



THE Cathedral NEWSLETTER

THANKSGIVING 2018

LIVING GRATEFULLY

I knew a deep woman of prayer who illustrated to me how to live gratefully. Dulcie Brown, my elder by many decades, showed me the importance of taking time and choosing to notice. She attended to things: to people, to beauty, to the forgotten and lost. She had a pure open heart and was generous in her joy. Dulcie taught me a great deal, but mostly she taught me how to live each day with gratitude and wonder – even if the day was filled with pain or sorrow. She was a wise and good friend. When you were with her, you knew you were profoundly valued – that she perceived your presence, your being, as gift. Her gratitude for you, just for being you; her delight in you, provided the good soil for the best in you to flourish. She had a way of gratefully loving you into your best self.

Paul in his letter to the Ephesians gave this instruction for the life of faith: “Be filled with the Spirit... giving thanks to God at all times for everything, in the name of Jesus Christ” (Ephesians 5:18, 20). My friend Dulcie lived this instruction well. She was indeed filled with the Spirit and gave thanks to God for everything.

The season of Thanksgiving reminds us to practice giving thanks for the abundant blessings of our lives. But for us as followers of Jesus this practice of thanksgiving – living gratefully – applies to every day, not just harvest time. This secular holiday can be a reminder about our daily spiritual journey. Give thanks every day. Live gratefully every day: *all times and for everything*, as Paul instructs and as Dulcie lived.

To live gratefully is to graciously receive what is given and to be thankful. It is an intentional choice. It is a spiritual practice. Living gratefully means that I choose to perceive my day, my life, my circumstances with an open heart – trusting that there is gift to be found in the all that is before me. It is Spirit filled. It is an attitude of the heart. It is transformative. It is the ground of hope and the gateway to eternal life.

May we, like Dulcie Brown, and St. Paul, and all the many saints before us, be Spirit filled and live gratefully everyday.

THE REV'D LOUISE PETERS
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE AND VICAR

ABOVE: “POTATO HARVEST” BY CAMILLE PISSARRO, 1893

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PHOTO: PEOPLE GATHER FOR THE START OF THE NIIGANNI-GICHIGAMI GRATITUDE WALK ON THE LAKE ONTARIO WATERFRONT ON JUNE 8. THE WATER FESTIVAL WAS AN INTER-FAITH EVENT ORGANIZED BY THE NIIGANNI-GICHIGAMI COLLECTIVE, TORONTO URBAN NATIVE MINISTRY AND ST. JAMES CATHEDRAL. PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON.

INVITED TO LISTEN, CALLED TO RESPOND

A Maori Bishop once greeted me in their traditional style, asking “*whose waters do you come from?*” One’s answer to the question connects immediately to clan, womb, and waterways. Place and belonging from an Indigenous perspective are deeply theological. The land, waters, and communities we flow from shape our embodied spiritual reality. The urgency of place has run under our two year commitment to listening to and learning from Indigenous leaders in our Truth and Reconciliation (T&R) series. Questions we have explored together are: *who are we, where are we, and what is the history of this territory?* This process has been unsettling and disruptive for all who have ventured it. Truth can be painful. Our Lord said “I have not come to bring peace, but a sword” (Matthew 10:34) and the Letter to the Hebrews states “the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword... it exposes our innermost thoughts and heart” (4:12). Entering into the sharp reality of truth is a spiritual experience, wherein we are given an opportunity to either retreat into bitterness or to be stretched into a new and vulnerable reality. We may turn back to what we know and what feels safe, yet the cross bids one to undergo the ugly to risk resurrection. In the T&R process all peoples have been invited to listen to the stories of the survivors of the Indian Residential Schools (IRS). Our first speaker, Sui-taa-kii Danni Black of Siksika, spoke of her experience as an intergenerational survivor and how her family life has been wounded by suicide, murder, the loss of culture and trauma of abuse by clergy and teachers at an Anglican IRS. She spoke of the power of learning how to drum and sing, revitalizing her culture. She and the other dozens of speakers we heard spoke of the pain but also embodied resilience and courage. At one T&R lecture Lee Maracle, O.C. joined us. I recall her mixing humour with difficult truths, as she told us that “Toronto is still Indigenous land.” She spoke of how *Spadina* comes from an Anishnawbe word meaning “a long way up hill.” She called for participation of all Canadians in the 94 Calls to Action of the T&R Commission, and to work as a community with Indigenous peoples to decolonize our city. We have been called into relationship with Indigenous leaders, including those at Toronto Urban Native Ministry, to host a water ceremony for the wellbeing of Lake Ontario/Niigaani-gichigami every summer, and see this as a fruit of the Spirit. In this ongoing process of responding to the truths we have witnessed, what would a land-based acknowledgement of Indigenous sovereignty look like *in* our Cathedral? How might we mark space and land with a sense of the sacred in our midst, and acknowledge the traditional territory of this holy place where we worship? Please join me at roundtable discussions over the next year to explore these questions. *Miigwetch.*

