



SUMMER
2018

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

THE DRAGON FLYER



this issue

From the Deacon

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Letting God Nudge me...On Being a Deacon

I hear there are a few things that people at St. George's don't know about me and my role as a deacon. Part of my ministry is our Little Dragon Summer Day Camp which I have been involved in since 2004 when I first became a warden. Our summer camp is a not-for-profit camp where we provide a limited number of bursaries for families who may require financial assistance for whatever reason. In this day and age where both parents need to work, camps can be very costly, leaving parents with few choices. They struggle with how to provide a safe summer camp for their kids and also provide three meals and snacks each day. Our camp provides both.

Our staff are older youth who have the energy needed to implement the variety of activities our camp offers. The camp committee gives hundreds of volunteer hours each year to ensure our camp runs smoothly. This parish has always been so supportive of the camp, financially and then providing supplies that are needed. If you wish to donate to our camp, it is tax deductible and there are special camp envelopes on our Outreach Bulletin Board in the Narthex.

Another ministry that I take a lead with, is the deanery outreach to Monica Place through hosting the Monica Place Gala. This is the fifth year we have worked together to provide this celebration of high school graduation. At the end of each June, the

Anglican churches in our deanery work together to help the young mothers at Monica Place celebrate the successes they have had that year. Working with Rev. Margaret Walker, we collect \$60 from each parish which goes towards the dinner for the women and their families.

The young women at Monica Place are very appreciative of this celebration and it is amazing to hear all they have accomplished during the year: having a baby, taking care of their child, all while continuing their education. It isn't an easy life, especially when you are so young.

After being ordained three years ago, I was awarded a special licence that states I have responsibility for pastoral care at St. George's of Forest Hill. I love my ministry—especially in pastoral and palliative care! I am part of the on call spiritual care team at Grand River Hospital and I provide anywhere from 36 to 72 hours per month as an on call chaplain. This is a ministry where I am called to be a calming presence in a time of need. I pray for the patient and with the family. I am there during the removal of life support, or as someone is in the palliative stage of dying. There are times I am called in to pray for someone before they go into surgery, or when a patient has received a terminal diagnoses. I stay as long as the family or the patient needs or wants me. Recently I was called into a palliative situation and as I stood at the head of the hospital bed and was saying prayers, the patient

...cont. on next page

Single Summer Services begin July 1- 9:00 am

Book Club Selections

Looking for some good summer reading? May we suggest the following:

September

Broken Promise by Linwood Barclay

October

Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

Please consider joining the Book Club, every 3rd Wednesday, 7:00 pm Fireside Room



...cont.

looked into my eyes and tried to mouth the words of the 23rd psalm with me. This was a very powerful moment. People's souls need to be nurtured just as their bodies do during the palliative process—and that is where I come in.

The hardest situations are when I am called into the death of a child. That just tears at my heart. When I come home from an on call, my husband Paul always asks how it went. If I shake my head and start to cry, he knows I have just ministered to the family of a young person and he just holds me and says, "It takes a special person to do what you do."

I don't just provide palliative care, but I am available for any part or all of the journey. If the need is within our St. George's family, I can be available part way through the journey, or at the very end, depending on the wishes of the person or their family. I am an ear to listen, a shoulder to cry on, a pastoral presence. I visit people in hospitals, retirement homes and long term care facilities. I have assisted people in planning a funeral. I offer my services free of charge to one of our local funeral homes and to officiate at funeral services when a family cannot afford a clergy.

I can certainly provide pastoral care by text message, by phone, or in person. We can have coffee, or lunch or just go for a walk. I am most happy to talk to you about my faith and my ministry at your convenience.

Twenty years ago I came to St. George's looking for healing. Ironically, I have learned to let God into my heart and follow His calling and it is now me who provides healing.

Peace to you...

Rev MaryLynn Forrest



Wardens' Summer Message

We wish everyone a wonderful and safe summer to enjoy family, friends, travels away or staying close to home. There are so many of God's creations right in our own back yard...so explore our neighbourhoods, parks, and city paths right across this great province of lakes, waterfalls and farmers' fields!

Thank you to all who have spent their time and energies leading, participating and "signing up" for our many activities, worship services and initiatives within our church walls and beyond.

It will be a year in August that Fr. Stephen Hendry came to St. George's as our priest and spiritual leader. We are very thankful for Fr Stephen and Joyce and the ministry they share with us.

Our Treasurer, Anne Taylor, will share our financial status with the parish members. Just as in your own homes you need to pay your bills regularly, we also need to be fiscally responsible. Please, give prayerful thought to your stewardship offering on a regular basis over the summer months.

Our lawns also need to be cut and the gardens cared for. If you are able, please consider giving a few hours to your parish facility to lighten the work load. We know the garden guild have their zones designated to care for and John Shaw and John Ryrie have kept the lawns mowed, but many hands make it easier. So, if you see something that needs doing and you have some spare time, please join us in the care of our church. Any of the wardens will be happy to hear from you.

The church office will start summer hours in July. A warden will monitor the phone the days that Valerie is out of the office. In case of emergency, please contact Fr. Stephen or a warden and we will assist you as needed.

