

# Church of the Ascension

## LIGHT IN THE CITY

*We are a caring Anglican Church, joyously seeking to grow God's love, and to demonstrate the greatness of Jesus by meeting the diverse needs of our community through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.*



## 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend A Grand Success

Our celebrations began on Saturday afternoon with the tones of a jazz trio serenading the open house guests who gathered in the main body of the church. Festivities continued with Archbishop Colin Johnson preaching and presiding at the Sunday Eucharist. Afterwards, a thanksgiving meal was shared with former members, friends, & neighbours concluding with members of the Kid's Club singing *Jesus loves Me*. Ronald Joshua & the Anniversary Committee & Team are to be congratulated for their hard work and effort.

As we celebrate our history, our focus is on the future. No doubt we have challenges, but we embrace them with the same resolve as those who planted the Ascension years ago: they trusted God, and with that guarantee worked hard to build the Ascension, as we continue to do today.

60th Anniversaries are known as Diamond Jubilees. Naturally occurring diamonds are quite ordinary at first glance, but their real beauty as jewels are only realized through a process of cutting and polishing. How true is that of us, here at the Ascension. Outwardly, we look quite ordinary, but inwardly, God is actively present among us, engaged in a great and wondrous work of shaping and refining us as sparkling jewels, Christ's *Light in the City*.

In this Season of Thanksgiving, we are compelled to reflect on how good God has been to us and to anticipate all the blessings God has in store for us, as we continue, with his grace, to help transform lives, heal wounds and make disciples with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

### Requiem for All Souls

Larry Green leads a massed choir & guest musicians in a service of commemoration featuring Faure's Requiem. Saturday November, 5<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm. Reception follows.

### Remembrance Sunday

A tradition at the Ascension when we remember all who served & continue to serve our country. Sunday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 am, featuring trumpeter & piper.

### Advent Lessons & Carols

Bach's Cantata BWV 140 *Sleepers Wake* with choir, soloists & musical ensemble forms the centre piece of our Advent Service. Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup>, 10:30 am





### Poinsettia Fund Raiser

Christmas is just around the corner when you begin to see poinsettias for sale.

This year, the Ascension is hoping that whether you purchase a plant for yourself or as a gift, you will order one from us and help support our ministries.

Sheridan Nurseries is our supplier is so each plant will be of the highest quality. Orders and payments must be received by Sunday, November 27<sup>th</sup> following the 10:30 am service. Please make cheques payable to the Church of the Ascension. Plants will be available for pick up, Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. If you have any questions, please speak with Barbara Rochard or contact her: [Rochard@gmail.com](mailto:Rochard@gmail.com) or call 416-391-2003.

### Bishop-Elect Kevin Robinson

has been appointed as the Area Bishop of York-Scarborough and will officially begin his duties on January 1, 2017. He will be consecrated on January 7 at St. Paul, Bloor Street alongside Bishops-elect Riscylla Walsh Shaw (Trent-Durham) and Jenny Andison (York-Credit Valley).



### Deacon Derek Davidon

#### *A life of service and commitment*

Life for Derek began in a colonial family which settled in the Caribbean 170 years ago. He was raised as a good Scots Presbyterian, but attended a Jesuit School, because of their superb educators, though during his youth he had no involvement in church. At 26 he decided to read the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. It was an extraordinary experience for him.

His marriage to Hilka and the birth of their three beautiful children, was transformative by which he had an overwhelming presence of God in these “gifts”, and it opened the doorway to a new life in Christ. He returned to the Church, this time as an Anglican, where he felt most at home and began to reconcile the seeming contradiction between the religious understanding of life and its purpose, with the scientific and historical accounts of human life and the universe. When an internationally known medical scientist told him that he believed only in what he could measure, Derek began to recognize the limits of science, and came to the conclusion that science and history deal only with verifiable fact – not with joy, gratitude, self-sacrifice, forgiveness, love, meaning, purpose or value.

His work at Humber Memorial Hospital caring for people in the Intensive Care Unit, often on life support machines only confirmed for him that “God was intruding into my world of *facts*”, when he was confronted with families who were wrestling with real life and death situations.

Formal theological studies further helped Derek in his hospital work and in his practice as a psychoanalytic therapist and counselor, aiding people in their struggle to understand their lives and their problems.

In 2001 Derek was Deaconed, and in 2012 was appointed to the Ascension, and in spite of his formal retirement continues to be an honorary member of our clerical team. He continues to be an Honorary Member of the Medical Staff at Humber Memorial Hospital and a member of their Board of Governors. Derek has volunteered at Evergreen Clinic for Street Youth, and on Medical Missions in Ecuador, Jamaica St. Lucia, and Northern India.



## “Café 65 – A Gathering Place for Seniors”

*‘An evolving creation which generates warmth and fellowship among us all, in the spirit of Christ’s mission.*

“Café 65 – A Gathering Place for Seniors” is an outreach initiative of our Church, sponsored in part by a Toronto Diocese Reach Grant. Café 65 was launched – with events held on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each beginning in January of this year. ‘And popular, it is!

We are receiving feedback such as: “wonderful hospitality”, “excellent lunch”, “enjoyed meeting people, getting to know them”, “a real treat”, “good entertainment”.

Bill and Evelyn Hullah with a team of committed volunteers have developed a successful two hour Christ Centered program that serves a nutritious soup ‘n sandwich lunch and then provides some form of entertainment (for a nominal charge) – for the enjoyment and enlightenment of seniors in our community.

But in a more fundamental way, and in a Christian atmosphere, Café 65 addresses many different needs of the diverse mix of seniors living in Don Mills: some enjoy the outing as a break from preparing lunch at home; some – particularly those who live alone - benefit from the social contact with others; some are curious about the topics of learning; some are introduced or re-introduced to the environment of the church itself; some benefit from having others listen to stories of their personal ups and downs of the week and many take home that warm feeling of just being served up some friendship for a couple of hours.

Time for informal conversation is built in so that guests can meet new friends and be new friends to one another.

We advertise: Lunch - \$7, (*and expect a nominally increase beginning in January 2017*). Fellowship – Free! At the information table, we regularly display printed materials from various businesses and organizations, along with updates of our church activities.

To date, we have hosted entertainment by musical performers, including sing-alongs; a Tai Chi demonstration; presentations on intriguing cultural/historical topics and a Seniors Spring Fair, which highlighted products and services geared to improving the quality of life for seniors.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the largest Café 65 event to date, attracting approximately 90 attendees to see our Elvis tribute artist, Bruno Nesci who wowed the crowd and brought back good memories of another era.

Not only is Café 65 a popular program for guests but our volunteers have developed quite a camaraderie in setting up the church hall, prepping and serving lunch and doing the associated activities that go along with putting on such events. We feel we are definitely meeting a need of the considerable number of seniors in our community!

**For further information or if you want to get involved, please speak with Bill or Evelyn or contact the Church Office, 416-444-8881.**