THE REV'D LEIGH KERN
ASSOCIATE PRIEST

Holy Baptism

MARCH 31

Warren J. Brubacher
Chad James Connell
Audrey Han
John Marcus Han
Miao He
Bijun Jiang
Qinwen (Kobe) Li
Jenna Liu
Qi Sun
Jinghan (Moris) Yu
Ying (Donald) Yu
Minjie Yuan
Jiahan (Chloe) Zhang
Zhiwei (Owen) Zhang

APRIL 8

Emmanuelle Amrayne Delgado

MAY 27

Ava Josie-Anne Crossley
Carter Robert Anthony Farmer
Robert Jenkins Maxim

JUNE 10

Xiuzhong Huang
Tian Jia
Shushen Jin
Ning Li

JUNE 30

Sydney Campbell Deacon

*Rest eternal
grant unto them,
O Lord*

FEBRUARY 12

Tracy Berghout

MARCH 27

George McCormick Brickenden
Shirley Brickenden

AUGUST 18

Catherine Bernice Octavia Howard

SEPTEMBER 4

Grace Edna Martin

Holy Matrimony

MAY 26

Jia-Han Zhang & Qinwen Li

JUNE 25

Hanna Frances Nowers & Patrick Paul Hillan

JULY 21

Alison Elizabeth Falby
& Michael Todd Winterburn

AUGUST 4

Amber Dionne Braid
& Staunton St. Clair Melsop Bowe

AUGUST 11

Rachael Danielle Golem
& Seybo Allagouma Adamou

SEPTEMBER 1

Meishuang Zhao & Zhixuan Zhang

TEACHING PRAYER

Growing up my earliest memories of prayer were around the table giving thanks for food saying, "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest, and let these gifts to us be blessed". This simple table grace has followed me my whole life, and is imprinted deep into my memory after thousands of repetitions.

Over the past year it has been humbling learning to pray with the children of our Cathedral's Sunday School. We have prayed repeat-back words, from the psalms, from our art work, using our movement, using our imagination, and prayers that use wonder and awe to draw our attention to God. We make time to be present and talk with God using something new each week.

One of the most memorable moments of the past year was when the children wrote the names of someone they wanted to pray for on a piece of paper, which was then folded into a star shape and placed in water. Watching the children pray as the stars floated and unfolded, revealing the names, was a holy moment where they were deeply present and open in relationship to God. In these moments I find myself most deeply grateful to learn from the children of our community.

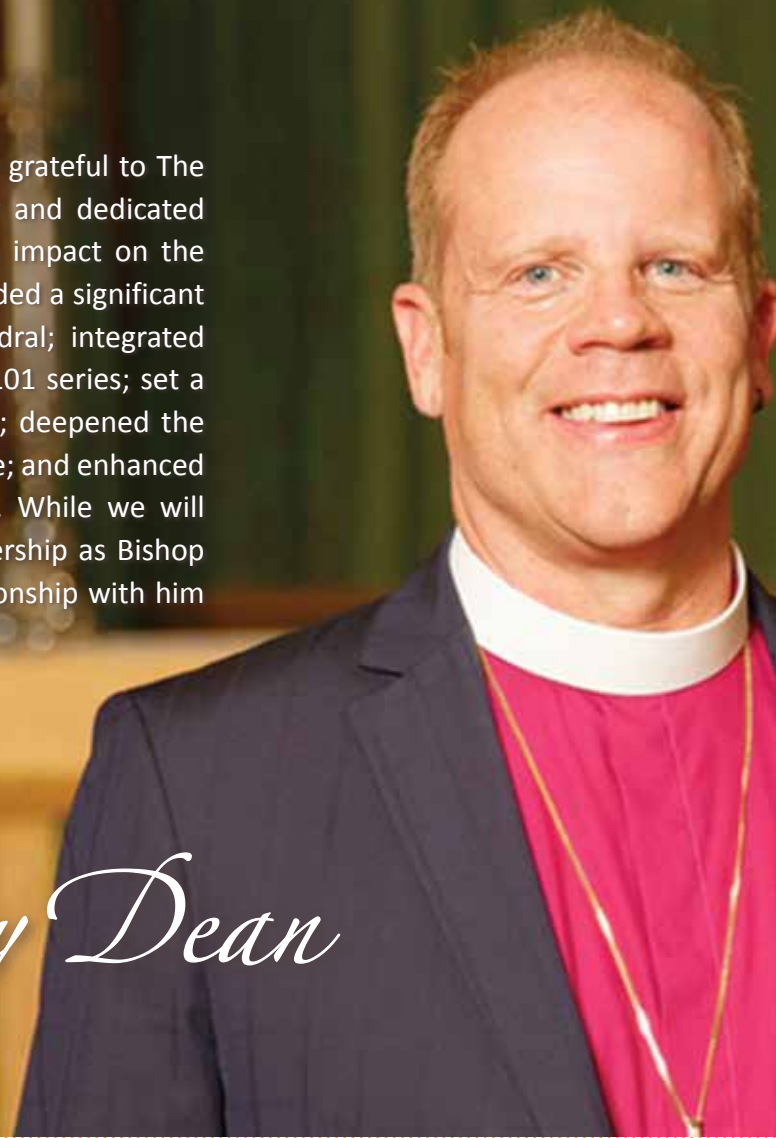
Karl Barth, the great 20th century theologian said that, "Prayer is a Grace, an offer of God." The beauty of prayer is that God makes himself available and present to us and we can be in relationship with God in our whole being. This can be in a Sunday School room, at bedtime, in our collective worship, in a moment of silence or a simple table grace before a meal.

