated

Call for a FREE Hearing Test

Janica Roberts HIS Thomas Pilla HIS Debbie Boehm HIS

613 718 0708

Smiths Falls Clinic
1A Main St. E. Smiths Falls

613 704 2532

Brockville Clinic
163 U Ormond St. Brockville

613 209 0187

Morrisburg Clinic
133 Main St. Morrisburg

www.greatwaterwayhearing.com

PHOTO: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS



Belong Ottawa's Centre 454 location shares the building on King Edward Avenue with St. Albans Anglican Church.

St. Albans — the neighbour upstairs

Centre 454's closest neighbour is St. Albans Anglican Church. Having shared the building since 2012, co-habiting is part of the DNA of the parish, said the Rev. Michael Garner. He estimates that about two-thirds of parishioners don't live in the area and drive to attend St. Albans, so it is a conscious choice, he said. "For those people, it's a sense of call and a sense of purpose," he said.

About half of the 60 parishioners have taken training to be able to assess a person's condition and administer Naloxone if they encounter someone they suspect has overdosed.

Parishioner Moira Alie described working as a team when they were called to help a man at the end of a Sunday service a couple of years ago. "I grabbed the Naloxone kits that the church had, and I also had my own Naloxone kit..." she recalls. A couple of people had already started trying to resuscitate him with nasal sprays of Naloxone, but it wasn't working. "I just kept handing them more and more of the Naloxone... and at the same time I called 911 and was giving the information to the dispatcher. It was looking really bad. The man was turning blue and was clearly without oxygen, but the Naloxone kits weren't working. Every single one wasn't until the last one that they used. Finally, he came to and actually stood up right away." It's helpful that a large number of people at St. Albans who know [what to do] and can act, she said.

Of course, there are challenges, Garner said, but in his two years in the parish, they have worked closely with 454 and trust has grown. In late July, the whole south wall of the church was defaced with graffiti. The centre staff let him know and sent photos. "We decided that it was too much to be reasonably cleaned by parishioners and centre staff, so we hired the graffiti company. They came in and cleaned it up. It was all done within eight hours," he said. Both Centre 454 and the parish take a calm, proactive approach. "We're just going to roll with these things," he said.

The parish tries to champion Belong Ottawa and act as a bridge with the community.

Garner said it is important to realize what remarkable work the 454 staff does. "The Centre continues to rise to the challenge, but it's crazy that we have social support workers doing frontline [first aid for overdoses.]" He hopes the City will provide funding for a nurse. "The Centre is being asked to do more with the same [resources] and the complexity is getting higher and higher. That's really problematic."

He added that he is inspired by the compassion, love and care program manager Dean Dewar and executive director Rachel Robinson approach the people who come to Centre 454 with. "It's a lesson to me, I think it's a lesson to the congregation that we continue to learn."

do and are there to support us," said Dewar, but there are others who say there is an over-concentration of social services in the area and want service providers like Centre 454 to be moved elsewhere. Somewhere in the middle are people who have specific concerns that Centre 454 tries to address. If someone paints graffiti, the Centre cleans it off. A garden box in the courtyard of Centre 454 attracted rats, so they are removing it.

With help from the Sandy Hill Community Liaison Committee and the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre, Centre 454 got a grant for a team of one staff member and participants to clean up litter in the neighbourhood every day between 2 pm and 4 pm. "It's just been phenomenal for community relations. Sometimes people offer them some muffins and a drink. Sometimes they just say thank you," said Dewar. It may not change everyone's view, but it helps to represent Centre 454 and its participants in a more positive light.

Belong Ottawa works closely with the Sandy Hill Community Health Centre and other community groups to liaise with neighbours, agencies and elected officials alike. They try to communicate that closing Centre 454 would not make the opioid crisis downtown go away and without the supports it provides to people, the situation would be more difficult. They hope to build support for the idea working together, it is possible to make a significant impact on the lives of those in need and contribute to the health and vitality of the community.

Making a difference

Dewar spoke about the rewarding

moments of seeing the difference they can make in people's lives. He recounted getting to know a man who confided that during the pandemic, he lost his business and then started gambling. When he knew he was going to be evicted, he took the last money out of his account, bought camping supplies and moved into some bush in the area. "He came to our services for the meals and the laundry and showers." When asked if he was interested in work, he said, "Yes, but I just can't find it. It looks bad when you are homeless." Staff connected him with an employment help centre that helped him get a job at a restaurant. "He would come to the centre during the day and freshen up. We gave him a locker to store his belongings in, and then he would go to his job more presentable. ... After his job, he'd go home to his tent, and we'd start the whole thing the next day. That worked so well that he got housing and a new job. He comes and volunteers every Wednesday just to say thank you."

