

There's  
**Life**  
Here!



CHRIST  
CHURCH  
DEER PARK  
—  
ANGLICAN

2016  
Annual Vestry Report

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## **Opening Hymn – God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending**

*Blaenwern*

God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store--  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door--  
gifted by you, we turn to you,  
offering up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious Donor of our days.

Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom,  
races joined, the Church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone.  
Born with talents, make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.

Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through powers your grace conferred,  
ours to use for home and kindred,  
and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
serving you by loving all.



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Archbishop's Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2016

*to be read or circulated on the Sunday of the parish's annual vestry meeting*

To the Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners

**My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,**

Grace and peace in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

What a privilege it is to serve you as the Bishop of this wonderful Diocese and to represent you in the wider councils of the Church in Canada and across our Communion. We have been truly blessed in the breadth of the gifts God has given us in the resources of peoples who have come from every part of the globe, in the physical resources we have inherited, and in the rich diversity of our spiritual life all rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

There have been many significant changes in this past year. Three of our Area Bishops have moved or retired. All of them began their ordained ministry in Toronto and have served our Church with great faithfulness, gracious wisdom and effective leadership. I am immensely grateful to Bishops Linda Nicholls, Philip Poole and Patrick Yu for their service.

In September, Synod met to elect three priests of this Diocese to be Bishops in the Church of God. They have now been ordained and consecrated, and have begun their episcopal ministries in their assigned areas. Joining Bishop Fenty and me, they bring new energy, their own specific gifts, and their deep commitment to the Anglican expression of the Christian Faith that will be a blessing to our Church for years to come.

Bishops, even though they are formed in a particular spiritual and theological tradition, do not serve a special-interest party; they are bishops of, and for, the whole church. The Area Bishops have particular oversight under my direction for a region of the Diocese but they are also Suffragan Bishops and so have concern and responsibility for the whole as well as the parts. They have concern for all of the people of God - and who isn't a child of God? - who live within the boundaries of the Diocese, including those who are not part of any Anglican congregation. They link the parts to the whole and the whole to the parts. The new bishops are still in learning mode as they assume the wonderful and onerous responsibilities of the ministry, so your prayers for all of us are deeply appreciated.

We have also adopted a new strategic plan in 2016 that will set the direction for our work over the next five years. "**Growing in Christ**", as it is titled, identifies five focus areas for our attention as a Diocese: identifying and raising up leadership both lay and clergy; building a culture of trust; strengthening our stewardship of resources, both people and property; encouraging innovation based on good evidence; and, simplifying our governance structures. This is rooted in our Vision:

**"An Anglican community committed to proclaiming and embodying Jesus Christ through compassionate service, intelligent faith and Godly worship."**

Our Mission is the work that we as Anglicans in this Diocese are being called to do:

**"We build healthy, missional Anglican communities that engage faithfully with the world and share the gospel of Jesus Christ."**

This vision and mission continue the ministry that we have undertaken for decades. They can easily apply to parish life as well and inform both what we do and how we engage in it to join in God's work of transforming lives.

A third change this year continues to affect our life together. General Synod met last July and approved the first step to amend the Marriage Canon to formally permit same-sex marriages in the church. Over the next three years further consultation about this will take place as we prepare for a second reading at General Synod in 2019. As an interim pastoral measure, in a restricted number of parishes where it has been requested after consultation, I have authorized some marriages to be solemnized in certain limited circumstances. Neither parishes nor individual clergy will be required to celebrate marriages contrary to their convictions.

We live in a very diverse Church. That diversity means that we are called to witness to the faith in a variety of ways. Although our witness is rooted in differing interpretations and understanding of Holy Scripture and the tradition, the ways are recognizably Anglican. We are enriched by the breadth of our diversity and would be lessened by the loss of any voice. In the pastoral guidelines for same-sex marriage, you will note that there are strong assurances for a continued, honoured place in all aspects of diocesan life for those who do not agree with this response. I am engaged in a serious and mutually committed consultation with those objecting, to find effective ways that our ministries might flourish together in the highest degree of communion possible. I am also committed to continue the long practice of this Diocese to reflect this authentic diversity in the selection and appointment of clergy, in honoring parish traditions, and in the membership of committees and councils of the diocese. All of us together need to extend to each other the most generous Christian charity that our Redeemer calls us to exercise as we seek to discern and live out God's will.

On this day of the annual Vestry Meeting, I want to express my gratitude to the leadership of your clergy and lay leaders without whom our Church would not flourish. I want to say a special thank you to the Churchwardens, those now completing terms, continuing in office or newly chosen. It is a big responsibility, and you are in my prayers as you take on this trust on behalf of the parish and diocese.

May you be strengthened in all you undertake this year by the riches of Christ's grace and mercy.

Yours faithfully,



The Most Rev'd Colin R. Johnson  
Archbishop of Toronto



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

December 16, 2016

**To the People and Clergy of the York-Scarborough Area:**

My dear people,

I want to take advantage of Christmastide to write my last official letter to you.

Looking back at more than ten years of service, my first and last impression is one of great appreciation for the strength of this Area within the Diocese. You are a gifted people, a dedicated people and a generous people. Let no one tell you otherwise. Please build on that strength which is a gift from God and a token of the abiding generosity of the Holy Spirit.

Kathy and I are also full of gratitude. First and foremost we are thankful to God for the opportunity to serve and the many blessings which have come with it. Yes, there have also been challenges, but challenges are not opposed to blessing but are part of it. Thank you, clergy, wardens and lay folks, for taking us into your lives and wrestling with difficult issues in ministry. Thank you for your affection demonstrated at the first Regional York-Scarborough Bishop's Company Dinner on November 10, and again at the Festival Evensong on December 11.

We are also personally blessed. All of our children are “launched,” and Teresa is happily married. You are aware of my plans to shift my emphasis from parish-related ministry to teaching, which is what I have been wanting to do for some time. In that capacity, and with the support of the Bishops of Toronto, I may yet work beside you. I leave for Hong Kong at the end of February and will return in early June. Kathy will join me over Easter.

I have been handing over the Area to Bishop-elect Kevin. Kevin was one of the first clerics I tapped on the shoulder to help me lead the Area – first as my Liturgical Officer for many years, and more recently as the Regional Dean of Eglinton Deanery. Kevin is gifted, generous and sensitive. I trust that he will lead the Area well, and I ask for your support and prayers for him and his family.

Allow me to give you one last exhortation as your Area Bishop, based on the first chapter of Joshua: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, but be ever mindful of the liberation and exhortation of the Gospel, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

May God the holy and undivided Trinity bless you on your adventure.

With every blessing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a stylized cross and a flowing script.

The Right Reverend  
Patrick Yu Area Bishop of  
York-Scarborough  
Bishop Suffragan of  
Toronto



January 25, 2017

The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

Dear friends in York-Scarborough,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 1:2)

It is my privilege to write this first Vestry letter to you as your new area bishop. As a parish priest for twenty years, I was fortunate to have served for twelve of those years in York-Scarborough – first in the Scarborough Deanery and then in the Eglinton Deanery. I now look forward to ministering in new ways within the area, the diocese, and the wider Church.

Firstly, I want to thank you for your very warm welcome. I was delighted to see so many of you at the consecration of the new bishops on January 7 at St. Paul, Bloor Street, and then again at my service of installation at St. John, York Mills on January 22. I have been grateful for the many prayers and good wishes over the past few months. Ours is a tremendous corner of God's vineyard, and we are privileged to labour in it together, for the glory of God and the extension of God's reign.

Secondly, I have been asked about my initial priorities as I take on new leadership within our Church. One of my first goals is to get to know the clergy and people of the 55 parishes in this area. I have a rigorous schedule of parish visits, meetings, and conversations lined up for the coming months, and I am eager to learn about the joys and challenges you face in your own contexts. I cannot promise to "fix" everything, but I do bring a strong desire to build the Church, and I believe that nothing is impossible with God. I look forward to visiting with you as soon as possible to find out how I can support you in the work of ministry, and also to offer a word of hope and encouragement in challenging times.

Another priority is to be a bridge between people of different perspectives. The decisions arising from General Synod in July and our own Electoral Synod in September have created deep concern for some, and great joy for others. Regardless of the differing perspectives, I hear an earnest desire to be faithful to God, and to walk in the way of Jesus. This is a difficult time for us, and I am deeply committed to the unity of our Church. In these challenging times, I will endeavour, by God's grace, to be a bishop for the whole Church. I hope you will give me an opportunity to do so.

I would also like to convey my sincere thanks to Bishop Patrick Yu, our recently retired area bishop. For the past decade, Bishop Patrick has shepherded the people of God in York-Scarborough with faithfulness and courage. I served as Bishop Patrick's Liturgical Officer for many years, and then as his Regional Dean in the Eglinton Deanery, and I have been grateful for the opportunities to work closely with him. He has been a faithful servant of Christ and the Church.

Please pray for the new College of Bishops of our Diocese. I am honoured to join Archbishop Colin Johnson, Bishop Peter Fenty (York-Simcoe), Bishop Riscylla Walsh-Shaw (Trent Durham) and Bishop Jenny Andison (York-Credit Valley) in the work of episcopal leadership in our Diocese. As we build a new team together, we are grateful for your prayers and support.

