

Reflections from Council: 14 April 2024

My name is Martha Bailkowski and I am an Elder at Large on your AUC Council. I am entering my third year in this position. I confess that my mind swirled around at every meeting with the amount of information about what was happening at AUC. The important things that people were doing and the care and integrity with how it was being done was inspiring. Our church is loved.

April 11 was the anniversary of the fire. Anniversaries bring back memories. How far back do your memories go? I'll bet if you close your eyes, you can picture where you sat at AUC. And if you really concentrate, you can see and hear the choir processing in. Maybe you can hear the sound of a hymn book falling from the balcony...no heads were damaged, hopefully.

Our family sat up in the balcony. Brian and Christine went to Sunday School, then to confirmation class. Then they went off to school and we started to attend the 9am service and sit downstairs.

We moved to Aurora in May 1990. We were lucky in that we got the keys a week or so ahead. Putting the key in the door and walking into our house was just so wonderful. Of course, it was empty....just walls and floors. I remember spending a day putting baseball wallpaper in our son's new room and going home thinking how beautiful it was only to get a call from my husband several hours later telling me it was all on the floor. Apparently the pre-pasted wallpaper wasn't pre-pasted.

We were lucky. We had a moving van with all our things arriving in a few days. We would unpack boxes and put things away.

That feeling of hope and anticipation is rising again, as we can see our church taking shape on Yonge Street. In just over a year, we will move from Trinity Anglican, walk down the street and find a new seat to sit on.

Your AUC Council has been your voice over the past ten years. Big decisions had to be made and the weight of those decisions have weighed heavily on each of us who have served or are serving on Council.

We are in the midst of the Rising From the Ashes Campaign. A lot depends on how well this campaign is supported. It's success will determine what we see when we unlock the front door of our new building. Will there be Audio-Visual equipment available to us? Will there be a kitchen? We hope there will be chairs!

I want you all to know that as a member of the AUC Council, I will not only support this campaign with my time and energy but my husband and I are supporting it with our wallet also. This is our envelope. Thank you and Blessings.