They have also helped people reconnect with their families and sometimes return home. "We've gotten some really great feedback from their families," Dewar said.

When he asks staff what they think Centre 454's greatest strength is they always say it is the rapport they build with participants. And when he asks them what keeps them coming to work every day, "Every single person has said the people. They tell different anecdotes of the participants. Sometimes it's making someone laugh, sometimes it's just being there with a person who's not having a good day and being able to be their cheerleader a little bit."

Journeying as Allies

Join us to read and discuss books by Indigenous authors. All welcome!

October 6, 2024

Braiding Sweetgrass for Young Adults by Robin Wall Kimmerer and Monique Gray Smith

November 17, 2024

Becoming a Matriarch by Helen Knott

February 23, 2025

The Berry Pickers by Amanda Peters

Zoom discussion

March 30, 2025

Eagle Drums by Nasugraq Rainey Hopson

Meeting times are 2pm-4pm at Julian of Norwich Anglican Church, 7 Rossland Avenue (at Merivale Road).

Join our mailing list to receive updates before the book discussions.

Contact All My Relations: allmyrelations@ottawa.anglican.ca

Those who would like to help advance Belong Ottawa's mission can provide support and donate at belongottawa.ca/you-can-help

Walking, praying and advocating for peace in the Holy Land

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS AND
DEBBIE GRISDALE

PHOTO: DEBBIE GRISDALE

Christians and church leaders from several denominations came together in Ottawa on May 22 to call for a ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war and for a just peace. They took part in a pilgrimage walk and vigil at Parliament Hill led by the ecumenical social justice coalition KAIROS. Afterwards, the church leaders delivered their message at a press conference and in meetings with Members of Parliament.

In the morning, more than 150 people gathered at Minto Park where United Church minister the Rev. Theresa Burnett-Cole of Glebe-St James offered a prayer. After a land acknowledgement, those gathered were invited to follow the Indigenous participants, Palestinians and leaders from the Anglican, Lutheran, Mennonite, Antiochian Orthodox, Presbyterian and United churches as they walked up Elgin Street toward Parliament Hill. The Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage is an international initiative that encourages people to walk the length of Gaza, about 41 kilometres, in prayerful solidarity with people there who are trapped in catastrophic conditions of war and famine. KAIROS staff reported that 150 Christian congregations have participated in Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimages across Canada, collectively walking about 10,000 kilometres. Those walking to the vigil in Ottawa carried banners, kites, peace doves and photos of groups from across Canada who had participated in pilgrimages.

Vigil at Parliament Hill

When they arrived at Parliament Hill, Leah Reesor-Keller, interim executive director of KAIROS Canada, moderated the vigil.

The first speaker was Rula Odeh, chair of the board of Canadian Friends of Sabeel and a Canadian-Palestinian Christian. "Palestinian Christians have been a continuous presence in the Holy Land for over 2000 years, and we as Christians and churches cannot give up on our brothers and sisters from the cradle of Christianity," she said. "They need us to amplify their voice in our churches and ecumenical initiatives. They need us to be there for them with bolder, stronger and faster actions." Later in the vigil, some of her family members led the crowd in singing the hymn 'Dona Nobis Pacem,' which Odeh explained was a favourite song of her 90-year-old Anglican father who was displaced from his home in 1948.

Bishop Andrew Asbil of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto represented the Anglican Church



The Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage walk led to a vigil at Parliament Hill on May 22.

of Canada, reading a statement from Archbishop Linda Nicholls, who was unable to attend. "My heart breaks with the pain of the unrelenting tragedies unfolding across the land of the Holy One as no end is yet in sight," she wrote. "The bombardment of Gaza and the destruction of Hamas will not bring peace. The attacks on Israeli settlements will not bring peace." She echoed what Pope Francis said in a recent meeting with Anglican archbishops. "Wars are always, always, always defeat."

"The initial horror of the attack on Oct. 7 has been added to by the unceasing attacks on Gaza that have killed so many women and children, given licence to increased violence in the West Bank and utterly destroyed the infrastructure of Gaza. Listening to the news every morning—the rising death toll, the agony of families of hostages, the attacks on hospitals leaving little or no medical aid, the deaths of humanitarian workers, and the inability to find ways to bring humanitarian aid to those most in need leaves us in a permanent state of keening lament at human evil."

Perhaps looking ahead to the church leaders' meetings with government officials later that day, she added, "We must demand more from our government to do what it can to add its voice to that of international bodies for justice and peace, and to use its economic and political influence wherever possible. To do nothing is to be complicit."

