



FALL 2014

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

THE DRAGON FLYER



this issue

FROM FATHER DON
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OUTREACH UPDATE

FROM FATHER DON



Dear Friends,

Thanksgiving is more about our basic Christian attitude than about blessings we have received. If we count blessings, it is to renew our hearts. Thanksgiving is an occasion to pause and do both.

I always count our church and people (meaning you!) on top of my list of blessings. I feel grateful each morning as I walk to the church; I feel grateful each evening as I return to the Rectory. I owe a debt of love to you all, and deep thanksgiving to God for the blessing of this parish.

Since last I wrote a Thanksgiving Pastoral letter, it has been a difficult year. As this letter is being written, vacation is coming to an end, and a new season is beginning, and the intervening year has been filled with many ups and downs, as throughout that year, my father slowly died.

But this faith of ours is precisely about times such as these. We are a Resurrection people. We hold to a faith that tells us that each ending is but a fresh beginning. Just as my vacation ends with a fresh season of mission and ministry in the life

of our parish, so the ending of life is also the beginning of eternity.

And as St. Paul says, "In all things, give thanks." This Thanksgiving, I give thanks for my father, and all the things that he taught and shared with me. I give thanks for the care and support that I felt from this parish family as I went through the very difficult job of handing him over into God's hands to enter into his new beginning. Above all, I give thanks for the gift of faith that sustains in the difficult times, and sends us out to care for the world that God loves.

But as I said in the beginning, Thanksgiving is more about the basic Christian attitude than it is about counting blessings. No matter how I may try, I can't even begin to enumerate all the blessings God has placed in my life, and so all I can do is adopt a general attitude of Thanksgiving, and seek to show my thanks by sharing those blessings with others.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Fr. Don+

Upcoming Events

September 7	Return to Services, Sunday School Registration and Welcome BBQ
September 19	Prime Timers Potluck Dinner
September 20	Messy Church 4pm to 6pm
September 30	Camp Celebration
October 7	Turkey Supper 5pm to 7pm \$20 Adults, \$10 Children
October 24	Diocese Youth Group Event at St. George's
November 22	Christmas Market



Watch for more details in your Sunday Bulletins; visit our website or call the Church Office at 519-744-4751.

A PRAYER WORTH SHARING...

This was used as the closing prayer at the August 10th Service

Lord, thou knowest better than I know myself
That I am growing older and will some day be old
Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking that I must say something
On every subject and every occasion.
Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.
Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy.
With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all,
But Thou knowest, Lord, that I want a few friends at the end...
Seal my lips on my aches and pains,
For love of rehearsing them will become sweeter as the years go by...
Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be wrong.
Keep me reasonably sweet...
A sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.
Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places,
And talents in unexpected people.
And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.
Amen.

--Anonymous [attributed to a Nun] 17th c.

CAMP LITTLE DRAGON 2014



Staff of Camp Little Dragon -2014

With the ongoing support of St. George's through supplies that were donated, time offered, bursaries and donations given, our camp had another successful year. Many of our staff returned from last year and we had three new staff come on board. We provided 67 full bursaries and 16 partial bursaries for famSt. Georgeilies who were experiencing some financial difficulty. We had 21 new campers and on most weeks we had approx. 26 children. We haven't had a chance to finalize our camp funds but we are pretty sure we have broken even, with not a lot of money left to spare but not owing either. Drew Ripley – the balloon man- came to camp on two occasions and was a huge success with the kids. Air Borne trampoline was also a well loved activity. Each year God provides us with everything we need to provide a safe, nurturing, Christian environment where all children are welcome. Thank you to everyone for all of your support.

Camp Committee

Father Don, MaryLynn Forrest, Vivian Harris, Reta Risto, Susan Butt

ST. GEORGE'S 1ST ANNUAL GARAGE SALE!