I want to thank Karen Isaacs, who has served as Administrative Assistant for Bishop Yu, and now for me. Karen so capably manages the office of the Bishop of York-Scarborough, and is always the friendly voice at the end of the phone when you call my office. Karen will be moving out of this role in the spring in order to respond to a call to ordained ministry in our Church, so please take a moment to thank her for her excellent work before she goes.

Finally, I want to thank all of you, and especially those who exercise leadership in your own parishes. In the course of my ministry, I have had the pleasure of working with deeply committed clergy, churchwardens, lay leaders and staff in every place. Whether you are stepping down from a particular ministry, or continuing on, or taking up a new role at this annual Vestry meeting, thank you for your commitment and faithfulness. You are a blessing to the Church in our Diocese.

I am writing this letter on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. As our Church celebrates the beginning of Paul's evangelistic ministry to the Gentiles, please join with me in praying and working for the extension of the Gospel in every place, and for the renewal of the Church in our midst.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson".

The Rt. Rev. Kevin Robertson  
Area Bishop of York-Scarborough  
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto

**Christ Church Deer Park**  
**Minutes for Vestry**  
**Sunday, February 28, 2016**

1. Appointment by lay members of vestry of Genevieve Chornenki as vestry clerk.
2. Motion to adopt minutes of Annual Vestry meeting of Sunday, February 22, 2015.  
Moved: Bob Reeves  
Seconded: Mary Lou Thomson  
Motion carried.
3. Motion to accept 2015 Annual Vestry Report subject to the following corrections:
  - page 25 to add Honourary Canon Phyllis Creighton as one of the attendees at the Diocesan Synod on November 13 and 14, 2015, and
  - page 30, last line, to correct the year from 2014 to 2015.  
Moved: William Jackson  
Seconded: Nancy Nourse  
Motion carried.  
Suggestion by Phyllis Creighton that future Trust Committee reports make reference to the *Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures* of the Diocese of Toronto, and undertaking by her to forward same to the committee chairs who were not present at the meeting.
4. Motion to accept the December 31, 2015, financial statements as audited by Maureen A. Parry, CPA, CA.  
Moved: Rick Varkey  
Seconded: Bob Reeves  
Motion carried.
5. Motion to appoint Maureen A. Parry Professional Corporation as auditor for the 2016 fiscal year.  
Moved: Rick Varkey  
Seconded: Lizzie Nyburg  
Motion carried.
6. Motion to accept the 2016 Operating Budget as presented in the 2016 Narrative Budget  
Moved: Rick Varkey  
Seconded: William Jackson  
Motion carried.
7. Appointment by the Incumbent, Canon Kevin Robertson, of Henry Zaluski as Rector's Warden.
8. Appointment by lay members of vestry of Rick Varkey as Treasurer.
9. Motion to close nominations for People's Warden, Barbara Johnston having been nominated for the position.  
Moved: William Jackson  
Seconded: David Moore  
Motion carried.  
Election by acclamation of Barbara Johnston as People's Warden.

10. Motion to close nominations for Deputy Warden, Andrew van Nostrand having been nominated for the position.

Moved: David Moore

Seconded: J.R. Thornton

Motion carried.

Election by acclamation of Andrew van Nostrand as Deputy Warden.

11. Motion to close nominations for Lay Members to attend the Diocesan Synod, Alan Rands, Kathleen Lindsey, and William Jackson having been nominated for the positions, and Michael Butler having been nominated as an alternative member.

Moved: Andrew van Nostrand

Seconded: Jenny Rieger

Motion carried.

Election by acclamation of Alan Rands, Kathleen Lindsey, and William Jackson as Lay Members to attend the Diocesan Synod, and of Michael Butler as an alternative member.

12. Report entitled “There’s Life Here” made by the Incumbent, Canon Kevin Robertson.

13. Recognition and thanks extended to the many clergy and staff persons, parish volunteers, and groups that work together to contribute to the life of the parish.

14. Motion to refer the *Social Justice Vestry Motion 2016* of the Diocese of Toronto (text below) to a working group that will be established in order to determine what steps Christ Church Deer Park can take to assist with implementation.

We, the vestry of \_\_\_\_\_ [name of parish] commit ourselves to work to implement the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. As part of this effort, we call on the Governments of Canada and Ontario to address the recommendations which the Commission’s final report directs toward them. In particular, we affirm the Government of Canada’s commitment to establish a public inquiry into the issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and will continue to advocate for ongoing action on this issue. We also call on the Government of Ontario, in consultation with Aboriginal peoples, residential school survivors, and the churches, to develop an age-appropriate, mandatory curriculum on residential schools and the contributions of Aboriginal peoples to Canada for all grade levels.

Moved: [missing]

Seconded: James Cowan

Motion carried.

15. Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: William Jackson

Seconded: Alan Rands

Motion carried.

## Rector

Dear friends,

2016 was a year of significant transition in the life of our parish. In February, we celebrated the ordination to the priesthood of our beloved Assistant Curate, the Reverend Antoine Rutherford. In spite of his chronic illness, Antoine was strong and full of life on the night of his ordination, and then again at his first celebration of the Eucharist a few weeks later. Antoine succumbed to his illness in early August, at the age of 40. We celebrated his life and commended him to God's eternal keeping at a moving funeral service in mid-August. It was a privilege to know Antoine and minister with him during his brief time at Christ Church Deer Park, and he embodied the grace and love of God in times of immense suffering. Thank you for your care for him and his family during his time with us. May he rest in peace and rise in glory.

In June, I accepted the nomination for the episcopal election on September 17. Due to the translation of Bishop Linda Nicholls to the Diocese of Huron in May, and the retirements of Bishops Patrick Yu and Philip Poole later in the year, three vacancies were created in the Diocese of Toronto's College of Bishops. After considerable prayer and discernment, and with the encouragement of clergy and lay people across the diocese, I accepted the nomination. Along with eleven other candidates, I began a process of town-hall meetings, video interviews and a social media component, that would culminate in the election on September 17. Somewhat to my surprise, I was elected in the second of three elections. The following week I was appointed by Archbishop Colin Johnson as the new Area Bishop of York-Scarborough. I was very pleased to have been elected a bishop, and I hope and pray that I will serve the Church faithfully in this new ministry. Thank you for your prayers during the process and going forward. My election in September was bittersweet, because it would begin my movement out of Christ Church Deer Park, and would conclude 20 years of thoroughly enjoyable parish ministry. I believe that I am the first rector of Christ Church Deer Park to have been elected bishop, and that is a tremendous source of pride for me and for the parish.

2016 was a very busy year for us. Many of the great ministries already in place before 2016 bore even greater fruit over the past year. Our parishioners continued to be involved in important work in our community and beyond. This included the Community Breakfast program on Saturday mornings, support of our Churches on-the-Hill Food Bank, refugee sponsorship, and support for local programs supported by FaithWorks. Reaching out to help others in the name of Christ lies at the heart of our calling as a community.

Other ongoing programs included our ministries to children and youth. Under the leadership of Hilary Keachie, Promiseland and YAL (Young Anglican Leaders) continued to take shape in new ways. We were also very pleased to host a Vacation Bible Camp for the third year in a row, which attracted families from our neighbourhood who had not previously had a connection with our parish. Our ministries to children and youth are essential for our ongoing vitality as a parish, and we continued to make it a top priority in 2016.

In the area of pastoral care, the clergy continued to be supported by the Congregational Care Team over the past year. This group of committed, caring parishioners has had a tremendous impact in keeping us connected with our people who are no longer able to be with us on a regular basis. Members of the team fulfill tasks such as visiting parishioners in their homes, running errands for them, driving them to church, taking them out for coffee, and supporting their family members and care-givers.

Our primary focus as Christians is worship, and our liturgical life was robust this year. Our regular worship included two Sunday morning services, Jazz Vespers on Sunday afternoons, Church on Tap on Friday evenings, and a quiet celebration of the Eucharist every Wednesday at 7:30 am. Each of these services offers a unique liturgical style, and wonderfully distinct communities continue to emerge at each of them. I am pleased to say that we offer “church” for folks from a variety of ages and backgrounds, and that diversity enriches our common life.

I was also very pleased that our parish re-engaged Natural Church Development in 2016. We had taken our first NCD survey in the fall of 2015, and the results helped to focus our vision for further growth and vitality moving forward. Guided by our very capable NCD team and our coach, David Krause, we undertook our second survey in December 2016. The very good news coming out of this second survey is that we increased our scores in each of the eight areas of the survey. “Passionate Spirituality” and “Needs-Oriented Evangelism” continued to be our lowest staves, so I hope we will recommit ourselves to these areas in 2017.

I was also grateful that our parish engaged the stewardship program called “Growing Healthy Stewards”. After several years of smaller initiatives, we decided this year to follow a model that has proved to be successful in many parishes, including many in our own deanery. With the support of our coach, Gary Shaw, our CCDP Stewardship Committee made great strides in instilling a sense of healthy stewardship in the parish, and I look forward to seeing the results of these efforts going forward.

