

SPIRITUS

Becoming Part of a Parish

By Robert Gorham

Sitting in my office at Christ Church Deer Park
on the last day of January, I reflected on my first month in my new position as Interim Associate Priest.

It has been an exciting and challenging experience for me.

For the last fifty-one years of my ministry, I have served the Anglican Church as rector of three Parishes in Newfoundland and Labrador, with the remainder of my ministry in chaplaincy positions: twenty-four years as a hospital chaplain and twelve years as a chaplain at the Court of Justice in Newmarket, Ontario.

It feels very good to be part of Christ Church Deer Park now. I am grateful for this opportunity, especially to be able to share in this ministry with the Rev. Andrea Christensen, the wardens, and the staff of this church.

I have been part of this parish for the past four years. For the last three, I was an Honorary Assistant, taking the occasional service when Kevin and Andrea had to be away. But, I really began to feel I belong to Christ Church Deer Park when I started to attend the mid-week Eucharist on Wednesday morning. I found the people who attend that service so welcoming, and I was thrilled when Kevin



placed me on the roster to conduct the service from time to time. I have gotten to know this wonderful group of people, and I thank God that I get to share with them in worship followed by a great breakfast each week.

One Saturday, I met Edna Quammie in the grocery store. She told me that she had just come from serving at the community breakfast. I asked her about this ministry and said that this might be a way for me to become more involved in the parish. Edna invited me to come along to the next breakfast. I did, and three years later I continue to help out at this important ministry. In this way, I have also come to know another group of great people who are part of this parish.

Do you feel a part of Christ Church Deer Park? If not, I would challenge you to find ways to become more involved. There are always opportunities to do so in many areas of our parish life. We are coming into the Lenten season. I ask you to reflect during this season on how you can not only deepen your faith but also live out that faith in your church and in your community.

I wish you all a Holy and blessed Lenten season.

✚ Robert Gorham is the Interim Associate Priest at Christ Church Deer Park

INSIDE

<i>Becoming Part of a Parish</i>	1
<i>George Moss – Our Loss is Heaven’s Gain</i>	1
<i>An Interview with a Best Friend</i>	1
<i>Churches-on-the-Hill Food Bank</i>	2
<i>Black History – Why Do We celebrate?</i>	2
<i>Lent is a Time of Action</i>	3
<i>Lenten and Easter Services Schedule</i>	3
<i>Lent 2017: A Personalized Practice</i>	3
<i>God Bless David Moore!</i>	4
<i>Our New Area Bishop</i>	3
<i>Prayer Books I Have Known</i>	4
<i>Natural Church Development at Christ Church Deer Park</i>	5
<i>Parish Selection Committee Update</i>	5
<i>Growing Healthy Stewards... is Growing!</i>	5
<i>Book Review</i>	6
<i>Think Globally, Act Locally World Day of Prayer</i>	6
<i>Extra! Extra! Optimizing Spiritus</i>	6
<i>Dear Church Mouse</i>	6
<i>Music Library Notes</i>	6

George Moss – Our Loss is Heaven’s Gain

By William Jackson

George Moss died the morning of Friday, February 10, 2017, the day after I submitted this article to Spiritus. George and I had been working on his profile for some weeks, and he was looking forward to seeing it in print.

George was a long-time member of the Christ Church Deer Park congregation, most recently attending the 8 a.m. Sunday worship service. He and his family were connected to the parish since the 1960s, and two of his four children were baptized in our church. His wife, Katherine, and his children sang in the choir. George was a sidesperson and was often asked to participate at the Remembrance Day services, as he had been a Captain in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps.

On a personal note, George told me that he met his wife when he went over to a fellow medical student’s house to study for exams. When George arrived, his friend’s twin sister—Katherine—opened the door. George fell for her immediately, and the rest, as they say, is history.

After completing his medical degree at the University of Toronto, George served as a medical officer at the POW camp in Monteith, Ontario, during WW II. The men detained in the camp were mostly from General Rommel’s Afrika Korps, the German expeditionary force in Africa during the North African Campaign. (Continued at top of page 2)

An Interview with a Best Friend



By Tommy (Best friend of Tony van Straubensee)

Tell us something about yourself. What kind of dog are you? Who were your parents? When were you born?

My name is Tommy and I am a Norwich terrier. I was born in Maryland in April 2006, and my parents were both show dogs. I was bought by Dralion Kennels in Orangeville for breeding purposes and to go to dog shows.