Thanking all who gathered that day, she concluded her letter: "The Anglican Church of Canada stands with all who are seeking an end to the violence, a permanent ceasefire, immediate provision of humanitarian aid, an end to

all exports of arms to Israel and intermediaries, the release of all hostages, and a return to discussions that will lead to justice, recognizing the continuing need to address the illegal occupation of Palestinian lands and the need for peace that will lead to the thriving all who live in Israel, Gaza, and the West Bank."

The Rev. Ian Ross-McDonald, general secretary of the Presbyterian Church's Life and Mission Agency, had just returned with United Church clergy from a week of meetings with Palestinian Christians, church leaders, NGOs, United Nations agencies in the occupied territories of Palestine. "The people we met desperately want peace, and they look for ways that Palestinians and Israelis can live together in the land," he said.

"Palestinians also told us that they feel abandoned," he said. "After 76 years of isolation, hardship and betrayal, and the incremental loss of culture, communities, and lives, now we are witnessing the wholesale destruction, not just of the infrastructure, but of the population of Gaza, by trauma, transfer out of the area, and killing. Indiscriminate bombing, no warnings given to civilians before attacks, food and other aid is blocked from entering the area, and people are constantly forced to move.... Repeatedly, we heard that Palestinians described the ways that they are being treated as dehumanized."

And he relayed their difficult questions. "Where is the Church? Where is the Church's courage and integrity?" they asked, "Why is there little more than silence from so many of the Church's pulpits and public platforms?"

Ross-McDonald said the people they met repeatedly asked the

Church to name honestly and accurately the unvarnished reality of what is happening in Gaza and the West Bank. "Naming things as they are is difficult and uncomfortable work for the Church, but people of faith have the resources, they have the moral responsibility, and the holy vocation to do exactly that. ... Palestinian Christians would have the church engage in risky truth-telling, meaningful advocacy, and prophetic action and decisions. Or as the words in the Lutheran Church at Bethlehem put it, they're asking the churches to proclaim the gospel of liberation and to lift up a culture of life and of hope."

After the vigil, those in attendance were invited back to St John the Evangelist for refreshments and to watch the livestream of the press conference, which included Bishop Andrew Asbil; the Rev. Dr. J Dorcas Gordon, principal emerita of Knox College of the Presbyterian Church; the Rev. Susan Johnson, national bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada; the Rev. Douglas Klassen, executive minister of the Mennonite Church, Canada; the Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, moderator of the United Church of Canada; and Leah Reesor-Keller of KAIROS.

View from Jewish Federation of Ottawa

When contacted by Crosstalk, Jodi Green, spokesperson for the Jewish Federation of Ottawa, said that Jewish communities in Ottawa also want to see an enduring peace in the Middle East. She cautioned that any calls for action need to be bilateral and anything that "leans towards Israel having to take actions

► Gaza vigil, to p. 11

PHOTO: COURTESY MATTHEW PUDDISTER/ANGLICAN JOURNAL



The pilgrimage walk on Elgin Street.

that are not bilateral from the Palestinian side as well threatens the democracy and the safety and the security of Israelis.”

Green noted that any time there is conflict in the Middle East, there is a rise in antisemitism and hate crimes locally, and there has been a dramatic spike in crimes reported since October 2023. There was a bomb threat against a Jewish day school in November. As anecdotal examples of the hate experienced by individuals, Green said someone made a swastika in the snow at her home this winter, and a Grade 7

student in her synagogue’s youth group has been regularly taunted and called a Nazi Zionist at her school. People feel very unsafe and most Jewish institutions have increased security measures this year, Green said.

Advocacy efforts

Andrea Mann, director of global relations for the Anglican Church of Canada, was among the group of church leaders from the Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran, Society of Friends, Mennonite, Presbyterian and United churches who, along

with staff from Kairos Canada, met with 10 MPs (Liberal, Conservative, NDP and Green), including three parliamentary secretaries and members of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Development. Their goal was to communicate the calls from the Gaza pilgrimage directly to the parliamentarians.

She reported that there was a consensus among all those they met with that steps toward a sustained ceasefire and effective humanitarian aid are urgently needed now. There was also agreement that Canada has a role to play in working “toward just peace as a middle leader among states globally and a historic supporter of the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court and a defender of international law and international human rights.”

The church leaders affirmed the government’s resumption and increase of funding to the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees.

There was an acknowledgment that that Palestinian reunification program hasn’t worked well yet and needs to be reworked if it is to be effective in helping members of Palestinian Canadians’ families come to Canada. Mann said that it is also important to note that many people in Gaza would prefer to stay in the region because they want to return to Gaza.