Following my election to the episcopate, Bishop Patrick Yu met with the churchwardens to discuss next steps. In November, a Parish Selection Committee was formed, and has been meeting since before Christmas. I look forward to working with the Committee to find the very best priest to be your new rector. In the meantime, you are blessed with the clergy leadership of the Reverend Andrea Christensen as Interim Priest-in Charge, and the Reverend Robert Gorham as Interim Associate Priest. I know they will serve the parish well during the interim period. Please continue to pray for them and for the members of the Parish Selection Committee during this important season in the life of the parish.

In addition to my responsibilities as rector of the parish, I also served the wider Church in a few different ways in 2016. I was a member of the Diocesan Postulancy Committee, which interviews and mentors those who seek to be ordained; I served on the Our Faith-Our Hope Allocations Committee, which helps to disperse funds that were raised during the 2011-2012 campaign in our diocese; and I served as the Regional Dean of the Eglinton Deanery.

A large part of the success of any organization is its people, and we are so blessed with gifted leaders here at Christ Church Deer Park. Henry Zaluski, Barbara Johnston, Andrew van Nostrand and Rick Varkey have done an outstanding job as members of the Management Team. We have been so very fortunate to have this group at the helm. In 2017, Henry Zaluski retires from the Management Team. Henry has been an excellent churchwarden over the past four years. His commitment to the parish, creative passion, and wonderful sense of humour has made an indelible mark on our community. We will miss Henry very much on the Management Team, but look forward to his ongoing leadership in other areas of parish life.

We have also been guided by our exceptional staff team, consisting of Andrea Christensen, Paul Marritt, Matthew Otto, Hilary Keachie, Elisabeth Lunder, Denis Delisle, and a host of very part-time employees and honorary assistant clergy. We have an extraordinary staff, and our church is the envy of other multi-staffed parishes in the diocese. Equally important are the many parish volunteers who are deeply committed to this place.

They assist at the front desk, organize rummage sales and parish events, give leadership to worship, outreach, hospitality, communications, pastoral care, new initiatives, committees, and so many other areas of parish life. Without them, where would we be?

As we look ahead to a new year, God invites us to live more fully into the ministries to which we have been called. What are your gifts, what are your passions, and how can they be best used to fulfill God's mission for the transformation of this community of faith, this neighbourhood, this city, and this world? May we rise with faith and courage to make the very best of everything that God has so graciously given.

Finally, I want to thank you for the opportunity to be your rector over the past five years. It has been a tremendous joy and privilege. I look forward to continuing ministry with you as your new area bishop, and I look forward to a new season of vitality at Christ Church Deer Park, a community that consistently shows the world that "there's life here".

*Respectfully submitted,*

*The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson  
Rector (2011-2016)*

## Management Team

The last year at Christ Church Deer Park included a “hello,” “good bye,” and “see you soon.” In February, we said “hello” and “marhaba” (*welcome*) to our sponsored refugee family the Alkadris when they arrived in Canada to start their new life. In August, it was with profound sadness that we said “good bye” to the Rev. Antoine Rutherford. He passed away after a long struggle with cancer, just five months after being ordained a priest here at CCDP. At the end of the year, we said “See you soon” to The Rev. Canon Kevin Robertson as he began his service as our area Bishop.

For the Management Team, it was a year of continuing our successes and beginning new ones as we grow and evolve as a faith community.

Some continued successes include:

### Sponsoring our Refugee Family

Many CCDP parishioners and friends were faithfully and joyfully involved in helping the Alkadri family settle in to their new Canadian home. Through their generous financial support and the dedication of CCDP Refugee Support Committee, the family has found an apartment and employment, and the children are doing well school. As our year of financial support draws to a close, we look forward to continuing our special friendship with Abdulsattar and Suheila, and their three children Moaz, Ammar, and Maysam.

**Management team** is the group of lay volunteers and clergy that works collaboratively to look after the secular affairs of the parish. Under the canons of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, the Incumbent, rector's warden, and people's warden—sometimes referred to at Christ Church Deer Park as “corporation”—have ultimate legal authority, but management team is broader than that and include the treasurer and deputy-warden. Management team members have complementary skills and experience, and work in a collegial way for a common goal, namely the best interests of the parish as a whole.

### Building the Deer Park Skills Institute in Uganda

This outreach project, which began in 2013, gives orphans at the Mama Jane Children Care Centre marketable skills like welding, carpentry, tailoring, weaving, and information technology to help them achieve a dignified, independent life. The Centre construction is nearing completion and now at the wiring stage. The hope is that a number of the departments will begin instructions this year.

### Improving Natural Church Development (NCD)

In 2015, Christ Church Deer Park introduced the NCD program which guides parishes through a long-term process of reflection and growth by focusing on the church experience and identifying opportunities for growth and development. Based on results from the first survey, *Passionate Spirituality, Building Loving Relationships and Faith-based Evangelism* were identified as key areas for improvement. With workshops, guidance and support to our congregation, we are happy to report that this score has been improved by 13%. The NCD working group continues to work to identify opportunities for growth and development in our parish.

### Continuing to Reach Out into Our Community

We are pleased that many of our initiatives continue to flourish. Vacation Bible Camp, Church On Tap, Congregational Care Team, Saturday morning Breakfast Program, Spring Rummage Sale, Blessing of Animals, Churches-on-the-Hill Food Drive, Sporting Life 10k cheering section and concerts by our choir play an important part in making CCDP a valued part of our neighbourhood community.

This year proved that we are a congregation that is open to the development of new ideas of worship and spirituality that strengthen our connections inside and outside our church.

We are excited by some of these new initiatives that have begun:

### **The Other Six Days**

In the fall, this eight-week series shared music, prayer, food and adult discussion with families in our parish community. Together, a weekly average of twenty mothers, fathers, sons, and daughters learned how to bring faith into their everyday lives.

### **Discovery Fair**

In October, Elliott Hall was filled with parishioners as they discovered the various ministry and service opportunities at CCDP in which they could participate in or contribute to.

### **Holy and Holly Community Christmas Festival**

This first annual festival leveraged the successes of previous Christmas Fairs and combined traditional favourites like a Treasures Room, homemade gifts and shortbread cookies, with new family fun activities that included a Bethlehem Market, photo booth and nativity story puppet shows. In total, eighty-seven volunteers baked, cooked, donated, shopped, and helped advertise. This wonderful community effort resulted in a tremendously successful event and a meaningful start to the Advent season!

### **Improving Parish Office Operations**

We participated in the City of Toronto's Investing in Neighbourhoods program (IIN) and hired Niveen Khatib as an Administrative Assistant to help with parish operations. IIN is a city initiative that offers the opportunity for non-profit organizations to create positions for Ontario Works participants. The city funds the program by providing 100% of salary and employer cost for up to one year.

We also applied for a grant from the Diocesan "Our Faith-Our Hope" fund under the "Communicating In a Wireless World" category. While we only received a portion of our request, we have dedicated the \$15,000 to improve parish business administration and file sharing. This modernization effort will address the needs of our Stewardship Committee, our fellowship efforts, and the IT needs of staff.

### **Growing Healthy Stewards**

As part of the continued focus on parish finances by the Management Team and Stewardship Committee, Growing Healthy Stewards was introduced. The program has been developed by the Diocese of Toronto and encourages the generous giving of our time, talent and treasure. It was launched in the fall, and information packages and commitment forms were mailed out to the congregation. This resulted in over \$71,000 being raised in year-end top ups to essentially eliminate our budgeted operating deficit. And, just as importantly, over 27% of parishioners increased their annual giving commitments for 2017.

This was a year of transitions. In September, we learned our rector The Rev. Canon Kevin Robertson was elected as suffragan bishop for the Diocese of Toronto – later being named area bishop for York-Scarborough. We are truly blessed to have had his leadership as rector for the last five years and are thrilled that he will continue as our bishop for many years to come.

To begin the process of finding our next incumbent, a Parish Selection Committee was elected at a special Vestry meeting. This eight-member group will work together with diocese-appointed coaches and Bishop Kevin to find our next rector. All parishioners will have a role to play in the discernment and selection process through a survey and a parish forum. This is a critical part in developing our parish profile, which will be shared with all interested candidates.

Throughout this transition period we are very pleased that The Rev. Andrea Christensen will serve as our Interim Priest-in-Charge with The Rev. Robert Gorham as our Interim Associate Priest. We are blessed to have such strong leadership during this important time.

Of course, like most other religious organizations operating in today's increasingly secular environment, Christ Church Deer Park has its challenges. Greatest among these are: providing worship services and programming that reflect the needs of our parishioners, and being relevant and valued in our neighbourhood community; providing pastoral care to an increasingly aging congregation; repairing and conserving our beautiful, but aging, church building and grounds; and increasing our financial giving's in order to operate debt-free and continue our 147-year history here at Yonge and Heath.

With the help of all parishioners, we remain committed to addressing our many needs and to acting in the best interests of the parish as a whole. In this way, the actions of all of us will demonstrate that —There's Life Here!

