



THE DRAGON FLYER



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

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

JUNE 2009

GOD IS GOOD TO THE CHURCH

There seems to have been a theme in all the various messages that were coming in to the church this spring. It began on April 1st, when the long-awaited demographic study of the Diocese was finally reported to the clergy. It continued through the message that was delivered by Andrew Weeks at the Magnetic Church Seminar. The most amazing part for me though, was that all the things that these "outside experts" were telling us, were perfectly in line with the steps that were already in place through our Parish Growth working group. In many ways, we were receiving the message that we had chosen the path that was right. We should continue to move forward. But the messages were

also filled with challenge. They told us that the path we had chosen was the right one, but that we would need to go further down that path than my eyes had seen to that point.

The Bokan report made recommendations of small changes that would help our current direction, and then spoke about a need to develop more space, and a need for a second clergy person to meet the considerable and exciting growth plan of the parish. I came home extremely excited, but in the following days I began to ask the question, "How can we afford that? How will we pay for an assistant priest? How will we develop new ministry space? These are expensive steps"!

I began to include these ministry needs in my regular daily prayers. I knew in my heart that the study

was right, but I couldn't see a way forward to reach these enormous goals. A couple of weeks ago, the Rev. Marita Williams called the Rectory on a Sunday afternoon. She had heard through a mutual friend that St. George's had a need for more clergy, and

she was feeling God's call to step forward and aid in filling that need. My heart jumped. I knew that Marita was offering to come to work for us at no financial cost whatsoever. One of the major obstacles that had frightened me had been dealt with in a single simple step. As of Sunday June 7th The Rev. Marita Williams will join the pastoral staff of St. George's of Forest Hill. Marita was ordained as a priest of the Diocese of Huron in 2008 after over 30 years of work at the University of Waterloo as Manager for Space Information and Resource Planning. Marita and her husband Henry have been in Canada for over 40 years, but they continue to own a home in Negril, Jamaica, and they spend several months there each year. Marita's ministry is shared between the Bishop of Huron and the Bishop of Jamaica. Marita will work as a Non-stipendiary Priest Assistant at St. George's offering her gift of 20 hours of ministry each week. She will share her gifts with us during the months she spends in Canada and invite us to share in her experiences of ministry in Jamaica as partners and friends. We welcome Marita and Henry to our parish, and pray that her ministry with us, and with the

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RevMarita With Bishop Bennett

people in Jamaica, will be long and fruitful

St. George's has taken the risk of embarking on a very exciting path toward growing our church. There are certainly obstacles along that road – not the least of which is the fact that our building is used to the point of being full all the time – but I am more convinced than ever, that these obstacles and others will be overcome, because God is good to the Church!

Father Don+

THE MAGNETIC CHURCH

You have heard of a “magnetic personality”, but what on earth is a “magnetic church”? On the weekend of the 24th and 25th of April 17 members from St. George's attended the **Magnetic Church** conference at All Saints in Waterloo to find out.

Put simply, **Magnetic Church** is a conference on practical evangelism designed to help churches attract and retain new members. The presenter, Andrew Weeks, is the author of the book **WELCOME! Tools and Techniques for New Member Ministry** © published by The Alban Institute, Washington, D.C. Over the course of a day and a half, Andy introduced us to common sense approaches to the way we do hospitality and communication for visitors and new members to our church, and helped us to analyze what we are doing now and how we could do things better. Andy is a thoroughly engaging speaker who makes evangelism look sensible and practical. He spent a lot of time with us on how we greet new people who visit our church for the first time, after which we participated in role-playing sessions based on Andy's suggestions. We also examined church property to see how well



(or not!) we measure up in terms of a welcoming environment through visibility, signage, accessibility and bulletin boards. Weekly bulletins, welcome brochures and newsletters were poured over in breakout sessions to reveal how exclusive or inclusive we are in making people feel comfortable and welcome, and how well we do through our words and actions in encouraging people to come back.

An ad-hoc committee has been formed to discuss all of the information gathered at the conference with the goal of examining how we are doing at St. George's and what we can implement to help us to attract and retain new members. Some things are as simple as changing the wording in our bulletin, rearranging a bulletin board or painting a door. Others will involve the way we directly welcome and assist visitors. Watch for more information over the coming months.