Church leaders were told that

PHOTO: MATTHEW PUDDISTER/ ANGLICAN JOURNAL



Bishop Andrew Asbil read a letter from Archbishop Linda Nicholls.

the situation and experience of Palestinian Christians in Gaza, and the West Bank, and Israel are not well-known or reported in secular media, so “more information is needed about the context and needs of this very small faith minority in the midst of this situation.”

The church leaders also heard repeatedly that in the hyper-partisan situation on Parliament Hill, sustained pressure upon the government is needed to keep moving the needle. The leaders were encouraged to keep up their efforts and to remind people in their churches to go to their MPs’ offices as constituents and make their desires known for Canada’s role.



WARM UP AT AMICA THE GLEBE

If you or a loved one are concerned about spending the colder months at home, consider a winter stay at Amica The Glebe. Here, you won’t have to worry about the challenges that come with winter. Instead, you’ll enjoy the comfort and connection of a caring community of seniors, while staying in a private suite with access to premium amenities and professional, personalized care.

Who knows, you may just warm up to winter after all.

To learn more about a winter stay or to book a private tour, call LA or Luisa at 613-233-6363

AMICA

THE GLEBE

33 MONK STREET • AMICA.CA/THEGLEBE

Videos will help parishes prepare to thrive

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

PHOTO: THE VEN. CHRIS DUNN

If September puts you in a back-to-school mood with an urge to learn, the Parish Development sub-committee may have just the thing for you.

This fall, the first of a series of modules in the form of 30-minute videos will be posted on the diocesan website. Following up on resolutions passed at Synod 2023, the modules are designed to equip congregations with essential knowledge and skills needed to thrive and are core curriculum courses for parish councils, leaders and clergy.

The videos will address five key areas of parish development: parish governance, building healthy communities, visioning and priority-setting, effective stewardship, and engaging with the wider community.

The Rev. Dr. Jon Martin has been appointed the chair of the Parish Development subcommittee and was working on content for some of the modules over the summer. He explained that the first video will be an introduction to parish development and will provide an overview of the series. The next video will focus on building healthy communities.

During the Shape of Parish Ministry Consultations and at Synod, the part of the process



The Rev. Dr. Jon Martin

everyone has been most excited about is engaging with the wider community—contextual mission and new worshipping communities, he said. Martin promised that the module on that part will come, but the other videos and work will prepare parishes for that stage.

“As Bishop Shane and I have talked about, it's all well and good to reach out into the community ..but [if] you're inviting guests to the house to come and experience your way of life and your hospitality,

you've got to make sure your house is in order before the before the guests show up,” Martin said.

The module on building healthy communities will examine different aspects of what a healthy community looks like and how it works. It will ask how parishes can be welcoming and hospitable. Martin explained that most parishes are doing what works for the people who are already a part of that community. “What we're not always so good at when we enter a time of social and cultural shift ... is adapting to what are the new needs, the new cultural norms, [and finding] new ways of being welcoming and hospitable as culture changes.”

The video will include best practices from across a spectrum of different parish ministry settings—rural, urban, suburban, and things that people from those different contexts have said were really helpful for them.

“We're really hopeful that this will give parishes across the diocese who genuinely want to be healthy, who want to thrive, and who want to be well-situated to step into this new time in our church, the ability to do so,” Martin said.

He noted that to thrive doesn't necessarily always mean to grow. “Thriving can mean doing the ministry God has called you to do in ways that are life-giving and life-changing to both your congregation members and the community around you.”

Looking ahead to the modules that will follow, Martin mentioned that the one on governance will help the viewers understand how the diocese functions. “What is Synod? Diocesan Council? the Standing

Committees? the CBRs [Canons, Bylaws and Regulations]? How do those things work? They're also going to look at parish structures. What's corporation? Vestry? ... How does the church actually function?”

There will be a video on parish visioning and priority setting. “We no longer live in an age where a parish church can do ‘the all things for all people’ approach. You need to be really intentional about who you are, and what has God called you to do and be in this place,” Martin said. The module will help parishes discuss their priorities, how to address them and how to measure the results.

There will also be a module on parish stewardship. “It's quite surprising how few of the parishes in our diocese have an annual stewardship cycle, despite the fact that almost all of us are saying that a lack of financial resources is a big stressor,” said Martin. “And there are things that we know work to help fix that.” The video will offer advice on how to run a stewardship campaign, how to address resistance to stewardship and helpful resources.

And then, as promised, there will be a video on engaging with the wider community and contextual mission: “What does it mean? How do you do it? What's your process?”

Once all of the videos are produced and posted, they will be easy to access on the diocesan website. “They're going to be geared specifically for parish leadership and parish councils to watch together to hopefully implement,” he added.

At the end of each video, there will also be information about additional resources if a group wants to do a deeper dive into that topic.