We are proud of what our parish has accomplished over the past year and excited about the promise that a new rector will bring in the years to come. On behalf of the Management team, thank you for your prayers, support and good wishes.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Henry Zaluski*  
Rector's Warden

*Barbara Johnston*  
People's Warden

*Andrew van Nostrand*  
Deputy Warden

*Richard Varkay*  
Treasurer

## Associate Priest

*I suppose whenever you go through periods of transition.... it's a very definite closing of a certain chapter of your life - I suppose those times are always going to be both very upsetting and also very exciting by their very nature because things are changing and you don't know what's going to happen.* Daniel Radcliffe

Trump aside, this has truly been an interesting year at Christ Church Deer Park. The 2016 year has been one of anxiety, grace, sadness, joy and hope- on all fronts.

In the spring, our Rector, Kevin Robertson, entered a period of discernment. He was trying to understand if God was asking him to let his name stand for the next Episcopal election. After a time of prayer and reflection, he did decide to put his name forward- which changed everything at CCDP. After Kevin was elected, he prepared himself to leave Christ Church Deer Park and begin his new official role. And in the wake of that call, I was asked, and humbly accepted, to be Interim Priest-in-Charge.

At the same time, we also received news that Hilary would be leaving on a three-month sabbatical to continue her Master of Divinity Studies by doing an internship in Rome. We couldn't believe that she was leaving as well! Within three months, we prepared ourselves and our beloved CCDP parishioners for the conclusion of Kevin's ministry, we hired a new Interim Associate Priest (welcome Robert Gorham!) and we hired an Interim Director of Children and Youth Ministry, Alison Juurinen (what a blessing!) We continue to be richly blessed with gifted and talented ministers of the faith on our staff team.

On the Christian Education front, our 2016 Lent Study focused on ***The Book of Job: When Bad Things Happened to a Good Person*** by Harold Kushner. This series was well attended, and began a series of incredibly fascinating conversations and reflections.

On the heels of Emily Chatten's temporary leave, Rebecca Wells Jopling was asked to step up as Chair of the Reading Theology Group. I extend deep thanks to Rebecca for taking on this necessary leadership role. I invite you to refer to Rebecca's Vestry Report for a complete briefing of the books that were studied over the last year.

We had the wonderful opportunity this past year to prepare and facilitate both a PromiseLand Instructed Eucharist with the children of the parish as well as an adult Instructed Eucharist during the regular Sunday service. Both of these services were beneficial to those seeking a deeper understanding of "why we do what we do" during the Eucharist. They were also incredibly fun to prepare!

Thanks to Hilary, and her counterpart from Grace Church on the Hill, Sarah Keeshan, we had a most wonderful confirmation class this past year! The study sessions facilitated a great amount of fellowship, seeking God in others and good old fashioned catechism. It was a wonderful adventure, concluding with a visit from the Archbishop on June 5th- who was able to personally meet with and confirm the teens from both churches, here at CCDP. Special thanks to Hilary and Sarah for organizing and teaching this program, and for Kevin who acted as MC for the service.

Our Screening Officer, Edna Quammie, continues to amaze me with her quiet diligence in the administration and facilitation of the Screening Programme here at CCDP. Edna, thank you for happily chasing people down in order to make CCDP a safe space for all people who walk in and out of our doors!

I continue to be greatly appreciative and proud of our Congregational Care Team at CCDP. We have a wonderful group of faithful, compassionate pastoral visitors who carry God's love and light into the homes and hospital rooms of our beloved parishioners who are ill and frail. This group has been capably led by David Moore, to whom I give my gracious thanks for all his hard work and organization. The reigns have now been handed over to William Jackson, who has extraordinary gifts and a love for pastoral care. I have no doubt this group will continue to run smoothly and effectively under William's dedicated leadership.

The clergy continue to provide monthly ministry at Belmont House, where attendance is still strong and our services are very much appreciated. It is a joy to serve the residents of home. Robert, in his new capacity as Interim Associate, has taken on this task with great enthusiasm.

I continue my work at the Diocesan level with both the Finance Committee for the York Scarborough Area and at Area Council. I enjoy deliberating with my colleagues and with the various lay people who have been chosen to be a part of this interesting and helpful group. Along with this is the joy I have at being a part of both the COTH (Churches on the Hill) Ministerial and our Anglican Clericus, both groups meet once per month and discuss the business of providing ministry in our neighbourhoods with prayer and planning.

In response to the results of the NCD (Natural Church Development) team survey, Kevin and I thought it would be beneficial to the people of Christ Church Deer Park to begin to gently introduce a little more prayer into our committees and groups. In order to help people have a more educated understanding of prayer (as many confessed that they never really knew how to pray, or who to pray to) we designed and implemented a Prayer Workshop in the spring, which was attended by 15 people from the community. It was a delightful workshop which focussed on what prayer is, why we do it, and who we pray to. The workshop raised a great deal of awareness about prayer while also raising the level of comfort around prayer, for those who had not been used to praying in the past. It became apparent that there was a need and desire for a subsequent workshop, which is in the works.

In the fall, Hilary Keachie and I discerned a need from the community to provide small group ministry and fellowship to young families both in our church and in the wider community. Out of this time of discernment and prayer came "The Other 6 Days" ministry which consisted of an 8 week program of music, dinner, children's program and adult discussion (complete with wine and chocolate!) on the "hot" topics that face young families today. We looked at how to "Answer Kids' Tough Questions", "Raising Generous, Debt-free Kids" and family stewardship, whether "Unrealistic Expectations are Hurting Your Kids", that "Multi-Tasking Isn't a Spiritual Discipline", how to try "Countercultural Scheduling", how to "Stop Parenting According to Popular Opinion", and how to pray with our kids. The group ranged from 15-20 people each week, and increased the level of fellowship between families in our church dramatically. We plan to continue this small group ministry this coming spring, stay tuned for details! Special thanks to Paul and our teens for volunteering their time and energy in the kitchen and with the Children's programming. You are wonderful!

The Prayers of the People team has seen some interesting changes over the last while. While two of our Intercessors decided to step down (thank you for your incredible contributions Phyllis Creighton and Roger Knox) we have had a subsequent training session and welcomed two new members into the group, Héctor Acero Ferrer and Mervyn Chung! In anticipation of welcoming our new rector, we are, as a team, preparing to add petitions for our Parish Selection Committee and for the process of selecting and welcoming our new rector as a part of our discernment and prayer within the Prayers of the People each Sunday until such time as we are blessed with a new Incumbent (special thanks to Jesse Billet for preparing these petitions.)

I am delighted with how this group continues to grow in faithfulness and prayer for our Church Family. We have an exciting year coming up!

I could not do my work without the incredible lay people and capable staff team here at CCDP. My warm thanks goes out to Robert, Paul, Matthew, Alison, Tuta (Kevin and Hilary in absentia), Elisabeth, Niveen and Denis. It is an honour to work with such an outstanding group of people. I would also like to thank the wardens, Henry, Barbara and Andrew, and Rick our treasurer, who provide tireless and dedicated lay leadership to our church family.

During this interim period, and (God willing) beyond, it is my hope that we continue to build on the work and results that our NCD team has put forth to the congregation, namely: building loving relationships within our church family, increasing our passionate spirituality and reaching out with God's love to those around us. My prayer is that we, like the people of Jeremiah 29, will use this time to seek and find God. What does it look like to seek God? It looks like beginning each of our small groups and committees with prayer in order to hear His voice, it looks like having a prayer partner ministry between our PromiseLand youth and our elders, perhaps it even means simplifying a few things so that we can make more room for prayer & fellowship. It is my hope that this interim period will be a time to discern what God is saying to the CCDP church family, and what our faithful response will be. May God continue to guide and direct us, as we continue to seek His face.

***Holy God, you are the source of all wisdom and guidance. Be the light that leads us, shine truth onto our path and bless us with direction. Amen.***

*Respectfully submitted,*

*The Reverend Andrea Christensen  
Associate Priest*

## **Choir Director and Organist**

At Christ Church Deer Park, music is an integral part of our liturgies. Since my arrival in March 2015, I have been impressed with music's important place in the life of our parish community. As Choir Director & Organist, I am truly blessed to facilitate our music program, continuing to build on the rich musical tradition at CCDP.

In 2016, the Choir of Christ Church Deer Park sang at more than 45 liturgies, collectively dedicating over 3360 hours to their ministry. With a volunteer core of 17 members, plus the support of five professional choral leads, our choir continues to reach new levels of ministry, stewardship and musical excellence.

Here are some highlights from our ministry activities in 2016:

### **1. Choir Membership:**

Our membership grew significantly in 2016, with five new volunteers joining the choir. While two choristers moved away from Toronto, to pursue new endeavours, our membership remains strong with a diverse age range and level of experience. Their dedication to this ministry demonstrates their love of music-making and commitment to the CCDP community.

### **2. Concerts & Outreach:**

Throughout 2016, The Choir of CCDP collaborated with the Choirs of Grace Church On-the-Hill and Timothy Eaton Memorial Church to present two concerts.

