

Upcoming Events



MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!!!

Lessons & Carols – Sunday, December 13th at 7:00 pm

Sunday School Pageant - Sunday, December 20th at the 10:00 am service.

Christmas Eve – Thursady, December 24th at 4:00 pm (Children's Service), 7:00 pm & 10:00 pm

Christmas Day – Friday, December 25th - 10:00 am

Spaghetti Supper - February 26th at 5:30 pm.

Hosted by the Kitchener West Optimist with all proceeds to our Little Dragon Camp.

Watch for more details in your Sunday Bulletin, visit our website or call the Church Office.

SUUBI- A SPECIAL CONCERT FOR HOPE



The sound of African drums and high energy of the 14 member drumming-dance troupe Suubi, exploded at St. George's on October 25th. Suubi, the Uganda word for hope, is a proclamation of the brighter

future mirrored in their faces and in their performance. For it is through performing arts in education this committed and talented group wish to share their African culture and traditional dances in a fusion of spoken word, song, drumming and explosive dance styles.

The group was brought to Kitchener Waterloo by the registered not-for-profit organization, Dream for Uganda. Under their founding director, Valerie Hill, they travelled the 12 600 kilometres from Kyengera, Uganda to Pearson International Airport early in October for a one-month tour this side of the globe. During their time here, they performed in Toronto at the School for the National Ballet, and The Centre in the Square, the Registry Theatre, the Boathouse and various elementary and secondary schools. Each audience was completely smitten by their dynamic and engaging performances!

The highlight of the tour was the opening of the Grand River film Festival at the Dunfield Theatre in Cambridge. It was here that the documentary, Suubi: Drum, Dance, Dream made by local film makers Paul Campsall and Paul

Franscucutti of MetaMedia studios premiered to a sell-out crowd. Many of those people in the audience were from St. George's congregation.

Catherine Carlson, a familiar face [and voice!] is one quarter of the Dream for Uganda Board. Its mandate is to enrich the lives of Ugandan youth through the performing arts programme at Cambridge Secondary School in Kyengera, Uganda. Exactly one year ago, Carlson and a team of five others travelled to Uganda and spent a month there teaching and meeting the students at the school. And the happiest family has evolved. Many of the parishioners at St. George's have been part of bringing sponsorship to the young people at this school. The residents come from the poorest families in Kyengera and Kaliro and other up-country villages. Their hope is for a brighter future and they all know that this can only happen through education.

Many thanks to all of those who came out to any of the performances, but most especially the shows at St. George's and at the Dunfield Theatre. As one appreciative audience member enthused, "That is the best show, I have EVER seen!" And that sentiment was echoed time and again in the month that the kids and their trainer were here. Look for them to return in the fall of 2017.

For more information, speak to Catherine Carlson, or e-mail her at cl.carlson@yahoo.ca.



FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH



Reverend MaryLynn Forrest.

By the time you are reading this, we will be getting very close to Christmas. Christmas is the perfect time to worship and celebrate the love that God has given to us. It is a time to celebrate the love of family, the creation of memories and traditions that will be passed down from generation to generation. Jesus is God's perfect gift, the gift of love and we are able and called to share this love with others, not only on Christmas day, but every day of the year. Christmas is found in the heart and not under a tree. One of the Christmas hymns that speaks to me is called "What can I Give Him, As Poor As I Am"? "What can I give Him? I'll give Him my heart!" What greater gift could be given than the gift of God's one and only Son. May you have peace and love in your heart this Christmas and each day that follows.

Rev. MaryLynn Forrest – Deacon

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



CHRISTMAS 2015

THE DRAGON FLYER

this issue

FROM THE RECTOR

CREATE! CONNECT! AND CHANGE THE WORLD!

SUUBI - CONCERT FOR HOPE

THE DEACON'S BENCH

ASCEND CONTINUES

FROM THE RECTOR



"Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord."

Luke 2: 10-12

Dear Friends.

The greatest event in history had just happened! The promised one, the Messiah, was born. It was humble shepherds, keeping watch over their flock, to whom the angels first appeared. The angel told them of a great joy for all the people. A Savior has been born. While the angel is speaking to the shepherds, an angelic host singing a "Gloria" of praise to God joins them. The joy and wonder of this first Christmas is that God has sent his Son to us, and we are forever changed. The world is in great darkness, but the light of God has come and brought a gift of joy.

One of my favorite Christmas carols is Joy to the World, written by Isaac Watts in 1719. Watts was the son of a church elder living in England. His father was persecuted for his Christian faith and eventually imprisoned. During this difficult time, Isaac was studying Psalm 98, especially verse 4: "Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in joyous song and sing praises." He wrote this beloved Christmas carol based upon this Psalm. Joy out of sorrow – light destroying darkness. This year now passed, has seen great upheaval and trouble.

There seems little hope that these troubles will not pour over into this new year as well. The horrors of the ongoing war in Syria; the refugee Crisis in Europe now calling for a response from us; the events in Paris; an earthquake in Mexico, Boko Haram in Nigeria; these and so many other crises call for us to take stock of what our faith says, and to act in accordance with that faith. It is easy to look on these problems, and say, "it is too big. I can't fix it," or even to say, "I don't want to invite those problems here," but in the face of such answers, shines the light of God born in this Christmas gospel. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness. Only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate. Only Love can do that." The Christmas Gospel calls us to get out into the world shining the light of Christ; get out into the world, sharing the love of God.

We invite you to worship with us and celebrate this Christmas gift of joy at St. George's at the various services listed in this newsletter. I pray that as the joy, peace and light of this wonderful season enters your home, Christ might inspire us to share that light in the world even more in the year that lies ahead. May God richly bless you all.

