

# SPIRITUS

SPECIAL ISSUE

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST CHURCH DEER PARK

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## Meet Andrea Christensen, Interim Priest-in-Charge of Christ Church Deer Park

*Andrea Christensen has served as our Associate Priest in team ministry with Canon Kevin Robertson since September 2014. Effective January 1, 2017, and in light of Kevin's election as suffragan bishop, Andrea has been appointed as our Interim Priest-in-Charge. To better inform parishioners and to facilitate her transition to this expanded role, SPIRITUS invited Andrea to share some information about herself, and she graciously agreed to do so.*



### **Congratulations on your appointment as Interim Priest-in-Charge. How are you feeling about that?**

Thank you so much! I am exhilarated and enthused about the scope of responsibility that is being set before me, and I look forward to working with our wardens and the whole parish family in the coming months. I, with so many others, feel sad about the conclusion of Kevin's ministry with us because I very much enjoyed working with him. However, I am overjoyed that he will now begin a new and very important ministry in our diocese and the wider church. Those of us continuing parish life at Christ Church Deer Park have some exciting, renewing, and hopeful times ahead!

### **Tell us what you did before you joined us at Christ Church Deer Park and how that is relevant to your revised role as our interim priest-in-charge?**

I have been an ordained priest for fifteen years, and I have a passion for parish ministry. I began as curate in the city of Ottawa and then served as Rector of a two-point parish on the Ottawa River, that is, a parish made up of two congregations: St. George that was established in 1863 and St. Thomas that was established in 1882. As Rector, I worked with these congregations (composed of long-time parishioners and newcomers) to determine our parish vision, prepare narrative budgets, design different forms of worship, and build up disciples who contributed their time, talent, and treasure to the Church.

### **"I have a passion for parish ministry."**

After that, I joined St. Hilda's Senior Care Community in Toronto. There I continued my parish ministry as Associate Priest of St. Hilda's Anglican Church but also became Assistant Executive Director of the Social Housing and Retirement Complex, a not-for-profit senior community. I was responsible for running three residential towers consisting of 458 rooms in a healthcare environment with over 140 staff. Generally speaking, my managers were responsible for the maintenance, housekeeping, activation, and information technology sectors of the corporation. However, when the CEO and Executive Director simultaneously went on leave due to illness, I began to manage the healthcare, marketing, social work, and financial sectors along with my other responsibilities. Together with the Director of Finance, I was responsible for a \$13 million budget, as well as for overseeing twelve off-site residential properties.

It has been a blessing for me to carry to Christ Church Deer Park what St. Hilda's taught me about human resources, financial decision making, stewardship, and management. I look forward to assisting our corporation by contributing this knowledge and skill in the near future.

### **What can we expect of you in terms of leadership?**

First and foremost, the Christ Church Deer Park family can expect a leader with a passion for serving Christ and loving His people. The family can also expect an experienced, vibrant, healthy and nurturing leader who shows clear direction, compassion, confidence, organization, and integrity while actively engaging and encouraging disciples.

It is no secret that I come from a more conservative theological background than many of the clergy who have served Christ Church Deer Park in the past. That said, while I carry my own body of beliefs and convictions, this has never stopped me from being open to establishing loving, healthy relationships with our parishioners, clergy, and staff team. What a blessing it is that Christ Church Deer Park has always sought to provide and maintain *space* for people to be ministered to safely and to receive pastoral guidance and nurturing from all clergy, no matter the clergy's school of thought or system of beliefs. Those who have come to know me in our parish over the past two years have experienced this openness intimately and understand that it is a truth I hold dearly.

### **During your time as our associate priest, what caught your attention about us?**

I have always been impressed by the vast expanse of knowledge and intellectual capacity of the people who sit in our pews every Sunday. People come from all walks of life, and each individual has a story to tell. (Kevin and I have often found it intimidating to know that we are preaching to five other clergy sitting in the pews on any given Sunday.)