- a. In June 2016, our combined choirs, along with the Northdale Concert Band, performed at TEMC's hugely successful "The Last Night of the Proms" with over 700 people in attendance. We were pleased to receive a \$500 honorarium for our participation in this event and look forward to performing in this year's concert on June 4, 2017.
- b. On November 6, 2016, CCDP hosted these choirs for a Remembrance Day concert entitled "How They So Softly Rest". We were delighted to welcome an audience of over 225 people and to contribute approximately \$1300.00 to the COTH Food Bank.

I look forward to strengthening this ecumenical partnership through future collaborations.

### **3. Choral Leads:**

CCDP boasts an exceptional team of choral leads, who exhibit superb vocal skills coupled with excellent musicality, strong musical leadership, and a deep commitment to collaboration. Additional choral leads are engaged from time to time, depending on the complexity of the repertoire and the attendance of our volunteer choristers.

I wish to thank and acknowledge our outstanding professionals, all of who have Master degrees in voice performance and have busy performing careers: Lauren Crowther (soprano), Julia Barber (mezzo soprano), Conrad Siebert (tenor), Bradley Christensen (baritone), and Michael Uloth (bass).

### **4. Pedagogy:**

As an educator, I am deeply committed to developing the gifts of our singers through music education and faith-formation. The overall choral tone continues to benefit from increased attention to voice pedagogy within the rehearsal context. Choristers are taught healthy vocalism (developing their own resonance and voice placement), musicianship, sight-reading, and aural skills.

The rehearsals also strive to educate choristers in the role of music in the liturgical context.

As the choir reaches new skill-levels, we hope to augment our rehearsals with workshops on topics such as vocalism for the aging voice, International Phonetic Alphabet, and liturgical ministry in our church.

#### **5. Repertoire:**

Remaining firmly rooted in the rich treasury of Anglican choral repertoire, we have also incorporated contemporary sacred choral music. In an attempt to strengthen and animate congregational song, we have incorporated new mass settings, eclectic psalm settings, and contemporary hymnody. In the fall, I was particularly enthusiastic to present a new mass setting by local Anglican composer, J. Scott Brubacher. The choir has also added over twenty-five new works to its repertoire, including choral masterworks, motets and masses in a variety of styles.

#### **6. Music Library:**

Upon my arrival, I discovered the music library to be disorganized, outdated, and dysfunctional. Over the past year, the library and music office were completely re-organized, electronically cataloguing over 1000 titles of music. This allows for efficient distribution of music since the role of music librarian has been added to my portfolio.

#### **7. Planning:**

Music repertoire lists are available to our choristers by liturgical season. Our choristers are encouraged to take home their music and practice independently. I have been impressed with their openness and commitment to learning new repertoire and dedicating time outside of the rehearsal context to this ministry.

#### **8. Community:**

I have been struck by the growth and depth of community within our ministry. Choir members are extremely thoughtful, compassionate and prayerful, demonstrating care and concern for one another, for example, sending flowers to an ill chorister, donating money towards a going-away present, or baking treats for a festive party. This spirit of service transcends the choir community and enlivens our parish at coffee hour, or in the many other parish ministries and activities in which choristers are involved. I encourage all parishioners to reach out to our choir members, as some of them are both new to the choir and to the CCDP community.

On a personal note, I wish to extend my profound gratitude to the members of the choir for their constant collaboration, tireless dedication and deep enthusiasm. I also wish to thank Bishop Kevin Robertson, the Rev. Andrea Christensen, the Rev. Robert Gorham, Paul Marritt, Hilary Keachie, the Management Team, and the CCDP community for their continued support of our music ministry.

I look forward to continuing to serve and further enhance the congregational life at CCDP!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Matthew Otto  
Director*

## **Director of Children and Youth Ministry**

Every Sunday morning, 15 to 25 kids between the ages of 5 and 15 gathered together in the Chapel of St. Nicholas for Bible stories, creative play, songs and drama. The kids asked thoughtful questions, wondered about the mysteries of our faith and developed lasting friendships.

The PromiseLand programme followed the Christian Calendar, and we marked the major Holy Days and Seasons together (on our colour coordinated hanging liturgical calendar). We began the year with a lively Epiphany pageant during the 10am service, giving many of our kids who were away over Christmas an opportunity to be involved in the dramatization of the Christmas story. During the rest of January, we explored the Eucharist. We baked Communion bread together, wondered about the Godly Play story of “The Good Shepherd and Worldwide Communion” and welcomed Rev. Andrea downstairs to teach us about the various components of the Anglican liturgy and lead us in our very own PromiseLand Eucharist. It was very special to celebrate it together, crowded around our altar, really seeing and being a part of every action and word. During Lent, we used Godly Play stories to trace the life of Jesus Christ: birth, baptism, teaching in the temple, temptation, healing, teaching, last supper, death and resurrection. Using beautifully painted pictures, we explored the stories, each week telling a little bit more, and collected objects from around our Chapel that helped us to understand and connect with the story. As a Lenten practice, we also memorized the books of the Old Testament to a fun tune, which even months later the kids could be heard reciting! During Holy Week, many families gathered early on Good Friday to solemnly walk around the church visiting the Stations of the Cross, hearing powerful reflections, seeing symbolic objects and singing “Jesus remember me”. On Easter morning, we had about 40 kids who participated in a scavenger hunt around the church for the characters of the Easter story. They met Cleopas, John, Peter, Mary, Salome and Mary Magdalene (played by our wonderfully talented teens!), heard their stories and learned about how Jesus touched each of their lives. We also shared some delicious Easter treats!

A major highlight of 2016 was our Creation Garden! In June, we began working collaboratively with Ed Grady, our amazing gardener, to plant a vegetable, herb and fruit garden. We planted peppers, eggplants, cherry tomatoes, mint, strawberries, onions and more, and then week by week over the summer, watered and tended to the rapidly growing plants. By August, we were harvesting something every single week, and the kids took home a plentiful bounty to share with their friends and family. On Thanksgiving Sunday, we had a Harvest Party, harvesting all of the vegetables and herbs which we then donated to the Churches-on-the-Hill food bank. It was amazing to see the transformation of the garden, and to watch the excitement of the children as they saw the amazing fruits of their labour.

In August 2016, Christ Church Deer Park hosted our third annual Vacation Bible Camp. 36 campers arrived bright and early to spend the week with Rachel and her 12 sons, learning about sibling rivalry, dream interpretation, Egyptian hieroglyphs and the importance of family. In 3 years, we have doubled our VBC participation, and this year, we also offered extended care from 9-4pm, in which half of our campers participated. It was an amazing week of creative art projects, sand stories, adventures with Pharaoh and lively music. Our teen leaders were phenomenal including accompanying our singing on the guitar, acting out the dramatic story as Joseph, Reuben and Judah, and being tribe leaders who ensured that campers had a fun, meaningful and safe experience. We had a wonderful VBC celebration on September 11 which included technicolour mementos, the Godly Play story of “The Good Shepherd” told in place of the Gospel and Homily, a BBQ and a bouncy castle for all the kids.

Young Anglican Leaders continued to be our youth leadership programme for teens in middle and high school. Throughout 2016, YAL participated in bi-weekly “Lunch & Learns” where we practiced how to serve in liturgy, had discussions about Biblical texts and tough questions and explored “The Empathy Toy”. We also had monthly social events including going to For the Win Board Game Café, doing a Mystery Room and hosting a Master Chef competition. Our major community action in 2016 was making and serving a hot breakfast to those in need at the Community Breakfast once a month.

In the spring, we teamed up with Grace Church-on-the-Hill and offered a six-week confirmation programme for 11 teens. We followed the “I will with God’s Help” curriculum and had inspiring conversations about saints, the Apostles’ Creed and how to be a Good Samaritan. We celebrated confirmation on Sunday June 5 with Archbishop Colin Johnson presiding and followed by a fun BBQ.

The teens also demonstrated incredible maturity and dedication by regularly volunteering in PromiseLand and the Nest, serving as crucifer, acolytes and/or readers and taking on leadership roles with the Easter drama, Christmas Pageant and Vacation Bible Camp.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Hilary Keachie  
Director*

## **St. Andrew's Group**

The St. Andrew's Group met every Tuesday, some for friendship, others quilting and sorting jewelry. Lunch is at noon where announcements are made and following that is bridge.

Activities during the year consist of taking part in "World Day of Prayer", and during Lent a series of lectures on Tuesdays. We helped out with the Rummage Sale, volunteering to help sort and sell. The highlight of the spring is the Annual Luncheon. Summer is quiet and then in September helping again with the Rummage Sale and in November the Christmas Fair which involves a lot of people. The year ends with our Christmas lunch with lots of carol singing and friendship.