Who do you live with now and how did you come to live there?
So one day, this man Tony came to visit Dralion to see puppies, but he really liked me and wanted to buy me. I really liked him. I wasn’t for sale. But he persisted, so my owner, Linda, said that I could live with Tony and Mary as long as Dralion could still use me for breeding. Hence, I would visit Dralion when they needed me, and I always came back with a smile on my face! (Continued at top of page 2)

Photo by: Thupden Choedup

After the war, George was employed by Connaught Laboratories. One of his most noteworthy accomplishments there was conducting the field trials on the poliomyelitis vaccines that ultimately became part of the standard vaccinations given to children today.

George did post-graduate work in Public Health. After Connaught, he moved on to the City of Toronto where he was eventually appointed the city’s Medical Officer of Health. While there, he had to deal with the last known North American case of smallpox. George told me that this was a challenge because there was no such thing as an isolation ward or room, and they had to improvise one at the time.

George published or contributed to at least fifteen articles in medical or scientific journals. He also served as consultant to a variety of bodies including the Ontario Ministry of Health, the National Cancer Institute, and the Atomic Energy Control Board. George enjoyed the opera both here and in New York. He showed me his prodigious collection of Christmas cacti, some of which belonged to his father and are over 50 years old. In the summer, George enjoyed spending time at his cottage in Haliburton. He was also an avid baseball fan, a keen follower of the Toronto Blue Jays, and he attended as many games as he could. George and I had plans to attend a game together this coming summer, but God had other things in mind for George.

⊕ *William Jackson is a lay reader and chalice bearer at Christ Church Deer Park.*

How would you describe your relationship with Tony? From your perspective, what is Tony’s most endearing characteristic? His most annoying one? Is there something about Tony that he wouldn’t want us to know?

Tony and I are very close. He walks me regularly around the University of Toronto and up Philosophers Walk while he says his prayers. At the cottage, I run free and chase squirrels and chipmunks. In Florida I chase geckos. In Quebec, Tony takes me to a golf course (he isn’t very good), but in Toronto and Florida I hate it when he is gone for so long playing the game. I get annoyed when Tony and Mary sit in Starbucks for so long. Tony talks a lot! Tony is looking over my shoulder as I type this, so I’ll have to get back to you on that last question.

When and by what means were you introduced to the Anglican church? To what effect?

Several years ago, I was taken to Christ Church Deer Park to be blessed by Bishop Ann Tottenham, and I have returned for the blessing of the animals every year since then.

What plans do you and Tony have to observe Lent this year?

For Lent I am giving up breeding, and so is Tony.

⊕ *Tony van Straubenzee is a regular contributor to Spiritus. He has been a parishioner of Christ Church Deer Park for fifty years, and has been best friends with Tommy for sixty-three dog years. Tony successfully bid for the privilege of featuring Tommy in this newsletter at the Holy & Holly Silent Auction in December 2016.*

Churches-on-the-Hill Food Bank

By Ben Dibben

THE 2016 FOOD DRIVE of the Food Bank took place on November 5 and 12, 2016, with donations being collected from houses in the neighbourhood and sorted at Timothy Eaton Memorial Church.

A total of 232 craters was collected—the highest in any year to date. In addition, there were many generous gifts of cash totalling just over \$16,000, some of which were donated on line at info@cothfoodbank.ca.

These results were accomplished by the efforts of many people from the churches involved, and Christ Church Deer Park was represented by a great team of 23 volunteers involving parishioners and their children and friends.

Many had been involved in the Food Drive in previous years, but there was a goodly number of new volunteers contributing to the cause.

The Churches-on-the-Hill Food (COTH) Bank received a total of 716 items generously donated over the months of 2016 by Christ Church Deer Park parishioners in the attractive collection box that is located in the Atrium and run by the children of PromiseLand YAL. This represented a 40% increase over the total achieved in 2015.



In October, which included the Thanksgiving period, a great number of donations were deposited and, over that month, it was necessary to convey as many as 85 items from Christ Church Deer Park towards the total assembled at Timothy Eaton.

The year of 2017—of which we have so far experienced only a few weeks—has started very well with 111 items contributed in January. Just after New Year’s Day, a situation similar to that of 2016 Thanksgiving arose and, on one occasion, it was necessary to convey a total of 74 items to Timothy Eaton.