66% of Canadian families haven't discussed their final wishes*

Choosing funeral and cemetery plans can be overwhelming to a grieving spouse. Plan the details now. Together.

Get started today. Scan the QR code to visit us online or call for a FREE 87 Decisions, Choices, and Things to Do™ brochure.

Kelly Funeral Homes
by Arbor Memorial

Carling 2313 Carling Ave. 613-828-2313	Orléans 2370 St. Joseph Blvd. 613-837-2370	Somerset 585 Somerset St. W. 613-235-6712
Kanata 580 Eagleson Rd. 613-591-6580	Barrhaven 3000 Woodroffe Ave. 613-823-4747	Walkley 1255 Walkley Rd. 613-731-1255

*Research conducted by Willful and Arbor Memorial Inc. in a 2020 survey.

Arbor Memorial Inc.

Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre
An Anglican Community Ministry

Individuals, Couples, & Family Life Transitions Personal Crisis Grief & Bereavement Stress & Depression

CONNECT WITH US

613-235-2516 connect@theopc.ca
209-211 Bronson Ave, Ottawa, ON K1R 6H5

New Website www.theopc.ca

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

St. John, Antrim Deanery of the Southwest

No Smoking Gun

BY GLENN J LOCKWOOD

We may well ponder what the good farmers of the Antrim vicinity were thinking when they began drawing timbers and other construction materials to build Saint John's Church in 1873. Were they pondering the great Carleton County fire that had passed through three years earlier, levelling all buildings in sight? Did they wonder if a comparable conflagration might reoccur and destroy the new house of worship they were embarking on building? Were they even thinking about what a proper Anglican church should look like?

Or, is it more likely that they focussed on the current need—a house of worship in their own vicinity that could be quickly built, yet be as up to date as the new Saint Paul's Church being mooted for Hazeldean? For some Anglicans in Carleton County from the very beginning of settlement had built their house of worship more enduringly of stone, fronted by a tower that proclaimed them an established church. A case in point was Saint Mary's Church, Pinhey's Point. For Anglicans of Antrim and Hazeldean, however, living as they did in the shadow of one of the largest concentrations of sawmills and planing mills in North America at the Chaudière Falls, they chose to build entirely in frame in a style that came to be known as 'carpenter



DIOCESAN ARCHIVES 51 SAUNDERS FONDS ANTRIM

gothic.'

The name of Antrim seemingly suggested settlers who had come from the county of that name in northern Ireland. But names can be misleading. Most, if not all, of the Anglican families intent on building Saint John's Church came from southeastern Ireland and had been resident in the vicinity for two generations before they began putting up the walls of this house of worship.

The choice of name for this church—Saint John's—was typical of their conservative inclinations, being one of only five or six names that most early Anglicans chose their

church name from: All Saints, Christ Church, Saint James, Saint John, Saint Paul, and maybe in doubtful cases, Saint Thomas.

How, then, given this evidence of their conservatism, do we explain the High Victorian Ecclesiastical Gothic Revival design of this house of worship, albeit one tamped down by the limitations of the frame medium. The truthful answer is that we do not know. No document, no smoking gun, can be found that conclusively states how and why this design was chosen. However, we have two theories to explain what probably happened.

First, Thomas Fuller—head

designer of parliament's Centre Block being built in Ottawa, designed and built a small stone Gothic Revival house of worship (All Saints, Westboro) in 1865 in the neighbourhood of Nepean Township in which he resided. If the novelty of that design was surprising for local farmers, they noted, approvingly, that it did not feature the expense of building a tower, hence removing one area of additional expense when building at Antrim.

There was the also the matter of a church being proposed for Hazeldean at the same time Antrim was contemplating its new house of worship. If Hazeldean was preparing to build in the new more modern Gothic Revival style, was Antrim willing to be left behind with an older style? Those who understand neighbourhood rivalries can anticipate the answer to that question. By some miracle, the frame Saint John's Church has survived for 150 years, whereas Saint Paul's, Hazeldean burned down in the 1930s.

The Diocesan Archives collects parish registers, vestry reports, service registers, minutes of groups and committees, financial documents, property records (including cemeteries and architectural plans), insurance policies, letters, pew bulletins, photographs, paintings, scrapbooks and parish newsletters.

Remembering the Very Rev. Roger Briggs (1936-2024)

The Very Rev. Roger Briggs, 87, a former Dean of the Diocese of the Arctic who helped establish and nurture the Inuit congregation at St. Margaret's Vanier, passed away on June 27, 2024, in Comox, B.C.