ESPECIALLY FOR CHILDREN

“We Want to See Jesus Lifted High!”

Bright balloons and flaming streamers greeted parishioners as we made our way into the church on Pentecost Sunday (May 31st) to celebrate the birthday of the

church and the sending forth of the disciples to do God's work. In song and story the children of our Sunday school taught us about the day of Pentecost and the journeys of the twelve disciples after the death and resurrection of Jesus. Grades one, two and three presented the readings from Acts and Paul's letter to the Corinthians, while grades four, five and six ably assisted Father Don with his sermon, by telling us “what happened next” to Jesus' disciples. We were amazed at how far they travelled – as far as India, Russia and Britain – and we were astonished by the terrifying things they endured, all in the name of Jesus. Hayley and Julia and the children taught us a way to remember the names of all of the Twelve, and let's not forget the hymns, as directed and taught by our awesome director Rob Aszmies - we were moving with the Spirit!

A special thank you to the Sunday school students, their teachers and Alison Olmstead and Kate Durdan, coordinators, for their gift of a wonderful “Pentecost, Part II”. We can't wait for next year's sequel!!

Our busy Sunday School is winding down for the summer, but please join us at our next Children's Service, on “Start Up Sunday”, September 13, 2009.

GOOD READING

“The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith” by Marcus J. Borg
(San Francisco: HarperOne, 2003)

Reviewed by Rev. Robert (Rob) Wiesner.

World-renowned New Testament and Jesus scholar Marcus J. Borg shows how we can live passionately as Christians of integrity in today's world by practicing the vital elements of Christian faith.

For the millions of people who have turned away from many traditional beliefs about God, Jesus, and the Bible, but still long for a relevant, nourishing faith, Borg shows why the Christian life can remain a transforming relationship with God and the world around us. Emphasizing the critical role of daily practice in living the Christian life, he explores how prayer, worship, Sabbath, pilgrimage, and more can be experienced as authentically life-giving practices.

Borg reclaims terms and ideas once thought to be the sole province of evangelicals and fundamentalists: he shows that terms such as "born again" have real meaning for all Christians; that the "Kingdom of God" is not a bulwark against secularism but is a means of transforming society into a world that values justice and love; and that the Christian life is essentially about opening one's heart to God and to others.

It is a challenging yet inspiring book for those who read it. I recommend this book to anyone who is interested in exploring the role of their Christian faith in this modern world. Borg is a master of early church history and

thought...but he excels in making that relevant and meaningful in our own modern contexts. This is a must read book!

Note: Rob is pastor of St. James Lutheran Church in Mannaheim, one of our partner congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Canada. If you would like to comment on this review or have questions about the book, you can contact Pastor Rob at robert_wiesner@sympatico.ca.

THE CALL OF THE CAMINO

On April 29, the women of the parish participated in what has become our annual Potluck and Eucharist. Following a delicious potluck supper in Thompson Hall, approximately 65 women made their way to the sanctuary for a service of prayer and song. Our guest homilist was Kathy Shortt from Parkminster United Church who last September completed a four week pilgrimage along the ancient Camino de Santiago in the north of Spain. Readings, prayers, and hymns were chosen on the theme of Pilgrimage, and Kathy's moving account of her journey, with slideshow, kept everyone enthralled. Kathy reminded us that we are all journeying together and that "the Divine presence was found on the Path in the most beautiful cathedral of all...our world. What a gift our Earth is to us and what a gift we are to each other. May we, as pilgrims, renew our efforts to respect and care for each other and our world."

Watch for coming events for women of the parish, including Book Club (3rd Wednesday of each month, with a summer event TBA), a theatre outing, "munchy lunches" and craft group, to name a few. ALL women of the parish, and their friends, are welcome.

PRAYER QUILTS

In March of 2008 several women of our parish met to discuss starting a prayer quilt ministry. "Blessings and Blocks" is an outreach ministry that combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. Our quilters piece and sew each quilt. The completed quilts are blessed in church and then displayed in the narthex after both services so that parishioners can have an opportunity to tie a knot and say a prayer. Each knot on the quilt represents a prayer offered for someone in special need. Since we started this ministry Father Don has delivered 24 quilts to men, women and children who are experiencing a personal crisis. Another word for quilt is comforter and these quilts are meant to bring comfort to those receiving them. Whatever the style, colour or fabric, we believe the important part is the prayers that go into each one. One of our recipients, a young man, underwent a long treatment for cancer and has since died. We learned that he kept his quilt with him throughout his treatment and even requested that it be placed in his coffin.