If you don't already include a table grace in your spiritual practice, maybe this Thanksgiving can be an opportunity to find a prayer that works for you as a grace before a meal.

ANDREW KUHL

CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES
COORDINATOR

The clergy, staff, and parishioners of St. James are grateful to The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil for his incumbency and dedicated service as Dean and Rector at the Cathedral. His impact on the Cathedral will be felt for years to come. He has guided a significant increase in volunteer participation at the Cathedral; integrated and educated newcomers through the Cathedral 101 series; set a vision for the expansion of the outreach program; deepened the relationship between the Cathedral and the Diocese; and enhanced the Cathedral's significant public role in the city. While we will miss him, we know he will provide inspiring leadership as Bishop of Toronto, and look forward to a continued relationship with him right next door.



In Gratitude to an Exemplary Dean

THANKFUL IN SERVING

At this time of Thanksgiving we tend to look at our lives and see what gifts we have been given that provide us cause to be thankful. We want to express our gratitude for all those people and places that give us help and support.

This is also true of the individuals who visit the St. James Drop-in. Throughout this year, the Drop-in volunteers and staff have shared many stories of guests expressing gratitude for the program.

St. James Drop-in has some special programming that is not widely available in the city. One of these programs is haircutting. I would like to describe the joy and gratitude we see from many of the guests after they receive a haircut from one of the two volunteers that provide this much-needed service. The guest will walk up to me or a volunteer in Snell Hall, to show us their new haircut. They will tell us how much they like the

haircut; how happy they are to have their hair shorter, making them feel lighter and cooler; and how long they have waited to get their hair cut.

This is the reaction that is seen at the Drop-in over and over again for all the programming and services provided, such as the Foot Care Clinic, the Street Health Nurses, and the Good Food Boxes. The expressions of gratitude are also for our many volunteers – from those who give out personal need items, to those who make and serve the food, and those who provide the music.

Thanksgiving also provides us a reminder to give thanks for our guests, our ministry, and our ability to serve.

KATHY BIASI
DROP-IN COORDINATOR

HOW DOES A GRATEFUL HEART COME INTO BEING?

In the simplest of moments like this... hands join one at a time until the circle closes around the table. One hand, creased by time, folded by arthritis, reaches for a hand that is youthful and smooth, that extends to another that is mighty and strong, that anchors to one that is so tiny it can only hold on to the pinky of the mighty one. Young and elderly, newcomer and old timer hold for a moment, long enough, so that a word might be uttered in thanksgiving...grace. The word is for food that sustains, that comes from the earth, transformed by human hands and prepared into a sumptuous dish. Deeper still, a word of gratitude for the gift of community that has held us through the bitter and broken times, laughed with us in moments of joy, wondered with us when we stood at a crossroad. The wrinkled hand teaches the youthful not to be afraid of tomorrow. The mighty hand instructs the tiny to be brave, while the tiny hand teaches the frail to always hope and to wonder...