Also, January was the month for particularly earmarking contributions of cereals, some of which (including some sizeable ones!)

Each month, a particular item is earmarked and noted in that month’s Sunday bulletins—February has been chosen to reflect canned fruit.

Sincere thanks to all who have recently contributed to the COTH Food Bank and to those who have devoted effort and time to what has turned out to be some good results. May we hope and pray that the impressive results of recent months will continue through for the rest of this year and the future.

⊕ *Ben Dibben is an active and involved parishioner who volunteers at the food bank.*

Black History – Why Do We Celebrate?



By Elsa A. Jones

Through Him, we have access by faith into His grace, wherein we stand and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

Romans 5: 2

Black History Month is a celebration of our struggles and our achievements. It is a time to celebrate the courage, endurance, and sacrifices of our ancestors and to give thanks for the pioneers who have paved the way. February, which is designated as Black History Month, provides us with various opportunities to articulate a vision of who we are and what we represent, and to preserve what has been accomplished. It is a time to pursue the road to peace and forgiveness as we continue to focus on God’s grace.

Black History Month is the brainchild of Dr. Carter Woodson¹, an American historian whose tireless efforts have helped to make this time possible. It is an opportunity to showcase our achievements in the many fields of human endeavour such as: education, medicine, public service, human rights, sports, and technology, to name a few. The celebration is a call to look at our culture and our heritage, to take pride in the journey, to enhance what has been achieved, and to strive for greater achievements in the future. It is also an invitation to

- look at the historic leaders of the Black community
- create an awareness of all peoples, and
- remind ourselves that Black history is our history.

In 1979, this beautiful city of Toronto, became the first municipality in Canada to proclaim February as Black History Month. Each year, the city recognizes the past and present contribution to the city and the wider community. Toronto proudly supports events and exhibits by inviting the public to explore and embrace the diversity and the wonderful gifts and traditions of the people of the Black diaspora.

Canada is a nation with a very rich and diverse history. All histories need to be told and every voice needs to be heard. Black History Month allows us this opportunity to share with others.

As we celebrate, we are encouraged by the knowledge that “with God’s help, we will, one day, climb to the mountain top and see what wonderful things awaits us there.”

To quote George Bernard Shaw, “We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future.”

⊕ *Elsa A. Jones is a member of the team that writes and reads the Prayers of the People for the 10:00 am Sunday Eucharist at Christ Church Deer Park.*

¹ See www.woodsonmuseum.org/about-us

Lent is a Time of Action

By Wendy Finlay



**"Can't run from myself
There's nowhere to hide"
from *I Have Nothing* by David Foster**

My greatest accomplishment is that I provide and receive the consecrated wine at Communion. That might sound like a curious achievement, but let me explain.

In 1999, I was in a relationship with a man who had never divorced and was therefore neither legally nor emotionally available to me. He drank heavily, and I followed suit. The relationship ended in the summer of 2004 when, not surprisingly, he left me for one of his colleagues. I blamed all my woes on that betrayal (without accepting any responsibility) and continued to drink,

believing, incorrectly, that I was a highly-functioning drinker. My children were away at university, and I was alone in a huge house that I could not afford—alone and miserable.

Then, on September 18, 2007, I stopped drinking. Completely. I didn't try not to drink. I just stopped. But the temptation to drink came every few seconds, a huge wave that slammed me from behind and sucked me back into the depths.

It was a trying time, but one evening while walking home from the subway to my empty apartment, I was given the gift of Divine inspiration. It came to me that I could surf the wave of temptation back to the safety of the

beach and thus avoid being slammed. For a long while, the waves continued every few seconds, but the urge subsided and eventually it was gone. My physician remains incredulous that I accomplished this on my own and have never relapsed. But, I didn't really accomplish it on my own, did I?

The Lord's Prayer is replete with words of action. I welcomed and acted upon the inspiration provided by the Almighty. I have forgiven myself and try to live with love and forgiveness for all people. This is the path I intend to continue this Lent.

✚ Wendy Finlay is a lay reader and chalice bearer at Christ Church Deer Park.

LENTEN AND EASTER SERVICES

FEBRUARY 28, SHROVE TUESDAY

5:30 pm / Children's Eve of Ash Wednesday Service in the Chancel
6:00 pm / Pancake Supper (All welcome!)

