



EASTER  
2011

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

# THE DRAGON FLYER



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## FROM FATHER DON



**Easter is, of course, the most important annual feast of the Church. And since ancient times, the days from Maundy Thursday to Easter Sunday have been celebrated by Christians with an exuberance of liturgical practice. Every century, perhaps every generation, has added some new rite or ceremony to evoke more poignantly the pain of the Crucifixion, and to herald more triumphantly, the joy of the Resurrection...**

A bewildering variety of practices has arisen: not merely do different denominations observe Easter with different rites, but even within the same denomination, different parishes follow different customs. Even within a single parish, the practice may vary from Rector to Rector. My intent in this letter, is to tell you a little of what will happen at St. George's in hope that the various pieces that comprise our celebration will make more sense, and as such speak with greater power.

The Eucharist on Maundy Thursday (7: 00 pm) is, perhaps surprisingly, a sudden burst of festive light immediately prior to the darkness of Good Friday. The colour on the altar is white, an act of praise is sung, and in some churches the bells are joyfully pealed before being silenced until Easter. The theme is twofold: the "Synoptic" theme of the Last Supper as the occasion for the institution of the Eucharist,

and the "Johannine" theme of the Last Supper as the occasion for the giving of the "New Commandment": "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you..." (It is the Latin word for "commandment", "mandatum", which has been corrupted to the English word "Maundy".) In John's account of the Last Supper, this "new commandment" is associated with Our Lord's washing of the disciples' feet, and so we observe a Maundy Thursday footwashing. Kings and Queens of England used to wash the feet of twelve paupers on this day.

Now they give a monetary gift (of specially minted and eminently collectible Maundy coins); an innovation probably as welcome to the paupers as it was to the monarchs!

**"TO EVOKE MORE  
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The Maundy Thursday Eucharist continues as usual up to the communion and the post-communion prayers, but then the remnant of the consecrated bread is taken in solemn procession to

the Altar of Repose in the chapel, where the faithful will watch and pray, in memory of the Garden of Gethsemane and of Christ's injunction to "watch and pray, that you enter not into temptation". Finally, the altar and sanctuary are stripped of all their ornaments, to the accompaniment of Psalm 22, the "crucifixion psalm" which Jesus himself recited on the Cross. I find this stripping of the altars one of the most potent symbols of Holy Week. The service ends in silence, without blessing or dismissal - or rather, leads straight into the Watch at the Altar of Repose which will

## Guarantee a bright future for yourself – and St. George’s – through Charitable Planned Giving

A **Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA)** is a wonderful planned giving tool that creates a legacy for charity and also provides you with a guaranteed, tax-efficient income for life! A CGA can benefit both you and St. George’s.

A CGA is an arrangement under which you make a donation to a church or charity and receive, in turn, guaranteed payments for life. The amount of these payments depends on your age and the size of your contribution, but you will also benefit from after-tax rates of return that are significantly better than GICs or Canada Savings Bonds.

Your gift annuity also delivers a special bonus at tax time: a sizeable portion of your payments will be tax-free. How much of the income will be tax-free depends on your age and life expectancy. In addition to receiving tax-efficient income, part of your original gift may also be tax-deductible as a charitable contribution.

For example: a 70-year-old female with a \$35,000 annuity would receive approximately \$2,500 of annual income payable for life, which equals a GIC return of slightly more than 7%. The taxable portion would be about \$335 instead of the full amount.

Depending on your age, a CGA allows you to save tax, increase your income and support the important work of St. George’s. Your donation can be directed as you desire...it can assist with the many on-going programs of our church or support a specific cause, such as the current STARS campaign.

Donors are usually age 65 and older (with an optimum age between 75 and 90). Annuities may be established with modest amounts of capital, usually \$10,000 or more.

Guarantee a bright future for yourself and provide a generous gift to your Church! For more information on the benefits of CGAs, please contact the church office.

*From Father Don continued*

continue until the Good Friday liturgy (even though some of us, like the disciples themselves, may find ourselves nodding off to sleep!).