I'm also amazed by those I would call the "servants" of the church: the people who quietly wash dishes when everyone else has left, the ones who help with community breakfasts, those who visit the sick and suffering, the ones who gather after church in the nave to discuss how God is working in their lives. Their commitment and unassuming service are ongoing sources of inspiration for me. Of course, it has to be said that the sacred music at Christ Church Deer Park is pretty incredible as well!

### **What priorities would you encourage us to adopt in the next six to twelve months?**

As Interim Priest-in-Charge, it is for me to continue the priorities that have already been set in motion and to challenge, encourage, and speak truth to these initiatives, when appropriate. I would like to see our work continue in relation to stewardship, by which I mean stewardship in the broadest sense: joyfully sharing our time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship is one area where we, as Christians, truthfully and visibly live out our mission within our walls and in the greater community. I would also like to see an increase in passion for welcoming and providing hospitality to people because this is how loving relationships begin. And, as one of our parishioners recently mentioned to me, we really could look at enhancing the way that we minister to and care for the seniors in our parish and in the community.

### **"Our church has some exciting, renewing, and hopeful times ahead!"**

As always, one of my biggest priorities is helping to model and mentor the building of healthy and loving relationships between God and His people. This is my role as Pastor and Priest.

### **Do you have any other appointments or administrative responsibilities that require time away from the parish?**

Presently, I sit on the Diocesan Area Council and the Ministry Fund Allocation Committee. I am also expected to attend Clericus and the Churches-on-the-Hill Clergy groups monthly. However, these are not onerous commitments, and parishioners can expect to see a good deal of me in the office.

### **What is the most important thing that we can do to support you and each other at this time?**

The best thing that we can do is continue to show up, be committed, and demonstrate integrity as we look for the common threads of dreams and visions from God as He prepares the people of Christ Church Deer Park for the future!

# Holy & Holly a Huge Hit!

Christ Church Deer Park's first annual Holy & Holly Community Christmas Festival took place Saturday, November 19, 2017. Thank you to everyone who baked, donated, volunteered, shopped, and helped advertise. What a wonderful community effort!



## Christ Church Deer Park Parish Selection Committee

Members of the Parish Selection Committee (PSC) are Jesse Billet, Barbara Johnston, Carolyn Kearns, George Lewis, Edna Quammie, Andrew van Nostrand, Su Laine Varkey, and Henry Zaluski

### Tasks of the Parish Selection Committee

1. Take the time needed and involve the wider parish, as appropriate, to discern
  - a) the present parish reality, and
  - b) what God is calling the parish to become.
2. Develop the Parish Profile—who we are now, what God is calling us to become, and what are the principal gifts and skills we are looking for.
3. Locate and identify a new priest—work with the area bishop to find suitable candidates, review applications, interview candidates, visit current parishes, and debrief to discern the best possible fit for the parish.
4. Support the new priest and parish during the time of transition—introduce the new incumbent to the parish, support everyone during our new incumbent's first year of ministry, identify issues when they arise, and seek appropriate resources to work issues through.

## Proposed Timeline / 2016 and 2017

PHASE ONE NOV	DEC	PHASE TWO JAN	FEB	MAR	PHASE THREE APR	MAY	PHASE FOUR JUN	JUL
<b>PHASE 1 ONE MONTH</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSC meets and selects chairperson</li> </ul>		<b>PHASE 2 THREE MONTHS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PSC meets with Bishop and Diocesan-appointed coach</li> <li>• PSC engages congregation in developing Parish Profile</li> <li>• PSC completes Parish Profile</li> </ul>			<b>PHASE 3 THREE MONTHS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bishop provides list of candidates</li> <li>• PSC interviews and visits potential candidates' parishes</li> <li>• PSC makes recommendations to Bishop</li> </ul>		<b>PHASE 4 TWO MONTHS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bishop makes offer to and negotiates with the successful candidate</li> <li>• PSC announces successful candidate to Parish</li> <li>• Parish prepares for new incumbent</li> </ul>	