MARCH 1, ASH WEDNESDAY

7:30 am / Said Eucharist & Distribution of Ashes
12 Noon / Said Eucharist & Distribution of Ashes
7:30 pm / Choral Eucharist & Distribution of Ashes

TUESDAY, MARCH 7 / 12:30 pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 19 / 11:45 am

Walking the Walk in Today's World: A bible study on James' introduction to the Christian way of life. Course is offered twice weekly during Lent, and takes place in the Arthur Smith Room.

APRIL 9, PALM SUNDAY

8:00 am / Holy Eucharist & Blessing of Palms
10:00 am / Sung Eucharist & Palm Procession

HOLY WEEK COMMUNITY JOURNEY "WE WANT TO SEE JESUS"

A Partnership initiative with Christ Church Deer Park, Yorkminster Park Baptist, and Calvin Presbyterian/Deer Park United

APRIL 11, HOLY TUESDAY / 7:00 pm

Devotional Service at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge Street. Guest preacher: Sister Sue Mosteller

APRIL 12, HOLY WEDNESDAY / 7:00 pm

Devotional Service at Calvin Presbyterian Church, 26 Delisle Avenue (hosted by both Deer Park United and Calvin Presbyterian) Guest preacher: Angie Draskovic, Executive director of the Yonge Street Mission

APRIL 13, MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:00 pm / Reception and fellowship in Elliott Hall to be followed by a Liturgy of Foot Washing, Holy Communion and Cleansing of the Altar. Guest preacher: Brian Walsh, faculty member at Wycliffe College
7:30 pm / Gethsemane Watch (Silent Vigil in the Nave)

APRIL 14, GOOD FRIDAY

9:00 am / Stations of the Cross for Youth & Families
11:00 am / Solemn Liturgy of Good Friday
12:50 pm / Good Friday Walk with Churches-on-the-Hill
7:00 pm / Church on Tap

APRIL 15, HOLY SATURDAY / 8:00 pm

Great Vigil of Easter & Lighting of the New Fire (Followed by a Resurrection Party)

APRIL 16, EASTER SUNDAY

8:00 am / Holy Eucharist with Easter Hymns
10:00 am / Sung Eucharist with Children's Program

Lent 2017: A Personalized Practice

By Emily Chatten



Like many of us, I've spent a lot of time reflecting on Lent over the years. I understand the idea of giving something up for Lent, but as a chronic-pain patient, the notion feels empty to me. I suffer every day, sometimes, quite a lot, so I wanted to undertake something that's directly relevant to my life.

The Lenten practice that I've decided upon this year touches on chronic pain and incorporates some of the other things I've been reflecting on. The first is the nature of prayer and Christian meditation as compared to mindfulness. Most chronic-pain patients encounter mindfulness at some point, typically some version of "mindfulness-based stress reduction" or MBSR. If you're not familiar with MBSR, its main originator, Jon Kabat Zinn, was a psychiatrist looking for a practice to use with patients. He looked to the meditation practices of the world's great religions, learned from them, and stripped the spirituality from them, leaving an empty meditation practice.

Every time my neurologist asks me to take another mindfulness class, I get a little hot under the collar because I feel such classes are full of cultural misappropriations and because I'm a religious, spiritual person. If I'm going to learn a meditation practice, I want it to be imbued with the religion of its origin. While I have learned from Zinn's form of mindfulness, for instance, I have learned more from the Buddhist meditation classes that I have taken.

Finally, I've been thinking a lot about the hard parts of our liturgy. These are the areas in which we ask for mercy and forgiveness. At Christ Church Deer Park these pieces of liturgy, such as the Kyrie, have largely disappeared, and I don't understand why. As a person in pain, I seek mercy and penitence, and not to have these aspects in the service is a great disappointment to me.

So, with some thought, I have come to a number of conclusions about Lent this year. My pain treatment options are limited, and those available to me are decreasing in their efficacy. I plan to continue my current regime which is described as preventative, but I want to deliberately add in prayer. I have the option, at my discretion, of using acute painkillers for migraines, but during Lent 2017, I'm not going to take them (except for safety, for example, driving). Instead, I'm going to pray. I have been collecting prayers to meditate on during Lent. See, for instance, Notes from the Music Library in this issue. I also intend to keep a prayer journal throughout Lent. I recently read Flannery O'Connor's lovely *A Prayer Journal* and found it very compelling. My journal will be a partly written, partly mixed-media art journal, and I hope that it will shed light on my experiences.

