



THE DRAGON FLYER



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

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

SEPTEMBER 2009

FROM FATHER DON

As I sit to write this Pastoral letter for Thanksgiving, it is a beautiful Saturday morning in late September. As is my usual habit, this day began with the early morning trip to market. As I walked through the market this morning, not really needing anything, but enjoying the walk, and the opportunity to pick up the few things I might like for the week ahead fresh from the farm, I was struck by the incredible variety and abundance that surrounded me. I passed a stall which was centred on a dump truck filled to overflowing with beautiful sweet corn. Next to that, a young Mennonite woman was selling all manner of peppers. Though late in the season, another stall had berries and fruit of every sort imaginable, even though they clearly had to have been trucked in from quite a distance. On that simple walk through the market, I was overwhelmed by how remarkably blessed I am, and the incredible reality of God's abundant gifts.

This summer, I have continued my walk with the writings of Paul. In particular, I have been working on Paul's take on the Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed. Paul speaks of the Kingdom of God in the teaching of Jesus in the language of justice, but it quickly becomes clear, that justice in that kingdom is vastly different from the justice that we so often hear of in our world. The violent reaction of the powers and authorities of first

The Kingdom of God is about a fair sharing of God's abundance.

century Palestine and the rest of the Roman Empire to Jesus begins to make sense, once one gets in touch with the Justice of the Kingdom that Jesus proclaimed, and which Paul sought to spread.

Throughout history, Justice is looked on as being *retributive*. Rules are set, and those that contravene those rules will suffer punishment. It is a form of *kingdom* that seeks to safeguard the power, and the possessions of those that have both. When Jesus

and Paul speak of justice, it is a *distributive* justice. *The Kingdom of God* is about a fair sharing of God's abundance. As I have read through Paul, and used that glass to look back through much of the rest of scripture, I have become more convinced than ever that God's intention for the Kingdom is for all to share of their gifts so that everyone has enough.

My trip through the market this morning reminded me of just how

much of God's abundance has fallen to me. God's call for me, is to reach beyond the fear that if I give away

that which I have, there will not be enough left for me, and to step out in faith, and give from that abundance so that others can also experience God's abundant love. This isn't simply an exercise for Thanksgiving. It is an exercise of lifelong Stewardship. By being born in the "right" portion of the globe, the poorest among us is among the richest of people on this planet. I challenge you to give some consideration to that, and to seek to spread the incredible message of God's Kingdom of *true justice*, and to make an effort to share a little more this year than perhaps you have in years before. You might be surprised by some of the new abundant blessings of joy, peace, and hope that God will return to you in exchange.

Don+

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MAGNETIC CHURCH UPDATE

On the weekend of April 17th and 18th of this year a number of your fellow parishioners attended *The Magnetic Church* conference facilitated by Andrew Weeks.

The focus of the conference was on how to invite, attract and retain newcomers as part of our worship community.

Your St George's Magnetic Church committee has taken up the challenge of making St George's an even more welcoming place and a number of specific things have already been done, with more to come:

Welcoming and the RED DOORS:

- The doors to the street and parking lot will soon be painted red. This colour has been proven to reflect a welcoming atmosphere as well as being a very spiritual colour [see *"You Were Asking" in the June edition of the Dragon Flyer*].
- Starting in the fall there will be two greeters at each service, welcoming and assisting visitors and "church shoppers".
- Later this fall, there will be more and better signage, inside and out, to assist visitors.
- The washrooms have been updated.
- We have high quality landscaping.
- All of our printed materials, including the Sunday bulletin and the Dragon Flyer, and our

bulletin boards, will be reviewed starting this fall.

- A great youth program has been established and, while the leader has moved, the groundwork has been set for a bright future in this area.
- Descriptive tags have been affixed to various church hangings, pictures and books for those who may not know their history.

Thanks to those of you who have stepped forward to become greeters. There is always room for more so please think about it and, if you would like to join the Greeters, contact Ruth Pearce.

