

PAGE 4

St. George's Clayton serves breakfast and helps feed others

PAGES 6 & 7

All Saints' Westboro innovates programs for all ages

PAGES 8 & 9

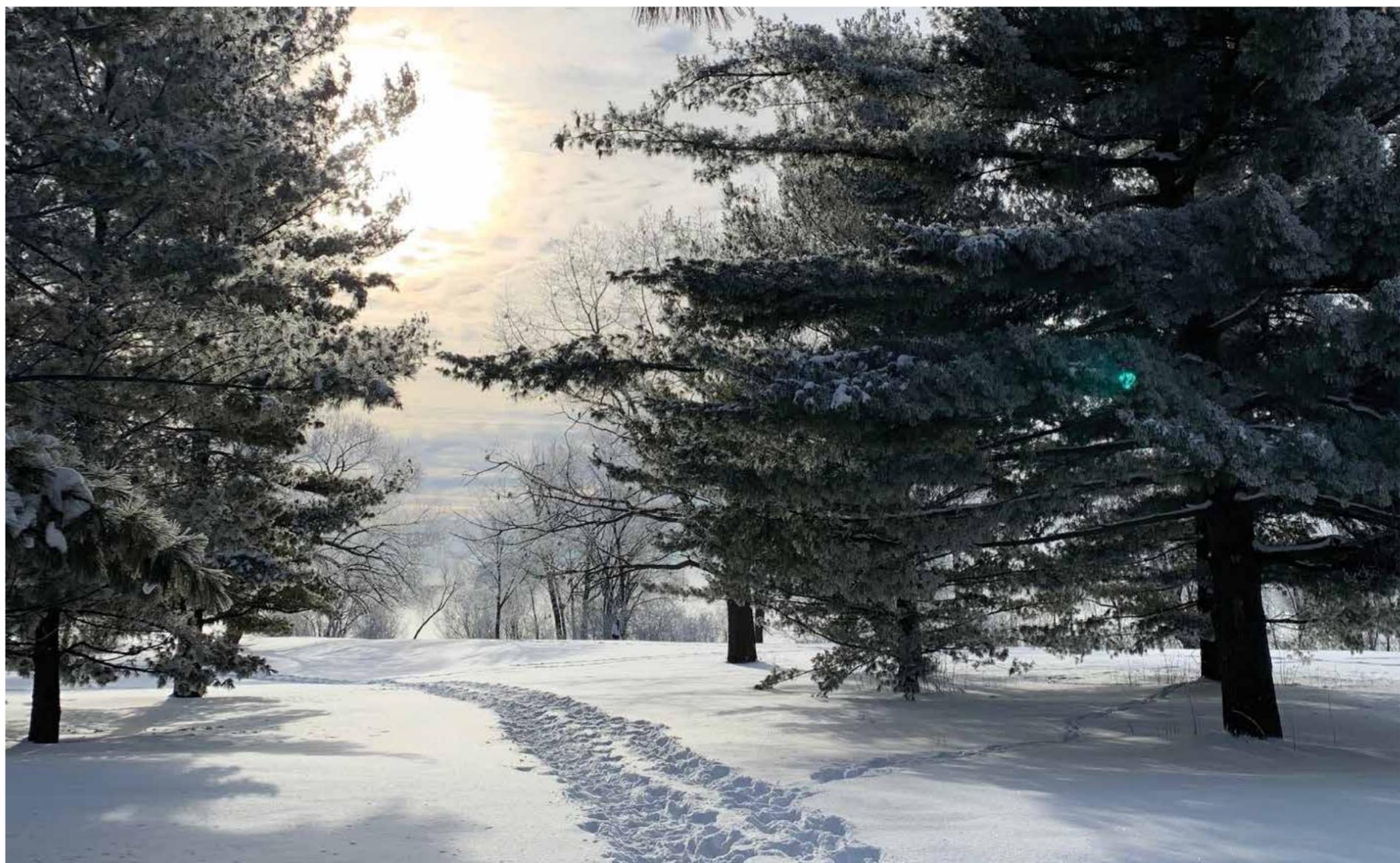
Lenten resources and reflection

PERSPECTIVE

THE ANGLICAN DIOCESE OF OTTAWA | SECTION OF THE ANGLICAN JOURNAL | MARCH 2026



PHOTO: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS



Setting off on a new path together

As you read this, you may already know who the 11th Bishop of Ottawa is. The Feb. 28 episcopal election had not yet taken place when this issue of *Perspective* went to press. Please see all our coverage of the election and the new bishop-elect online or in our April print issue.

Perth housing project advances with vital community leadership

BY DAVID HUMPHREYS

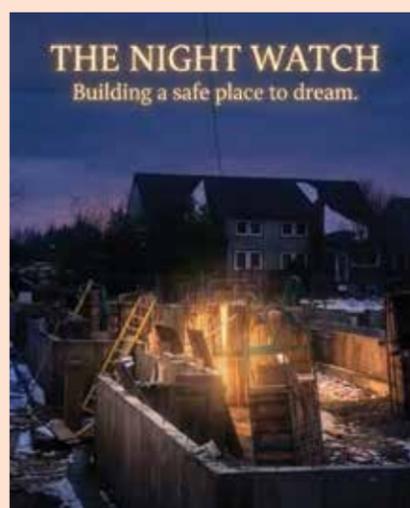
The walls have been raised and the roof completed on the 15-unit affordable housing building that is St. James the Apostle Perth's "great outreach project."

The innovative project, initiated by St. James, is led by a volunteer team of community leaders who have been able to generate broad community support.

Claire Smith, the co-chair with St. James's David Kroetsch of Community Housing Project Perth (CHIP) says more than \$150,000 has been raised towards the goal of \$300,000.

It represents the grassroots portion of the \$4.5 million total cost. Major funding of \$2.5 million came from Lanark County whose waiting list has grown to about 460, including 300 in Perth. The town provided the land.

Smith is confident the goal will be reached "one handshake at a time." The Perth and District Community Foundation has contributed \$25,000, earmarked for an "Alongside Program" intended to offer support for household management to the new tenants. She emphasizes "how grateful we are to all the changemakers" – the donors who have made construction



Poster for the innovative outreach project

possible. The project is on track to open late this year.

In December, the Rev. Robert Camara replaced founding co-chair the Rev. Canon Ken Davis as rector of St. James after he retired. Calling CHIP a great outreach project, Camara looks forward to working with the steering committee to see it to completion.

"Our involvement and support is one way that we live out our baptismal promises to respect the dignity of every human being and loving our neighbour as ourselves."

► **Perth housing, to page 3**



(L to R) Sister Mary Linda Onuoha, the Rev. Andy Brubacher Kaethler, the Rev. Margo Whittaker, the Rev. Fr. William Serge Batiano, Lise Gauvin, the Rev. John Perkin, the Rev. Fr. John Malazdrewich, the Rev. Canon Catherine Ascah, the Rev. Fr. Matthew Brunet and the Rev. Fr. Erik Sorensen.

Faithful from many churches come together to worship in the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

Christians from multiple denominations gathered at the De Mazenod Chapel at Saint Paul University on Jan. 22, 2026, to worship together and mark the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

This year's prayers and reflections were prepared by the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches.

The Rev. Margo Whittaker, Anglican chaplain at the university, welcomed all those who gathered in the chapel, and the Rev. Canon Catherine Ascah, ecumenical officer for the diocese, offered prayers during the service.