I'm not sure what the experience of pain and prayer will bring to me. My instinct is to research and read. Lent is a time for action, a time to put research aside. I hope this will prove to be a fruitful time for the spirit.

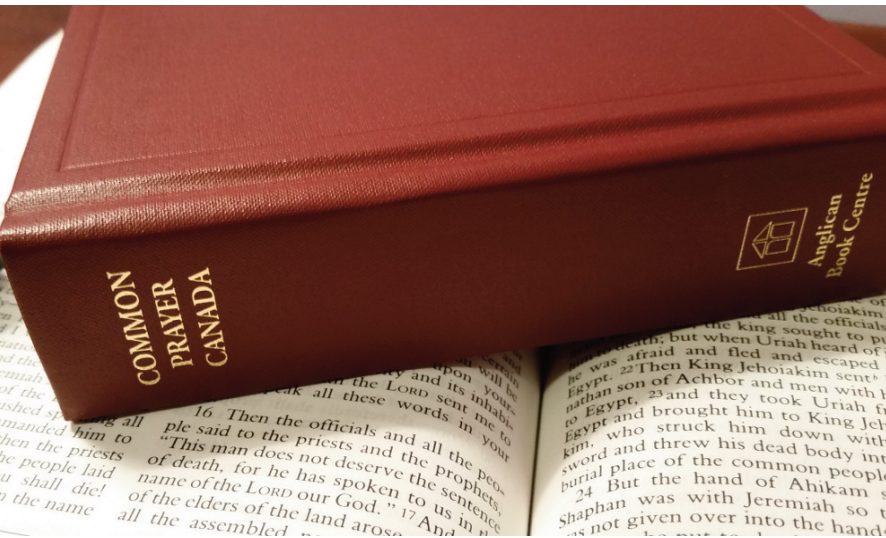
✚ Emily Chatten is an ardent textile artist, baker, chorister and student of pipe organ music.

God Bless David Moore!

In the fall of 2012, David Moore bravely accepted a challenge presented to him by the churchwardens and rector. He agreed to lead a grassroots working group called “Discerning Our Gifts for Lay Ministry” that would investigate and develop initiatives for our parish. David convened several meetings and engaged interested parishioners in discussions. Out of that, in early 2013 came the decision to explore pastoral care, beginning with a pastoral care seminar about the different levels of care and the training required.

David’s working group was the most enduring of the six groups seeded in 2012. Through his attention and nurturing, it matured into a unit of dedicated people who are steadfast members of our current Congregational Care Team. These volunteers connect with fellow parishioners who can no longer attend parish worship or events on a regular basis for health reasons. In 2016, and as proxies for all of us at Christ Church Deer Park, the Congregational Care Team made over 200 telephone and in-person contacts with parishioners.

Having led this important ministry from concept to reality, David has stepped down as its chairman but continues as a team member. Thank you, David! You and your team continue to show us what it means to follow Christ in joyful service: *“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.”* Matthew 25: 35-36.



Prayer Books I Have Known

By Edna Quammie

Over the years, I have gathered many prayer books! For Christmas 1957, I was given *The Book of Common Prayer* (according to the use by the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States). In December 1965, I received *St. Augustine’s Prayer Book*, and in December 2007, I was given a Canadian version of *The Book of Common Prayer*.

I like using a prayer book during church services when I can feel the book *and* digest the words on the page. With a book in my hands, I seem to focus better on the words and their meaning. The words of the Lord’s Prayer, for instance, are familiar to me since childhood, yet following along in the prayer book helps me to experience the prayer more directly.

I also like to use a prayer book for my daily devotions including supplications, confessions, and thanks. *St. Augustine’s Prayer Book* is a good guide on its own, but is also a worthy companion for *The Book of Common Prayer*

The prayer books that I cherish contain the older liturgies that I prefer. I grew up with those liturgies; they were part of my Episcopalian upbringing, said for decades and discussed within my family.

It will be interesting to see if *The Book of Common Prayer* will be revised again. Is there still a need for Common Prayer? For me there is!

⊕ Edna Quammie is a retired operating room nurse and a member of the Congregational Care Team at Christ Church Deer Park.

Our New Area Bishop

The end of 2016 brought to a conclusion Rev. Canon Kevin Robertson’s five years of service as our rector. However, this ending also began a month-long stretch of four celebrations of his ministry.