It is the responsibility of all of us, not just the Rector, the Wardens, and Parish Council, to make St George's a welcoming place of worship and fellowship. It may be as simple as saying hello to a visitor, inviting someone to coffee or wearing your name badge.

As mentioned earlier a Magnetic Church committee has been established under Stewardship to make recommendations on matters relating to communications and property, and to work in other areas to ensure our parish becomes even more welcoming than it is now.

The Magnetic Church Committee will be very happy to hear from anyone with ideas to help us invite, retain and attract newcomers. Contact Wayne Matheson, Facilitator at 519-746-2881 or Marc Mennel, Chair of Stewardship at 519-745-9245.

FROM YOUR WARDENS

Greetings from your Wardens as we enter the fall season at St.

George's! Parish Council, Committees, and your Executive have been working on your behalf in preparation for an exciting year of worship, fellowship and stewardship. St. George's is a very busy place and promises to continue in that same manner again this year.

Our divinity student Margaret Walker has taken a position at St. John's in Preston beginning September 13. Margaret has given much to St. George's. We thank her for all that she has done and wish her well as she continues her growth towards the Ministry. Laura Lightfoot, our other student priest, increases her placement time monthly this year in her ongoing faith journey and we offer her our continued prayerful support. Laura travels a significant way to be with us and we are most thankful for her mission and vision within our parish. We are also blessed with the ministry of Rev. Marita Williams which began in June and will continue throughout the year except for some time in the winter during which she and her husband will return to their home in Jamaica. Marita's ministry is shared between the Bishop of Huron and the Bishop of Jamaica. Together with our Rector we have been blessed with a strong pastoral staff at St. George's!

Kyla Wiesner, our Parish Youth Worker, informed us at the start of the summer that she would be accompanying her husband, Pastor Rob Wiesner, to Belleville as he has accepted a pastoral charge there beginning in September. Kyla has done a great job with the youth of our church since her start in the spring. It was with mixed feelings that we accepted her resignation but our prayers and best wishes go with her as she and Pastor Rob begin the next part of their lives together in Belleville.

Summer Worship

Many parishioners take the time to worship at other Anglican parishes, and with other denominations, while on holiday from St. George's. Here are a few highlights:

Our Summer Vacation Highlight

My husband and I were travelling in England this summer and were visiting the city of York. We went into York Minster Cathedral and had the most wonderful opportunity to attend their 5:00 pm Evensong Service. The service was sung by the junior boys' and senior men's choirs. It was one of the highlights of our trip, a truly wonderful experience. Just thinking about the lovely voices in that very beautiful, old cathedral reminds me of that evening.

Judy Proctor

We have advertised for a replacement and hope to interview and finalize this process by early October.

Upcoming events for your calendars:

- Saturday, October 24: PrimeTimers and Adult Fellowship invite you Back to Woodstock, a 60's evening in Thompson Hall. Tickets \$5.00 at the door – invite a friend or neighbour!
- Friday, November 13: Deanery Confirmation with our new Bishop, Terry Dance
- Saturday, November 14: Bishop Terry Dance will be visiting St. George's

The following reports form a summary of items from various committees within our church as

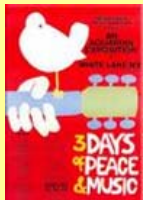
heard at both Executive Committee and at our Parish Council Meetings.

- Executive: a monthly Events Calendar is now available in the Narthex for regular updates and display to all parishioners so that the complete mapping of the activities at St. George's throughout the year can be seen quickly, simply and regularly; the Treasurer reports an (unaudited) net operating deficit of approximately \$16,000 as of August 31st primarily due to larger than normal expenses; a Bible Study will be led by Fr. Don on a weekly basis this fall; continued work on the "Magnetic Church" initiative will occur throughout the fall. Your prayerful consideration and support towards reducing the deficit would be appreciated.
- Property Committee: recent initiatives have been completed: new carpeting was installed in the sanctuary; upgrades to exterior electrical service occurred; tree pruning at the front of the church has made the front of the church more open and inviting; eavestrough repairs occurred over the rear doorway; new toilets were installed in the washrooms; the HVAC duct in the sanctuary was cleaned and painted; new tiles were installed in the kitchen.
- Worship Committee: after significant research, a new "turnkey" set of curriculum documents "Rock Solid" has been purchased; Rob Aszmies is starting a "fun" singing practice every other Sunday after Church in the Fireside Room beginning in October for all of the children in the

