

THE ST. GEORGE'S DRAGON FLYER



THE NEWSLETTER OF ST. GEORGE'S OF FOREST HILL ANGLICAN CHURCH

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

EASTER 2009

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY: THE NEXT CHAPTER

At this time last year, the call went out for volunteers to help build the Habitat for Humanity home that we, along with the Deanery of Waterloo, were supporting. It would be the single largest co-operative effort of a Deanery in the history of our Diocese. Huge amounts of work had gone into making it a success on the part of our Outreach Committee, and leadership for the project was very capably given by Ray Finnie and John Phillips. The building went off without a hitch in the summer of 2008: a testament to the hard work of Jim and Carol Ellis, and Lisa and Jamie McCoy, who coordinated volunteers.

In early November, we gathered on Cherry Street to bless and celebrate the home. While our responsibility effectively ended there, the story goes on. In December, a fairly commonplace thing happened, and yet for Sabah and Dilber and their three children, it was one of the most exciting things imaginable. They moved into their very own home!

That month, your generosity reached out once again, and through the Angel Tree you gave

gifts to help this family to settle in. I had the opportunity to go and deliver these gifts, and to sit and talk with the family, only days after they were moved in. It was an exciting and humbling experience to hear the gratitude expressed in words and in their hospitality. This family has a great chance at improving their lives. They are grateful to you for whatever part you played. Sabah wanted to invite all those who helped to come to his house so he could make a meal to thank them. I told him that the numbers of people were so huge that that just wasn't practical, but I promised him that I would find a way to let you all know how thankful he and his family were.

You did this! You made this possible! Whether you gave money toward the build costs; whether you came out and helped with the build phase; whether you contributed to the food that was served to the workers on the site, or you supported the project through your prayer and concern, you gave a family a hand up so that they could better their life. Oh behalf of that family, I want to take one more opportunity to say thank you. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus speaks of those who have served him by serving others. He says to them, "For as much as you have done it for these least of these, you



have done it for me. Well done, good and faithful servant."

Editor's note: the work of Habitat for Humanity is ongoing in Waterloo Region. This summer the fourth and final section of four townhomes will be constructed on the Cherry Street site. Habitat continues to need your prayers, your financial support, your donations of meals and your volunteer time in many capacities. There are many families just like Sabah and Dilber who are waiting for decent, affordable housing. To stay informed or to volunteer, please go to the Habitat website at

www.hfhw.ca

FROM THE WARDENS

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

Easter is fast approaching as we journey together through this

"For coming only to Church on Easter Sunday is like arriving at a play in time to participate in the standing ovation. You have missed the big event!"

season of Lent. This is a time of personal reflection and commitment as we walk with Jesus to the Cross and realize, once again, the ultimate sacrifice that He made for us all!

Our Annual Meeting in January was well-attended. We had a great chili luncheon and then attended to the many items and reports. The Annual Vestry Report presented was filled with numerous on-going and specific activities at St. George's throughout 2008, many of which continue now. It is inspiring indeed to realize that we are such a busy and active church. The Report is still available if you did not obtain a copy.

At a Sunday Service in February, Wayne Matheson was honoured by Fr. Don and the congregation and given an icon signed by many in the parish as a token of our thanks for his sincere dedication and duty as Warden over the past four years. At another Sunday Service, we welcomed and reaffirmed members of our Parish Council and accepted Nelson Cuthbert as our new Deputy People's Warden. We thanked them all for their time and commitment to St. George's in the past and throughout the coming year.

Saturday, January 10, 2009 was a special day for a number of long-time parishioners of St. George's in that one of our former rectors, the Right Reverend Bob Bennett, was enthroned as the 12th Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Huron at a moving service in historic St.

Paul's Cathedral in London. It was an unforgettable experience for those who were able to attend.

Holy Week is fast approaching! There are no meetings being held so that parishioners can focus completely on their spiritual awareness as we journey through the many opportunities for worship and prayer throughout that period. Joint evening Lenten services combining the congregations of St. James' Lutheran, Mannheim and St. George's occurred each Wednesday at 7:30 pm from March 4 through to April 8 inclusive alternating locations from week to week. This was/is a wonderful time of worship and fellowship between the two congregations. Don't forget about the opportunity to sign up in the Narthex for Easter Flowers.

All of our committees are functioning well and are busy with their many activities and opportunities. Robert Aszmies, our new Music Director, led our congregation musically through Christmas Services and into the New Year. We are very fortunate to have him with us and look forward to his gifts of music and service throughout this year. He is very open to your ideas and suggestions and is always on the lookout for more choir members!