Good Friday is the one day of the year on which traditionally a Eucharist is not celebrated: rather, we make our communion with the sacrament reserved from Maundy Thursday. The Good Friday Liturgy (10:00 am) is thus unique and particular, and is in three parts... First, the “Liturgy of the Word”, the prayers, readings and sermon; the high point, of course, is the reading of the passion narrative from St John’s Gospel. After the sermon, there is a series of prayers, the “Solemn Intercessions”, for the Church and for the world; because Easter was traditionally the time for baptism, these prayers have a particular emphasis on those preparing for baptism, and for the ultimate reconciliation of all people into “one faith, one Lord, one baptism”.

Secondly, the “Veneration of Cross”, which is beautifully done in music by our choir. Thirdly, Communion from the Reserved Sacrament and dismissal. The congregation is invited to take a moment of silent reverence at the foot of the cross before departing. At 2:00 pm, our Sunday School helps us walk in the Way of the Cross through their service of the Stations, which attempts to help us remember, and join in the ancient Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem, that Jesus walked on his way to Gethsemane.

The Easter Vigil and the First Eucharist of Easter (Saturday night at 8:00 pm) is the high point of the liturgical year. Originally (and this is still the case in some of Eastern Orthodox Churches), it was an all-night vigil culminating in a daybreak Communion, but we aim to get home by 10:00 p.m.

The Vigil begins with the church in darkness, until (in the memorial garden) we kindle the Easter Fire and light the Paschal Candle - the Light of Christ, the Light which shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it, the Light which will sustain us through this darkest of nights, the night of Christ’s tomb, until that brightest of dawns, the dawn of His Resurrection.

The Paschal Candle is then brought into church, and someone sings the long and elaborate hymn - the “Exultet” - which celebrates the Paschal Candle in terms of the Pillar of Fire which guided the Hebrews in their escape from Egypt at the first Passover.

There follows a series of Old Testament readings, known as the “Prophecies”. These can be as many as 12 (but we will content ourselves with three); all of them key moments of the Old Testament story which are understood to be “foreshadowings” of the Resurrection: (1) The Creation of the world and of Adam, a foreshadowing of the New Creation in the New Adam who is Christ (2) The Exodus, foreshadowing the escape from the bondage of sin into the Promised Land of Heaven (3) Ezekiel’s vision of the Valley of Bones, foreshadowing the final Resurrection and Restoration of the Chosen People in Christ

The first Eucharist of Easter begins with the Act of Praise (not used since Maundy Thursday) and proceeds more or less as usual until after the Gospel, when the water of the baptismal font is blessed, and the people renew their baptismal vows. Easter was in the ancient church the time par excellence for baptism, because baptism is essentially a participation in the events of Easter - dying with Christ, being buried with him, and rising to a new life. The renewal of baptismal vows is an opportunity for all Christians to relive that supreme moment of their own rebirth.

One other curiosity of the first Eucharist of Easter - which no one has ever been able to explain to me - is that for some reason the “Agnus Dei” is not used.

Well, after all that, the Choral Eucharists on Easter morning are pretty straightforward!

These three days are the most magnificent celebrations of our faith. You cannot help but walk away empowered and enlivened in your faith. I pray that you will come and join in this great celebration!

Don+

## Christian Stepping Stones

**St. George’s continues to maintain a strong commitment to its children and youth ministry. As an introduction to Christian education, three and four-year-olds (accompanied by their parents) toured the church on February 20 and received Story Book Bibles during the “Children’s Focus” on Sunday, February 27. Another 10 children, aged six to eight, also received Bibles in preparation for the Life in the Eucharist program which began February 27.**



# FROM YOUR WARDENS

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

**Easter is fast approaching as we journey together through this 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 Vestry Meeting in January was productive. Thank you to all for your preparation and input. We had a great 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 2010. 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. Please contact Valerie in the Church Office.