The Rev. John Perkin of the First Baptist Church in Ottawa offered a homily drawing on the apostle Paul's call for Christian unity in his letter to the Ephesians 4:1-13, begging



Two priests of the diocese, the Rev. Margo Whittaker and the Rev. Canon Catherine Ascah took part in the service.



The Rev. John Perkin of the First Baptist Church in Ottawa offered a homily.

PHOTOS: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

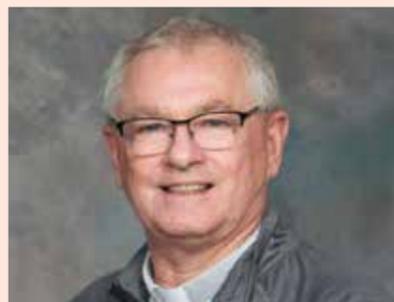
make things better. Hope is not a state of mind. It is an activity. It is what we do to ensure that we are a light in the darkness of the world."

Christians gather for worship and come to church needing different things at different times, Perkin said. Sometimes we are weighed down and in need of a word of comfort or consolation, a little bit of hope. We sometimes need mending and restoring. ... Other times we are comfortable and need "a little push to be engaged.... We come as those in touch as the Celtic people say with the thin places of life, so that we can encounter God in our weakness, our hurts, our sorrows, and our struggles, and to connect with others in the world who are weak, hurting, sorrowful, or struggling. We come to be mended, restored, prepared, so that we can take on the world once more and offering it the hope that we are given. In this sense, the church is a refuge for the world."

CLERGY NEWS



The Rev. Canon Gary van der Meer has been appointed as Regional Dean of Central Ottawa, effective Feb. 1, 2026.



The Rev. Mark Lewis will retire, effective Aug. 31, 2026. His last day in the Parish of South Dundas will be Aug. 16, 2026. Making the announcement, diocesan administrator Bishop Michael Bird offered his best wishes to Mark for a long and healthy retirement.

the followers of Jesus to walk in a manner worthy of their calling "with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love....There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling."

Perkin said that during his four decades of ministry he had been privileged to preach in United, Anglican, Catholic, Presbyterian and Pentecostal churches among others and had always found that "hope to which we are called" in all of those communities.

"We really need that sense of hope these days in our increasingly disordered, fragmented and even chaotic world." But he added, "Hope is not a longing for things to be better. It is a process or working to

Catholic scholar highlights the importance of friendships in advancing ecumenism in lectures at St. Bartholomew

The Church of St. Bartholomew in Ottawa marked the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity by hosting two lectures by Dr. Murray Watson, a Catholic Biblical scholar, ecumenist and interfaith educator, on Jan. 24.

Snowstorms made it impossible for Watson to travel to Ottawa as planned, so St. Bart’s parishioners and others in attendance gathered in the church hall to listen online.

Watson’s morning session was on historical friendships that have advanced ecumenism.

He began by mentioning some famous friendships such as the ones between St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clare; St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross; and Trappist priest Thomas Merton and social justice and anti-war activist Dorothy Day.

Watson then shared the inspiring story of how a friendship helped heal a deep schism between the Eastern and Western Churches (later known as the Orthodox and Catholic churches). A dispute led to the leaders of the two branches of the church excommunicating one another in 1054 and a “deep freeze” of alienation that lasted for 900 years.

A shift happened when Pope Paul VI was elected in 1963 in the midst of the Second Vatican



Patriarch Athenagoras commissioned this icon as a gift for Pope Paul VI as they worked to reconcile the Catholic and Orthodox churches.

Council (which included a goal of fostering greater Christian unity.) In the Orthodox Church, Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople was aware of the beginning of a “thaw” in Catholic attitudes towards other churches. He began

a correspondence with Vatican leaders and eventually with Pope Paul himself.

In 1964, Pope Paul made a surprising pilgrimage to Jerusalem. He and Patriarch Athenagoras met, embraced and prayed together

on the Mount of Olives in January 1964.

Later that year, Pope Paul returned a relic — the skull of St. Andrew — that had been in Rome to the Orthodox Church. (Andrew is the traditional patron of the Eastern Orthodox).

In December 1965, the Pope and Patriarch made an announcement that they were lifting and cancelling the excommunications imposed by their predecessors in 1054.

Patriarch Athenagoras commissioned this icon which depicts the embrace of the holy brothers — Andrew and Peter — as a gift for the Pope.

In 1975, Pope Paul met with Orthodox Archbishop Meliton. The pope knelt and kissed the Archbishop’s feet, in a gesture that was inspired by Christ washing the feet of his disciples.

Watson noted Jesus’s words to the apostle in John 15:14-15

“You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends.”

He concluded: “With friendship, ecumenism becomes something we long for and desire.”

► Perth housing from page 1

While CHIP characterizes grassroots donors as *Changemakers*, it recognizes “the village behind the building” as follows:

The Craftsmen, the Saumure Group of Companies with experience in building other affordable housing, “on-site daily, putting local hands to work to create high-quality, lasting homes for our neighbours.”

The Stewards: Carebridge Community Support will operate the building, ensuring that future tenants have the stability and support they need to thrive. Carebridge housing director Alison Newsom says the project will help respond to a local crisis in which seniors, single parents and residents with disabilities struggle to secure permanent homes.

The Pillars: The support of Lanark County and the Town of Perth “proving that local government is committed to solving the housing shortage.”

CHIP might have added a fifth component — their own diverse *Leadership* group. In addition to co-chairs Claire Smith and David Kroetsch:

Stewart MacNabb, former director of finance at Carebridge, who is CHIP’s financial advisor.



PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

Left—The Community Housing Initiative Perth steering committee at the groundbreaking ceremony for their 15-unit affordable housing building, from left, Claire Smith, co chair; Brian Perkin, media relations; Alison Newsom, Carebridge Community Support; David Kroetsch of St James, founding co-chair; Mac Girouard, social media and tenant support; Canon Ken Davis, founding co-chair and former rector of St. James the Apostle.



Sunset on Perth construction project

Mac Girouard, former director of operations at Carebridge, became CHIP’s social media advisor, running

an active Facebook presence as well as other effective outreach.

Linda Chaim, CHIP’s secretary,

representative of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW), maintains strong relations with community partners.

Brian Perkin, former owner of the Perth radio station, who is in charge of communications.

The building at 63 Halton Street will offer a mix of rent geared to income (RGI) and affordable rental units. Affordable rent is set at 80 per cent of market rates. RGI rent is based on income and other eligibility factors. Tenants for RGI units will be selected from Lanark County Social Services’ wait list. Affordable rent placements will come from Carebridge’s own wait list.

PARISH NEWS

St. George's Clayton breakfasts bring the community together and raise funds to help others

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

After the pandemic, when people were starting to gather again at St. George's Anglican Church in the village of Clayton, a small group of parishioners discussed ways to do outreach and to continue to connect with residents in the area.

The parish used to host a Valentine's Day dance every year that was very popular, but the numbers of people attending the church were down, with only 14 to 20 people, they couldn't manage an event like that.

They decided to host a monthly community breakfast in the church hall, which has a full kitchen. They started off with pancakes, eggs and sausages and later added hash browns. In the beginning when they started the meals, they were pleased to welcome 15 to 20 people.