A lonely little tea pot was all that remained after St. George's 1st Annual Garage Sale

ST. GEORGE'S ALTAR GUILD...THE MARTHAS, OF ST. GEORGE'S



We are all familiar with the sisters Mary and Martha and their respective personalities; Mary loved to be in the spotlight and Martha preferred to busy herself in the kitchen, away from others and tending to their needs. This is the very reason that Karen Baker has dubbed the Altar Guild members as the “Marthas” of our church. And, believe me, there is no more enthusiastic advocate for this selfless league of ladies, than Karen Baker!

Early each Saturday morning one of the six teams [comprised of 4 to 6 members] arrives and busily “sets the stage”, so to speak, for the events of the week end, whether it be a wedding, or baptism, or our regular 8:15 and 10:00 Sunday services. Altar flowers must be placed, silver chalices and trays polished, individual candles placed in the sand of votive holders and arranged on the healing table, and each item must be specifically placed in its own particular spot. The ladies consult a “bible” of sorts that contains pictures and notes for each item required for the service. Everything is polished, checked and double-checked to perfection while cheerful conversations and willing hands complete each task. And their job would be impossible if it were not for the care of Lynda Hill who comes every Friday to ensure the ladies know what services St. George will host in that up-coming week. Another charter member of the Marthas!

For over twenty years, I have been a member of this parish. I have always relied on every chalice and cruet [forgive the layman’s clumsy terms] to be sparkling and in their place ready for the priest or attendant’s use. I never considered how many

details needed tending to before our worship service begins. I am aware that there are candles waiting to be lit at the healing table and the altar hangings change with each season, but beyond the obvious, I had no idea what the room behind the altar held, nor all of the great history contained behind that oak door.

Did you know there are two sinks in this room? One is for ordinary use of washing hands and draining flowers and the other, the pacina is to be used only for consecrated liquids. Before this room was built, anything consecrated had to be poured directly into the ground outside the church.

And did you know that the large oak chest which holds all of the altar hangings was donated in memory of Dorothy Rankin, an early member of the Altar Guild? Further, this box is so large, that it would have to be dismantled before it could be removed from the room! (If ever you hear a desperate knocking from its insides, you’ll know that Karen Baker, has fallen in and needs help getting out.) And the ladies inform me that early on in our history, the choir had to share this very small space with the priest and other deacons, etc to store their robes and vestments for worship! The art of quick-change was no doubt perfected here.

While height is not a mandatory requirement for belonging to the guild, it comes in handy for climbing the step-ladder and seeing that the sanctuary candle—yes, a real candle—is lit. When the candle is lit, it sends the message that

God is present in this place. The other candle above the ambrey—that small oak cupboard we see on the right side of the altar—lets us know there is something consecrated within the cupboard.

I’ve often wondered how all of the things that can stain the fair linens used during the services are easily removed. I now know that lipstick is the hardest mark to get out and that The Candle Man, Jim McClean from Mississauga, is the fellow who supplies us with wafers, communion wine, candles and even the palms for Palm Sunday. And, in an emergency just a telephone call will summon him to St. George’s!

When one mentions the fair linens it is a shame that not everyone has had the chance to study and hold these to appreciate the fine and delicate needlework of Phyllis Phillips. Each piece of this white-on-white is hand stitched with attention to the sorts of various and meaningful emblems used for Sunday services, baptisms, funerals and weddings. And when we speak of those who so selflessly and generously give of their time and talents for the benefit of all who worship here, we should consider our very own Marthas – the Altar Guild of St. George’s. So the next time I sit in a pew I will wonder at the anonymity of this wonderful league of ladies who sit amongst us and gives us their time and talents without asking for recognition. Well, we wish to acknowledge each and every one of you; Kudos to those who work “behind the scenes” to grace our worship every week. And pardon us if we have just once turned our Marthas into Marys...you are all so deserving of the spotlight.

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



Jan Melega

While chatting with Jan, I was reminded of the age-old parable of the Good Samaritan, the traveler who disregarded the traditions of his day to help a fellow trekker in distress. Listening to her story and with input from others, you quickly realize that Jan is the type of individual who steps up to the plate when help is needed be it by an individual, or an organization such as St. George's.