If you would like more information on Blessing and Blocks, please contact Karen Baker at 519-576-1112 or leave a note in Karen's mailbox in the narthex. If you know of someone who would benefit from the comfort of one of these quilts,

please contact Fr. Don through the church office at 519-744-4751.

TALK ABOUT ANGELS!

Women's Guild 11th Annual Spring Tea

On Thursday May 7 Thompson Hall was transformed into a cloud with angels and white tulle decorating the walls and tables. Three golden angels greeted guests as they descended the stairs, and a lavish display of beautiful and elegant desserts completed the "heavenly" atmosphere. Ninety-six parishioners and guests enjoyed sampling the goodies, accompanied by tea and coffee. Afterwards, they listened raptly while Marg Scriven of Angel Treasures in St. Jacobs shared many wonderful stories and experiences of angels. Many thanks go to the hard-working tea committee of Roberta Finnie, Carole Hackbart, Mary Lynn Forrest and Reta Risto; to members of our Youth Group who provided table service; and to Carol Lodin, our dedicated sexton who volunteered to assist in the kitchen. The committee is already hard at work on next year's tea so watch for details in the spring and plan to attend.



MILK BAG MATS

Spreading the gospel through handwork.

Since our last edition of the Dragon Flyer we have had three workshops on how to make sleeping mats out of ordinary milk bags. The bags we use are the outer bags that hold the individual bags of milk. At each workshop we have learned how to prepare the bags and crochet them. Some interesting stories have been shared about how this project has opened up other opportunities as people take what they learn and tell others. In one case, a woman took her supplies with her to a family function and worked on a mat during her visit. Family members became curious and asked what she was doing. She was able to explain the project to them and it created an opportunity for them to work on something together as some cut bags into strips, others joined them and she continued to work. Another person takes bags with her when she visits people who cannot leave their homes and she teaches some of them how to cut and add strips together, giving them something to work on during their visit. One woman has spoken to some local schools who are now saving bags for her to bring to the church. At one of the workshops we had a guest from another church; she was so impressed with how this can be a project for anyone who wants to work together with others that she has introduced it to her church and they will be starting a group to make these mats.

Here are a couple tips to help the work move along quickly. Please wash the milk bags or wipe them down and make sure they have no sour milk or other food products on them. We use clean bags to make them as hygienic as possible for those who make the mats and for those who will be sleeping on them. Flatten the bags rather than bunching them up; they need to be smoothed out for cutting and this

will save you time. Cut bags into strips as we have done in the workshops and take them with you to doctors or dentist appointments, anywhere you are waiting. Take them with you to committee meetings to work on. The strips can be joined together easily and rolled into balls to crochet into mats. Applying a small amount of powder to your hands or the hook helps the plastic glide more easily when you are crocheting.

We have had our first mat completed and many more are near completion. If you are working on one or are cutting bags into strips, or attaching them into balls for others to crochet, please send an email to Laura at alightf@uwo.ca to share what you are doing and any stories that you have related to making these mats. If you have any questions, or suggestions, about this process please send me an email and I will be happy to respond to you.

We will have more workshops and there is always room for more people, all ages, to join us. If you don't want to crochet, there are other steps you can help us with, whether it is a one-time event or ongoing participation. And as always, please pray for the work of all who are contributing to this ministry, and for those who will make use of the finished mats.

Laura Lightfoot

YOUTH REPORT

So much is going on for youth in the Parish.

On Sunday June 14 and Sunday June 21 the Eco-Youth Team held fundraisers with proceeds going to St George's youth programme and to ROOF (Reaching our Outdoor Friends). Some of the products on sale included reusable water

bottles, dryer balls, re-usable mess bags and “smencils” – you will have to ask around to find out what those are!

There was a youth group meeting at Jack Durdan’s on the afternoon of Saturday June 20.

Kyla, our youth minister, invited students in grades 7 – 12 to join her for discussions on faith and life following Sunday school on June 7 and June 14 in the parish hall.