The "Fix-Up 2008" Campaign has been a success raising over \$ 7,000 to address additional maintenance and repair issues throughout the Church. The roof repairs in the Narthex entryway have been completed. This has been a site of

ongoing concern in the past

especially throughout the winter months.

Enclosed, please find a Special Easter Offering envelope. If you are able offer support, it is always appreciated.

We would like to thank our rector, Fr. Don, for his ongoing leadership and commitment within our very busy parish community. Thank you to all of you, the people of St. George's, for making our Church a welcoming and thriving community. May the grace and love of Christ be with you throughout this Lenten season.

Yours in Christ,
Your Wardens – Reta Risto, John Ryrie, Jim Stirling and Nelson Cuthbert

PLANNED GIVING 101

At St. George's church, we provide many important services within our community as well as with our partners abroad. However, we must remain a financially strong parish to be able to continue the church's ministry in the long-term. Like many churches, St. George's has increasing expenses that need to be taken care of as we move forward.

We are all familiar with donating to St. George's through envelopes and special offerings, but there are a number of other ways to do so that should be explored. This is where planned giving can play an important role, especially for the long-term financial stability of the church.

A planned gift is a very individual decision that considers the donor's giving objectives, while maximizing the tax advantages and estate planning benefits of the gift. A gift may be outright and

Planned Giving Information Night

Tuesday May 5th at 7PM

Please RSVP to the church office (744-4751)
Or via email at stgeorgefh@golden.net



immediate, or a future gift arranged now but not received until a future date. Some planned gifts are designed to support the Church and to provide a tax-effective income for the life of the donor.

Since many people may not be aware of the different options that are available for planned giving, St. George's church has arranged an information session on Tuesday, May 5th at 7pm in Thompson Hall.

Please RSVP to the church office at (519) 744-4751 or via email at stgeorgefh@golden.net to register. If you can't make it on that date, please let us know and we will provide you with more information.

We hope to see you there!

Stewardship Committee

ST GEORGE'S YOUTH

In the fall, a youth session was held after church to gather input from young people in grades 7 to 12. They were asked for ideas concerning services as well as desires with respect to other types of activities. It was a very informative time.

Using the feedback from this meeting, we are delighted to write

that the St. George's youth have already met twice since Christmas for Friday night get-togethers. The first was a bowling night, after which we shared snacks and a social time. The second was a spaghetti dinner, which was held at St. George's and was followed by a movie. Both events had a solid turnout. And now we are looking forward to welcoming our new Youth Minister!

Although not solely for youth, a "Praise and Pizza" service is being planned for early May. You probably have noticed announcements in the bulletin for a Praise Band. If you would like to be involved in the band or the learning of new songs, please inform our Music Director, Robert Aszmies.

If any youth have not given their e-mail address, please call the church (744-4751) or e-mail Kate Durdan at kdurdan@rogers.com or Valerie Cuthbert @ cuthben@golden.net.

WITH EARTH DAY IN MIND....

Part of our mission as Christians is to be mindful and careful stewards of God's creation. St. George's parishioner Crista Dietrich is

playing her part, by creating sturdy and colourful tote bags from foil drink pouches that are not eligible for blue box collection. Not only do these bags divert hundreds of drink pouches from the garbage, they serve a dual purpose by helping to eliminate the need for plastic shopping bags, another huge environmental nuisance.

Used pouches are collected for Crista at neighbourhood schools and she tells us her bags are durable, strong, waterproof and easy to keep clean, and depending on

their size, are great for many different purposes, from beach and swim bags, to book totes, to lunch bags. For more information, and to order bags for yourself, contact Crista at dietrichc@rogers.com. And if you would like to see a finished bag, speak to Rosemary Pitts!

And speaking of recycling, don't forget to save those outer 4-litre milk bags. St. George's is undertaking a new and exciting ministry. In our efforts to demonstrate our care for God's creation we are going to learn how to make sleeping mats out of plastic milk bags! The bags are cut up into strips, knotted into plastic

From This... to That!



Blessings and Milestones

Congratulations to Elizabeth Stuckless on the occasion of her 90th birthday! Many of her 16 children, 32 grandchildren, 39 great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great grandchildren, as well as members of her parish family, gathered to celebrate on February 28. God bless you, Elizabeth, and may he grant you many more years among us!

The old St Aidan's bell has not yet been repaired and re-hung in our belfry, but already wedding bells are in the air for several of our past junior choristers and Sunday school alumni. These include: Greg Butler and Stacy Brant; Sarah Cuthbert and Ryan Huber; Sarah Jackson and Jan Bolhuis; Sarah Wheeler and Jeremy Legman. Best wishes to all as you begin your new journey.