One of the critical items at the Vestry Meeting was the budget. A year ago, your Executive reworked the budget significantly to reflect the income and expenditures at that time. We believe that the approach taken was more closely aligned to our parish character and vision. However, the month of December, 2010 did not reflect the givings usually received and we found ourselves in a deficit position again. Although not a critical situation, it definitely requires focused attention by all parishioners so that we can work our way through the shortfall as quickly as possible. We have reworked the budget with that in mind and are asking for serious and prayerful support for a 3% increase in donations from as many of our parishioners as possible. We realize that this request will be difficult for some given personal situation. For those who are able, however, we sincerely solicit your support. If you can increase your givings past the 3% mark, that would be wonderful, indeed! Any comments or questions can be directed to any one of the wardens.

On January 1, we welcomed the Rev. Deacon Brother Mark as our Parish Deacon. He is a great addition to our ministerial team along with Fr. Don Davidson, Rev. Marita Williams, and our Theological Intern, Laura Lightfoot. St. George's is so blessed to have this talented team. Please keep them all in your prayers.

In February, John Ryrice was honoured by Fr. Don and the congregation and given an icon as a token of thanks for his sincere dedication and duty as Warden during the past three years. Reta Risto is taking over as Rector's Warden with Nelson Cuthbert moving to the position of People's Warden. Susan Butt is Deputy Rector's Warden and we welcome Vivian Harris as the new Deputy People's Warden. We thank them all for their time and commitment to St. George's in the past and throughout the coming year.

The Optimists held a highly successful spaghetti supper with proceeds going to Camp Little Dragon. Their support of camp is greatly appreciated. Our Annual

Pancake Supper was also a success! Thanks to John Ryrice and Jim Stirling for their work in organizing this event.

Holy Week is approaching! There are no meetings being held so everyone can focus on their spiritual awareness and take advantage of the many opportunities for worship and prayer during this period. Remember to sign up in the Narthex if you wish to contribute to our Easter Flowers.

All of our committees are functioning well and are busy with their many activities and opportunities. The STARS campaign has been in place since October. We thank the many parishioners who have given and/or pledged monies towards this initiative. Please keep those pledge cards and pledges coming! Our goal is \$65,000 as we continue to work together for this very important campaign. At the time of writing, over \$25,000 has been pledged and over \$15,000 has been deposited in the bank. The STARS committee is planning future fund-raising events for our parish. Watch for them and plan to attend! Recall that STARS is an acronym for the **S**team **B**oiler **R**eplacement **F**und, **T**hompson **H**all refurbishment, **A**udio/**A**ccessibility upgrades, **R**epairs to the Church/**R**ectory, and a new **S**ign for our Church on Fischer-Hallman Road. We have already started on repairs to the church: a new hot water heater; new "Bride's Door" in Rev. Marita's Office; new sump pump in Thompson Hall; two new replacement windows on the west side of the Church; repairs to exterior and interior lights; repairs to steps inside the building and a new furnace for the rectory (the old one was well over 30 years old!)

We have hired a new Youth Ministry Leader named Luke Hirsch. He is a very dynamic and friendly person who has already accomplished much in the short time he has been with us. At the time of this writing, a large group of our youth had just participated in a Food Bank fundraising project at Conestoga Mall called Construction®, making an amazing Canadian flag. If your family has young people in Grade 7 to 12, encourage them to join our Youth Group which now meets every Sunday during the 10 a.m. Service.

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

We would like to thank Fr. Don Davidson, Rev. Marita Williams, Brother Mark, Intern Laura Davidson, Musical Director Rob Aszmics, and Organist John Shaw for their ongoing leadership and commitment to our very busy parish community. And, of course, we thank 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,

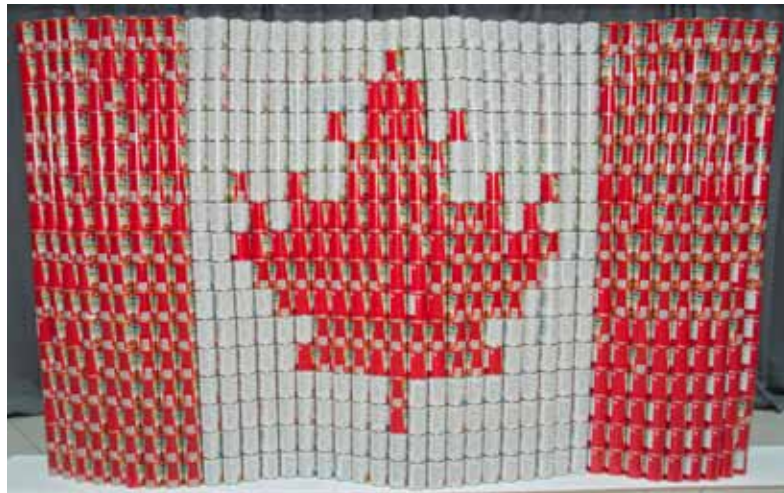
Susan Butt, Nelson Cuthbert, Vivian Harris and Reta Risto



