



FALL 2013

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

THE DRAGON FLYER

this issue

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FROM FATHER DON



As I write this letter, I am sitting in the ICU at St. Mary's Hospital keeping vigil over my dad who is extremely sick. Before me I see a critically ill 85-year-old man. But in my mind's eye he remains an unstoppable young man who could do more work than any other individual I have ever met!

It is hard to believe the speed at which time keeps up its relentless march. It boggles my mind that it is already September and we are looking ahead to another Thanksgiving. I am amazed that last Sunday (Sept. 1) I entered my 21st year of ministry and my ninth year at St. George's of Forest Hill. As time marches on in all these ways, I have to stop and realize what incredible blessings each has brought into my life: my dad, my ministry, St. George's and the life of faith that is carried along in the change of seasons and the Liturgical year.

Last spring, in preparation for the Diocesan "RENEW" Program, more than 100 parishioners participated in feedback sessions. During these sessions, members of Parish Council were able to carefully listen to you and hear the priorities that you have for the ministry of St. George's. You had many excellent suggestions and we are now working to establish which ones can be accomplished now, which are short-term goals and which are of a more long-term nature. We are also determining what can be accomplished under our current budget and what will require more financial resources.

As an initial response to your suggestions, we are undertaking several initiatives this fall. First, we will broadcast one service a month via internet to the long-term care facilities that we serve. This will allow our elderly parishioners to be more fully included in the worship of our parish. Second, on Saturday, October 5, we will launch a "Messy Church" program for families with small children. I am very excited about both these ministries. An added bonus is that neither one requires extra funding or materials. However, both may require some volunteer support to help them to grow. If you are interested in helping with either one, please let me know.

Our feedback sessions also revealed that many of you do not fully understand some of the Anglican traditions. You have questions such as, "What is an Anglican?" "Why do we do the things that we do?" "Why do we do those things in the way that we do?" Those are excellent questions. They reminded me that many years ago Bishop Robinson wrote an instructed Eucharist in which he frequently paused during the service to explain what would happen next and why. While Bishop Robinson's service is no longer available, I took time this summer to write an instructed Eucharist for use at St. George's. It will be used for the 10:00 a.m. service on Sunday, October 20. It will be a good refresher for longtime Anglicans as well as those who joined the church more recently.

This fall will be very busy at St. George's. There are great things happening. I invite all of you to participate... Come and join in the worship. Come and give thanks to God for all the blessings your life as time keeps up its relentless march. Come and be a part of the life of this parish. You'll be amazed how much it has to give back to you and what opportunities for Thanksgiving it can bring into your life!

Fr. Don+



We resumed our ice cream outreach to St. John's Kitchen on Fridays throughout July and August. On each occasion, a three-person team from St. George's served ice cream and various toppings to the 200+ patrons who typically receive lunch from the Kitchen. Through your generosity, as of mid-August, we had collected more than \$800 to purchase our cool treats. As in previous years, the ice cream generated big broad smiles and enthusiastic "thank you's." On one occasion, a patron with a wry smile asked me (as the ice cream scooper of the day) if my name happened to be "Mr. Chapman."

On behalf of the parish, I'd like to thank everyone who helped to make this outreach possible: to those who generously donated money week after week, and to those who volunteered their time to-date: Jan Melega, Jean Horne, Gerry McGregor, Elisabeth Patterson, Marilyn Graham, Ivan Mariapen, Thelma Barnes, and Wayne Matheson. More volunteers signed up than we've been able to use, but this is a blessing not a problem!

In appreciation,
John Ryrice

QUILLOW PRESENTATION

Young parishioners who were graduating from secondary school received a very special gift from the congregation last June. Fran Rothenberg sewed "Quillows" (a combination quilt and pillow) as a cozy gift for each of the teens to take with them as they embark on new life adventures. Pictured (l. to r.) are: Lillian Cressman, Fran Rothenberg, Father Don, Jack Durdan, Erin Butt, Jacob Knoop, Renée Filbey, Alex and Jessica Hickman.