Sunday School in the hope of performing at Church in the future as well as learning some new and engaging repertoire; Rob Aszmies will also work on the establishment of a Praise Band this fall. Volunteers are required in the following areas: Nursery, Lay Readers, Intercessors, Sunday School Teachers and Sidespeople. If you can assist in any of the aforementioned areas, please see Fr. Don or one of the Wardens.

- Stewardship Committee: The "Fix-It-Up Campaign" has exceeded \$ 8,000 in total; the website now contains live recordings of some of the homilies (www://stgeorgesofforesthill.com)(go to the "Worship" tab and then proceed to the "Recent Sermons" tab); a Communications Coordinator position at St. George's has been posted at Conestoga College; the training for "Magnetic Church" greeters will occur this fall; "Magnetic Church" Plans are being developed to make St. George's more inviting to the community by creating a warm environment for newcomers and to invite, attract and retain newcomers in becoming members of our worship community; our website is now over a year old and is gaining in popularity. We are looking forward to the Corn Roast and the Turkey Supper – see you all there!
- Outreach Committee: The "Little Dragons' Day Camp" was very successful and very full throughout the summer. A big "THANK YOU" to all of the leaders, volunteers and coordinators for this

*Primetimers and Adult Fellowship invite you to come
"Back to Woodstock"!*



*Dig out your tie-dyed shirt, ripped jeans, love beads and huarache sandals – it's time to take a trip back to the '60's!
Snacks, costume contest, trivia and music –don't miss it!
Bring your guitar for a jam session.*

It's all happening on Saturday October 24 in groovy Thompson Hall, from 6:30 to 11 pm. Tickets \$5.00 at the door.

All are welcome, so bring your coolest friends and neighbours to share the love. For more info, speak to Pauline Stirling or Laurie Childs.

outstanding summer camp for kids!

Thanks for the many and various efforts of all of our parishioners as we grow together with God now and in the future!

The Wardens (Nelson Cuthbert, Reta Risto, John Ryrie, Jim Stirling)

WELCOME TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

We are thrilled to be presenting a new curriculum for Sunday School: **Rock Solid – Building a Heart of Faith**. Here is a quick background on the new curriculum:

"Everyone then who hears these words of mine and acts on them will be like a wise man who built his house on rock. The rain fell, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house, but it did not fall, because it had been founded on rock." (Matthew 7:24–25)"

In this parable, Jesus compares a house built on sand to the one built on a foundation of stone. When the rainy season came, water would gush down the sand wadi and carry the house on sand away because it's foundation was non-existent.

The house, built by the wise builder, with a deep and substantial foundation of stone resisted the rains. Jesus compares this wise builder and his house with a life where God's message is put into action. Both result in a strong foundation.

This "strong foundation" is exactly what we want to offer the children of St. George's. We want to help them build a "Rock Solid" faith foundation so that when the rains and storms of life confront them, their house of faith will not fall away but stand strong and give them strength and shelter.

At each age level, on every Sunday, the children will be invited to a faith experience. It is during this time that they can come to a better understanding of God and what God calls them to do and be. Activities, crafts, stories, and games will contribute to this faith experience. This will be done in a variety of ways at the different age levels.

Everyone involved in Sunday School is very excited to be offering this new curriculum to our students. New activities, new worksheets and new crafts will help us take a fresh, new look at the important and interesting stories from the Bible. Classes are going to be organized into the

following main age groups, however as always we will work to place each child in the group which is best for them.