John Ryrice prepares to cut a "thank-you" cake in celebration of his three years' of service as Rector's warden. The icon he is holding was a gift from the congregation.

# YOUTH GROUP BUILDS HOPE FOR THE HUNGRY

Camp Little Dragon needs your support!



For the young people of St. George's, what began last October as a 9-month food drive to "Feed the 5,000" morphed into a major building project involving 2,000 cans of food and 42 "man-hours" of labour on March 12.

Gwenanne Jorgenson, Donor Relations Manager of The Food Bank of Waterloo Region, invited our 15-member youth group to participate in Canstruction® 2011 in recognition of our congregation's generous donations of food and cash throughout the fall. They formed one of 13 teams in the local competition.

Held around the world, the Canstruction® food/fundraising competition brings together teams of professional engineers, architects and students in those disciplines who design and build intricate structures using thousands of cans of food. After judging by a professional panel, the structures are carefully dismantled and the canned goods are donated to a local food bank.

St. George's was the first and only all-youth team to participate in the local competition since it began in 2008. Donations to the Food Bank collected after Sunday services last December (remember the lovely handmade Christmas ornaments?) paid the \$300 entry fee.

The design chosen by our team was a "billowing" Canadian flag. A generous \$2,500 donation from Canstruction® Waterloo Region's official sponsor Research in Motion (RIM) enabled youth leader Luke Hirsch and volunteer Kate Durdan to purchase the 2,000 cans required for the structure. In addition to the quantity of cans needed, label colours and nutritional content of the food were also considered.

Asked why feeding the hungry is important, youth member Jack Durdan said, "Our food drive was inspired

by the Bible story where Jesus feeds 5,000 people. We wanted to collect 5,000 food items to help families in our community who don't have enough to eat. Participating in Canstruction® enabled us to exceed our goal!

Reflecting on their commitment to fight hunger in our community, Father Don said, "I think our young people are learning some really important lessons. First, they are becoming involved in the needs of the world beyond themselves. Second, they are

learning that their Christian community is an exciting and wonderful place to be. Third, they are learning that prayer is not a passive thing done through words alone.

"If we are the hands and feet of Christ on earth today, then when we pray for those who haven't enough food, we are signalling to God our willingness to get involved and do something about it. These young people

have allowed their hands to be used by God to address a very real need. Most interesting is how their efforts, which exceeded the goal of 5,000 pieces of food or cash donations by December, have developed in new and unimagined ways, and inspired others to get involved. Hence their participation in Canstruction 2011 and now an offer from a parishioner

of sponsorship for 2012! For me, it puts flesh to the words we say in our worship: 'Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we could ask or imagine!'"

At the Canstruction® Awards ceremony March 20, St. George's youth were thrilled to earn the "People's Choice" award, presented to the team that raised the most money through on-line donations. The \$1,300 contributed by fellow parishioners, family and friends – plus nearly \$1,000 donated at the mall – will build even more hope for the hungry in Waterloo Region! In total, the 13 teams contributed 32,850 lbs. of food and raised \$6,500.

Congratulations to the following youth who participated in the Canstruction® build: Erin Butt, Alex and Sean Deadman-Wylie, Jack Durdan, Tori Gillians, Vivian Grandy, Alex and Jessica Hickman, Barry and Tyler Koch, Savon Masters-Johnson, Karissa Porter-Forrest and Mallory Risto. Many thanks to supervisors: Father Don, Luke Hirsch, Jenn Annis, Reta Risto, Diane Sehl, and Tim and Julia Taylor.