A WORD ABOUT...

SERVING AS TREASURER:

In late June, our Treasurer, Nayive Lemos, informed the Executive that she would not be able to continue as Treasurer for personal reasons. On August 27, Parish Council accepted her resignation with regret and passed a motion to make Nelson Cuthbert, a Warden and our Envelope Secretary, the interim Treasurer until Vestry in January, 2014. Thanks to Nelson for taking on this additional responsibility! We are looking for anyone who has experience and interest in this area. Please contact Fr. Don or any of the Wardens for more information. Hopefully, a permanent volunteer will come forward soon in this regard.

IMPLEMENTING "RENEW" AT ST. GEORGE'S:

As you know, last May, the Diocese of Huron launched a "Mission and Renewal Initiative" as part of its Strategic Plan. In response, your Parish Council conducted a fairly extensive campaign last spring to educate parishioners about "RENEW" and obtain input from as many of you as possible about how "RENEW" would affect St. George's. We hosted several "Parish Feedback" sessions asking more than 100 parishioners these four questions: 1) What does a successful Church look like? 2) What do we do well at St. George's? 3) What will a successful Church look like five years from now? 4) What could/should we be doing better? Your responses have been summarized in a report which the Executive and Parish Councils have reviewed and accepted. As promised, we are now making this summary available in its entirety to all parishioners for further study, prayer and action. Together, we can respond to the many and various needs and dreams identified for St. George's – both now and in the future. Printed copies are available on top of the mailboxes in the Narthex. (More will be printed as needed.)

SERVING ON OUR "RENEW" COMMITTEE:

At our August Parish Council meeting, a motion was passed to form a "RENEW" Committee at St. George's. Its mandate would be to carry on the groundwork that was started by the Executive and Parish Councils: to develop and implement an action plan for "RENEW" at St. George's based on the "RENEW Summary"; to liaise with the Diocesan Office in London in supporting the broader Diocesan Strategic Plan; to report regularly to Parish Council for support and approval, and to report regularly to the congregation on our progress. The "RENEW" Committee will have a maximum of 6 or 7 members and will work with all committees/groups within the Church. It promises to be an exciting and active committee working to address the needs, wishes and dreams of St. George's parishioners. If you are interested in serving on this new committee, please contact Fr. Don or any of the Wardens.

HELPING ORGANIZE OUR PARISH AUCTION:

Parish Council has tentatively set Saturday, October 26, 2013 as the date for our next Parish Auction. We have held a biennial auction for the last several years and it has been great fun! We will have items available at various price points so everyone will have a chance to bid! And, of course, there will be a delicious dinner served beforehand! Our last two auctions each raised between \$4,000 and \$5,000 which went to support the Church budget. To help ensure our upcoming auction is equally successful, we need volunteers! If you can help, please contact Nelson Cuthbert as soon as possible!



Susan Butt



Jesus Castillo



Nelson Cuthbert



Vivian Harris



Mary Ann Millar

We hope you had a wonderful summer making new memories from your travels and time spent with family and friends. We hope everyone feels spiritually and physically renewed and ready to carry God's word into the world in our daily lives.

Reflecting on our parish's summer events, we are thankful for Camp Little Dragon. Our day camp provides a wonderful experience for so many children and an opportunity to introduce God into their lives and plant seeds for the future. Many thanks to our camp directors, staff, volunteers and committee for a great job!

We also give thanks for our Spanish congregation who organized a Latin Festival in July. This joyful event celebrated Hispanic culture with great food, dancing and music – even if Mother Nature did not behave! We hope it will become an annual event!

Thank you to everyone who looked after our parish facilities throughout the summer. Our job list is just like yours: making repairs, mowing the lawn, planting and caring for gardens, fixing stair treads, making minor repairs and painting. You did a great job to maintain and beautify our parish home!