- Preschool and JK
- SK and Grade 1
- Grade 2 and 3
- Grades 4, 5 and 6

Our Sunday morning program time is going follow a pattern similar to last year: Children will begin the service upstairs with their families. They will be invited to go down to Sunday School after the children's focus

Downstairs,

- Everyone will gather on the carpet for multi-age programming, including music, prayer, and announcements. Occasionally, a story will be presented at carpet time.
- Class time will be longer than in the past, and will follow the curriculum for the week. Each class will work on the same story, but in an age appropriate way, including crafts and activities. In the older classes, children will spend more time working with the Bible than they did in the past.

We will also continue to have regular children's services, which generally require a Sunday of service preparation. On these weeks, class time is replaced by service preparation time.

OUR NEW PARISH ASSISTANT

Rev Marita Williams

Marita grew up in Negril on the western tip of Jamaica. Negril is known for its beaches and is rated one of the most beautiful beaches in the world. Her family ran a

tourism business that rented cottages on the beach front. Though she has lived in Canada for over 40 years, she still owns a house in Negril and visits often.

Arriving in Canada in 1966 to study business at Ryerson, Marita's plan was to return to Jamaica to use her business training in the family hotel business. This plan changed when, through a mutual friend, she met Henry, a pre-med student from Ghana studying at the University of Toronto. They were married in 1969. Marita graduated from Ryerson in 1969 with a diploma in marketing management and was hired to work for the Ontario government as a training supervisor in the Ministry of Education. Their first son, Prem, was born in 1972. In 1975 they left Toronto and moved to Cambridge, hoping that a smaller city would be a better place to raise their growing family. Henry was by this time a paramedic and he continued to commute to Toronto. In February 1977 Marita began working at the University of Waterloo in the Registrar's office. Their second son, David was born in 1980. Not satisfied with

raising two sons and working at the university, Marita decided to go back to school. She began a part-time bachelor's degree in psychology at Waterloo in 1985 and graduated in 1997. Both of her sons are UW grads, Prem, with a degree Applied Health Studies and later an MBA; David studied Economics and French at Waterloo and later went to McGill to study chartered accountancy. He is now studying science courses with the goal to become a doctor.

After she received her BA in Psychology, it was not long before

Marita began thinking about returning to school once again. This time, she planned to get a Master's degree in Divinity. While working at UW, she studied part-time at Conrad Grebel University College in the Master of Theological Studies program. When she was accepted in the ordination stream in the Diocese of Huron, she began to study at Waterloo Lutheran Seminary affiliated with Wilfrid Laurier University.

"I always wanted to be a priest. I was born premature and I wasn't expected to live. My parents always referred to me as 'their blessed child'," she relates.

After her retirement in 2007, Marita turned to her studies full-time at Huron University College at the University of Western Ontario. "My husband was a little shocked at first that I would be pursuing a second career, but I didn't want to stay home and be retired. I felt strongly called to ministry. My family is behind me 100 per cent," she said. Marita was ordained deacon in Huron Diocese in November 2007, and priested in June



Rev. Marita With Bishop Howe

2008.

Since completing her M.Div., Rev. Marita has offered her time, unpaid, to St. George's as Assistant Curate and began her ministry full-time in June of this year. By special arrangement with Bishop Bob and the Bishop of Jamaica, she will divide her time and her pastoral duties between St. George's and Jamaica.

Recently, I asked Marita her impressions of her first few months at St. George's.

"I like being at St. George's; the Rector is a priest as well as a Pastor which I admire and strive to become, and the people are loving, reminding me of the love and warmth I feel when I am at the parishes in Jamaica. The hospitality, love, acceptance, and respect I was given in Jamaica was heartwarming. While working in Jamaica, I truly knew that working without getting pay for my time and effort was very worthwhile and rewarding. I believe in time I will come to the same conclusion at St. George's. St. George's has made me feel very much at home, except that the space I occupy needs some fixing up to be more presentable for someone who has an attractive office at home, and had worked in the UW President's office, and on the 3rd floor of Needle's Hall. However, I am realistic and have started to think more like a Pastor than an Administrator; so, I know that St. George's is not UW and is doing what it can to make me feel at home. I am working hard at St. George's and find the work rewarding; however, I have to find more time to spend with my husband - most time when I am home I am researching materials for or sermon, baptism or working at something to do with church."