Born in Horsforth, West Yorkshire, England, in 1936, Briggs attended and graduated from the London College of Divinity. He felt a calling to the ministry in the Canadian Arctic where he and his wife Carole emigrated to live, raise their children and serve amongst the Inuit of Whapmagoostui, Que. (formerly Great Whale River), Churchill, Man., and Puvimtuq, Que. (formerly Povungnituk), from 1961 to 1973. From 1974 to 1978, he served as Rector at Holy Trinity in Yellowknife, NWT.

Along the way, Briggs learned to speak Inuktitut and his family writes that "the connection he felt with the Inuit became a vibrant thread of continuity throughout his life."

In Ottawa, while serving as a rector at All Saints Sandy Hill (Ottawa), he and a team of volunteers established

PHOTO PHILIPPE OWEN



a day hospice which later became the Hospice at Maycourt.

Briggs returned to the North in 1995 to serve as Dean of the Diocese of the Arctic and Rector of St. Jude's Cathedral Iqaluit before retiring in 2000.

In 2002, he was awarded Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Medal, given to Canadians who

made outstanding and exemplary contributions to their communities or to Canada as a whole.

Bishop Peter Coffin said Briggs played a significant role working with himself and the Rt. Rev. Andrew Atagotaaluk, Bishop of the Diocese of the Arctic, to establish the Inuit congregation at St. Margaret's Vanier. It is the only Inuit Anglican congregation outside of the North. Bishop Coffin said that Briggs was always there for us "when we needed help and encouragement to go along with the project. We couldn't have really done it without Roger," whose knowledge and experience of the Arctic, Inuit culture and Inuktitut were vital. He fondly remembered Briggs' forthright opinions and generosity of spirit.

The Rev. Canon Aigah Attagutsiak said Briggs was the first to ask her if she was interested in the ministry when she was a reader at St. Margaret's and encouraged her in her journey to becoming an ordained priest.

"When All Saints Sandy Hill merged with St. Margaret's Vanier in 2014, the

new arrivals were happy to find our former Incumbent Roger Briggs a key part of the community, mentoring the Rev. Aigah Attagutsiak and building the Inuit congregation," said St. Margaret's Warden Jane Waterston.

"When COVID sent us all to our corners, he set himself the task of writing and sharing a regular, weekly, 1500-word (!) biblical commentary called "Hidden treasure." He wrote more than 20 of them—challenging and comforting us with their depth and regularity. We came to know Roger's thoughts and opinions much better. He himself was a hidden treasure."

Briggs was predeceased by his wife Carole and is lovingly remembered by children, Rosemary (Jane), Mark (Mary) and Sara (Andre); grandsons, Luke, Mark and Matthew; sisters, Sue (Lynn) and Jayne; brother-in-law, Roger; and all their children and grandchildren.

The family welcomes donations to St. Margaret's Vanier in Roger's memory by e-transfer to office@stmargaretsvanier.ca
(With files from the Briggs family)

CLERGY REFLECTION

Listening for God's voice and following

BY THE REV. ROB DAVIS

When I was young, I worked for several summers on my Uncle George's farm. It was a dairy farm which meant that *every* morning we got up *far* too early, went out to the barnyard and opened the gate down to the back of the farm, and called the cows. Then we went to the barn, set up the milking equipment, opened the cow door, and the cows, which had come on up to be milked, came in and went to their stalls where we milked them.

The second summer I was there, my uncle and his family went on a one-week holiday down east, the first holiday he had taken in 30 years, and left me to look after the farm. So, the first day that they were away, I got up *far* too early, went out, opened the gate, called the cows and went into the barn to get ready. Then I opened the cow door and—no cows! Every morning that whole week I had to walk down to the pasture at the end of the farm and herd the cows up to be milked. Every morning! They didn't know my voice, so they didn't come when I called. Apparently, it works for cows as well as sheep. (*The sheep follow him for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow for they do not know the voice of strangers! John 10: 4-5*)

Which, perhaps, explains much of the news these days. There are many who don't know the voice of the Saviour, or even that there is a saviour or a voice to know. From the bad behaviour in our own country to the madness in Gaza and Ukraine, over and over, we hear the stories of people lost and wandering, people who are confused and afraid and angry. So many in our time have only ever heard the name of Jesus or God as a casual curse. I heard



The Reverend Rob Davis is a retired priest of the diocese.

once of a young child who was in church for the very first time. As the preacher spoke of our Lord the child turned to his mother and said, "Mummy, that man just used bad language, he said 'Jesus!' in front of everybody!"