But word of a great hot breakfast spread, and now three years on, they usually expect to feed 50 to 60 people, says Alison Wark, one of the parishioners and organizers, who runs the program.

There are no restaurants in Clayton, so the monthly breakfasts are great time for people in the community to get together. Wark said that they always have a radio on while they are cooking and serving. Recently, she noticed that she couldn't hear it anymore. Kathy Lowe, the other organizer, suggested turning the volume up, but Wark had just pointed it out as a good sign that the volume of visiting in the hall had completely drowned out the radio.

Aside from the social benefit to the community, the breakfasts have also benefitted community in other ways.

The program costs are quite low because much of the food, including the maple syrup, is donated by local farmers. (The farmer who supplies the eggs now helps cook them to order, so people can choose between scrambled and fried!)

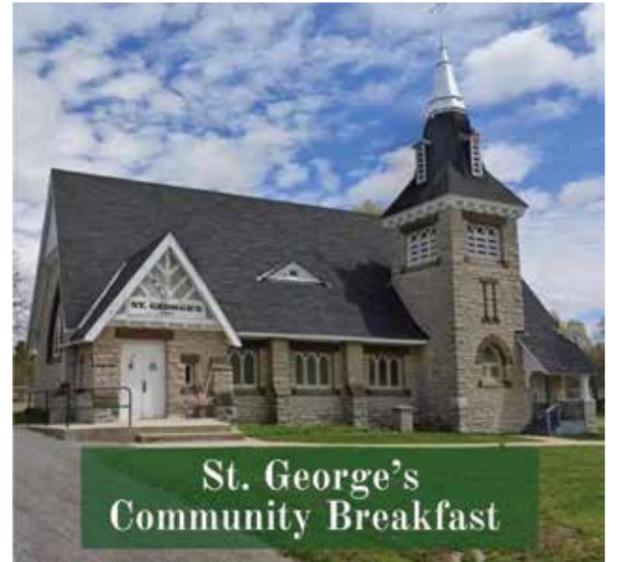
There's no charge for the breakfasts, but people can and do leave a free will offering. After the first six months, the fund had grown to \$700, which they donated to school breakfast programs in



St. George's team ready to serve. (L to R) Wayne Munro, Alison Wark, Kathy Lowe, Gary and Christine Anderson, Al Sonnenburg, and Debbie McMahon.



the area. Last year, the fund was \$4,000, which they used to donate to local food banks, school breakfast programs, and to help buy Christmas gifts for children in two families through local organizer Cyndi Porter's Angel Tree fund.



PERSPECTIVE

A publication of the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa

www.ottawa.anglican.ca

Bishop of Ottawa
Publisher

Leigh Anne Williams
Editor

Jane Waterston
Production

Perspective is published 10 times a year (September to June) and mailed as a section of the *Anglican Journal*. It is printed by KT Web Printing, Toronto, and mailed by Elite Bindery and Mailing Services, Scarborough.

Perspective 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

Perspective 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 *Perspective* reserves the right to decline advertisements.

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

Submit a story

Editorial enquiries should be directed to: editor@ottawa.anglican.ca

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

Please contact the editor for submission deadlines.



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

Centre 440 and friends help people through a tough winter

PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

In November, the Parish of the Lower Valley launched a new ministry — Centre 440. Its mission is to serve hot, healthy lunches every Saturday from the parish hall of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Hawkesbury.

Just a few months into its operations, the Centre 440 team of volunteers reports that the average number of people coming for the meal has increased to 45 - 50 people each Saturday. The team noted that they are preparing and distributing additional meals because if someone who comes for lunch is homeless, they send that person out with a bag containing a couple of lunches-to-go with high protein items such as hard-boiled eggs, cheese, peanut butter — items they can keep in their vehicle for a few days. That brings the total number of meals prepared to about 70 each week.

Penny Kallio keeps up with statistics from the municipalities and shared these startling figures: In the United Counties of Prescott Russell for December there were 150 households considered homeless — 94 adults, 34 families, and 18 youths between the ages of 16 - 25 were homeless. 50% men and 50% women. At 59%, the majority of the households across the UCPR experiencing homelessness were in the town of Hawkesbury. This represents an 80% increase compared to the same period in 2024.

There is no visible encampment in the city, but the team meets people living in their cars, in the woods, under bridges and in storefronts.

Ron Kallio said that the centre extended the hours it was open during the times of extreme cold. Normally, they open the doors at about 10:30 am and close at about 1 pm, but they opened at 9 a.m. and stayed open during the afternoon to offer people a warm place to be.



The Rev Felix Longdon (kneeling) with Jane Longdon, Rob Guerrini and Emma Weller (winter bundles) and Carolyn Coffin-Caputo



Tribute to Marc

It is with profound sadness that we share the passing of our dear friend and cook at Centre 440 Hawkesbury, Marc Beaudet.

Marc was with us from the very first day we opened our doors three months ago. In that short time, he became the heartbeat of our kitchen. He didn't just bring his talent for cooking; he brought a huge smile that could brighten the toughest mornings and a laugh that echoed through the entire hall.

He believed in our mission from the start, and he made sure that every person who walked through our line felt seen, welcomed, and cared for. Our kitchen feels far too quiet without his energy, but we are so grateful that he was the one to help us start this journey.

— Ron Kallio

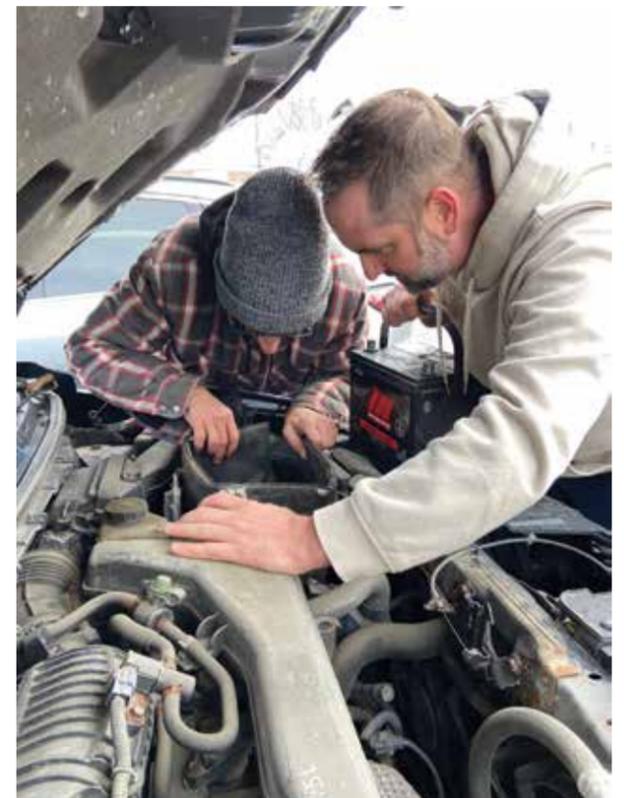
Carolyn Coffin-Caputo said there is a steady stream of encouragement from people in Hawkesbury, making financial donations or wanting to volunteer their time to help. About half of the volunteers are members of the parish, but the other half are volunteers from the community.

The team also shared the good news that they now have an ongoing arrangement with Second Harvest, an organization that redistributes surplus food from grocery stores and businesses that would otherwise be thrown out to people in need. The Foodland in Van Kleek Hill now automatically allocates food to Centre 440 twice a week.