## CAN YOU HELP?

The Outreach committee is seeking volunteers to help make caps for local cancer patients. We have fabric, but need people to cut out the material or sew the caps by hand or machine.

If you can help, contact Fran Rothenberg.  
Tel: 519-744-2502  
Email: francesrothenberg@gmail.com



To celebrate completion of most of the prescribed steps to priesthood, Laura Lightfoot's Learning Support Group enjoyed an evening out with her and her husband, Rob. Pictured above (l. to r.): Father Don Davidson, John Phillips, Charlotte Cromarty, Rita Risto, Brian Ledbury, Laura Lightfoot, Jim Fox, Mary Shaw and Valerie Cuthbert.

## OUR FLEDGLING IS ABOUT TO LEAVE THE NEST!

Most of you will be aware that Laura Lightfoot has been active in our parish as a theological student intern since the fall of 2009. The process toward ordination is not an easy one: not only is there a steep learning curve, the challenge of balancing academic studies and the demands of experiential placements with the need for family and personal time deters many from accepting and/or completing the call to priesthood.

In the case of our Laura, however, congratulations are now in order. A recent call from Bob Bennett, Bishop of Huron, confirmed that Laura has been approved as a Deacon Ordinate, one of the final steps to ordination as an Anglican Priest. Confirmation (i.e. graduation) ceremonies will take place later this spring.

Laura, in conjunction with Father Don, chose a Learning Support Group (LSG) which has met since the fall of 2009 to offer her support and feedback as she travelled along the path to ordination. As part of the process of guiding Laura, the LSG met (usually once a month) to talk about a variety of faith issues, including what is important for being a good priest and a faithful Christian in our community. (Membership in a LSG is also a commitment to personal learning - each person who participates learns about themselves while fulfilling the assigned expectations for guiding a theological intern.)

We have developed a lifelong relationship with her, and trust that she and her husband, Rob, will always regard St. George's as their home away from home.

## YOU WERE ASKING...

*On the white set of Altar hangings, there is a symbol of which I can't make any sense. It is a Cross-with a series of letters around it. What does it mean?*

That cross on the white laudian frontal is a very ancient and very powerful symbol of the Christian Church. It speaks even more powerfully as we prepare ourselves for Holy Week and Easter. Confusion about the symbol arises because although they look like English, the letters surrounding the cross are actually in Greek, and so most of us are not able to pick up their significance. The symbol of which you speak looks like this:

The first two letters (top left) are iota and sigma. They are the first and last letters in the name of Jesus. The second pair of letters (top right) is Chi and sigma, which are the first and last letters of the title Christ. The remaining four letters are the Greek word NIKA, which simply means "conqueror". These letters are always grouped around a cross because this conqueror that we follow has won the victory through the very unlikely

"way of the cross". On the white superfrontal, at the very centre of the gold cross, the very observant will see a small red dot, symbolic of blood shed on the cross. This symbol is a reminder to us that the cross, a symbol of torture and defeat, is actually the sign of true victory. By accepting defeat at the hands of a world governed by a system of domination, Christ disarmed that system, and defeated it forever. His rising from death shows that the world of force and violence CANNOT defeat us. As his followers, we are invited to see that system of domination for what it truly is, and to begin to live in a world where God rules, and where love, as opposed to force is the prevailing principle.

Through Holy Week, the rough wooden cross stands in the sanctuary as a testament to Christ's suffering. On Easter morning, this gold cross with its powerful message hangs from our altar, no longer as a testament to suffering, but as an invitation to follow the way of the Cross: to follow the conqueror, and to live as subjects of the one true king.

## Camp Little Dragon: Summer fun in a Christian setting

Although it may seem early, preparations for St. George's Little Dragon Day Camp are well under way! Again this year, we'll be offering a fun, safe camp experience for children ages 5 to 12 during July and August. There will be eight one-week sessions.