It's no wonder that the feast or banquet in scripture is a central image of the Kingdom of God. It's no wonder that the image of a table flowing with wine, milk, honey, bread and cheese was enough to sustain a broken people in their pursuit of the promised land. And yet in the land of plenty, so many souls hunger for the feast. We live in a culture that elevates the pursuit of personal success, power and individuality above all else. And yet, as Theologian Alan Jones once wrote, our individuality is a precious gift and the drive for individual achievement has served us well, but we can go too far and find ourselves shipwrecked on a lonely island. A grateful heart knows well what it means to be shipwrecked, lost, broken, afraid and alone. Jesus often finds us and we find Jesus on the island of our own making. It is Jesus who invites us to take our place at the table. It is Jesus who closes the circle, joins our hands one to the other and anchors us to the pinky of the mighty One...



The Right Reverend Andrew Asbil,
Coadjutor Bishop of Toronto

INSET: ORDINATION OF BISHOP ASBIL, MAY 29.
ALL PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON



MANDARIN MINISTRY THANKSGIVING

The Lord's grace and heavenly benediction are filled up in the journey of the Cathedral Mandarin Ministry. This year we have turned a fellowship into a sacramental ministry. On February 11 2018, Father James, formerly an international student from mainland China, was ordained as a priest at the Cathedral, entrusted to guide the development of the Mandarin congregation. Despite the bad weather that day, lots of parishioners and faith seekers came to observe the Ordination Service. In the following month, on March 11 2018, the Chinese congregation celebrated our first Chinese Eucharist Service, which brought our ministry to a new milestone. With the help of Vicar Louise Peters, our Chinese congregation had our first marriage ceremony on May 26 2018. On June 10 2018, three adults were baptized, marking the first baptisms during the Mandarin Sunday Service.

Thanks be to God, our work and labour in the Lord are not in vain. Not only in the local community where we live, but our

work has also influenced other churches. Our liturgy is asked about and requested from places such as New Zealand, the United States, and from churches of other denominations. It has taken us two years to complete the liturgy – a Mandarin translation of the 11:00am service. We compared ten versions of Mandarin BCP to achieve this, choosing the Mandarin words carefully so that consistency with the Canadian BCP is maintained.

However, we are most grateful for being part of one Cathedral family. Toronto is a multicultural city and our Cathedral is also a big family in the Lord that consists of many cultures and backgrounds. Here we receive the same bread at the Lord's table. We, being many, are one body. In Christ, let our ministry and the divine faith become more colourful and marvelous.

Thanks be to God!

THE REV'D JAMES LIU
ASSOCIATE PRIEST, MANDARIN MINISTRIES

UPCOMING DATES

OCT 7 **Harvest Thanksgiving**
LITURGIES AT 8:00, 9:00, 11:00AM, 4:30PM

OCT 17 **Health Ministry Day**
10:00am-3:00pm Workshop for those involved or interested in health ministries; led by Lanadee Lampman RN, and Canon Douglas Graydon

"Energy to Give: Recognizing the Cost of Caring"
Panel Discussion All welcome
Discussion starts at 7:00pm: [DETAILS ONLINE](#)

OCT 18 **"The Last Great Plague: The Story of the Spanish Flu"**
9:00am-5:00pm An exhibit in the Cathedral
OPEN DAILY TILL NOVEMBER 1

OCT 24 **"Scandalous Sanctity" Lecture Series (1 of 3)**
Evagrius of Pontus and Charles de Foucault
Lecture starts at 7:00pm Note: this lecture will take place at St. Bart's, Regent Park (509 Dundas St E) [DETAILS ONLINE](#)

OCT 24 **The Queens Six in Concert**
7:30pm in the Cathedral
TICKETS \$30, AVAILABLE ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR

OCT 27 **Amnesty International Action Circle Meeting**
1:00pm in the Board Room
ALSO MEETING NOVEMBER 24

NOV 1 **All Saints at St. Bart's, Regent Park**
6:15pm Procession and Solemn High Mass
(509 Dundas Street East)

NOV 2 **All Souls at St. Bart's, Regent Park**
6:15pm Solemn Requiem Mass
(509 Dundas Street East)

David Briggs "Requiem"
David Briggs in concert with the Cathedral Choir
8:00pm in the Cathedral
TICKETS \$30, AVAILABLE ONLINE OR AT THE DOOR

NOV 3 **All Souls: Service to Commemorate Those Who Have Died** (635 Parliament Street)
11:00am at the Chapel of St. James-the-Less

NOV 7 **"Scandalous Sanctity" Lecture Series (2 of 3)**
St. Francis of Assisi and Dorothy Day
Lecture starts at 7:00pm [DETAILS ONLINE](#)

ART IS HERE TO HELP



FORMER ORGAN SCHOLAR MANUEL PIAZZA DIRECTS THE PARISH CHOIR, JULY 22 . PHOTO BY MICHAEL HUDSON.