**Joy to the World, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing.**

Faithfully Yours,
Don+

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

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OUR COMMUNITY OUTREACH
" ACT AS IF WHAT YOU DO MAKES A
DIFFERENCE. IT DOES! "

Winter is fast approaching and so are the needs of our community.

Socks are the most needed but least donated articles of clothing in homeless shelters. Let's try to help individuals experiencing homelessness keep their feet warm this year. We will be collecting adult socks from now till the end of March/16. There will be a container underneath the outreach bulletin board for your donations. We may make a challenge to our deanery to see how many socks can be collected to help our community of individuals experiencing homelessness stay warm and dry.

"Be not forgetful to entertain strangers for thereby some have entertained angels unawares."
-Hebrews 13: 2

Our Christmas Angel Tree will be ready after 12:00 pm on Sunday November 22 and all the gifts must to be returned to the church no later than Sunday December 13, by 10:00 am. please. The tree will be decorated in a variety of colourful angels, each colour representing a different family. There will also be white angels, which will be for the purchase of grocery vouchers. Each of these families would not have a Christmas celebration if it weren't for St. George's. We are the angels for these families. We strive to provide some necessities and some fun gifts along with grocery vouchers. It is amazing that the only things these families ever ask for are basic necessities for the children and groceries. We make the decision to add some fun gifts also.

Hungry?? So are the people experiencing homelessness!!

St. John's Kitchen is not open during the Christmas holidays. This leaves people experiencing homelessness with no meals for many days. Our parish has provided an incredible meal each year during this time and will be doing so again. Sign up sheets will be posted in December for food items and for physical help for that day. If you are available, please consider helping out and/or donating food items.

"I wonder why somebody didn't do something.....
Then I realized, I am somebody."-unknown

If you are considering joining our Outreach Committee please speak to Reta Risto or Susan Butt. We meet every 2nd month.

ASCEND CONTINUES ...

Look Up

A major component of the ASCEND/RENEW Initiative at St. George's has been realized this Fall --- the installation of a brand new roof along with some needed repairs to the flat roof. This is a reason to celebrate!

Amazonia

On Fri. Oct. 30th, we had a very successful ASCEND Potluck and Amazonia talk by Fr. Don. It was well attended with lots of delicious food! Fr. Don certainly had a marvelous summer of travel and highlighted the wonderful people and faith communities he met during his sabbatical. Thank you to all who participated and to Fr. Don!

New Lights

In addition to the roof, all of the old style pole lights in the parking lot have been replaced with new LED lights which promise to give us many years of trouble-free service at a fraction of the monthly cost while still providing the same or slightly better illumination.

Going Forward

As we look toward the next few months, we are asking people to come forward with their time, talent, and treasure specifically in the following areas:

1)We would like to identify a person or group of people willing to plan an event for young families.

2)Do you know of a speaker who would be of interest to the wider community at a planned evening event?

3)Would you like to join other people to investigate projection systems for worship?

4)Would you like to explore alternative services or forms of worship with others interested in doing so for possible implementation at St. George's?

5)If volunteering at the church is new to you, can you think of one current or new area where you could help?

If you are able to get involved in any of the above areas, please contact either Valerie or Nelson Cuthbert, Co-Chairs of our ASCEND/RENEW Committee (519-578-8671 or cuthben@golden.net) or any of the members of the committee. Lastly, if you have not filled out your ASCEND/RENEW forms available in the Narthex, would you consider doing that soon and returning them to Valerie O'Reilly, our Church Secretary?

Thank you to all who have supported ASCEND whether through monetary donations/pledges, time, talent, and your prayers! Let's keep those time/talent and/or monetary pledges coming in!

From your ASCEND Committee

WARDEN'S WINTER MESSAGE

As fall turns into winter we have a lot of activities going on at St. Georges. There is something for everyone. We have our annual Christmas Market, Outreach Projects, Bell Ringers and Choir evening, Christmas Pageant, Lessons and Carol Service & 3 Christmas Eve Services. Check our website for dates and times.

Father Don is back from an enjoyable three month sabbatical in Brazil and Colombia. He shared his great experiences with the congregation along with a Pot Luck supper held on Oct. 30th.

The Wardens would like to thank all the Committees and people who contribute their time, talent and treasure to make St. Georges a wonderful place of worship & fellowship. God calls us to be good Stewards for this place and beyond our church walls. We are always

looking for different and new ideas. Get involved - It's a great way to get to know your Parish family.

We also give thanks to our new Sexton, Allan Lee and to Valerie O'Reilly in our office.

Also thanks to those who guide us in our worship. Thank you Father Don, Brother Mark and Rev. MaryLynn for all that you do.

We now have new windows, a new roof, and a speaker system in the narthex; the back steps have been painted and fall clean up of the yard done. A big thank you is due to all those who were involved in these projects.

With Christmas fast approaching may the spirit of Christ instill in us the true meaning of Christmas. We wish each and every one of you a blessed and joyous Christmas.

The Wardens of St. Georges.

Brother Mark receiving the Medal of Merit from the Order of St. Lazarus of Jerusalem for his work in Palliative Care earlier this year.



Warmest Christian Greetings! May your life be filled with joy in knowing that the greatest gift at Christmas is Christ the Lord.

- Brother Mark, S.B. †



Learning to love is the challenge of a lifetime because it requires us to think about something other than ourselves.

Love requires us to make something other than ourselves the centre of our lives. Clearly it is a learned art.