Finally, for all you thrill seekers and coaster lovers, don’t forget *Wonder Jam* at Canada’s Wonderland, Sat June 27. This will be our year-end wrap-up, so grab a friend and sign up on our youth bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs. Cars will leave the church parking lot at 8:45 a.m. SHARP. Funding sponsorships are available, and parent drivers are needed.

For more information on Youth events and registrations, please contact Kyla Wiesner at 519-743-6475.

HABITAT UPDATE

Summer build season on Cherry Street will kick off on July 6, with two units under construction. Women, take note! One of the sites will be an **All Women Build**, while the other will be a general build. If you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, contributing food or making a financial donation, check out the Habitat website at www.habitatwaterlooregion.on.ca to volunteer.

YOU WERE ASKING...?

I hear that St. George’s is going to paint the entrance doors to the

church red. I have seen many other Anglican Churches, especially in the United States that have red doors. What is the tradition behind this?

I am personally very excited that the church doors are soon going to be painted red. The Bokan report challenged us to do something colourful on the front of the church to make our building more visible. Andrew Weeks at the Magnetic Church seminar also challenged us to paint our doors red as a way of standing out in the community. I remember visits to London in my youth, and always noticing St. George’s church on Wharncliffe Rd. The church stood out for me because although it was set far back from the street, its doors were a brilliant shade of red. This initiative is quite attractive from both the standpoint of drawing people to the church, and the tradition and the theology of this act which are far deeper going back into the development of the English church.

It would seem that there are three very clear lines of tradition around churches having red doors. All of these traditions have to do with a very clear communication, and all are somewhat related. The first is theological. Red is a symbol for us of the passion of Christ, and a reminder that our entrance into the life of grace is a gift gained through the passion of Jesus himself. In the ancient Orthodox tradition, children are baptized wearing red shoes as a reminder that their feet will walk the path of the passion of our Lord.

The second dates from the middle ages when the church often was a place of sanctuary. If a person were being pursued by the sheriff, or the local Gentry, and reached the church, they were safe from their pursuers. Once beyond those

There Is An Angel

There is an Angel in heaven
Way up in the sky,
Your laughter brings joy,
No need to ask “Why”.

Your tears she collects,
In a cup of pure gold,
To shower you gently,
With the love that she holds.

Her wings will enfold you,
When no one is near,
The “Angel of Love”
Is nothing to fear.

Her spirit calls gently,
As you pass through each day,
Her music will show you,
The only “right way”.

Your heart she holds gently,
She knows it’s a treasure,
For God fills your heart,
With his love, we can’t measure.

Your faith and your spirit,
She knows they are strong,
She blows on them gently,
Not too short, not too long.

There is an angel above you,
Your care has been given,
Together you’ll stand,
At the gates of God’s heaven.

Author, Roberta Butler

Roberta Butler has been a faithful member of St. George’s since her teens. She sings in our choir and is a lay administrant for Communion, but has also served as a Sunday School teacher, in Bible study and in many more capacities too numerous to mention.

red doors no one would dare to do violence in that holy place and the person then had the opportunity to plead their case before the parish priest asking for the Gospel justice that the church proclaimed. The red doors were a communication

much like the red stop sign. They warned those in pursuit that they could come no further.

Finally, the red door is a reminder of one of the most ancient of the stories of God saving God's people. In the story of Moses leading the people of Israel out of Egypt, there are several plagues that precede the miraculous crossing of the Red Sea. You remember how the children of Israel were to mark the lintel of the door with blood, as a sign for the Angel of Death to pass over? That "blood red" door marked a house of faith. Likewise, our red door marks our house of faith.

For theological reasons and the practicality of improved visibility in the community, I look forward to seeing our church with bright red doors. It is wonderful to be able to reclaim a symbol from our past, and employ it in our current work to expand out ministry.

Father Don+

THE INFLUENZA PANDEMIC IN YOUR CHURCH

St. George's and the Anglican Church continue to evaluate the H1N1 influenza situation and how to respond in a manner that reduces the risk of transmitting the virus but allows us to maintain as many of our traditions and practices as possible.

One change that we have made is



Re-cycle Me and Spread the Word!

Don't throw me away! Spread our word. Accidentally" leave this newsletter in any waiting room (dentist, doctor etc) or elsewhere so that others might read about our special church community and ministries.

in the distribution of communion. It has been determined that the most appropriate way to take wine is to drink it directly from the cup rather than dipping the wafer of bread into the wine. The practice of drinking, rather than dipping, will continue until further notice.