NOV
8

York Group Speaker Meeting
1:00pm in the Lecture Room
ALSO MEETING DECEMBER 13

NOV
11

Remembrance Day Mattins with The Royal Regiment of Canada and The Governor General's Horse Guards in attendance
10:45am in the Cathedral

Fauré's Requiem
4:30pm in the Cathedral

NOV
18

Barbados Independence Day Service
4:30pm in the Cathedral

NOV
21

"Scandalous Sanctity" Lecture Series (3 of 3)
St. Margaret of Scotland and Jean Vanier
Lecture starts at 7:00pm *DETAILS ONLINE*

NOV
24

Advent Quiet Day: "Hello Darkness"
9:00am-4:00pm in the Cathedral Centre
Led by the Vicar

DEC
2

An Advent Procession of Lessons & Carols
4:30pm in the Cathedral

DEC
5

"The Word Made Flesh" Advent Lecture Series
Lectures start at 7:00pm
ALSO ON DECEMBER 12, 19; WATCH FOR DETAILS

DEC
11

When Christmas is a Difficult Time
6:00pm in the Cathedral

DEC
16

Amnesty International "Write for Rights"
following 9:00 and 11:00am services

Further details about events and liturgies are available at stjamescathedral.ca

CHRISTMAS AT THE CATHEDRAL

DEC
23

Children's Christmas Pageant
4:30pm in the Cathedral

DEC
24

Christmas Eve Services
LITURGIES AT 4:30 AND 7:30PM

DEC
25

Christmas Day Services
LITURGIES AT 8:00, 9:00, 11:00AM

"I believe art is here to help, even if the help is painful – especially then. I am aware that remarkable acts of art-making – bold, unbidden, free – have had the side effect of changing the weather in a people and finally conferring freedoms for which I am now very grateful." This gratitude, described by Zadie Smith, runs through the veins of our Cathedral's music. The indefatigable spirit of volunteering by members of the music department has been humbling in 2018. Over the course of four weeks and countless papercuts, the music library was re-housed out of crumbling "temporary" bankers boxes from 2012 into archive-quality boxes. This would have been impossible without the generous legacy of Thomas Patterson and the many hours of cataloguing, stapling and assembling by our many stalwart volunteers, especially David Mowat, Sharon Danley and Pat Maltby.

This fall, after an impressive round of auditions, Nick Veltmeyer was appointed as our Organ Scholar for 2018-2019. His ministry of music is greatly supported by the generous donations of a practise organ and grand-piano which are housed in the choir room and we are very grateful to Roma Lynde and Lisa Balfour-Bowen for their goodwill in making this possible.

Welcoming guest musicians from St. Paul's Bloor Street, St. Bartholomew's, St. Mary Magdalene's, St. Thomas's Huron Street,

The University of the South, and The Diocesan Girls Choir, this summer alone at Choral Evensong has filled our Cathedral with a joyful noise with the knowledge that this most Anglican of traditions is cherished across the diocese and beyond. Do come and share in the experience of some spectacular music written and performed by our previous Artist-in-Residence, David Briggs on Friday November 2 at 7:00pm for a pre-concert talk and an 8:00pm concert, also featuring a small instrumental ensemble and the Cathedral Choir.

ROBERT BUSIAKIEWICZ
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

THE CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

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THE SEASON IN REVIEW



LEFT TO RIGHT FROM TOP LEFT: THE PATRONAL FESTIVAL OF ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE, JULY 22 (FIVE PHOTOS): RECEPTION, 9AM SERVICE, 11AM SERVICE, THE PARISH CHOIR, REVDS LEIGH KERN AND JAMES LIU PROCESS; YORK GROUP'S CHARITY BABY SHOWER IN BENEFIT OF MOORELANDS, MAY 10; STAFF & DROP-IN VOLUNTEERS AT THE CANADA DAY BBQ, SUNDAY, JULY 1; NANCY MALLET, JANICE BIEHN, PAULINE BROWN, CHRISTINE HILL (PWRDF), HILARY RICE (ARTIST), AND WILL POSTNA (PWRDF) AT THE EXHIBIT OPENING FOR "SEEING VISIONS, DREAMING DREAMS," MAY 10; DEAN ASBIL GREET'S PARISHIONERS, SEPTEMBER 23; DEAN ASBIL AT A RECEPTION HONOURING HIS MINISTRY AT THE CATHEDRAL, SEPTEMBER 23; PEOPLE GATHER FOR THE START OF THE NIIGANNI-GICHIGAMI GRATITUDE WALK, JUNE 8. PHOTOS BY MICHAEL HUDSON, EXCEPT YORK GROUP PHOTO BY JESSIE-ANN BAINES.