Hearty thanks to all those who contributed their time and talents to our Sunday worship service throughout the summer!

We are moving forward with RENEW at both the Diocesan and Parish levels. A summary of your feedback from sessions held last spring is available for your perusal. It will provide the foundation for further growth and initiative within our Church.

We have a wide array of social groups and committees in our busy Parish which are now

resuming activities. Please take home your Sunday bulletin and check out what's happening at St. George's. You'll discover we have Bible study groups, a Book club, Sunday School, Outreach, Altar Guild, Choirs, Property Committee, Fall Auction and Christmas Market (it's never too early to start!) – to name just a few. Remember this is your church and many hands make light work! You are welcome to check out any group; attend a meeting or call the co-ordinator for more information (see your bulletin). Now's the time to make St. George's an even more important part of your life!

Have an activity-filled fall!

Yours in Christ,
Mary Ann Millar on behalf of your Wardens



Our witty sign this summer brought five newcomers to church (who like short sermons!) and attracted broader attention after it was posted on the internet. Father Don, have you ever thought about skiing?



Retiring directors Kate Durdan (left) and Alison Olmsted share a laugh during celebrations last June to recognize our Sunday School volunteers. Kate and Alison worked diligently for many years to deliver a fun and educational Christian program to our children. Now this dedicated duo is teaming up with April Couzens-Brown to work with teens in the congregation. Karen Ascah and Susan Hipperson are the new Sunday School leaders.

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: *The story behind familiar faces at St. George's*



Reta Risto

“Does anyone not know who Reta is? You see her everywhere at church: upstairs, downstairs, days, evenings and weekends. She’s our “Energizer Bunny.”

A “obsessive organizer,” Reta has worked both in front and behind the scenes at St. George’s for the past 15 years. “I think I’ve organized every room in the church!” she declares with pride. Those who volunteer with her fondly call her “Martha” (after Martha Stewart) and can be often heard saying, “Ask Reta, she knows where everything is!”

Ever wonder who handles many of the little jobs around the church? Yes, Reta. She has organized cupboards, bought furniture and framed photos of our priests for the Narthex. She also set up the church nursery, hires the attendant each fall and assists there on Sundays if needed.

A born leader, Reta “sees a need and takes action.” She explains that while others in the church are great at helping, it often takes one person to get things started. Her list of accomplishments and volunteer involvement is remarkable. She is a lay administrant, convenor of sidespeople, a verger (directs visitors at weddings, baptisms, etc.), a co-convenor of our Outreach committee, and a member of the new Diocesan Outreach committee. She serves on our pastoral care and camp committees and is a board member at St. Monica House. Previously, she served as a warden for six years (well past the usual four)! Reta is also a diligent fundraiser, helping with turkey suppers, Christmas markets, Spring teas and Fall auctions. And because she likes to know someone is benefitting from her efforts, she collects used winter outerwear donated by our congregations and delivers it to the Salvation Army’s “Share the Warmth” headquarters.

A couple of years ago, Reta contemplated returning to Ottawa where she was “born and

bred.” Fortunately, she decided to remain in Kitchener, close to her son, James, and her teenage grandchildren. Although she knew no one else besides her son’s family when she first moved here, St. George’s quickly become her second home. She fondly refers to her 15 years in K-W as “the best years of my life!”

Believe it or not, Reta also finds time for a few leisure pursuits. Not one to do things in a small way, she belongs to three book clubs and two bridge clubs. She also likes to play golf and go for lunch with other ladies from St. George’s. Reta has a passion for travelling. During the past 10 years, she has spent more than 100 days cruising most parts of the world except Asia. Next year when she visits Ireland, she will complete her travel “bucket list.”

Reta was widowed more than 20 years ago. She has another son in addition to James named Kevin. He owns a recording studio in Hollywood, CA where he has recorded such celebrities as Jennifer Lopez and Justin Bieber.