How will people learn that they are not alone in this time, that there is one who is called Saviour because he saves? How will they see that there is one who walks beside them, who loves and cares for them every day of their lives? How will they learn to hear and recognize his voice, to trust and follow him, if not through us? But we, too often, look at ourselves and we see our weakness and think, "What can I do? The Apostles did signs and wonders, they healed people, raised people from the dead, and spoke with power and in different tongues! I can't do any of that!" We forget that we are working with God. We forget to look at God's strength and ability and instead look at ourselves, at our weakness and inability, and we freeze up. We must remember that "*We are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that*

we should walk in them." (Ephesians 2:10), and that we can be ready for those good works.

One of the most powerful examples of this that I have heard is a story American author, pastor and social activist Tony Campolo told of a time he visited Hawaii. Being from Philadelphia, the time difference had gotten to him, which is why he was wandering the streets of Honolulu at 3:30 am, looking for breakfast. Finally, he found a small diner open and ordered coffee and a donut. As he sat there, eight or nine prostitutes came in. They sat on either side of Tony, their talk was loud and crude, and he was just about to leave when he heard the woman beside him say that it was her birthday the next day. Her friend scoffed, "Your birthday! So, what do you want from me? You want me to throw you a birthday party?"

"Why do you have to be so mean? I was just telling you, that's all," the woman replied. "I've never had a birthday party in my life, why would I have one now!"

After they left, Tony asked the man behind the counter if those women came in every night. "The one sitting next to me, does she come in every night?"

"Yeah... That's Agnes, she comes in every night. Why do you want to know?"

"Because I heard her say that tomorrow is her birthday. What do you say we throw her a birthday party tomorrow night, right here?" Tony asked.

Harry, the owner, slowly smiled. "Hey, that's a great idea!" He called his wife out from the back, and they arranged that Tony would get decorations and Harry would make the cake.

At 2:30 the next morning, Tony was back with decorations. Apparently, word had gotten out and the place was crowded. At 3:30 am, Agnes and her friend came in and everybody yelled, "Happy Birthday!"

Agnes was flabbergasted and shaken. She cried as they sang Happy Birthday, and Harry brought out the cake. After she blew out the candles, Harry handed her a knife to cut the cake.

"Is it okay if I don't cut it just yet?" Agnes asked. "I just live a couple of doors down the street. Is it okay if I just take it home and show it to my mother? I'll be right back, honest."

"Sure, it's your cake." Harry said.

When the door closed behind her, there was a kind of stunned silence, so Tony suggested they pray. He prayed for Agnes, prayed that God would bless her. When he was done, Harry said, "Hey, what are you, some kind of preacher? What kind of church do you belong to?" Tony said that it was one of those moments when God gives you exactly the right words to say. Without missing a beat, he replied, "I belong to a church that throws birthday parties for prostitutes at 3:30 in the morning!"

"No, you don't! There's no church like that!" Harry said. "If there was, I'd join it; I'd join a church like that!"

Wouldn't we all! A sign and a wonder. An opportunity to show the love of Jesus to those who might never otherwise have heard or recognized his voice. If we keep our eyes open, we too will see the good works that God has prepared for us to perform and then, who knows what signs and wonders we and God together will do! More than we can ask or imagine; that, at least, we are promised! In Jesus name. Amen.

Secure Your Legacy

Transforming Lives for Generations to Come

Your enduring support can shape a brighter tomorrow for our church. By including your parish, an Anglican community ministry or the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa in your estate plans, you ensure that your offering will endure for years to come.

- **Convenient:** at any age, any amount - it costs you nothing during your lifetime
- **Easy setup:** a simple few sentences added to your will is all it takes; change anytime
- **Cost-effective:** with no current costs, your present income does not decrease
- **Tax benefits:** gifts are deductible, can reduce estate tax, income tax in year gift made

Your planned gift can be added to your will, or can be an outright gift of cash, property, gift of securities, or as a beneficiary of RRSP or RIF. Make a difference and join in building a legacy of compassion, helping people in need.

Continue your faithful contribution: Explore legacy giving opportunities today contact Sandra Hamway, director, communications and development at communications@ottawa.anglican.ca



CALENDAR

PHOTO: THE VEN. CHRIS DUNN



Sept. 14
Annual Diocesan Altar Guild Meeting
 9:45 am – 3 pm at St. Clare's Anglican Church, North Dundas (2530 Falcone Lane, Winchester)
 You can reserve lunch for your group by contacting Arlene Armstrong arlenearmstrong000@gmail.com or phoning 613-652-4739. The registration deadline is Sept. 9). Please let us know of any food allergies or sensitivities. Do plan to join us for a wonderful day of fun and fellowship.
 More Info:
<https://fb.me/e/8a6yR7v0H>

Sept. 16
Centre 105's Annual Breakfast Fundraiser
 8 am to 10 am at Centre 105 (105 Second St W, Cornwall)
 Come enjoy a traditional breakfast at Centre 105's annual fundraiser. Everyone is welcome and we encourage free will donations.