They are also lifted up by individual acts of kindness. A couple living in their car came into the centre to charge a battery pack to try to revive a dead car battery. Carl Laliberte of Laliberte Auto in Hawkesbury went beyond helping them charge their old one, he brought them a good used battery.

While Coffin-Caputo was visiting Centre 105 in Cornwall, Emma Weller came in to distribute the winter bundle bags she makes with her handmade hats, mitts, neck-warmers, socks, hand and toe warmer and treats. When she heard about Centre 440, she soon arrived with bundles for everyone, which Coffin-Caputo said delighted the recipients.

Another bit of serendipity happened when Anne Kirby visited from All Saints Anglican Church in Greely, where they weave recycled milk bags into waterproof mats to sit or sleep on. She brought some mats for participants and ended up explaining how they make the mats. "I did a



Carl Laliberte helps out with a car battery.

simple video of Anne Kirby explaining the milk bag mats, posted it on our Facebook page," said Ron Kallio. He was shocked when the video got 800,000 views "I'm still answering questions." — five or six a day from around the world asking how you make the mats and asking what milk bags are."

PARISH NEWS

All Saints' Westboro tests out new passport-style resource for Christian education and confirmation

BY LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS

All Saints' Westboro took a fresh look at confirmation and is trying something new. The Living Faith Together passport is a newly created resource and can also be used in other Christian education contexts.

Janet Currie-Kelk, All Saints' children and youth ministry leader, told *Perspective* that it was difficult to organize a traditional confirmation program that accommodated kids' busy schedules of school and extra-curricular sports and activities. "It would be so much nicer to have a longer time frame for young people and have more flexibility," she recalls wishing.

"The biggest thing about confirmation is that the young people feel supported by their community of faith, and [recognize] that this isn't a graduation. This is a start of a new journey, in the sense that they're taking their own responsibility for their own faith development."

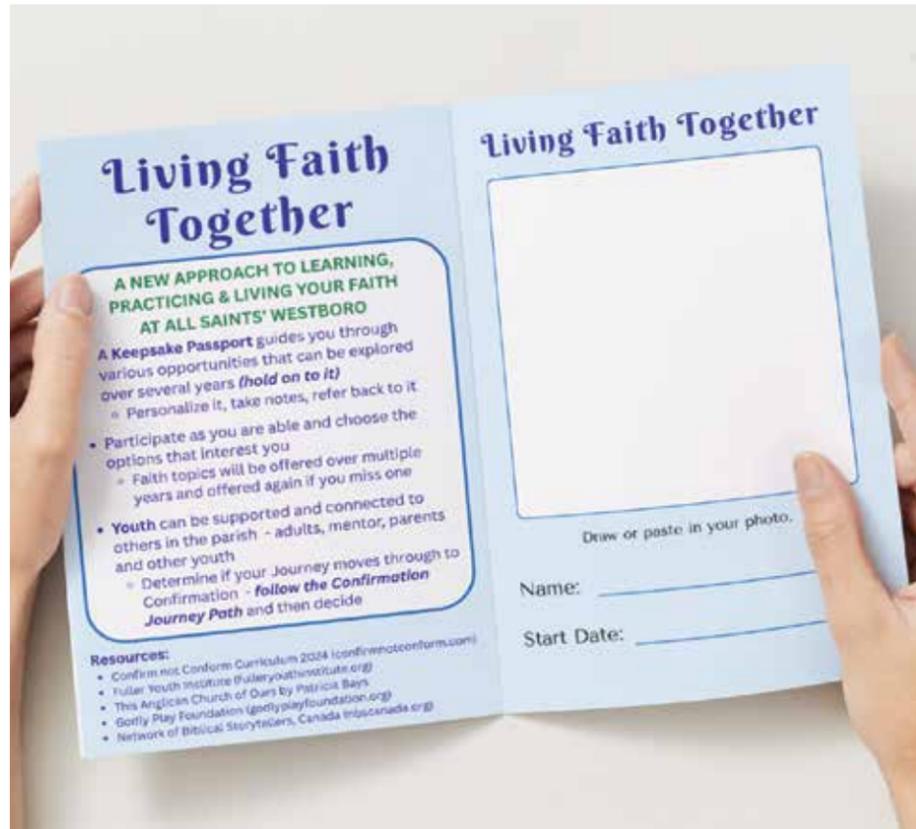
Currie-Kelk had been reading a lot about intergenerational ministry that suggests that keeping children and youth programming separate from the rest of the community "isn't necessarily in the best interest of anyone's faith development." She and the clergy team asked, "How could we offer something to these young people that surrounds them in the community and provide them with the knowledge, the skills, and the experiences of living one's faith?"

One of the ways of doing that is giving them a confirmation partner or mentor, which All Saints' does.

And they found a program with the flexibility they were looking for — the passport idea — from an Episcopalian church in the U.S., which has been working with the concept for about 10 years and even offers customized adaptations for different denominations.

They consulted with parishioner Patricia Bays, who has had a long involvement in Christian education and is the author of *This Anglican Church of Ours*, who was impressed, and so they decided to adapt it for the local context in the diocese of Ottawa.

The passport concept allows a user to prepare for confirmation or simply engage in Christian education programming at any age at their own pace. And it takes confirmation beyond books into experiential learning with lots of



PHOTOS: CONTRIBUTED



Above— Pages from the passport with room for notes and personal reflections.

L— Janet Currie-Kelk is All Saints' children and youth ministry leader.

room for questioning and reflecting.

There are three broad categories of learning — Foundation, Spiritual Practice and Community in Action. All Saints' held its first foundational session in the fall — a group discussion of the question "Is doubt okay?", which drew about 25 people and included parishioners who weren't involved in confirmation but were just interested in the topic. There are four more sessions:

- What do you believe?
- Scripture Mad Dash

- One Church, Many Expressions
 - Circle of the Church Year
- They intend to hold these core sessions each year, so anyone who wasn't able to attend won't have to wait too long for the next one.

The passport includes room for the participants and make notes and record their reflections.

The Spiritual Practice category includes three core requirements:

- Anglican traditions
- Holy Week – (participants must join for at least one day)
- Attending worship service at All Saints' Westboro at least once a month.

Then participants can choose three of these:

- Prayer and practice
- Praying with Psalms
- Indigenous Spiritualities
- Bible Story-telling
- World Religions
- Labyrinth Spiritual Practice
- Forest Church
- Humanics Sanctuary and Sculpture Park
- Sacred space
- Lectio Divina
- Vespers
- Crafting circle

Community in Action — How can we love and serve our neighbour?

- Holy Troublemaking
- Suffering — Where is God?
- The Ministry of the Rest of Us
- All Saints' Westboro Community Space Volunteer

Currie-Kelk says this is a draw for the youth. They talk about Jesus as the ultimate Holy Troublemaker, or an activist for Black rights such as Viola Desmond. These issues, "tend to also have a very large impact on their faith development. So, faith isn't just Sunday morning, it's living it. Whether that's helping in a food bank, or going on a mission project, or volunteering within other community events."

Once participants have completed all the requirements, they can be confirmed.

The program is just launching, but Currie-Kelk says that the response so far has been enthusiastic. "We printed 50 passports to start with and we gave them all away."