On December 18, 2016, we honoured and thanked Kevin on his last official Sunday at Christ Church Deer Park. Elliott Hall was filled with well-wishers as he was presented with our parting gift of a crozier/pastoral staff—that arrived in time for his consecration as bishop.

On Saturday, January 7, 2017, we celebrated his consecration at St. Paul’s, Bloor Street. The very next day, Sunday, January 8, we welcomed Kevin home to CCDP and were proud to be his first pastoral visit as bishop.

Finally, on Sunday, January 22, 2017, many of our parishioners gathered at St. John, York Mills to observe his installation as our new area bishop of York-Scarborough.

We look forward to seeing Kevin on his next “unofficial” visit to Christ Church Deer Park—as he (hopefully) runs in the Sporting Life 10K and takes a moment out of his race for a quick hello, hug and high five from Cee-Cee The Churchmouse. Keep running Kevin! See you soon.



Natural Church Development at Christ Church Deer Park

By Chris Byers

The past year has been both exciting and encouraging for our Natural Church Development initiative (NCD).

As a brief reminder, NCD is recommended by the Diocese and guides churches through a long-term process of reflection and growth by focusing on the quality of the church experience. Churches that participate in NCD show a consistent improvement in the eight quality characteristics that define healthy congregations and an overall improvement in congregational health, including congregational size.

At Christ Church Deer Park, we have been actively engaged with NCD since the fall of 2015. Following our initial survey, we have been working on initiatives directed toward to enhancing our least well-developed quality characteristic—Passionate spirituality. Some of the initiatives that we undertook in 2016 in support of Passionate spirituality included a workshop to help and support parishioners with prayer, intentional gospel preaching of the New Testament highlighting personal experiences with Jesus, and creating opportunities for parishioners to share their experience of faith.

A group of parishioners took our second NCD survey on December 4, 2016, and the results of this survey are encouraging. The results show that we have improved our scores for every one of the eight quality characteristics, in some cases significantly. Particularly gratifying is the improvement in our less well-developed characteristics – we improved our Passionate spirituality score by 13.3% and our Need-oriented evangelism score by 8.8% relative to the results of the first survey. Overall, we improved our scores for all quality characteristics by an average of 9.5%. And while we continue to focus our efforts on our less well-developed characteristics, the survey results reaffirm that we continue to be very strong as a parish in several of the NCD characteristics, including Gift-based ministry and Empowering leadership.

Going forward in 2017, our least well-developed characteristic remains Passionate spirituality, so we will continue to focus our initiatives on growing and developing in this area. As always, we will solicit ideas for growth and development from the parish and report on outcomes.

Parishioners who are interested in reviewing the survey results may be find them on the parish website. Any questions on the results or the process may be directed to any member of the NCD team. We would also gratefully welcome any volunteers. More information on NCD may also be found at www.ncd-canada.com.

Submitted on behalf of the NCD team—Chris Byers, Anita Chung, Tony van Straubenzee, Barbara Johnston, Carolyn Kearns, and Rev. Andrea Christensen.

⦿ *Chris Byers is chair of the Natural Church Development initiative at Christ Church Deer Park.*

Parish Selection Committee Update



By Carolyn Kearns

IN NOVEMBER 2016, a Parish Selection Committee was formed to recommend a replacement for Kevin Robertson who assumed his duties as suffragan bishop for the Diocese of Toronto on January 1, 2017. The committee consists of the churchwardens and five parishioners—Jesse Billet, Barbara Johnston, Carolyn Kearns, Su Laine Varkey, George Lewis, Edna Quammie, Andrew van Nostrand and Henry Zaluski. Two Diocesan-appointed coaches provide support.

The Committee meets every two weeks and is developing our Parish Profile, a document that describes the present reality of our parish and our desired future directions. Once prepared, the profile will be available on our website and shared with all interested candidates.

Everyone has a role to play in providing input into the selection process. On March 12, 2017, there will be a special Parish Forum/Town Hall meeting following the 10:00 a.m. service to gather input and ideas from parishioners. A survey will also be available as a mechanism for input.

Our timeline is to have a Parish Profile available in April/May with a goal of having a new incumbent in place in the fall.

Many thanks to everyone who has provided us with comments, and we are grateful that the congregation prays for us each Sunday.