Money raised by the St. Andrew's Group goes to the Church and Outreach.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Anne Le Fewre, Joan Huycke  
Co-Presidents*

## **Memorials Committee**

The Memorials Committee assists the Rector and Corporation in the design and purchase of memorials in the parish. There were no memorials in 2016.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Joan Huycke  
Chair*

## **Chancel Guild**

Even with diminishing numbers the members of the Chancel Guild have kept the linens, brass and silver in excellent condition. The flower arrangers have also continued to produce beautiful arrangements for memorials, special occasions and our Sunday services and we thank all members for their faithful service during the year. At the same time we hope that other parishioners will feel encouraged to join the Guild.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Maggie Symons  
Chair*

## **Sides Duty**

Every Sunday four of the parishioners participating in this Ministry greet Service attendees and welcome newcomers, and, during the Service present Offerings and manage the flow of those taking Communion.

The number of participants in this Ministry appears to be gradually decreasing and now numbers approximately 20.

We are always ready to recruit those who may wish to serve in this Ministry of welcoming.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Al Rands*

*Chair*

## **Spiritus**

Our parish newsletter, Spiritus, is a collaborative effort based on joyful, voluntary service. It publishes ministry and committee reports, opinion pieces, educational notes, book reviews, and other items submitted by contributors who bring different voices and spiritual attitudes to the publication. Genevieve Chornenki is the editor, and Henry Zaluski volunteers his professional skills in design and layout.

In 2016, there were three regular issues of Spiritus—Lent, September, and Advent—plus a special December issue containing an interview with Andrea Christensen, our interim priest-in-charge. Three regular issues are also planned for 2017, and all members of the parish are invited to write for the newsletter.

On behalf of the parish, I once again recognize and thank all those who have contributed to the production of Spiritus including,

- Those who wrote for Spiritus and/or agreed to be written about. Developing an article and participating in the editing process take time—a lot of it. Being published also entails vulnerability. I admire the contributors' willingness to expose their innermost thoughts to our scrutiny.
- Those who submitted photographs, which enlivened the newsletter. Theirs was time and attention well spent.
- Those involved in physical production—Paul Marritt, our director of parish operations, and the volunteers who assist him—whose work includes printing, stapling, folding as well as posting the newsletter on the Christ Church Deer Park website.
- Church Mouse for columns on parish life.
- Those who read Spiritus, including parishioners who are unable to attend worship services due to ill health or other reasons. Your encouraging and positive feedback means a lot to us and makes us want to continue.
- The individual parishioners who covered the \$500.00 of expenses required to produce Spiritus in 2016.

It takes a parish to create a newsletter, and Christ Church Deer Park has done just that. Thank you for the privilege of serving as the editor of Spiritus.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Genevieve Chornenki*

*Publisher*

## **Congregational Care Team**

The dedicated team of volunteers listed below have met 7 times in the past year. Before each session we give thanks and praise for the commitment of our group and others in our church community who give care and comfort to those of our parish in need and ask God to sustain us with his grace.

This past year our team of 9 volunteers and clergy continue to be in touch with 18 of our parishioners. In several of these situations members of our team will arrange transport to services at CCDP. We work closely with Andrea Christensen, and more recently Robert Goreham, to exchange information on those of our parish in need. The need for confidentiality is paramount in all we do.

I have tendered my resignation as Chairman and want to thank William Jackson for agreeing to take on this responsibility. I know from working with William that he is motivated by the same sense of love and care that keep all our team members engaged in this important ministry.

My thanks and admiration are extended as always to the following:

Margo Bowen, Maggie Symons, Edna Quammie, Bob Reeves, William Jackson, Anne Larkin, Dorothy Lancaster, Walter Blackwell, and our wonderful clergy.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*David Moore  
Chair*

## **Challenging Christianity**

The Challenging Christianity group meets at noon on the second Friday of the month, September through May, average attendance between eight and ten, discussing current concerns about traditional Christianity and/or secular culture, specific topics agreed by the group the month before, mindful of the liturgical season, encouraging each to voice what he or she really thinks and respect others' responses.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Peter Slater  
Chair*

## **Reading Theology**

The Reading Theology group met several times this year to discuss works of theology as well as fiction and poetry that engage Christian theological questions or themes. The group met after the 10:00 service in the Chapel. We explored together T. S. Eliot's poem "Ash Wednesday" (at our meeting on February 7, 2016); Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay, "Nature" (May 22); Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book, *Life Together* (June 12); Stanley Hauerwas and Samuel Wells' book chapter entitled "Studying Ethics Through Worship" in *The Blackwell Companion to Christian Ethics* (September 25); and David Bentley Hart's book *The Doors of the Sea: Where Was God in the Tsunami?* (November 13).

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Rebecca Wells-Jopling  
Coordinator*

## **Natural Church Development**

Natural Church Development (NCD) is a process by which a parish can assess the quality and health of its church experience and identify opportunities for growth and development. The ultimate objective of NCD is to guide churches through a long-term process of reflection and growth by focusing on the quality of the church experience.

At CCDP, we have been engaged with NCD since the fall of 2015. Based on the results of our initial NCD survey, taken in November 2015, we have been working throughout 2016 to identify opportunities to develop and enhance our least well-developed quality characteristic – Passionate spirituality. Some of the initiatives undertaken over the course of the year, with the goal of assisting in the development of Passionate spirituality, include a workshop for parishioners looking for guidance and support in how to pray and intentional Gospel preaching of the New Testament highlighting personal experiences with Jesus.

A group of parishioners took our second NCD survey in December 2016 and the results of this survey reflected an across-the-board increase in the presence of each of the eight NCD quality characteristics in our church experience. Particularly gratifying were the significant increases in the scores for our least well-developed characteristics – our Passionate spirituality score improved over 13% and our Need-oriented evangelism scored improved nearly 9%. On average, the results of the second survey reflected a 9.5% increase in the scores for all quality characteristics relative to the November 2015 survey.

For 2017, our Minimum Factor – our least well-developed characteristic – remains Passionate spirituality. Going forward, the NCD working group will continue to work to identify opportunities for growth and development around Passionate spirituality and engage the parish in soliciting ideas and reporting on outcomes.

More information on NCD may be found at [www.ncd-canada.com](http://www.ncd-canada.com)

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Chris Byers  
Chair*

## **Refugee Committee**

2016 was a year of great activity for our newly-formed Refugee Committee. After the parish decided to sponsor a refugee family from Syria in the early fall of 2015, there was a tremendous outpouring of generosity from members of our community. As a result, we were matched with a Syrian family, the Alkadris, who had been living in a Jordanian refugee camp for two years, and they arrived, two weeks earlier than expected, in mid-February 2016. With the kind help of Brother Dominic, Head of De La Salle College, we were able to find instant temporary accommodation for the family before they moved into an apartment in Thorncliffe Park in early March, furnished with the help of parishioners.

As we noted in a letter to donors in November, the parents are studying English and working and volunteering part time; the children are attending school, participating in soccer leagues, and the daughter has joined a Girl Guide troop. Without naming members of the Refugee Committee individually, I can say that the group has been remarkably cohesive and effective in providing constant support to the family with minimal direction from the Chair. As a result, I am pleased to report that our family is thriving in Canada.

Our financial sponsorship of the family officially ends in March, but the bonds of friendship that have been formed over the last year between the family and committee members will last for many years to come. Beyond working closely with the Alkadris to ensure they become financially self-sufficient, the Committee is now examining other ways in which we can be supportive of refugees. I speak on behalf of all committee members in saying how gratifying and rewarding this experience has been both at the human and spiritual level.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*John Godfrey  
Chair*

## **Community Breakfast**

A truly ecumenical program, 9 years ago the Community Breakfast ‘piggy backed’ on Calvin Presbyterian Church breakfast, who had started theirs 14 years ago. We served over 2000 hot breakfasts in 2016 consisting of sausages, eggs, oatmeal and pancakes. With a group of long serving, dedicated, early risers we provide breakfast 3-4 times a month on Saturday from 8-9:30am. Our guests, from all parts of the city, Warden and Finch to Queen and Dufferin, are truly appreciative of the safe, warm, environment for fellowship and good food.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Anne Larkin  
Coordinator*

## **Churches on the Hill Foodbank**

As we recognize 20 years of service, in 2016, we fed over 11,000 people, stable from the previous year. We have 457 households on file, of which a growing sector is seniors. We provide all the food needed for children 3 and under. We are open 2 times a week and cover an area bordered by Lawrence, Bloor, Bayview and Oakwood. The CIC proves invaluable to our clients, where they are referred, proactively, to agencies for employment, financial, health, housing, legal, new Canadians and other material (meal programs, furniture, and clothing) assistance. Volunteers come 1-2 times a week to once every 4 weeks to serve clients, restock/ repackage food, interview or refer to other resources.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Anne Larkin  
Coordinator*

## **Hospitality**

First I would like to say thank you to the volunteers who have helped with all aspects of hospitality this past year at Christ Church Deer Park. Your hard work has been appreciated by the entire congregation. And we are grateful for the core team who volunteer on Sunday to serve coffee and refreshments following the 10:00 am Sunday Eucharist.

Hospitality is defined as the friendly and generous reception and entertainment of guests, visitors, or strangers. I am pleased to report that it continues to be alive and well at Christ Church Deer Park. This year has been celebrated by pancake suppers, pot luck lunches, bbq's and Baptisms. We have had so many opportunities to meet, celebrate and have times of fellowship together.