Anglican tradition says that it is quite acceptable to receive communion in one form only; that is to take only bread or wine but not both, if so desired. If you do not wish to receive either the bread or the wine, cross your arms across your chest and the administrator will pass onto the next person. Another alternative is to raise your hand and touch the foot of the cup with your hand when the cup of wine is offered to you.

On a more upbeat note, the ban on shaking hands or hugging during the peace and when greeting one another, has been lifted. We still need to be cautious, so to reduce the spread of influenza please be vigilant about following proper hand washing procedures and the appropriate use of hand sanitizer.

GOING ONCE...GOING TWICE...GONE

Successful parish auction and pub night

The Parish Council of St. George's under the leadership of Jim Stirling and Nelson Cuthbert hosted a very successful Parish Auction and Pub Night on Saturday, May 23, 2009 with about one hundred in attendance for the evening's festivities. Sincere thanks is extended to our supporters and donors for their support and encouragement without which the Auction would not be possible. A list of our corporate and parish donors

follows. We are most grateful and look forward to our next Auction and Pub Night!



Auction Conveners Nelson & Jim

Individual Parish Donors: Bob & Emily Berti, Connie & Joe Buchanan, Roberta Butler, Marcia Condon, Fred & Lillian Cressman, Valerie & Nelson Cuthbert, Fr. Don Davidson, Jane Davidson, Michael & Nancy Duboulay, Tom & Kelly Duchesne, Ray & Roberta Finnie, Jim & Cheryl Fox, Murray & Terry Ann Gamble, Gladys Grant, Janet Hartry, Christine & Brian Ledbury, Laura Lightfoot, Wayne & June Matheson, Shirley & Marc Mennel, Don & Doreen Millar, Joan & George Mudry, Anne Owen, Denise & Cyril Perkins, Bill & Judy Proctor, Les & Sheila Protopapas, Reta Risto, John & Marg Ryrie, John & Mary Shaw, Wendy Sherlock, Pauline & Jim Stirling, Dulcie Tapp, Brian Tompka, Margaret Walker, Margie Warren, Doreen Webb, Marg & Duane Wheeler, Paula & Doug Woodhouse

Individual Corporate Donors: Chippawa Creek Golf and Country Club, Golf North, Sanctuary International Day Spa, Vintner's Cellars, Woodhouse Contracting

Very special thanks to: Our many volunteers with setup, takedown, cleanup, kitchen, tickets, decorations, bartending, food service, and especially to our parish secretary, Valerie O'Reilly (Secretary), and to Wayne

Matheson (Treasurer), Jim Stirling (Co-Chair, Auctioneer) and Nelson Cuthbert (Co-Chair).

PENNIES FROM HEAVEN



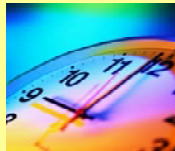
This year our Sunday school classes have chosen to donate our Pennies from Heaven collection to our Foster Children. We need to raise \$101 so we need your help to meet our goal. Each coin deposited in our special Lighthouse bank makes the light glow up top, so help us to “shine a light” and support our foster children.

Nut Free Reminder!



Just a reminder for parishioners and visitors: St. George's is a “nut free” environment. For the health and safety of those who have serious nut allergies please refrain from bringing baked goods and other foods containing nuts and nut products into our building.

SUMMER SERVICE TIMES!!



Please don't forget that during the summer we adjust our service times.

Starting Sunday July 5th until September 6th there will be one service beginning at 9:00 am.

COME AND VISIT US!!!

We're so glad that you picked up this publication; we hope you will find it interesting, provocative and worth your time. If you are not a member of any church, please take the next step and worship with us, any Sunday at 9 a.m. this summer. We are a growing, active place with friendly people who will welcome you, and without "pressure." Or, please call us at 519-744-4751 for more information, and how we might respond to your needs.

The Dragon Flyer is the Newsletter of St. George's of Forest Hill Anglican Church.

321 Fischer-Hallman Road, Kitchener, Ontario, N2M 4X9, (519) 744-4751

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

church_office@stgeorgesofforesthill.com

Editor Laurie Childs, Production Cameron Crassweller