Please contact any member of the committee if you wish to discuss our work further. You can also follow our progress at www.christchurchdeerpark.org/parish_selection_committee.htm

Growing Healthy Stewards...Is Growing!

By Bob Hutchison



In 2016, Christ Church Deer Park introduced a program called Growing Healthy Stewards (GHS) to support our Christian mission at St. Clair and Yonge. The premise of the program is that individuals will share their gifts—monetary and non-monetary—more generously with the parish if they have a deep personal commitment to its mission rather than a feeling an obligation to the church as an institution. The program also recognizes that supporting our mission is not seasonal, i.e. at budget time or tax season. It is 24/7/365.

So, how is GHS going at Christ Church Deer Park? Here are some points that your Stewardship Committee thinks are important:

It works! Early results indicate that more resources are available to the parish. The 2016 financial year is ending with a small surplus. More encouraging, is the fact that 20% more people made 2017 commitments than made them in 2016, and the amount of money represented by those commitments increased 27% over commitments in the previous year. This is good news.

It is NOT All About Money. Sure, money and sound parish finances are critical, but what make GHS work are the opportunities to contribute time and talent—opportunities that feed personal, spiritual satisfaction and motivate thoughtful and sustainable financial giving. The Discovery Fair held in October 2016 provided such opportunities: approximately 30 people signed up to assist in our various parish ministries.

It's NOT All new. Many elements of GHS already exist or are evident at Christ Church Deer Park. We just need to acknowledge and encourage them. We have many current examples. Think: choir, refugee committee, food bank, community breakfast, St. Andrew's Group, congregational care team, Small Group Ministry, PromiseLand, and many others.

Natural Church Development. The strength and objectives of the new Natural Church Development (NCD) program are consistent with the underlying principles of GHS: the more we freely and joyfully share our God-given resources with others, the stronger our connection will be to the parish and to

each other. NCD challenges us to explicitly recognize and act out our Christian spiritual responsibilities in words and actions. This requires us to move beyond personal reserve and trust in the church as an institution.

The Stewardship Committee is in the process of reviewing the lessons learned in 2016 and planning for 2017. If you have thoughts or suggestions in this regard, please bring them to us. In the meantime, we should all feel good about our 2016 stewardship efforts. We have had some initial "quick wins" and are working on building the foundation for long-term success.

⦿ *Bob Hutchison is the chair of the parish Stewardship Committee.*



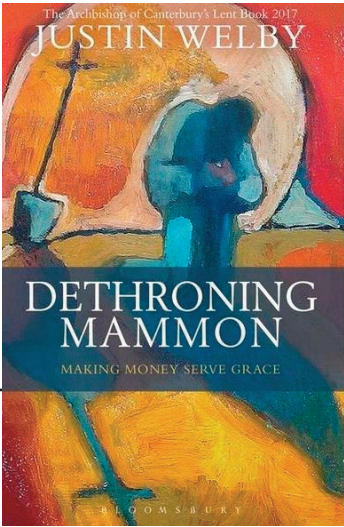
Book Review

by Ward Lindsey

DETHRONING MAMMON

Making Money Serve Grace

by Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury
(Bloomsbury publishers 2016)



During each season of Lent, the residing Archbishop of Canterbury draws attention to a specific book that is felt to be a timely instrument of reflection. For this 2017 season of Lent, the tradition continues. However this year, the book is authored by the Archbishop himself. He was moved to write this book by the current social tensions that are being driven by economics and finance. Rather than just giving up chocolate or alcohol for Lent, he suggests that we “try giving up materialism for Lent.”

Archbishop Justin Welby is well placed to discuss the power of economics, money and finance, i.e. Mammon, because he had a career in the private sector as the group treasurer of a large British oil exploration and production company. Combining this with his subsequent experience in parish ministry and outreach overseas, allows him to say that he does not “hark back to some mythical golden age of Christian virtue”.

My overall evaluation of the book is that he is able to reveal the power of Mammon within the context of the 21st Century. By doing so he breaks through the societal perception of the church being a “leisure activity” without discomfort and risk.