Sept. 28-29
St. Mark's 75th Anniversary Windup
 St. Mark's Anglican Church (1606 Fisher Ave., Ottawa)

Saturday, Sept. 28
 2 pm
 A concert in the church by Aged in Harmony, followed by refreshments in Bishop Reed Hall.

Sunday, Sept. 29
 10 am – 12 pm
 This will be the windup celebration of the anniversary. There will be a special 10 am church service, including confirmation, with Bishop Shane Parker in attendance and lunch in Bishop Reed Hall
 More Info:
<https://stmarksottawa.ca/2024/04/12/75th-anniversary-celebrations/>

Sept. 30
National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Oct. 5
Cornerstone Purple Tie Gala
 5:30 pm until 10 pm at The National Arts Centre (1 Elgin Street, Ottawa)
 You're invited to join us for a night to remember featuring a delicious 3-course sit-down meal prepared

by NAC executive chef Kenton Leier, live music, a thrilling live

and silent auction, a photobooth and more! For more information please visit our website: auctria.events/purpletiegala/, or contact Chris O'Gorman, acting director of development and communications. We look forward to sharing this dazzling evening with you!

Oct. 6
Walk for the Centre
 1 pm at Jean Pigott Place, Ottawa City Hall
 Walk for Centretown Community Food Centre (CCFC)
 (see article p. 7)

Nov. 2
All Saints' Westboro Village Fair/Bazaar
 9 am – 2 pm at All Saints' Westboro (347 Richmond Road, Ottawa)
 Crafts, knitting, used books, vintage collectibles, jams, preserves, baking, coffee and treats, a delicious lunch and more. The New-to-You shop will be open. Watch our website for updates: www.allsaintswestboro.com
 For more information: bazaar@allsaintswestboro.com

Church of St. Bartholomew, Annual Bazaar and Tea Room
 12 noon - 4 pm at Church of St. Bartholomew (125 MacKay Street, Ottawa)
 Enjoy our annual bazaar and tea room, supporting Belong Ottawa and Anglican Community Ministries.

The Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

Annual Altar Guild General Meeting

Saturday September 14, 2024

St. Clare's Anglican Church

2530 Falcone Lane, Winchester, Ontario

Please join us for a day of prayer and fellowship

9:45 am Registration & Coffee
 Fee: \$15 includes lunch (*payable at door*)

10:30am Eucharist celebration - *The Right Reverend Shane Parker*
(AG Meeting to follow)

12:00 Guest Speaker – *Henry Reinders* representing the Canadian Foodgrains Bank
(parish outreach program)

Pre-Registration Required : please contact Arlene Armstrong
arlenearmstrong000@gmail.com
 or 613-652-4739
 (please specify any food allergies or sensitivities)

Registration Deadline: Monday September 9, 2024

WE ARE BACK! THURSDAYS AT 10AM

UP-COMING ACTIVITIES

September 12	Welcome Back to CCC – reconnecting with Coffee & Conversation
September 19	<i>The Jock River Jazz Quartet!</i> a lively group of four musicians playing Dixieland jazz to kick off the Season
September 26	Creative Writing group and Bridge/Games – or Koffee Klatsch (Coffee & Conversation)
October 3	Bridge or casual Coffee & Conversation
October 10	<i>Jean-Francois Pinsonnault</i> – on Aging in YOUR Own Home a well-known speaker and author, former mediator and organizational consultant
October 17	Bridge or Coffee & Conversation
October 24	<i>Sean Devine</i> , Ward 9 (Knoxdale/Merivale) municipal councillor speaking on city affairs and municipal politics
October 31	<i>Hallowe'en Hijinks</i> – a CCC tradition with a costume contest and fun activities
November 7	Pre Remembrance Day Morning - remembering in song with <i>Aged in Harmony</i> the male choral group
November 14	Creative Writing group and Bridge/Games – or Koffee Klatsch
November 28	<i>"Show & Share" Part II</i> – CCCers Show off their talents & Share their hobbies, interests, and skills
December 5	Bridge & Games – or Koffee Klatsch
December 12	Creative Writing or Coffee & Conversation
December 19	<i>Christmas Joy</i> – with Joy Bowerman on piano and leading a Christmas Singalong

Unparalleled Retirement Lifestyle in the Capital



The VISTA ON SPARKS
Retirement *by Signature*

Building tours available by appointment
at 412 Sparks Street

Full Kitchens | In-Suite Washer & Dryer | 3 Dining Experiences
Contact us for more information or to book a tour.

info@thevistaonsparks.com | 613-809-2212 | To learn more, visit thevistaonsparks.com