If you didn’t know Reta before, now you do. Look out, here she comes!

– Helen Hickman

SPANISH CONGREGATION HOLDS FIRST LATIN FESTIVAL

Horrible weather did nothing to dampen the spirits of St. George’s Spanish congregation which held its first Latin Festival this past summer.

On July 27, our church yard was filled with lively music from Latin bands and the enticing smell of food from the various Hispanic cultures represented in our newest congregation. Whenever the rain let up, the parking lot suddenly filled with dancers. Vendors sold traditional crafts from their native countries and the local Hispanic community gathered for fellowship and fun.

Despite the poorly timed rainfall, the food festival raised about \$1,000, half of which was donated to St. George’s. The other half was given to Caravan of Hope which buys decommissioned ambulances and sends them to Nicaragua where they are desperately needed.

The entire event was simulcast from the church to the local Spanish Radio Station. Fr. Don Davidson and Fr. Javier Arias joined in the fun

and also spoke with visitors who were interested in becoming part of the congregation. (Since it began just over a year ago, St. George’s Spanish-speaking congregation has grown to more than 100 members!)

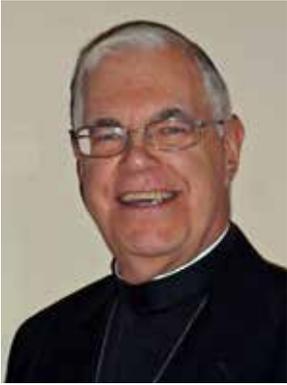
It wasn’t just the Spanish congregation that got into the fun... Members of our English-speaking congregations came out to eat pupusas, empanadas, and all manner of tasty Latin treats – and to enjoy the music and dancing. When the sun eventually shone, neighbours from blocks around walked over to see where the music was coming from, and then stayed to listen.

The July festival was like a Latin street fair reminiscent of what you would experience in nearly any South American country. Even when the rain came down in sheets, the entire church yard was filled with joy. If you didn’t have a chance to experience it, Fr. Javier and I invite you to join in the fun next summer when we hope to hold our second Latin Festival – in the sunshine!

– Father Don



FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH



Brother Mark, S.B.

September marks the return of many things we left behind for the lazy, hazy days of summer. (I left my clericals for shorts, t-shirt and a canoe – and others did similar things.)

School and work and other activities will now take precedence. We will put away our pictures and videos of recent summer adventures and focus our attention on other matters and fall challenges.

To all of our young people who have returned to the classroom, and especially to those who began college and university this year, I wish you much success in all you do!

BM †

FUTURE DEACON!



MaryLynn Forrest

Last spring, MaryLynn Forrest earned a certificate in Christian studies after completing part-time courses at Renison Institute of Ministry for the past three years. At vestry 2013, our parish recommended her for entry into the Diaconate program of the Diocese of Huron. As a Deacon, her goal is to focus on pastoral care and outreach.

MaryLynn has been employed full time at a day care centre for many years but will reduce her days there when she begins a placement at St. Mary's General Hospital in Kitchener this month. The "Supervised Clinical Pastoral Education" program will provide valuable training to help her reach her goal of providing pastoral/spiritual care to those who are dying. "One of my goals is to walk that journey with the person, and to help the family along the way." Upon completion of her placement, she will do a three-month internship (either at St. George's or another parish).

When asked about her decision to become a Deacon, MaryLynn responded, "I did not rush into this decision by any means. It took me well over a year of pondering and discussing this with a few spiritual advisors. . . I honestly feel that this is where God is calling me to be; this is what God has been preparing me for through my own spiritual journey. I ask that the congregation keep me in their prayers as I strive to reach my spiritual goals.

A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT: Three Good Reasons

Before you say no when asked to take a position in your church, think about some reasons why you should say "yes." There are at least three good reasons why every Christian ought to serve their church.



1. Your Christian life needs a service outlet.
Nothing helps you to grow as a Christian like putting your faith into practice by teaching, singing, ushering or serving on a church committee.