Born and raised in Kitchener, Jan's community roots go back three generations with the odd distinction of having a mother born in Kitchener, and a father born in 'Berlin' (Kitchener's former name changed during WW1). After attending several elementary schools in the region, Jan moved on to high school at KCI and Eastwood (when it opened), a year at Waterloo College (now WLU), and subsequently professional training at Stratford Teacher College.

Starting her teaching career at a small country school in Glen Allen, Jan moved to, and taught

at, a number of other elementary schools before settling in as an itinerant arts resource teacher with the Separate School Board. When the opportunity arose at Schneider House for a paid position as the teacher interpreter, Jan jumped at the chance. "I could satisfy the grandmother syndrome in me without the hassle of report cards, discipline problems, and teacher-parent meetings."

Jan's early church life evolved from her attendance at St. Mathew's Lutheran where her parents were quite engaged in all church activities. As an example, Jan's father served as the Sunday School Superintendent. While her wedding took place at St. Mathew's, husband Ambrose was raised and confirmed in a Catholic parish, but had found over time that the Anglican practice of faith met his needs more fully. This last point is significant because, at a friend's Sunday Afternoon Sherry Party (note the caps!), the Rev. of Holy Trinity Bill Wigmore, and Pastor of St. Mathew's Ted Schaeffer, both

suggested that Ambrose and Jan might enjoy attending Holy Trinity Anglican Church as an alternative to St. Mathew's, which they chose shortly after to do.

Living in the Forest Heights area, it eventually became more convenient for Jan and Ambrose with daughters Val and Amber, to attend St. George's of Forest Hill which by then was linked to Holy Trinity as two-point parish under the spiritual guidance of Rev. Sid Lupton. Both Ambrose and Jan quickly immersed themselves into parish activities. Jan recounted that neither of them were big at table talk but preferred to let others make decisions and they would jump in to help get the job done. Ambrose would often be seen undertaking minor repairs or construction work at St. George's while Jan taught Sunday School, served as the Junior Choir 'mother' (ensuring ribbons and surpluses were clean), and assisted with the first communion and Christian initiation classes with Karen Baker.

When Ambrose passed away in 2000, Jan was one of the prime motivators for the development of our Memorial Garden, in which Ambrose's ashes have been laid to rest. Jan is like the Eveready bunny you see in television ads. She supports the Altar Guild, the Memorial Garden, Camp Little Dragon, the Garden Guild, the funeral reception committee, the Reader's Guild, and the preparation of prayer quilts. While she feels that one of the main strengths of St. George's is the 'family atmosphere', she worries the future of our parish unless we can do more to appeal to and draw in the younger generation.

When time allows (she has four grandchildren), Jan enjoys sewing, painting miniatures (yours truly is lucky to have one) and travel. One of her favorite cities is Prague with its historical architecture and the blending of eastern and western cultures. And who would she sit down with for afternoon tea, none other than Edna Staebler. Jan admires this Canadian author and award-winning journalist and would love to probe her zest for life and secrets of longevity. If staying active and involved in your community is the key, I suspect Jan may also live to be 100 years of age as did Edna Staebler.

OUTREACH GOALS SEPTEMBER TO DECEMBER

“AN OBSTACLE CANNOT STOP US IF WE KEEP OUR EYES ON THE GOAL”

OCTOBER - Community Closet - date still to be decided by the committee. A notice will be published regarding the collection of gently used children’s fall and winter clothing.

OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER - SHARE THE WARMTH - last year we donated 40 bags of children and adults winter outerwear. Can we top that this year??? You bring them and I will gladly bring them to the Salvation Army to distribute.

FOOD BANK - obtains and distributes about 3 million pounds of food each year. Thanks to our efforts in keeping the food box filled, others will benefit.