How will her work in Jamaica compare with her ministry at St. George's? "I do not yet know what Parish I will be assigned to in Jamaica. I told the Bishop of Jamaica that I will go wherever I am most needed as long as it is not far from my home and the beach -- Negril Beach and I have a great love affair. Wherever I go in Jamaica my work will be comparative to my work at St. George's, except that Jamaica is very short of Priests; hence, it is likely I will be the Rector of a Parish for the 4 or 5 months I will be there (the Bishop knows that it

If you are reading this newsletter for the first time and are looking for a place of worship, consider paying a visit to St. George's at one of our weekly services or fellowship events. For worship times, recorded sermons and a calendar of events, check us out on the web at www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com or call the church office at 519-744-4751.

will reduced hours as I am a retired person giving my time freely, and have to find time to spend with my husband who is also retired).”

While completing her studies, Marita ministered to parishioners in hospital and in nursing homes. She also served as an On Call Chaplain at Cambridge Memorial Hospital. This work has been insightful: “I’ve learned about the full cycle of life. Being sick and

being in declining health is all a part of life. We will all be vulnerable.” She doesn’t see her ministry as work however, “for me it is a sheer pleasure to give. I love it.” This is evident in the energy and dedication Marita brings to her work with us and in her warm hugs!

Obviously not one to let the grass grow under her feet, Rev. Marita is also a published writer, and a member of Toastmasters International, with several prominent speaking engagements to her credit. This is reflected in her homilies, which are insightful and engaging. Her husband Henry received the Governor General Award for Outstanding Paramedic Services two and a half years ago, so this busy couple knows the value of spare time. “You need to practice self-care otherwise you will be all used up,” she says. She would like to do some traveling with Henry, with whom she recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary and to spend more time with their children and grandchildren - in fact they will welcome another grandchild in March 2010.

Finally, I asked Rev. Marita if she had any advice for women contemplating ordained ministry: “I believe women face many challenges in ministry; so, they have to work hard and show that they are serious and dedicated to gain respect and acceptance. Because of this I push myself to learn more and to do more. Despite the challenges, women who feel the sense of call have to persevere. And anyone who feels ministry is their vocation should pursue it with all their heart and soul. It will not be easy but in the end it will be worth all the hard work and sacrifice.”

We are blessed and privileged to have Rev. Marita working in our parish.



Our summer camp had another successful year by having 74 children attend over a nine week period. We used 176 camp spots, 51 full bursaries and 24 partial bursaries. Our sincere thanks and gratitude go out to those people who helped to support our camp in many different ways, such as helping with swimming days, donating craft supplies, offering bursaries or money donations, and to those who sent their children or grandchildren to camp.

Once a week the children had their own small prayer service after discussing how to pray and what to pray for. We would like to share some of the prayers that the campers came up with.

We pray for:

- Fresh water everywhere
- My family and friends to stay happy and healthy
- The environment
- For endangered animals to be safe
- To have shelter and food
- The poor and the lonely
- My parents
- Strength and courage
- My dad to come home safely.
- God and Jesus
- My grandma
- People who have cancer
- Other kids at camp and the councillors

YOU WERE ASKING?

I remember going to Morning Prayer on the first and fourth Sunday of every month for years. Now we have Eucharist every Sunday. What ever happened to Morning Prayer?



Morning Prayer was never intended to be a part of the Sunday worship of the community as a whole. For centuries, the daily office (Morning, Mid-day, and Evening Prayer, as well as Compline) was intended to form the backbone of the “Rule of Life” for Clergy and Religious Orders. It continues to be used in this manner to this day. The rubrics of the Office in the Book of Common Prayer make no provision for those services to be the General Prayers of the Community, but rather preface these services with the instructions that, “All Priests and Deacons, unless prevented by sickness or other urgent cause, are to say daily the Morning and Evening Prayer either privately, or openly in the Church.” (B.C.P. 1962, p. lvi)

After the English reformation, forms of worship were gathered in from all the various religious communities, translated into English, and bound together in the Book of Common Prayer to promote uniformity, but these services were still intended for the edification of prayer life that was still regularly fed by the weekly celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

During the reign of Mary I, the Anglican church was pushed underground, and during this period, began to define itself against “the Catholic Church”, and so during this period, strong Protestant influences were allowed to have their sway on Anglicanism.

