

FaithLINES

THE QUARTERLY INFORMATION LETTER FROM FAITHWORKS

VOL 1 NO 2 WINTER 2008 *I came that they might have life and have it abundantly.* John 10:10

Faith Works receives \$1 million to start endowment

AN ANONYMOUS donor has given \$1 million to create an endowment for FaithWorks, the largest single gift in the appeal's history. Bishop Colin Johnson said he was surprised and delighted by the donation, which will be used to help the poor and the marginalized at home and abroad.

The endowment will generate about \$40,000 a year in income for FaithWorks, but that could increase if more people donate to it, says Peter Misiaszek, the diocese's director of Stewardship Development. "I hope it will inspire others to give," he said. "What this shows us is that even in times of economic uncertainty, people have the capacity to be generous." The endowment will make its first pay-out in 2009, he said.

He is hopeful that FaithWorks will reach its goal of \$1,550,000 in 2008, despite the economic downturn. "People from all walks of life have proven to be most generous when times are most challenging," he said.

RAISING THE BAR ON STEWARDSHIP:

Harold Percy: 'Making disciples leads to generous giving'

THE THIRD ANNUAL Diocesan Stewardship Conference, called Raising the Bar on Stewardship, drew 120 lay people and clergy for a day of discussions and workshops on many aspects of stewardship.

The Rev. Canon Harold Percy, incumbent of Trinity, Streetsville, who was the keynote speaker, said there are four messages the church can deliver as it develops disciples. Giving generously is a way of acting like Christ; living a generous life is pleasing to God; living generously is a way of thanking God for all he has done; and living generously is a way of trusting God.

He explained that money is the number one idol in our culture. "Everything is about getting as much as you can, and holding on to it. Money is not bad – it's a means of exchange – but it's incredibly dangerous whenever it takes over and starts running the show. Jesus understood its power and how it grips our minds, our hearts and our imaginations."

He described a common myth about money: that it represents significance,



Harold Percy

security and satisfaction. This myth surrounds us in our daily lives and shapes us. Whenever there is a news story, the focus is always on money, he added. As an example, he cited the SARS crisis in Toronto a few years ago, when the focus of attention was not on how many died, but on how much it cost the city in tourist dollars.

When people ask why they should give, he said, there are four answers: to grow; to be free from the power money has in your life; to be fulfilled because God built generosity into our DNA; and because the cause is important. Of these four factors, the first three outweigh the last, he said.

We should learn to work toward

See PERCY on back...



THE STAFF of FaithWorks and the Stewardship Department wish you blessings at Christmas as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child who brings hope to a broken world.

Would you like to receive an electronic version of FaithLines? Please send an email to ppakyam@toronto.anglican.ca and we will add you to our email list.

Life insurance can be a useful way of making a gift to the Church!

When you make the Church – or any of the funded programs of the Diocese of Toronto – the owner and beneficiary of a paid up policy, you get the benefit of a tax receipt for the cash surrender value of that policy and the peace of mind of knowing you've made a significant gift that will not diminish your estate. A gift of life insurance can be an enduring legacy of faith.

For more information on making a gift of life insurance or any other legacy vehicle, please call Peter Misiaszek, CFRE, Director of Stewardship Development at (416) 363-6021 ext. 246.

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Centre, Toronto
Anglican Appeal
Anglican United Refugee Alliance,
Toronto
The Bridge Prison Ministry,
Brampton
Couchiching Jubilee House,
Orillia
The Dam Youth Drop-In Centre,
Mississauga
David Busby Street Centre, Barrie
Flemingdon Park Ministries,
Don Mills
Glebe House, Peterborough
LOFT Community Services
North House Shelter, Beaverton
The Philip Aziz Centre, Toronto
The Primate's World Relief and
Development Fund
ROC Women's Emergency
Transition Shelter, Buckhorn
Samaritan House Community
Ministries, Barrie
St. Stephen's Community Ministries,
Downsview
Toronto Urban Native Ministries,
Toronto

PWRDF celebrates 50th anniversary

A message from Cheryl Curtis, Executive Director

OVER THE LAST 50 years, through The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, the Anglican Church of Canada has contributed \$90 million to development and relief programming. Millions of lives have been transformed. The last 50 years of PWRDF ministry have been fueled by a commitment to our baptismal vows. We strive for justice, peace and hope. We recognize the dignity and worth of every human being and understand our human interconnectedness. We believe in miracles. With your support, we turn to embrace the work of the next 50 years. PWRDF does all this through programs and overseas partnerships...but mostly through you. We're a small agency but even so, 75% of our resources go directly



to development and relief work with approximately 10% of our resources dedicated to Parish and Diocesan education. Thousands of Anglicans like you bring this ministry to life.

PWRDF depends on you to convey the stories of hope and struggle from around the world. We depend on you to understand the ongoing urgency of emergency response and encourage your commitment to Pray, Learn, Act, and Give so that your work through PWRDF may continue as we "do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God." (Micah 6:8)

Our goal is to continue to bring new inspiration to a world in crisis in a uniquely Canadian Anglican way. Fifty years after the Springhill disaster, we are asking Anglicans across Canada to join us in making a difference by working together to change lives, change communities and change the world.

Percy

Continued from front

living off 80 per cent of our income, he explained, saving 10 per cent and giving 10 per cent away. And, perhaps surprisingly, he said that people should not give all their money to the church. "There are organizations (in society) that are doing things that God wants done," he said.

Peter Misiaszek, the diocese's Director

of Stewardship Development, said the conference was the best yet. "We had a very enthusiastic group of people with us today. Not only was the conference well attended from our diocese, but groups from Niagara, Huron, Ottawa and the Lutheran Church were here as well. This is another example of how we can be good stewards, sharing our resources and experiences with others."

Spread the good news about FaithLines

FAITHLINES is the quarterly information letter from FaithWorks, produced as a service to clergy, parishioners, donors and those interested in FaithWorks.

FaithLines is available in hard copy or electronic format and can be downloaded directly from the diocese's website. Feel free to share FaithLines with those who might be interested in FaithWorks – include it in parish bulletins, post it on bulletin boards and attach it to your own newsletters.

If you have any comments about FaithLines or would like to see a particular story covered in future editions, do not hesitate to let the Stewardship Office know.

Faith
WORKS

135 Adelaide Street East
Toronto, ON M5C 1L8
Telephone: 416.363.6021 or 1.800.668.8932
Facsimile: 416.363.7678
Email: faithworks@toronto.anglican.ca
www.toronto.anglican.ca
www.faithworks.ca

Revenue Canada Registration No. 107505059 RR0001



Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church of Canada