“yarn” and crocheted into mats for children and adults in impoverished countries. Another diverted plastic product! The durable, washable mats repel bugs and provide an alternative to sleeping on the damp and bare ground, helping to reduce disease and parasitic infection. You would be surprised at how colourful the finished mats are! School children, men and women are welcome to take part - collecting the outer bags, preparing them for use and crocheting the plastic into mats. If you are interested, please contact Laura @ alight.uwo.ca for more details and watch our website for the dates for workshops on how to get started.

PASTORAL CARE

Are you unable to attend church, either for a short time or a long time? Would you like someone from the church to visit? Would you like communion brought to you? Are you in hospital? Please tell us. We would be happy to visit.

Team members visit parishioners in their homes and in hospital. Talk to Fr. Don or Margaret Walker or leave a message at the office in person, by phone, by email or in an envelope labeled “Pastoral Care”.

Privacy legislation prevents the

hospitals from telling us that you are a patient. You have to tell us or ask a family member or friend to tell us. We would prefer to have several requests to visit you in hospital or at home than none.

YOU WERE ASKING?

If you have questions about why things are done the way they are in the church, it goes without saying that if *you* are wondering, likely many others are too. Well, here is an opportunity to ask some of those questions and I will do my best to provide the answers; it might even force me to go back and research and re-learn for myself. St. George’s is a growing congregation, from many different backgrounds and we aren’t all familiar with our Anglican traditions and peculiar “churchspeak”. I am therefore inviting you to drop your questions into my mail slot in the Narthex, for an answer in the next issue of the Dragon Flyer.

And speaking of the Narthex, what the heck is it? This question has been asked of me so many times, that I thought I would begin this column by giving you an answer.

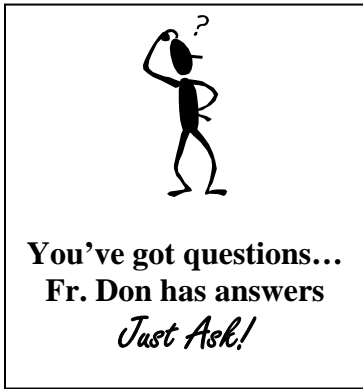
The Narthex of a church is the entrance or lobby area, located at

the end of the nave at the far end from the church’s high altar. Traditionally, the Narthex was built as a part of the church building, but not considered a part of the “body” of the church. It was either an indoor area separated from the nave by a screen or rail, or an external structure such as a porch. The original purpose of the Narthex was to allow those who were not yet baptized and thus were not eligible for admittance to the congregation, to hear and partake in the service. The Narthex often held the Baptismal

font, so that infants and adults could be baptized there before entering the body of the church, and so that those already baptized could be reminded of their baptism each time they entered the

church. Traditionally, the Narthex was thought of as a place of penitence and in some traditions, the early gatherings of Holy Week were held in that space.

Later church reforms removed the requirement that the un-baptized should be segregated from the rest of the worshipping community, and the Narthex lost its purpose. However, architects continued to include this space in church buildings. It is the point of entry





Praise and Pizza is Coming!

“If you build it, they will come.”



The musicians have come together, now we just need a few more voices. Do you want to learn some great new music and sing with our new Praise Band? Then come on up and speak to Rob, our music director. Then, stay tuned for more information about our first *Praise and Pizza* worship service, coming in May.

into the worship space, even if everyone is welcome to come into the Nave for worship. In many Eastern Orthodox churches, the Narthex is also referred to as the *trapeza* which means refectory, as tables are often set up there after worship for the faithful to share a common meal.

Our own Narthex is the large open space which in a secular building would be called a lobby and includes the lounge outside the chapel. The uses we have for the space work well within the old tradition of church architecture. It is a place where we gather and welcome our congregation, and often is used as a place for fellowship, and tables filled with food. This tradition of a common meal in the Narthex following worship is most clearly seen on Holy Saturday evening, when after that first celebration of Easter, the congregation of St. George's gathers around the tables to enjoy the things we traditionally fast from during Lent, like wines, cheeses and other rich foods. Our choir usually hosts this wonderful part of the Easter celebration. Come and join us!

Editor's note: remember, if you have a question on why we Anglicans do the things we do, you can drop a note in Fr Don's mailbox. We'll publish his answer in the next Dragon Flyer.