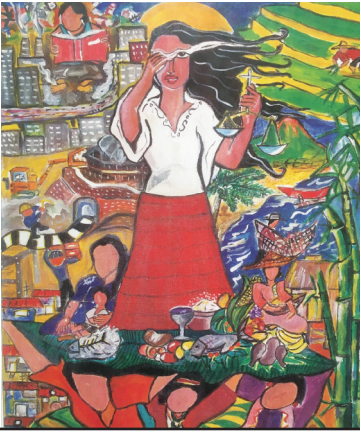
Archbishop Welby involves himself and expresses his ponderings as he sets out to show how “money warps our judgement of wealth and corrupts our appreciation of individuals.” That is not to say, however, that money cannot be used by God. Within a “God given economy of abundance,” a budget becomes “applied theology expressed in numbers.”

In succession, chapter by chapter, Archbishop Welby refers to and expands on specific bible passages: the death of Lazarus, Zacchaeus the tax collector, Mary anointing Jesus, Jesus washing the disciples’ feet, the burial of Jesus, the message to Laodicea, and the fall of Babylon. Much of the Bible is laid out to us in subjective terms. For Justin Welby, the community of the church is the objective expression of taking Christ “at his word that we are of infinite worth and deeply loved.”

As a book of reflection for Lent 2017, *Dethroning Mammon* is best summed up by the Archbishop’s words: “First of all as individuals, we need to listen.” His book challenges us as members of a worshipping community to take a deep look at our individual and collective attitudes towards wealth.

⊕ *Ward Lindsey is a parishioner and volunteer chorister at Christ Church Deer Park. He is also an avid reader with a wide-ranging curiosity about human beings and how they make sense of the world.*

Think Globally, Act Locally. World Day of Prayer



By Elizabeth Joy

The Churches-on-the-Hill World Day of Prayer will be held at Calvin Presbyterian Church (26 Delisle Avenue) on Friday, March, 2017, at 1:00 pm.

World Day of Prayer is a worldwide movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together on the first Friday of March each year to observe a common day of prayer. Through World Day of Prayer, we affirm our faith in Jesus Christ and engage with the whole word, are enriched by the faith experience of Christians of other countries and cultures, share the burdens of other people by praying with them and for them, and use our own talents in the service of God's world. Prayer and action are inseparable and both have immeasurable influence in the world. For more information contact me, Elizabeth Joy, at 416.487.3007.

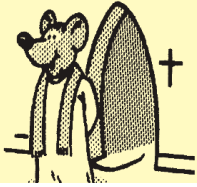
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Church Mouse is on vacation!



Music Library Notes

By Emily Chatten

I stumbled around a little on the subject for this edition and kept coming back to “O Sacred Head,” also known as the “Passion Chorale.” As hymns go, it is no small trifle. Its lyrics and music both have an immense history,

making the piece an excellent Lenten reflection. The version appearing for decades in our hymn books is based on a melody of the German composer Hans Hassler harmonized some time after his death by J.S. Bach. Later, Bach used the tune in his “St. Matthew Passion,” and the tune has been in popular use through the years by composers and songwriters as varied as Franz Liszt and Paul Simon.

The German version first appeared as a hymn in 1656 in Johann Cruger's early German hymnbook, Praxis

peitatis melica. The text we are familiar with is the Latin Salve caput from the 13th century, attributed to Arnulf of Louvain. In the 17th century it was translated to German, with English translations made in the 19th century. You can find “O Sacred Head” at page 198 in Common Praise, the hymnal found in the pews at Christ Church Deer Park.

I sat down with my copy of “St. Matthew Passion” and looked to see where Bach used the chorale. I want to share the English text of the No. 53 Chorus

with you, which is an adaptation of Psalm 37: 5: “Commit thy way to Jesus, Thy burdens and thy cares; He from them all releases, He all thy sorrow shares. He gives the winds their courses, And bounds the ocean’s shore, He suffers not temptation, To rise beyond thy pow’r.” These are provocative words. They will give me a lot to think about during Lent.

⊕ *Emily Chatten is a Christ Church Deer Park chorister who helps to maintain the parish music library.*



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WANTED CONTRIBUTORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS OF ALL AGES AND STAGES.

Would you be willing to take on a specific assignment or take pictures? Is there something you would like to research and write about? Do you have a constructive comment? Or, is there an activity or initiative that you would like others to join? If so, please contact us at spiritus@christchurchdeerpark.org

Submissions should be 250 words long and in Word format, and all submissions will be subject to edit. **Copy deadline for the next September edition is Thursday, August 24, 2017.**

A big thanks to all of the contributors for this inaugural issue of *SPIRITUS*.



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