ST. JOHN’S KITCHEN -More information will be posted regarding the New Years Eve lunch in December.

ANGEL TREE - St. George’s helps many families that are experiencing financial difficulties over the Christmas Season. The family angels will be posted on the outreach bulletin board in October more details will be posted later.

Our ongoing outreach activities - **PWRDF - Cancer Turbans - Pneumonia Vests** - always welcome your gifts of money and time.

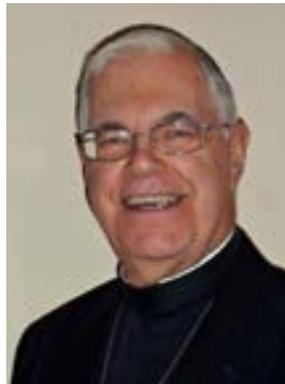
Thank you!
Susan and Reta

SSSSSHHHHH...
SSSSSHHHHH! You’ve got to keep this on the down-low...the Renew Campaign will have BIG news coming very soon! But until then, remember, SSSSHHHH.....

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST.

Did you know that Anglicans only invite someone to attend church with them once every 35 years Well, if this is true, it’s about time you acted on your good intentions. Bring a friend and make a difference in their lives and yours.

FROM THE DEACON’S BENCH



Brother Mark, S.B.

September is like the beginning of a New Year in many ways. Especially if you are returning to school at what ever level. I remember goals that I set for myself; paying more attention in class, doing better on my assignments and projects, doing what I could to improve my marks and making an effort to get along with people I disliked.

September is a start up time for many organizations and for the Parish as well. So...whether it is school, or sports or scouts or just getting back into the normal routine of things may life be good.



Brother Mark, S.B. †

FORE!!

September not only brings changes to the colours of the leaves, but it also signals that the Anglican fundraiser, a golf tournie in Ingersoll is upon us. While St. George’s didn’t win, Father Don did receive first place for Best Dressed, sporting his red and white argyles. Eat your heart out, Bubba Watson!