OUTREACH ANSELMA HOUSE

"New \$6.1M Shelter for Anselma House"

This was the heading in The Record on Friday, Feb. 27th. The need for crisis service grows in a tough economy. Although the new shelter will have 35 beds to start

with the potential for 10 more, the cost will total of \$6.1 million.

The shelter is hoping for \$3.5 million from the Ministry of Community and Social Services, and the present Anselma House will be sold and the money used to build a new one. Women's Crisis Services of Waterloo must raise the \$2.5 million balance to build a new shelter.

A fundraiser will be held at Bingemans on Saturday, June 13, with Mahatma Gandhi's grandson, Arun Gandhi, as speaker. You can find out more information about the building campaign and purchase tickets for the fundraiser at www.rebuildanselma.com. St. George's, through your Outreach Committee, is a dedicated supporter of Anselma House. This promises to be a wonderful evening, so please, mark your calendars, get a group together, and try to attend.

So Very Many Envelopes!

Brian and Christine Ledbury are long-time parishioners here at St. George's. Brian has been our faithful and diligent envelope secretary for the past 28 years, tracking our givings on a weekly basis, summarizing, reporting and issuing individual income tax receipts annually. Brian has recently retired from this voluntary position, which requires accuracy, time, dedication, organization and communication with many people, and Brian has excelled at it. He was honoured at the 10:00 am Service on Sunday, March 15, 2009 by Fr. Don and the congregation and given an icon

Parish Update Form



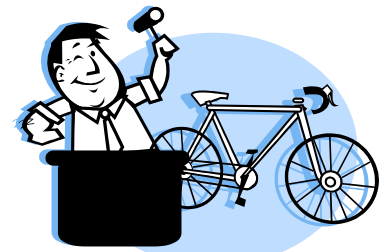
Don't miss the Parish Update Form on yellow paper included with this issue of the Dragon Flyer.

Please take a few minutes to complete the form and return to St. George's.

signed by many in the parish as a token of our sincere appreciation.

Thanks so much, Brian!

THE AUCTION IS COMING! THE AUCTION IS COMING!



Our popular Parish Auction is returning! Please mark the evening of Saturday, May 23, 2009 on your calendars and plan to attend this event! Jim Stirling and Nelson Cuthbert are Chair and Vice-Chairpersons this year. We will accept auction items at the Church during the two weeks leading up to the event. Yes, supper is part of the evening's festivities too! Traditionally, auction items tend to be material in nature but your creativity is welcomed. Such items as an authentic Italian dinner for four at a parishioner's home, a week at a parishioner's cottage, four hours of ballroom dance instruction, 2 tickets to a Kitchener Rangers' game, etc. are always popular. Indeed, some very interesting auction items have been presented in past auctions to the enjoyment of the crowd attending. Be thinking of suitable items for the auction and save that Saturday for a great opportunity for fellowship

and fun! Watch for more information to follow.

HAITIAN DANCE GROUP COMING TO ST. GEORGE'S!

The Resurrection Dance Theatre was born out of the St. Joseph's Home for Boys, a home for street youth in Port au Prince, Haiti. With the help of others, the boys were introduced to drama and dance. In this way, they were able to tell stories of their street life prior to living at St. Joseph's.

The group has had the opportunity to visit the United States and perform with Dance Africa in New York City. Presently, there is also a school and guest house that is managed by older boys in the program.

Resurrection Dance Theatre will perform at St. George's on Sunday April 19th after a potluck lunch.

For more information, please speak with Wendy Sherlock.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday.....8:15am & 10am

Monday.....7:30 pm

Tuesday.....7:30 pm

Wednesday.....7:30 pm

Maundy Thursday.....7:30 pm

Good Friday:

10 am Meditations of the Cross
2 pm The Way of the Cross

Saturday.....7:30 pm
The Great Vigil of Resurrection

Easter Sunday

7:15am, 9:00am, 11:00am

BUTTERFLY SONG

By Peg Balfour

A monarch butterfly
flew past my windowsill
one sad and dreary day:
A beautiful sign
a message divine
I think that we can take it as true
The darkness will end
the sun will return
and God will make everything new

If the world is aglow
and our hearts full of love
we fly along the path
but once in awhile
the light will grow dim
and we begin to wonder why.
We need to catch
a glimpse of God
in a butterfly passing by.

Like the sun in the sky
and the rivers that flow
we must keep going on
but once in awhile
when the earth is hard
and the wind blows our dreams too high
we need to catch
a glimpse of God
in a butterfly passing by.

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*Peg Balfour is a long-standing member of St. George's
and she has graciously given us permission to share her
poetry in the Dragon Flyer.*

