

June 24, 2019

The Rt. Rev Susan Bell
Bishop of Niagara
252 James St North
Hamilton, ON

Dear Bishop Susan,

Thank you for your ongoing support of St. Mark's NOTL, for coming to the Wardens Dinner last March, and we look forward to your episcopal list with us on September 15. This letter is to nominate one of our parishioners, Diane Turner, for the Order of Niagara. We understand the nominations need to be in soon for the Order to be bestowed later this year.

I met Diane on my first Sunday here in November 2016 when she offered the Prayers of the People at the 8:30 service. They were offered with such care and devotion I knew right away that I needed to know her. Over my time here as Rector I have come to know the many ministries and contributions she brings to the life of the Church and community.

Diane has been involved in various Anglican churches all her life. Beginning at St John's in Weston with Girl Guides, then director of the Sunday School at Transfiguration in St Catharine's, People's Warden at St George's before moving to Niagara on the Lake with her husband Wes (a professor at Brock).

At St. Mark's Diane has served on the altar guild, with the flowers (as she is a Master Gardener with beautiful decorations at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter), an intercessor, and past People's Warden. In addition to all this Diane has for the past number of years taken the lead with others in the baking of cherry pies for our annual July Cherry Festival. She orders all the cherries and pastry ingredients, recruits the volunteers who come several Mondays in the spring make and freeze them, and oversees the sale of them. She writes thank you notes to all involved. This year Diane and the team have prepared a record 790 Cherry pies which, from past experience, sell out in the first two hours. It is an extraordinary effort and Diane's calm, confident expertise is central to it all.

Professionally Diane graduated from the Education Improvement Program at Durham N.C. and was instrumental in developing specialized instructional programs for inner-city, low-income preschool children. As a Master Gardener she is currently president of the Garden Club of Niagara, has taught flower arranging at the cancer centre, volunteers with the Shaw Garden Club and for their and Rotary's Garden Tours. She also judges at various horticultural flower shows. For fun she and Wes lead the Scottish Country dancing for the St Catharine's Society. They are also the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.

When Diane offers the prayers of the people Sunday morning and says 'Thanks be to God', we can add, and thanks be to His good and faithful servant, Diane Turner.

Sincerely,

The Rev'd William Roberts
Rector. St. Mark's NOTL