All Saints' is happy to share the templates and their experiences with other parishes that are interested. Incumbent Archdeacon Kathryn Otley has shared information about the program with other diocesan clergy.

Aging with Grace

Community conversations to support older adults through changes and choices

All Saints' Westboro (ASW) launched another initiative last year aimed at better caring for and supporting older adult parishioners in their community.

All Saints' associate incumbent the Rev. Chung Yan Lam and the pastoral care team conducted a survey of ASW parishioners asking how the church could best support them. Their thoughtful responses identified about 10 areas where additional support or conversation would be valuable.

To help bring these ideas to life, Donna Rourke was invited to facilitate a series of conversations and workshops. She brings both professional training and personal experience, holding diplomas in Gerontology and Palliative Care from Durham College and a certificate in Managing Conflict from Algonquin College. In an interview with *Perspective*, she shared that the topic is one of personal interest to her as well because she and her brothers are currently accompanying their mother as she navigates the complexities of the healthcare system. "Together, our goal is to help her age with grace—in the right place, which for her is the home of my youngest brother," she said.

Rourke described the workshops that have taken place so far:

Exploring Ottawa housing options

The first interactive workshop, Housing Options in Ottawa, was based on a guide prepared by the Council on Aging's Age-Friendly Housing Committee. The Council on Aging brings together older adults and community partners from across Ottawa to improve the wellbeing of seniors. The Age-Friendly Housing Committee, in particular, focuses on what are known as the four A's of housing—ensuring that housing is affordable, accessible, appropriate, and available.

During the workshop, we invited participants to reflect on where and how they want to live as they age. "Aging in the right place" is not only central to personal wellbeing but also a cornerstone of an age-friendly community. We emphasized the importance of planning early—before a crisis forces a move—so that decisions can be made with peace of mind and a sense of empowerment. Ultimately, it is each individual's decision where they want to call home.

Fostering connection and belonging

Our second event took a more social and experiential approach.



PHOTO: VEN. CHRIS DUNN

Donna Rourke has been sharing her training and experience in workshops and community conversation at the west end parish.

Instead of a traditional workshop, it served as a model of the importance of connection and belonging—key elements of healthy aging. The goal was simple: to help participants feel less isolated and more engaged with their community.

Looking ahead: resources to help you stay in your home

Our third session, Resources to Help You Stay in Your Home, was postponed due to an unexpected heating issue and subsequent flood at ASW but will be rescheduled soon. This workshop will explore a wide range of supports available to older adults who wish to remain at home.

Topics will include Ontario Health at Home, the Geriatric Assessment Outreach Day Hospital, safety and accessibility options, financial assistance programs, dementia-related supports, mental and emotional wellbeing, as well as food and transportation services. One parishioner will also share her family's story about adapting their

home to make it more accessible.

The goal of this session—and indeed the whole series—is to provide participants with knowledge, confidence, and encouragement to make informed decisions based on their own needs, preferences, and values.

Following the Rowe and Kahn model of Successful Aging, the Aging with Grace series invites participants to continue making positive lifestyle choices—embracing healthy eating, appropriate physical activity, active social engagement, mental stimulation, and the nurturing of spiritual life, however that looks for each individual.

Aging with Grace reflects the compassion and commitment that make All Saints Westboro a caring community. It is about learning, sharing, and walking together through the later seasons of life. While aging can bring challenges, it also opens opportunities for connection, reflection, growth—and, above all, grace.

THE VISTA ON SPARKS
Retirement *by Signature*

**Experience the Warmth
of Luxury Retirement Living**

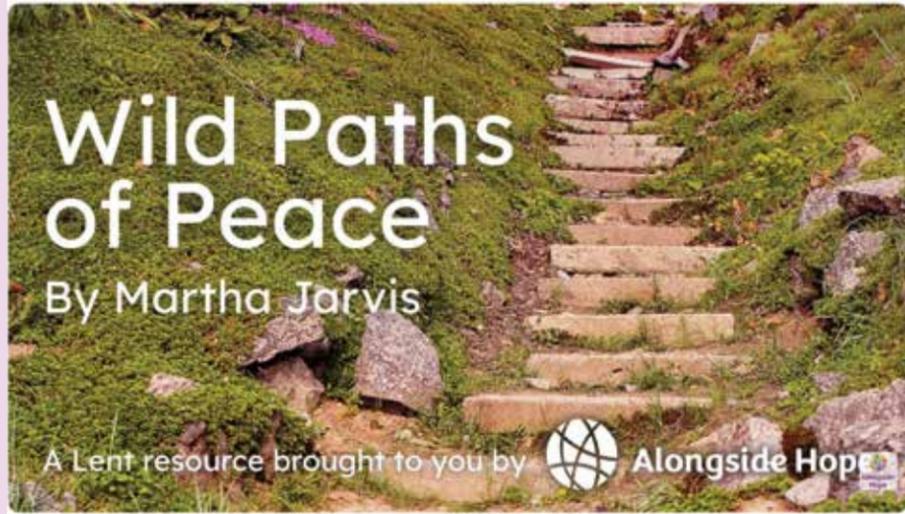
This winter, enjoy a short-term stay at The Vista on Sparks, where every detail is taken care of. Relax in a tastefully furnished suite, savour chef-prepared meals, and participate in enriching programs designed to keep you engaged and inspired throughout the season.

Get in touch to learn more about seasonal stays at The Vista on Sparks.

613-809-2212 | thevistaonsparks.com
412 Sparks Street, Ottawa, ON



Journey through Lent



Martha Jarvis

Wild Paths of Peace, written by Martha Jarvis, explores the hope of peacemaking at time of conflict in the world and in our personal lives.

As the Anglican Communion's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Jarvis works to create partnerships between churches and UN teams as they respond to conflict, climate change and forced movement of people. Jarvis has also facilitated church-led peacemaking in South Sudan and Mozambique. Throughout it all, she's seen nothing that compares to the power of people coming back together after conflict, and ultimately, coming back to faith through Jesus.

This resource will be available for download or send a subscription request to receive it as a free daily email message throughout Lent.

<https://alongsidehope.org/lent2026/>



March 6 is World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who invite all to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. Each year materials are prepared by women in a different country. This year's program was prepared by women in Nigeria on the following theme.

I will give you rest: Come (Matthew 11:28-30)

The 2026 World Day of Prayer materials from Nigeria bring us a powerful invitation drawn from Matthew 11:28-30. At a time when people worldwide are carrying heavy burdens, our Nigerian sisters offer profound insights into finding rest in God.

Through their exploration of different kinds of burdens - shame, systemic oppression, religious persecution, poverty and despair - the writers help us understand both the weight of human suffering and the depths of divine rest.

Their work shows us that true rest isn't just about physical relief, but about transformation through God's grace and community support.

The Nigerian committee has woven together their cultural wisdom with the universal need for rest. Through symbols like the calabash bowl, which represents both daily sustenance and divine provision, they remind us how God meets us in our weariness.

<https://worlddayofprayer.net/index.html>

The World Day of Prayer program is inspired by its motto Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action. Through informed prayer we seek out ways to act in solidarity with women and communities in need. When we prepare and celebrate World Day of Prayer, we do this as a community.