As well, the heavily penitential teaching of the church during this period of history had created a deep fear among Lay people, about receiving the Eucharist unworthily. The exhortation before Communion in the Book of Common Prayer warned the community that if one partook unworthily, “we are guilty of the Body and Blood of Christ our saviour; we eat and drink our own condemnation.” (B.C.P., p. 89) Many attended regular Eucharist on Sunday, but left at the confession, hence the words “Ye that do truly and earnestly repent... draw near with faith and take this holy sacrament to your comfort.” (B.C.P., p. 76) The few who were feeling confident enough to receive were invited to draw up into the chancel and gather at the table. The daily office began to be used in regular public worship, not to replace the regular celebration of the Eucharist, but as an option for those who feared the Eucharist.

Today, the Anglican Church has returned to its roots as a Eucharistic community. We have come to recognize once again that the true meaning of the Eucharist is “thanksgiving”, and to approach it not in fear, but as the highest offering of Thanksgiving that we can make to God for the gifts of God’s remarkable and overwhelming love and Grace. At all regular gatherings of the community, the Eucharist is the expected form of worship across our communion today.

But that has not abandoned the original and intended use for Morning and Evening Prayer. They remain an efficacious and wonderful way in which every person can discipline themselves for daily prayer. For myself, the habit of daily morning and evening prayer grew up during my days in seminary, and remains a very

important part of my daily activity. Monday through Saturday, Morning and Evening Prayer begin and end my day in my home. They provide the framework for me to practice the presence of God, and to offer up the work I have done, and the people God has placed in my way each day. On Sundays, I look forward to gathering with the community in Thanksgiving, but in preparation for that gathering, I always take the time in the chapel to say Mattins at 7:00 am, to prepare myself for the Eucharist. You are always welcome to join in that gathering.

BLESSINGS AND MILESTONES

Congratulations and God’s blessings to the following couples on their landmark wedding anniversaries this summer:

Bob and Emily Berti – 50 years
Shirley and Marc Mennel – 45 years

Lilian and Fred Cressman – 40 years

And to the following couples who are just beginning their lives together (apparently if your name is Sarah, you must be from St. George’s!):

Sarah Jackson & Jan Bolhuis
Sarah Cuthbert & Ryan Huber
Sarah Wheeler & Jeremy Lakeman
Greg Butler & Stacy Brant
Erin O’Neill & Daniel Graham

Montreal was abuzz in August for the wedding of Sarah Ford, elder daughter of our former rector Canon Don Ford and Margaret Ford.

Congratulations to new and repeat grandparents Linda and Bruce Hill, Ray and Roberta Finnie, Scott and Sharon Gates and Wayne and June Matheson. We hear that Bruce and Glenda Reid will soon be welcoming grandchild number one, thanks to Katie and Matt, while Rev. Marita and Henry Williams will be basking on the beach in Jamaica in anticipation of their newest grandchild in March.

If you have a special blessing or milestone birthday, anniversary or other event you would like us to know about, please let us know and we will share your news with our readers.

ATTENTION PHOTOGRAPHERS
GET READY FOR THE DRAGON FLYER FIRST EVER
PHOTO CONTEST!

We want your photos from a parish event, activity or seasonal worship for the next edition of the Dragon Flyer. Send them along to us and you could win! We'll award a prize for the best photo submitted by an adult and a prize for the best photo submitted by someone under age 18.

Submit your photos no later than Saturday October 31st by email to fh.dragonflyer@gmail.com or leave them with Valerie in the church office in an envelope marked "Dragon Flyer Photo Contest". Please include the date and title of the event in your photograph, your name and telephone number or email address.

This Edition's
PHOTO GALLERY



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