PUT THE COUNTERS OUT OF A JOB

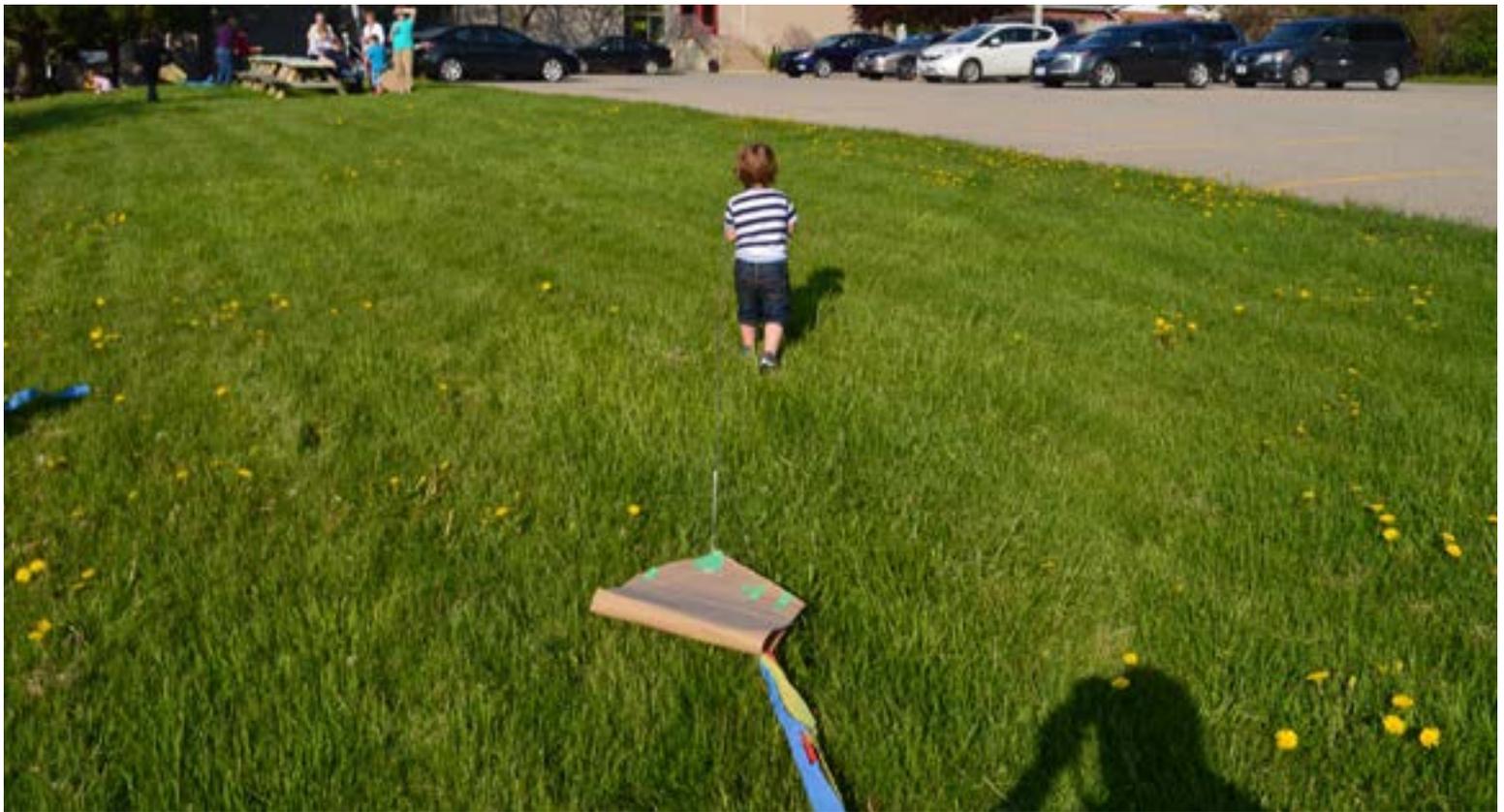
Put the counters out of a job; sign up for pre-authorized payment of your monthly donations. It’s easy to set up and easy to change. It provides a level stream of donations, and gets the counters out to coffee hour faster. You can get a form by calling or e-mailing the office (stgeorgefh@golden.net) or talking to a Warden.

FOUNDATIONS FOR STEWARDSHIP: God’s Love In Christ!

In the First Letter of John we read, “We love because God first loved us.” Hardly a more true word was ever written. Our love and our sharing are motivated by the awareness that others have loved us.

This says something about the importance of being loved and of love in our human families. It also says something about the importance of realizing how much God loved us. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son to die for it.” That’s how much God loves you. Jesus Christ died for you. There is no greater love.

As stewards we know that love and as a result we want to love others by word and deed. Our sharing of our time and our talent and our treasure all are ways of expressing that love. That little envelope we put in the plate in many ways says, “God loves me and I love you.”



MESSY CHURCH - *Fun for all Ages*

Messy Church has come to St. George's. What is it? Through drama, story-telling and crafts, adults and children visit a particular Bible story and then share a simple meal. St. George's had their first Messy Church in January, 2014 and two more were held in March and May. We sang, painted, glued, iced cupcakes, and even flew kites! Anyone can participate but the original idea was to provide an opportunity for people who are investigating or interested in faith to learn and share in a casual, non-traditional way along with their children, grandchildren, etc. The events held were very successful with smiles all around. The first Messy Church of this school year will be held on September 20th from 4 pm to 6 pm. Bring your family, friends, and neighbours! Share the Good News!



I SCREAM, YOU SCREAM, WE ALL SCREAM FOR ICE CREAM!

This past summer 10 volunteers served 2800 - 3000 bowls of ice cream with sprinkles and/or peanuts on top at St. John's Kitchen every Friday. Many thanks to all those who volunteered or donated money for this outreach in our community.

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