We pray and worship in community,
We continue our relationship in prayer and service throughout the year,
We work together as women of various races/ethnicities, cultures and traditions,
We become aware of the worldwide community of people,

We become enriched by the faith experience of other Christians,
We become aware of the burdens many people have to carry,
We are challenged to use our gifts and talents and use them in the service of society

(The Zambia Statement, 2007)

PHOTO: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS



Capture Your Story. Preserve What Matters.

Download the **Your Personal Memory Book e-guide** to record your legacy, memories, and wishes for family and loved ones.

Start writing your story today:

https://landing.beechwoodottawa.ca/en-ca/your_personal_memory_book

CLERGY REFLECTION— RĒFLEXION

Repentance: the way of salvation



BY THE REV. CANON KEVIN FLYNN

On Ash Wednesday, just after we have received the sign of ashes on our foreheads, we pray, “Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation.” Salvation is one of those words Christians hear and use frequently. What do we mean by it?

For many people, salvation seems to mean some kind of future state of being happy, of being in heaven, of no longer experiencing pain. This is to describe salvation in largely negative terms – of what it is not rather than what it is. Getting into heaven is a kind of fire insurance, a reprieve from the pains of hell. Thus, many Christians back themselves into heaven. They are so concerned with backing away from hell that they eventually stumble backwards into heaven.

It is thought that the way to get a ticket to heaven is to believe in a few required definitions, to behave in a certain way, and follow the rules laid down for us. We are inclined to understand sin essentially as disobedience – breaking a commandment. As we might be punished for doing so, we should avoid it and regret it. This is a long way from understanding repentance as a way of life.

The salvation that the Gospel proclaims, for which the martyrs died, and which the Church has taught from the beginning, is not a means to an end – a way of avoiding pain. It is the end itself. It is the truth of who we really are and of what we can come to be. Salvation is a treasure beyond price, a pearl for which we are ready to give up all things. It is a gift of life.

Salvation restores to us, today, the vision of God, the gift of God’s presence, which we are meant to enjoy every moment of our existence. Salvation is simply participation in the life of God.

Lent can help us to see that the sin of which the Spirit “convicts the world” (John 16:8-11) is much more than any specific wrong we may have committed or may commit, or even the sum total of them all. Sin is the human condition, the state of



PHOTO: VEN. CHRIS DUNN

separation from God.

Repentance is a grace from God, a gift of the Holy Spirit, something we cannot “achieve” by ourselves. Yet we too must do our part, we must work at it, however pitiful and unimportant our efforts may seem to us. We practice a daily death, dying to self in order to rise with Christ to new life. We cannot do this all at once but have to practice dying and rising every moment of our lives.

When repentance becomes for us a ceaseless attitude of spirit, a way of our life with God, it will also become our way of preparing for

death. “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” At that unknown, mysterious moment when we are summoned to cross the boundary between time and eternity, between heaven and earth, and to meet Christ our God and our Judge at last, what else can we do but repent? Our patient, daily practice of repentance will have taught us that in the presence of the infinite love of God, we do not need to do anything but trust in his mercy. We will have learned that all of us, saints and sinners alike, can enter Paradise only like the Good Thief, through the mercy of Christ.

La repentance : le chemin du salut

LE RÉV. CHANOINE KEVIN FLYNN

Le mercredi des Cendres, juste après avoir reçu le signe des cendres sur notre front, nous prions : « Accomplis en nous, ô Dieu, l’œuvre de ton salut. » Le salut est l’un des mots que les chrétiens entendent et utilisent fréquemment. Qu’entendons-nous par là ?

Pour beaucoup de gens, le salut semble signifier une sorte d’état futur où l’on est heureux, où l’on est au ciel, où l’on ne souffre plus. C’est là une description du salut en termes largement négatifs, qui met l’accent sur ce qu’il n’est pas plutôt que sur ce qu’il est. Entrer au ciel est une sorte d’assurance contre l’incendie, un sursis aux souffrances de l’enfer. Ainsi, de nombreux chrétiens se réfugient au ciel. Ils sont tellement préoccupés par le fait de s’éloigner de l’enfer qu’ils finissent par trébucher en arrière et tomber au ciel.

On pense que pour obtenir son billet pour le paradis, il faut croire en quelques définitions

obligatoires, se comporter d’une certaine manière et suivre les règles qui nous sont imposées. Nous avons tendance à comprendre le péché essentiellement comme une désobéissance, une transgression d’un commandement. Comme nous risquons d’être punis pour cela, nous devons l’éviter et le regretter. On est loin de comprendre la repentance comme un mode de vie.

Le salut que proclame l’Évangile, pour lequel les martyrs sont morts et que l’Église enseigne depuis ses débuts, n’est pas un moyen d’atteindre une fin, une façon d’éviter la souffrance. C’est la fin elle-même. C’est la vérité de ce que nous sommes vraiment et de ce que nous pouvons devenir. Le salut est un trésor inestimable, une perle pour laquelle nous sommes prêts à tout abandonner. C’est un don de vie.

Le salut nous rend aujourd’hui la vision de Dieu, le don de la présence de Dieu, dont nous sommes censés jouir à chaque instant de notre existence. Le salut est simplement la participation à la vie de Dieu.

Le Carême peut nous aider à voir que le péché dont l’Esprit « convainc le monde » (Jean 16, 8-11) est bien plus que toute faute spécifique que nous avons commise ou que nous pourrions commettre, ou même que la somme totale de toutes ces fautes. Le péché est la condition humaine, l’état de séparation d’avec Dieu.

La repentance est une grâce de Dieu, un don du Saint-Esprit, quelque chose que nous ne pouvons pas « accomplir » par nous-mêmes. Pourtant, nous devons aussi faire notre part, nous devons y travailler, aussi dérisoires et insignifiants que nos efforts puissent nous paraître. Nous pratiquons une mort quotidienne, mourant à nous-mêmes afin de ressusciter avec le Christ pour une vie nouvelle. Nous ne pouvons pas le faire d’un seul coup. Mais nous devons pratiquer la mort et la résurrection à chaque instant de notre vie.

Lorsque la repentance devient pour nous une attitude spirituelle incessante, une façon de vivre

avec Dieu, elle devient aussi notre façon de nous préparer à la mort. « Souviens-toi que tu es poussière et qu’à la poussière tu retourneras . » À ce moment inconnu et mystérieux où nous sommes appelés à franchir la frontière entre le temps et l’éternité, entre le ciel et la terre, et à rencontrer enfin le Christ, notre Dieu et notre Juge, que pouvons-nous faire d’autre que nous repentir ? Notre pratique quotidienne et patiente du repentir nous aura appris qu’en présence de l’amour infini de Dieu, nous n’avons rien d’autre à faire que de nous en remettre à sa miséricorde. Nous aurons appris que nous tous, saints et pécheurs, ne pouvons entrer au Paradis que comme le Bon Larron, par la miséricorde du Christ.

COMMUNITY MINISTRY NEWS

Canon PJ Hobbs ministry celebrated

After many years in parish ministry and 13 years as director general of the Anglican Community Ministries, the Rev. Canon Peter John Hobbs has retired. Colleagues, friends and family gathered at Christ Church Bells Corners to celebrate with him.