Activities include: water games, arts/crafts, sing-songs, outdoor recreation, special activities, a weekly swim, occasional off-site trips within Waterloo Region, and periodic guest visitors. There is also a short, child-oriented prayer service which encourages campers to create and offer their personal prayers to God. Best of all, the kids have a lots of fun with their energetic and creative camp counselors!

Your child/grandchild can attend Camp Little Dragon for one or more weeks. Fees this year are \$135.00 per week per child. We do offer a limited number of full and partial bursaries to families who are experiencing financial difficulty. As a not-for-profit organization, all registration fees go toward counsellor salaries and camp programming.

We encourage you to support Camp Little Dragon by: sending your child to camp; helping fund a bursary to send a less fortunate child to camp; donating craft supplies, or volunteering your time or your ideas.

For more details, check out the Camp Little Dragon link on St. George's website.

## What is PWRDF?

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is the Anglican agency for development, relief, refugees and justice. With the support of Anglican parishes across Canada, PWRDF makes financial and human resources available to support long-term development initiatives, to respond to emergencies and protect refugees, and to promote knowledgeable actions of solidarity at home and around the world. PWRDF is part of the Outreach ministry of St. George's.

During April, the Outreach committee will be highlighting the work of the PWRDF in Canada and around the world. Special envelopes will be made available to the congregation and all donations will be taken to Synod when it meets in London next month. For more information about PWRDF, check the Outreach message board in the Narthex.

- Susan Butt

# SUCCESSFUL PANCAKE SUPPER NETS MORE THAN \$600

**On March 8, more than 200 parishioners and visitors made their way into Thompson Hall for St. George's traditional Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.**

As usually happens at our church, an expansion of the 'official' volunteers (ie. those who signed up) for the event miraculously enlarged the working crew into a full complement of workers of all ages.

In addition to sausage, this year's meal featured some blueberries in the flapjacks (if you wanted them), and a small slice of banana on top. (We are nothing if not artistic in our food presentation!) Lots of the younger folk came up for 'seconds' (and we think 'thirds' – we didn't keep track). In the end, we had slightly more than enough food (which is way better than not having enough), so we were able to take a tray of sausages and one of pancakes to the House of Friendship.

During the meal, the well-known musical trio of Greaves and Phillips entertained to considerable applause and approbation (as well as a few wry comments from those who sat in the cheaper seats in Thompson Hall).

Remarkably, the work crew had almost all of the clean-up done by 7:20 pm., which has to be something of a record for effort and cooperation!

A big thank-you to all of the following who contributed to the success of our venture. (If we have left someone out, we apologize.) In alphabetical order:

Jim Baker, Marcia Condon, Valerie Cuthbert, Don Davidson, Ray Finnie, Lawrence Greaves, Vivian Harris, Gary Knoop, Jacob Knoop, Gary King, Jason King, Mabel King, Brian Ledbury, Christine Ledbury, Savon Masters-Johnson, Janet McCoy, Elizabeth Patterson, John Phillips.

While an exact calculation has not been made, we know the supper netted more than \$600 toward the \$900 we commit to sponsor the educational, medical and nutritional needs of two boys through The Christian Children's Fund of Canada: 7-year old Yussif Fusheini in Ghana and 17-year old Vijal Vadham in India.

**Submitted by John Ryrie and Jim Stirling, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee.**

## RELIGION IN LIFE AWARDS

**On Sunday, February 27, members of St. George's Scouting and Guiding Groups received their Religion in Life Awards. George Mudry organized the course which was taught by Brother Mark, who also serves as the Scout's Chaplain. Awards were presented as part of the Scouting Week Church Parade.**



On behalf of St. George's, we congratulate the following young people on their achievement: Front row (l. to r.): Carter Jackson (cubs), Kathryn Waterman (guides), Kaitlyn Starr (cubs), Britney Starr (cubs) and Brandon Starr (scouts). Back row: George Mudry, Jeremy Arruda (cubs), Klare Prong (guides), Emilee Starr (scouts), Nicholas Arruda (scouts), Bryce Wilson (cubs) and Brother Mark. Absent: Rebecca Cameron (guides).

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE PEOPLE OF ST. GEORGES OF FOREST HILL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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