This year we are hoping to welcome new people into the hospitality ministry and continue to grow our service with Christ Church Deer Park.

“Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God’s grace in its various forms.” 1 Peter 4:10

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Deborah Wilkinson  
Coordinator*

## **Sporting Life 10k Cheer Station**

Once again Christ Church Deer Park hosted the “Heath Street Cheer Station” for the Deer Park neighbourhood to come together and cheer on the 27,000 runners that go past our Yonge Street church. Runners, walkers and joggers gave their best to raise money for children with cancer an opportunity to attend summer camp. CCDP runners had a good showing and The Reverend Canon Kevin Robertson was fast enough to make it back in time to lead the 10:00 service! Well done! Our mascot, CeeCee the churchmouse, was out on the road with high-fives for everyone. Thanks to Jill MacRae there was a great article and photos in the Anglican Journal. Special thanks to the team at radio station 102.1 The Edge for providing music and energy to keep everyone hopping! We’ve had super positive feedback from runners who say we were incredibly motivating, funny, distracting (from the pain!) and appreciated all our efforts. We are getting ready for the 2017 race so please mark Sunday May 14th in your calendar and come and cheer with us.

Would you consider joining our organizing committee? We’d like to talk about expanding our cheer station to include other Yonge Street races.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Jill MacRae and Barbara Johnston  
Coordinators*

## **Rummage Sales**

Once again CCDP had successful spring and fall rummage sales and we sold so so so much really great STUFF! 2016 saw a change in leadership with Maxine Henry and Judith Maxwell running their last sale in the spring and we would like to thank them for their incredible dedication and years of service to this ministry. Laura Kuca has kindly stepped up to lead the rummage effort and ran her first sale in the fall. Rummage sales involve many CCDP-ers who help sort, price, set up, dismantle, cashiers, security, advertise, provide snacks, customer sales on the floor. And then, at the end of the sale, we bagged up the leftovers and were pleased to donate approximately 30 bags of clothing and 25 boxes of other goods to the Salvation Army. In 2016, our two rummage sales brought in \$18,130 to CCDP. We are busy getting ready for the spring rummage sale scheduled for Saturday May 13th, 2017 and are seeking volunteers to help with this important community event.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Laura Kuca and Barbara Johnston  
Coordinators*

## **Holy and Holly Christmas Festival**

Our organizing committee for the Christmas fair got underway in July, expressing lots of fun ideas and energy, to deliver a new take on this long-standing Christ Church Deer Park tradition.

Committee members Caroline van Nostrand, Angela van Straubenzee, Mohan Sharma, Su Laine Varkey, Hilary Keachie and Barbara Johnston worked to create a memorable Christmas festival for the whole community! We implemented a new approach which incorporated a more faith-based Christmas festival and fun activities for children, the chance to experience life in a Bethlehem market, carol singing, nativity story puppet shows, silent auction and the sale of popular homemade gifts. Not to worry – old favourites were included too as everyone enjoyed the Treasures Room, Jewellery Table and our famous Christmas cakes and shortbread.

With over 80 volunteers, the event generated a real buzz and raised \$11,709.

Plans are in the making for next year's fair which is scheduled for Saturday November 18, 2017. Want to join the organizing committee? We'd love to hear from you!

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Barbara Johnston  
Coordinator*

## **The Screening in Faith Ministry**

It is the obligation of the church to ensure the welfare and safety of all members and visitors at the church. Especially the vulnerable through age, infirmity or particular circumstances of dependency, this includes children and anyone dealing with finances.

We have screened over 80 volunteers here at CCDP, screening includes a police check and asexual misconduct seminar. We are in partnership with St Clements and St. Cuthbert's churches to conduct the seminars.

There are more than 20 ministries at CCDP. A seminar was held in April to inform the ministry leaders about applications, reference checks, interviews, training and police checks if needed for new volunteers and staff members.

We are well in accordance with the Diocese of Toronto requirements for Screening in Faith. Thank you to Rev, Andrea Christensen, Barbara Johnston, Paul Marritt and the ministry leaders for helping to facilitate this ministry.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Edna M. Quammie  
Screening Officer*

## **Stewardship Committee**

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to present to the Management Team and the Vestry meeting its report on activities for 2016. The Committee consists of Caroline van Nostrand, David Moore, Carolyn Kearns and Bob Hutchison (Chair) and works closely with Rick Varkey who, as Treasurer, attends most meetings together with the Rector (formerly Kevin Robertson and now Andrea Christensen in her Interim capacity). Gary Shaw who is our Diocesan-appointed Growing Healthy Stewards (GHS) coach also attends most meetings. The Committee is supported by Paul Marritt and Elisabeth Lunder in the Parish office.

2016 has been a year of significant change in the approach of CCDP to stewardship. The Committee began its activities by reviewing current and past practices and concluded that in our changing environment continuing those practices would be neither efficient nor effective in successful stewardship—including raising the money needed to meet our Christian mission.

This report is about the Growing Healthy Stewards program that was initiated at CCDP in the early fall of last year and how we as a congregation have responded. The basic premise of GHS is that stewardship is a lifestyle and a choice we as Christians can (and should) make. A healthy steward is a committed Christian who understands his/her faith and acknowledges that his/her blessings and gifts are from God and is motivated to share these gifts.

The Stewardship Committee is responsible for implementing the GHS program. It received the counsel of the Diocese which developed the program and the guidance of a coach, Gary Shaw from St. Clements Church which has successfully launched its program. Prior to formally adopting the program in the fall, descriptions of the elements of GHS and expected changes were circulated in various communications to the parish. It was decided by the Committee—based on advice from the Diocese of the experience of other parishes that-- because our Rector was being considered as a Bishop (and subsequently elected)-- the complete GHS program should not be pursued in the first year. However, with the late fall start and the projected financial deficit we did understand that many of our congregation would have the mistaken impression that the GHS program was all about money. We hope that this coming year we can communicate more clearly the components of Growing Healthy Stewards that include but go far beyond fundraising. Money will always be important but the other characteristics of a healthy steward, who happily gives of his/her time and talents, will be acknowledged and nurtured.

It should be noted that GHS does not stand on its own in our parish life, and in order to be successful it has to be consistent and integrated with other initiatives. One of the most important aligned initiatives is the Natural Church Development (NCD) review which is underway. The Natural Church Development Committee was formed in 2016 and its goal is to improve the quality of our church experience both spiritually and prayerfully.

Some 30 participants completed 2 questionnaires 6 months apart. As a result of initiatives including education on prayer undertaken during this period focused on areas that needed strengthening, the second questionnaire showed that our church experience had improved in all categories-- the spiritual experience has improved significantly but is still the weakest of all the characteristics of our church experience. This initiative is important to GHS success because of the core principle of stewardship being based on spiritual commitment.

With this background, here are some of the results of our parishioners' response in 2016.

1. The Discovery Fair held October 16 was a positive and worthwhile event with 26 new people signing up for various ministries. While a good response, there is still a need for leadership in many ministries and hopefully more people will continue to volunteer for areas that interest them.

2. There are many other examples of healthy stewardship in our parish life: the choir, Refugee committee, food bank, community breakfast program, St. Andrews group, congregational care team, Small Group Ministry, Lenten study groups, liturgical servers and leaders, Promiseland, Young Anglican Leaders, The Nest, to mention some but not all of them.

3. Commitment Sunday is one of the annual focus points in the GHS program and we held ours on November 27. In preparation for that day all parishioners were provided with information on GHS and a commitment form that they were asked to complete and return at the services on Commitment Sunday—or by other means if they were unable to attend. The theme of the request was titled Joyful Giving and specific information requested included updated contact coordinates, a financial pledge for 2017, assistance in pre-authorized giving and other relevant data. Approximately 300 letters were sent and a follow-up communication was organized. Apart from the number and content of the responses noted in item 4 below, the Committee is aware that the approach and spiritual basis for Joyful Giving was new to parishioners and we have work to do to explain and make the program more attractive and understood going forward.

4. The response to the Joyful Giving campaign was excellent from a financial point of view. Our year end budget deficit had been estimated in the fall to be \$71,000. A number of you made a top up gift which raised \$68,000. This essentially eliminated the deficit but it should be noted that the result was achieved in large part by a couple of lead gifts. Of greater significance and encouragement is the fact that approximately 1/3 of our regular donors responded and sent in their pledge forms. The number of donors who expressed their future giving commitment increased by almost 20% over last year and pledges increased by more than 25%. This indicates that parishioners are thinking ahead on a longer term basis in respect of their stewardship commitments. Also more parishioners have directed a portion of their United Way contribution to our church.

The Stewardship Committee thank you for your wonderful response. We are encouraged that with an increased focus this year on the GHS program a greater percentage of parishioners will choose to participate. This year we had about 35% participation and we should all aim to raise that to 40-45% in 2017.