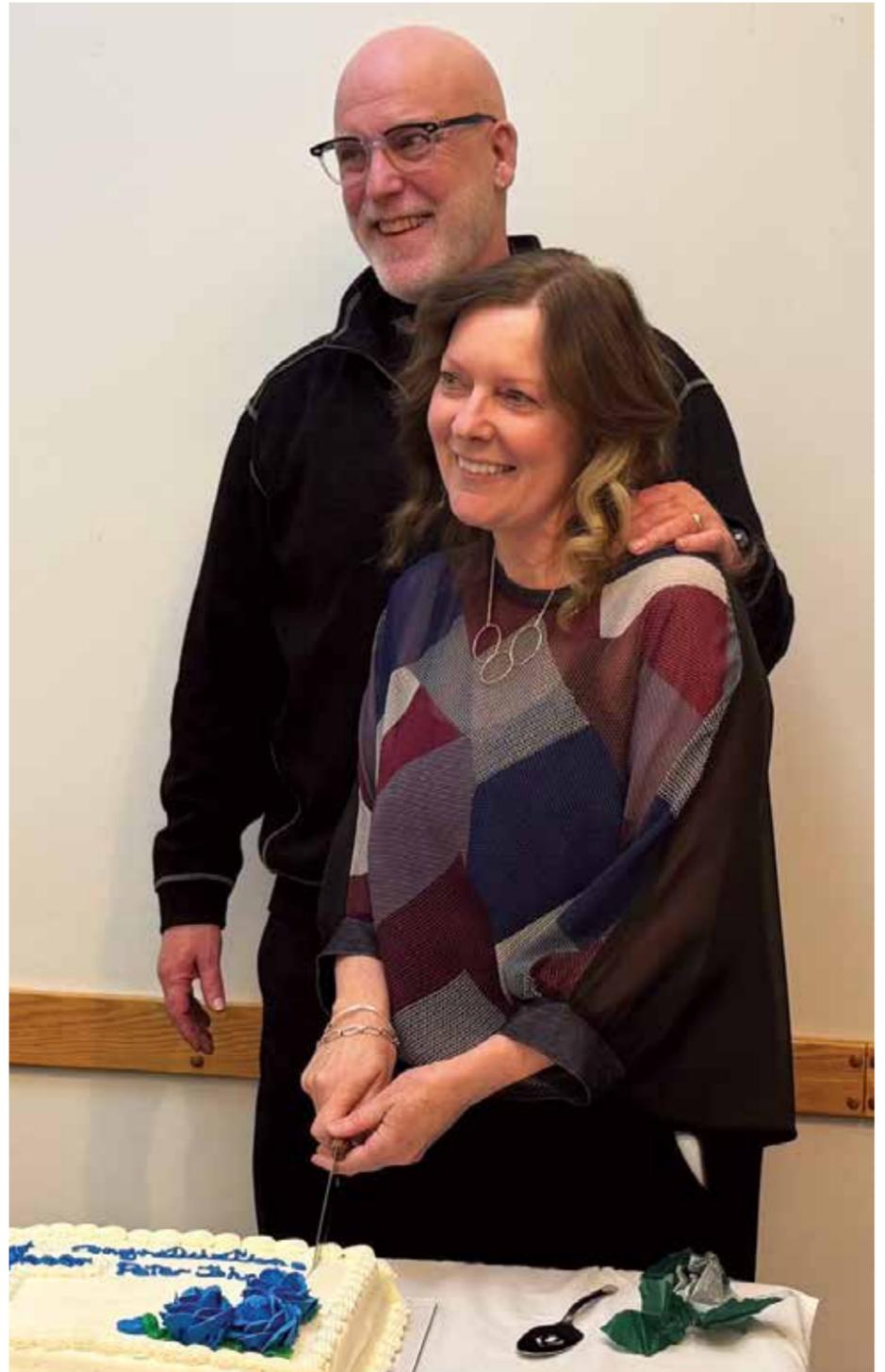
Peggy Lister and Sue Garvey share Hobbs' deep care for the social justice mission of the Community Ministries.



Don Smith, with Ishita Ghose and Reem Abu Afieh, worked closely with Hobbs to build up the Refugee Ministry Office during challenging times.



PHOTOS: LEIGH ANNE WILLIAMS



PJ Hobbs and Diane Kroeker



Left—The Rev. Canon Hilary Murray, chaplain at Cornerstone Housing for Women, and Archdeacon Rhonda Waters

Left— Hobbs chats with Bishop John Chapman (who appointed him as director of mission) and Archdeacon Monique Stone. She is holding Hobbs' granddaughter who was a bright spark at the party.

R— Shauna-marie Young, executive director of Belong Ottawa, and Simon Kinsman, chair of the advisory board



DIOCESAN ARCHIVES

Cathedral Deanery

Wallis sketching Christ Church Cathedral West Window Cartoon

Ottawa's Sistine Chapel

BY GLENN J LOCKWOOD

Less than a generation after Canadians celebrated the centennial of Confederation, members of Christ Church Cathedral approached their 150th anniversary. They sought a meaningful way to commemorate the building of Christ's Church, Bytown in 1832, the first Anglican church to be built in the future capital some 35 years before Confederation.

The answer soon became apparent. The west window dating from 1872 was beginning to show its age. Its large surface was filled with clear glass laid out in diamond-panes, with a thin band of gold and blue outlining the tracery. After 110 years of weathering, the lead holding glass panes in place and the larger wooden frame were greatly in need of renewing.

It was decided to commission a new west window. Its design would be a visual summary of the history of the parish within the region. A great fundraising campaign was carried out, and a design commissioned from Christopher Wallis of London, Ontario. Other startling proposals including stark modern abstract designs were also considered, but Wallis was entrusted with the commission based on memorial windows he designed for Trinity Church, Cornwall and Saint Bartholomew's, Ottawa. We see him here assembling the cartoon for this composition, to form the basis for selecting and cutting stained glass for the new west window. This commission was a big deal,

DIOCESAN ARCHIVES 51 O13 144



and Christopher Wallis did not disappoint.

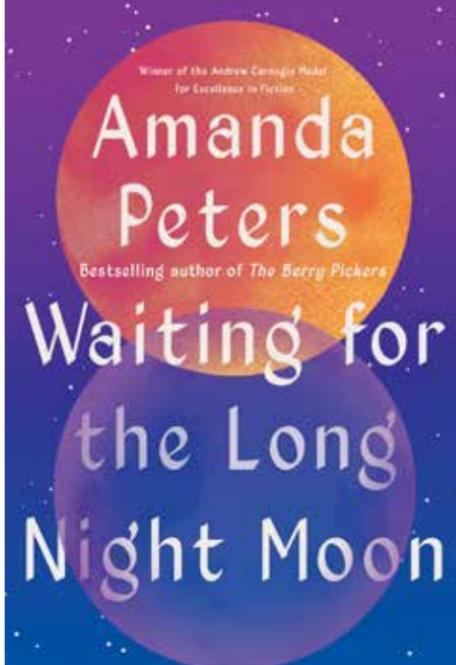
As traditional stained-glass iconography goes, Christopher Wallis was attempting nothing less than a summary of the history of the parish and its place in the City of Ottawa within the larger setting of the Ottawa Valley and global Anglicanism. To take on such a commission must have made him feel like Michelangelo when

he set out to paint the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. It would take Naomi Jackson Groves, niece of Group of Seven artist A.Y. Jackson, 60 pages to explain all of the details that Wallis incorporated in his composition. In a future issue of *Perspective* we will summarize some of the major details, but for now we must confine ourselves to just a few parts of the larger composition of Wallis's masterpiece.