2. You have a testimony to share with others.
The reason why you are asked to serve is that your fellow Christians have confidence in you and your ability. Your Christian testimony will be a good influence in the lives of those whom you lead and serve.

3. Your church needs you.
How will your church get its work done unless members volunteer their time to teach and lead? When you accept a place of responsibility, you help your church move forward in the name of Christ.

Sharing your time, skill, experience...that's good Stewardship!

YOU WERE ASKING. . .

What is a Deacon and what does he or she do? A deacon's ministry is one of servanthood with the primary focus being on outreach to the community and pastoral care. A deacon also assists the priest whenever they are asked or needed. A deacon may also be called to do a "service of the word" in a church where no priest is available. To become a deacon, a candidate must complete a Diaconate program including an internship and then be ordained by the Bishop.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!



Sat. Oct. 5:

- "Messy" Church Service, 9 a.m. (NEW)
- Children's Community Closet clothing exchange, 9 a.m.- noon

Sun. Oct. 6:

- "Harvest Thanksgiving" Services
- Road Rally, 1 p.m.

Sun. Oct. 13:

- Thanksgiving Services

Sat. Oct. 26:

- Parish Dinner & Auction (watch for details)

Watch for more details in your Sunday bulletins, visit our website or call the church office: 519-744-4751.

UPDATE FROM OUTREACH



More than 75 local children enjoyed a safe, fun-filled summer at Camp Little Dragon. Included among the many activities were “special visitors” such as the one Camp Co-director Alex Couzens is holding, and lots of outdoor games.

LITTLE DRAGON DAY CAMP: We would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone in the congregation who donated or contributed to our summer day camp. We did not receive the government grant for which we applied, but all of you were so generous that it appears we have broken even! It was a very successful camp led by Co-directors Helen Protopapas and Alex Couzens. Our camp committee heard many wonderful comments and camp was full every week except one. We provided a safe, fun experience in a Christian environment for 77 children, filling 207 camp spots with approximately 25 campers a week. All the children said they want to come back to “Dragon Camp” next summer. We are very proud of Camp Little Dragon and our camp staff.

NEW OUTREACH INITIATIVE: On Saturday, October 5, St. George’s will host its first “Children’s Community Closet” event from 9 a.m. to noon. This outreach initiative will help support our local community by connecting families with children’s clothing that needs a new home. During the event, parish and local families will be able to visit our “closet” in the Parish Hall and take any items that their child/children can use – free of charge! Our hope is to do this twice a year – once in early fall and once in early spring.

Help us make this outreach initiative a success! Bring your gently used children’s clothing (labelled “Children’s Community Closet”) to the church before October 5.

SHARE THE WARMTH: In October and November, as you update your families winter outerwear (ie. coats, snowsuits, snow pants, boots, hats, scarves and mitts), bring your outdated items to the church. Reta Risto will donate/deliver them to the Salvation Army’s “Share the Warmth Program” to help the less fortunate in our community.

In addition to these activities, St. George’s continues to support the local Food Bank, St. John’s Kitchen, St. Monica House, Mary’s Place, make turbans for cancer patients, and create our own Angel Tree.

“If you can help anybody even a little, be glad; up the steps of usefulness and kindness, God will lead you on to happiness and friendship.” -----

Maltbie D. Babcock

MaryLynn Forrest, on behalf of your Outreach Committee

SIGN UP NOW: our fall Car Rally is just around the corner!

If you haven’t already done so, it’s time to sign up for our Car Rally and Potluck Dinner. Join fellow parishioners at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 6th for a driving adventure around Waterloo County. Bring a navigator (or two) because you will need to answer skill-testing questions along the route. Your efforts will be rewarded with a potluck dinner at your surprise destination. For more details, contact Mary Ann Millar at 519-744-6292 or maryannmillar@hotmail.com.

– Ron & Mary Ann Millar

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