The Committee believes that the Growing Healthy Stewards approach is the right one for CCDP—but it requires discipline and effort by us all collectively but, most importantly, individually. The Committee is in the process of planning the next stages of the program for 2017 and beyond. Priorities will include clearer communications, increased use of pre-authorized banking arrangements and an improved data base and information technology system. So we look forward to growing the number of healthy stewards in 2017 and will keep you informed of the program as it develops and opportunities for you to contribute your time, talent and treasure to the work of CCDP.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Bob Hutchison  
Co-Chair*

## **Trust Committee**

The CCDP Trust Committee oversees the investments of the various trust funds (see below) held by CCDP. The Committee is composed of five parishioners appointed by Corporation. Throughout 2016, its members were:

Franck Perrin Co-chair  
Jill MacRae Co-chair  
Robert Morrow  
Kathleen Kent  
Michael Butler  
Reverend Canon Kevin Robertson, ex-officio  
Paul Marritt, Director of Parish Operations, staff support

The responsibilities of the Committee are as follows:

1. Engage an Investment Advisor to advise on the management of the Trust Funds in accordance with these Terms of Reference;
2. Evaluate the performance of the Investment Advisor annually. Such evaluation could lead to the replacement of the Investment Advisor;
3. Evaluate the performance of the Trust Funds at least semi-annually;
4. Review the Trust Funds for compliance with these Terms of Reference at least semi-annually;
5. Report to Corporation as requested and at least annually;
6. Report to the annual Vestry meeting;
7. Review these Terms of Reference annually, with any substantive proposed changes first being submitted to Corporation for comment; and
8. Carry out these responsibilities with the diligence, independence and objectivity reasonably expected of a volunteer committee.

The Committee met twice formally and twice informally (by email), focusing on matters such as:

1. Reviewing the performance of the portfolio and individual holdings with Bruce Moore CIBC, our financial advisor/stock broker, on a regular basis; and
2. Making any changes deemed necessary to the composition of the portfolio

The Investment Objectives for the Trust Funds are:

1. Preservation of Capital;
2. Provision of secure income for the operations of the Church;
3. Capital appreciation without undue risk;
4. Achieve an annual total rate of return on the funds that exceeds the rate of inflation by 3% over the most recent 4 years period; and
5. Achieve the specific investment policy for each of the Funds (see below).

### **Description & Balance of the Funds**

#### **1. Endowment Fund: \$ 1,394,931**

The Endowment Fund was established in 1963 to receive gifts of money which were to be placed in approved investments to be selected and monitored by the Trust Committee. The investment income from the Fund may be used for such purposes as the Corporation sees fit. Such purposes would generally include any operating expenses of the Church. The capital of the Endowment Fund may not be withdrawn. Any investment income not used by the Corporation in any year shall be added to the capital of the Fund and thereafter may not be withdrawn.

Investment Policy: invest in long-term assets to generate current income whilst preserving capital.

**2. 1870 Fund: \$ 231,891**

Established by approval of vestry on October 14, 2007. Investment income may be used for the operations of the Church. Any use of the Capital of the Fund above \$35,000 in any calendar year will require prior approval of Vestry. As at December 31, 2012, the 1870 Fund had a loan receivable of \$85,000 from Corporation. The original loan was for \$110,000.

Investment Policy: those funds not required in the current fiscal year should be invested in long-term assets to generate capital growth whilst preserving capital.

**3. Woodcock Theological Fund: \$ 65,188**

This fund was created with a bequest from Canon Woodcock. No further contributions to this fund will be accepted. As Canon Woodcock did not specify how the funds should be used, vestry determined that income from the funds should be applied to theological education including the continuing education of the ministry staff of Christ Church Deer Park. Capital of the fund may not be withdrawn.

Investment Policy: invest in long-term assets to generate current income whilst preserving capital.

**4. Ministry Funds: \$ 63,719**

This fund was created with a donation from a single parishioner. The funds are to be held pending agreement between the Rector and the donor on a suitable expenditure or expenditures.

Investment Policy: Maintain liquidity and preserve capital.

**5. Rectory Fund: \$ 1,108,651**

This fund was created with the proceeds from the sale of the rectory. The funds are held and invested by the Diocese on behalf of Christ Church Deer Park. Currently the income generated is forwarded to Corporation to meet annual operating/programme expenses.

Investment Policy: invest in long-term assets to generate current income whilst preserving capital.

**6. Re-Imagining Church: \$ 296,400**

**Performance of the Funds: 01/01/2016 - 12/31/2016**

<b>Starting Value</b>	<b>\$ 1,924,515.55</b>
Inflows	\$ 36,635.14
Outflows	\$ -51,203.38
Revenues	\$ 54,214.47
<b>Ending Value</b>	<b>\$ 2,111,096.44</b>
<b>Performance – Net</b>	<b>10.64 %</b>

Notes:

1. The income from the Rectory Fund accrues to CCDP. The initial principal was generated through the sale of a residence previously purchased for the use of a previous Minister.
2. It is the policy of the Anglican Church of Canada that it is the ultimate beneficiary of all funds held by or on behalf of CCDP.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Franck Perrin and Jill MacRae  
Co-Chairs*

## **Property Committee**

Members: Kathy Lindsey, Walter Blackwell, Art Huycke, Al Rand, Andrew van Nostrand.

### **Landscaping**

In the spring there were many dead, dying and unsightly bushes around the property. A group of about ten people met and cleaned up the unsightly beds and raked the winter leaves and garbage away. A wonderful day of community.

Over the spring and summer we owe a debt of gratitude to Ed Gradey, I know you have seen him working away outside, Ed lives in a neighbouring apartment building and loves gardening, so he comes and expresses himself in our garden. Also thanks to Bob Hutchinson who assisted Ed in overhauling the front flower bed by the driveway into the parking lot. Many thanks to Hilary Keachie, the church school children and YAL who made a vegetable and flower garden on the south side by the Heath Street entrance. A welcoming place to sit and breath in the lovely smells of the garden. Also a thank you to Ben Dibben who comes and keeps his hand in to help our gardens along.

### **Arthur Smith Room Refurbished**

The St. Andrew's group took on the refurbishment of the Arthur Smith Room this past Summer. The furniture, needed to be recovered and a beautiful fabric was chosen. The room was repainted and the rug cleaned. A much appreciated uplift to our church home.

General Maintenance was always looked after by our wonderful group on maintenance staff. We thank them for keeping our worship home looking clean and welcoming.

Although the refurbishment of the Arthur Smith Room and Ed's leadership in the loving care of our gardens has done wonders for those areas of our church that are in "full view" we continue to struggle with areas of the church that in many cases do not see the light of day or may not be public areas.

The church cornerstone that can be found at the north-eastern end of the building near the clergy parking spot is dated 1922. Our beloved parish home is nearing its 100th anniversary! Many of the core systems of the building are the original systems from the 1920's and are nearing or at the end of their useful life requiring substantial investment. Significant considerations include the roof and the drainage systems around the foundation of the building. Although not original systems, the church's heating boilers and HVAC systems will likely need to be replaced within the next 10 years too. For perspective, a typical moderate repair to an area of the church roof can easily be in the \$100,000 range. There are at least four areas identified requiring immediate remediation. These costs don't even begin to address the need to look at broader replacement of the church roof.

A capital maintenance study was commissioned by the parish several years ago. The purpose of the study was to allow the parish to establish a plan of major capital maintenance needs. The study identified the need for approximately \$100,000/year in capital maintenance investments over the lifetime of the 10 year plan.

The Property Committee continues to struggle to bring forward a list of recommended capital investments on an annual basis knowing that the ability to fund any major repairs needs to be managed within the parish's fiscal reality. There's always the tension of trying to determine what should be fixed as part of routine preventative maintenance vs determining those items which can be deferred for another year. The challenge is trying target items that must be repaired before they turn into much larger and more expensive issues.

Unfortunately, the balance between “should be repaired” and deferring repairs continues to trend to the decision to defer which will likely result in greater overall and longer costs to the parish.

We look forward to working with the Management Team and Stewardship Committee for opportunities and strategies to develop a more balanced approach to addressing the needs our beloved parish home.

*Respectfully submitted,*

*Kathy Lindsey  
Chair*

**Christ Church Deer Park  
2016 Attendance Statistics**

Service	Total Attendance	Average Weekly (total divided by 52)
8:00 am	1,247	24
10:00 am	7,274	140
Afternoon	2,833	54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,354</b>	<b>218</b>

Number of people in church at Easter Vigil/Easter Day (3 services) = **468**

Number of people in church on Christmas Eve/Day (4 services) = **611**

Average attendance at the Wednesday 7:30 am Eucharist = **17**

Average attendance at Church on Tap = **39**

Average attendance at Jazz Vespers = **157**

**Average Sunday attendance (includes all Sunday services) = 195**

**Average weekly attendance (all services except wedding & funerals) = 263**

## Closing Hymn Let All Things Now Living *The Ash Grove*

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving  
to God the creator triumphantly raise,  
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,  
who still guides us on to the end of our days.

Love's banners are o'er us, God's light goes before us,  
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,  
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,  
as forward we travel from light into Light.

God's law still enforces the stars in their courses  
and causes the sun in its splendour to shine;  
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the deeps of the ocean in praises combine.

We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:  
“To God in the highest, hosanna and praise!”