The larger composition shows a Celtic cross. The cross, of course, is emblematic of Christianity, symbolizing our Saviour's sacrifice to redeem mankind. The Celtic cross recognizes the huge Anglo-Irish population that constituted much of the Anglican population of the larger Ottawa region in the nineteenth century. In the first census of Canada (1871) that asked people what they considered their ethnic origin (as opposed to their country of birth) to be, in the five counties around Ottawa 42,000 more people claimed to be of Irish origin than did in the cities of Montreal and Toronto combined. At the centre circle of the cross is Christ, the agnus dei, from whom the parish took its name. At the apex of the window Christ the King is shown sitting on a rainbow, while a satellite is shown orbiting the heavens.

The cross arms of the cross represent the Ottawa River, the major east/west route of transportation for both Indigenous inhabitants and early French explorers. The upright of the cross shows the Gatineau River flowing from the north, and the Rideau River flowing from the south, while the tall silhouettes of pine trees across the window signify the huge economic impact of the timber industry in the larger Ottawa Valley over the course of six generations.

If you would like to help the Archives preserve the records of the Diocese and its parishes, why not become a Friend of the Archives? Your \$20 membership brings you three issues of the lively, informative Newsletter, and you will receive a tax receipt for further donations above that amount.



Journeying as Allies
Join us to read and discuss Indigenous books. All are welcome!

Our next meeting:
March 22, 2026
2-4 pm

We will discuss the collection of short stories *Waiting for the Long Night Moon* by Amanda Peters

Contact:
allmyrelations@ottawa.anglican.ca
Join our mailing list.



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

www.theopc.ca

CALENDAR

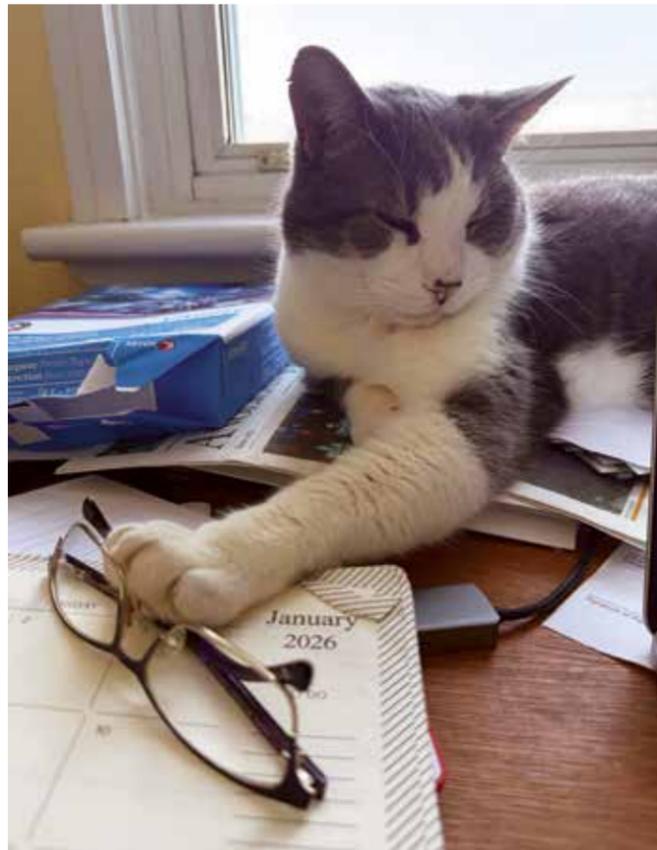
March 6
World Day of Prayer
 See article, p. 8

March 7
An Introduction to Gregorian Chant
 St. Barnabas
 (70 James St., Ottawa)
 2 pm to 4 pm
 The Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO), Ottawa Centre invites you to this workshop presented by Wesley R. Warren. Materials will be provided. Admission is free; donations at the door are welcome. All are welcome! Email: parishoffice@primus.ca

March 25
Installation of the Archbishop of Canterbury Sarah Mullally
 Canterbury Cathedral

March 29 - Palm Sunday
Dreamweaver
 Christ Church United
 (5 Casselman St., Chesterville)
 2 pm
 With Chesterville's Christ Church United, the Anglican Parish of North Dundas is presenting a fundraising performance of *Dreamweaver*, based on "The Story of The Other Wiseman" by Henry Van Dyke, following the adventures of Parthian Magus

PHOTO: LA WILLIAMS



Artaban as he searches for Jesus Christ. Interspersed throughout the performance are hymns. There is no admission charged to attend, however a donation to The F.A.I.T.H. Pantry, a community outreach program of Christ Church United is gratefully accepted.

COFFEE COMPANY & CONVERSATION **WINTER SEASON 2026**
 a weekly gathering for seniors in the community
 coffee, goodies and featured activities
SENIORS - COME & JOIN US
 January 8 to March 26
 every Thursday 10:00am to 12noon
 St Mark's Anglican Church
 1606 Fisher Avenue, Ottawa
 For more information contact: St Mark's at 613 224-7431

UP-COMING ACTIVITIES

March 5	The Rev. Dr. Mary Cate Garden, Theologian and Archaeologist – Speaking on the fascination and relevance of Archaeology for today's society
March 12	Creative Writing – or – "Koffee Klatsch"
March 19	St Patrick's Ceilidh – Irish Shenanigans with Food, Fun, Brian and Irish Dancing
March 26	Games – or – "Koffee Klatsch"

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer presents
 Archbishop Stephen Cottrell
The Lord's Prayer

The AFP's 2026 Lenten Speaker Event welcomes
 the Most Reverend & Right Honourable Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York
 Saturday, March 7, 2026;
 1pm-3pm EST
 Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83298720043?pwd=WRD1u0s1qjblKwI7xatdHni61vE9U.1>
 This is a free event, open to all.

ANGLICAN
 FOUNDATION OF CANADA

Thank You

Proud Member Organizations

AFC organizational members in the **Diocese of Ottawa**

- ▶ All Saints' Westboro Anglican Church, Ottawa
- ▶ Anglican Parish of Pakenham, Arnprior
- ▶ Christ Church Bells Corners, Nepean
- ▶ Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa
- ▶ Church of St. John the Evangelist, Ottawa
- ▶ Diocese of Ottawa, Ottawa
- ▶ Emmanuel Anglican Church, Arnprior
- ▶ Holy Trinity – Parish of North Gower, North Gower
- ▶ Holy Trinity Hawkesbury, Hawkesbury
- ▶ Julian of Norwich Anglican Church, Ottawa
- ▶ Parish of Clarendon, Shawville
- ▶ St. Bartholomew Anglican Church, Ottawa
- ▶ St. Barnabas Anglican Church, Ottawa
- ▶ St. Columba, Ottawa
- ▶ St. James Anglican Church, Perth
- ▶ St. John's Anglican Church, Kanata
- ▶ St. John's Anglican Church, Vankleek Hill
- ▶ St. Margaret's Anglican Church, Rutherglen
- ▶ St. Mary's Anglican Church, Russell
- ▶ St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Ottawa
- ▶ St. Thomas Anglican Church, Woodlawn
- ▶ St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church, Ottawa
- ▶ Trinity Anglican Church, Ottawa

For a complete list of annual members by diocese, visit anglicanfoundation.org/members

INVESTING in the church of tomorrow TODAY