

“Wish Lists”

For many families Christmas is a time of great stress between the Gospel message and the message of the marketplace. We want to teach our children to be generous yet every commercial they see encourages them to expand their “Wish List.” How can we counter this culture of consumerism? Here are some tips:

- Remember that children will say what you say and do what you do. They want to be like their parents. If you want them to tone down their long list of wants, tone down your own list. Let them know that you are already satisfied with all that you have and that you do not feel that you need more.
- Involve your children in determining how your family will share its gifts this year. Often we send charitable gifts to missions, hospitals and homeless shelters without our children ever being aware that these gifts are being given. Include children in making the decision of what organizations they'd like to help.
- Help children to enjoy giving. Encourage them to give from their own funds. Have them start small – even by giving pennies to a bell ringer. Teach them that this “gift to the needy” is just as important as any gift they buy for friends or relatives. Make them feel like they are making a difference for someone else.

Giving feels good and the holiday season is a great time to teach children about generosity.

38TH KITCHENER GROUP CAMP



What a better way to get the scouting year started than to have a camp for all members of the 38th Kitchener Scout Group. In fact Sept 2015 marked the 20th year of doing just that. The location was Camp Everton, just east of Guelph. The weather on the Sept 25th - 26th weekend was just perfect, Sunny Skies, Temperatures in the low 20's. For once Brother Mark didn't have to worry about his tent being blown apart by hurricane force winds like he has had to in past years.

This year we had about 80 members attending. One Beaver Colony, Two Cub Packs and our Venturer's were there along with leaders and Beaver parents. Unfortunately our scout troop was attending another scouting camp that weekend and could not attend. Over the past years we have had several themes for our camps. Everything from Prehistoric, to Pirates, to Space, the Summer Olympics and Survivor Camp. The theme this year was “The Amazing Race Everton.” The Cubs and Beavers were broken into 5 teams and competed in various events on Saturday Afternoon, including, Knot Challenges, Tree Identification, Compass and Trail Markers, a Personal Skill's competition and a First Aid Challenge. At night we had a Campfire which included, Songs, Skits and Cheers.

The Venturer's along with Scouter Jenn were in charge of the kitchen for the weekend. We were never hungry and I think a few of us actually gained a few pounds. We were all thankful for their hard work and dedication over the weekend.

Sunday morning we had breakfast, then we attended a Scout's Own Worship Service. This was lead by Brother Mark and was held at the Scouts Chapel at the Camp. The Beavers then headed to the River do to some Cray Fishing while the Cubs headed to the Archery Range for some archery lessons.

Lunch was followed by Closing Ceremonies, and a final Clean up of the Camp Facilities. I heard from a few parents that their Cubs and Beavers were asleep before they got home. On behalf of the entire 38th Kitchener Scout Group, I would like to thank our Sponsor, St. George's Church for their continued sponsorship and support of our group.

George Mudry
38th Kitchener
Pack



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

The story behind familiar faces at St. George's



I quickly realized as I interviewed the Barclay family that more opportunities must be created to bring our two congregations together for spiritual and social interaction. Except for special services celebrated during holy weeks or throughout the summer months when a single service is in vogue, it is seldom that our 8:15 and 10:00 a.m. 'families' meet and greet. I must confess that I (an 8:15er) knew very little about the Barclays (10:00ers) despite the fact that they have been active members of our parish for 10+ years. I now know a lot more and found their story very interesting.

Michael (Mike) spent most of his youth in London Ontario but as his father pursued post graduate education degrees there were stints in St. John's Nfld and Ann Arbor Michigan. After secondary school in London Mike enrolled in the Mechanical Engineering program at the University of Waterloo graduating in 1997. He went on to complete a Master of Engineering degree at the University of Toronto. Mike is employed as a professional engineer at the MMM Group, a consulting firm that provides design services for building projects.

While Mike and his family were moving around during some of his formative years, Debra spent her entire youth in Toronto. Her decision to also attend the University of Waterloo (Psychology and Business/Human Resources) provided the connection that lead to a relationship with Mike who by chance lived next door to her in Waterloo. Debra graduated in 1998 from UW and went on to earn her certifications as a Human Resources Professional and Human Resources Leader. Debra works as a Business Partner in the field of Human Resources for Matrix Solutions, a Canadian environmental engineering consulting firm.

So what was the path that lead this couple back to Waterloo and to St. George's? Mike shared that while his family had roots in the United Church they were open to sampling other denominations. When they settled in London, the church of choice for his family became Bishop Cronyn Anglican Church (unfortunately scheduled to be deconsecrated in the near future).

Meanwhile, Debra was brought up in the Roman Catholic faith and was very active in its youth ministries continuing to be engaged at the university level through programs at St. Jerome's College. It was while Debra was visiting Mike's parents in London and attending services at Bishop Cronyn with his family she realized that there were many similarities between Roman Catholic and Anglican theologies. While she liked the tradition and trappings of the Roman Catholic mass, the conservative approach of its leadership to many of the issues of the day and lack of inclusivity left her open for change. So it was, that when Mike was pursuing his Masters Program at U of T, St. James Anglican Cathedral was conveniently located close to the residence of this young couple. They found that this facility met their spiritual needs and were married in this parish in 2000.

Having enjoyed their time in Waterloo while attending university, Mike and Debra made the decision to move back into our community in 2001. They visited 5 or 6 Anglican parishes in our region and fortunately for us, St. George's felt like the right fit. As Mike stated: "there was a sense of community, an alignment with our core values and a casual approach to the interaction between clergy and parishioners". Debra added: "St. George's had a welcoming environment and a number of other young families so we were not pounced upon when we walked through the doors".

Three boys round out the Barclay family. Aiden (age 12) now attends grade 7 at Doon P.S. While in earlier grades at Brigadoon P.S., Aiden was very committed to the Global

Leaders program and efforts to raise money for the construction of schools in Africa (he was one of the top fundraisers). Away from school Aiden has two passions, judo and soccer. Judo, in which he participates in 3-4 times a week, has led to a number of provincial and eastern Canadian competitions and accomplishments. He enjoys playing soccer and internationally follows Juventus F.C. in the Italian league and Chelsea in the English premier league. Riley (age 9) is in grade 4 at Brigadoon P.S. Like his brother, Riley enjoys soccer, swimming and is also heavily committed to judo competitions. On his own initiative, Riley has recently asked if he could enrol in lessons to learn the playing of the cello. Grayson (age 4) is in Junior Kindergarten at Brigadoon P.S. He takes pleasure in swimming lessons, gym activities and has started what might be a long career in soccer. All three boys look forward to family vacations, especially cruises that provide the opportunity to see wildlife and other interesting sights at the ports of call. I asked the boys what they liked about attending our parish. Their answers included the opportunity for leadership roles and participation in Sunday School and family services, the crafts and Sloppy Joe's at Messy Church and Little Dragon Church Camp (future counsellors on the horizon).

Mike and Debra continue to take pleasure in attending our barbecues, potlucks, and Messy Church as well as being active supporters of a number of outreach initiatives at St. George's. Debra has been the coordinator of our Children's Community Closet project which encourages the free distribution of usable clothing articles and the boys play a key role in the Angel Tree at Christmas.

Asking the Barclays to gaze into the proverbial crystal ball to see what might be in store for St. George's, they see a parish that, through its open-minded approach, draws in those curious about our spiritual home and are made to feel welcome when they step inside its doors. The parish will not have tossed away its traditional values but will have enhanced the leadership opportunities for youth and young families taking part in services and outreach projects. By the way, the parish will have found new ways to integrate our two congregations (8:15 and 10:00) to the benefit of all.