Don't forget our Summer Worship Schedule of **one service at 9:00 am** from **July 1 – September 2nd**, inclusive. Please, sign up as coffee hour hosts, too, and enjoy fellowship with your parish family.

We especially wish the CLAY Team a safe journey and a wonderful spiritual experience at the August conference.

Mary Ann, Mike, Nelson and Jim

Parish Life



The Stirlings Organize the Games at the June Picnic



4 Churches Picnic in Mannheim



St. George's Auction



Confirmation



Door Prize Winners at the Ladies Victorian Tea



Celebrating the Life of Peg Balfour



Ploughman's Lunch Outreach



BR Mark "Bears" it All on Mother's Day

Parish Life



Suubi Fusion Troupe from Uganda



Klare promotes the Food Truck Event



The Spring Clean Up Crew Takes a Break



Ryan reminds us of Friday Ice Cream at St. John's Kitchen



Tune in Fridays at 7:30 pm



First Communion Class



Jennifer leads Godly Play



Fr Bill White, Brother Mark, Fr Stephen at Brother Mark's Renewal of Vows

Summer Camp Foundations Last a Lifetime

Reflective conversations with my wife, Katherine, have been a sustaining joy of our marriage. Responding to both mundane stimuli or those of global importance, we have examined potential paint colors ("Burnt Sienna"? Really?) to taming world leaders (Trump? Just take his phone!)

And so, as we walked home from our latest church Outreach meeting, the following reflective conversation ensued after listening to Deacon MaryLynn's Camp Little Dragon report.

Katherine: "What was your favourite camp experience?"

Me: "I didn't go to camp."

Katherine (stopping abruptly): "What? Never?"

Me (realizing I was walking alone): "Nope."

Katherine (grabbing my arm): "You've never sang camp songs as a kid?"

Me: "Camp songs?"

Katherine: "Yes, like 'Little Rabbit Foo-Foo.'"

Me: "Well, sometimes my brothers and sisters sang, 'Let My People Go' if mom and dad gave us too many chores. Does that count?"

Shaking her head, Katherine proceeded to regale me with her various camp experiences that sounded so amazing I felt a tad deprived.

Don't get me wrong, I still cherish my childhood, but our summers were unstructured; we were like young hippies frolicking in the grass (the kind you walk through!). If a bunch of kids woke up at the same time, we invented impromptu games; if you were on your own, you headed to the river to explore. No adult organized us.

But listening to Katherine's tales, the camp experience was a mix of learning and fun, where crafts, sports, and faith were combined by adults and implemented by counselors. Cabins, competitions, and campfires sounded heavenly to me.

I asked Katherine about the costs of camp; our families both had scant disposable incomes, so what was the financial impact? Katherine admitted that during the offseason, she always kept the idea of camp in her parents' minds, and when the economies were good, Katherine always returned to camp.

Which brings us back to Camp Little Dragon. Each year the St. Georges' organizing team, guided by the Holy Spirit, does their best to create a place of safety, spirituality, and fun on these premises. In this era of transient cyberspace relationships, our church camp swaps the fragile for the foundational.

As you examine your budget for that family vacation with those loved by you, please give a thought to those loved by Jesus; let a kid know there's a warm place by God's spiritual campfire, here at St. Georges.

CLAY YOUTH OF St. George's

The Youth Group has worked diligently on bottle drives, scrapbooking days, and a Crepe Breakfast to name but a few events to raise money for their conference this coming August in Thunder Bay.

Youth and their leaders will participate in a number of activities and services with other Anglican and Lutheran youth to share and grow their faith. The entire trip will cost \$10, 950; to date, they have raised \$8 890. All feel optimistic that they will be able to reach their goal. None of this could have happened without the support of two very determined and dedicated leaders and a very generous congregation. Many thanks!!! We look forward to sharing our experiences with everyone early in the fall.



Clay Youth of St. George's

St. George's Youth Choir...formerly Junior Choir

I am most pleased with both the attendance and effort of the choristers! I was especially pleasantly surprised by the number of parents and grandparents and siblings that would stay for practices. I have a definite feeling that the youth Choir is once more on an upswing. Heather Johnson did a fabulous job of directing them. She is always most positive and so encouraging in her dealings with the youngsters. We have had a great deal of fun as well as learning a wide variety of pieces. I try to inject a spiritual component into every practice by discussing the meanings of the words in the songs they sing. We continue to sing God's praises and touch the hearts of those in the congregation.

John Shaw

Reminders & Save the Dates

- **Church Picnic at Mannheim Community Centre, June 10 10:00- Rain or shine!!** Morning Prayer, followed by lunch—which is provided--then games or bring your lawn chair and pom poms!! See map posted on bulletin board in Narthex
- **Book club – June 20- 7:30** – Fireside Room
- **Monica Place Gala – June 27, 4:00 pm**-Knox Presbyterian, Waterloo
- **Camp Little Dragon – July 3 – August 24**
- **Livestream St. George's while You are Vacationing**
- **Ice Cream Outreach at St. John's Kitchen – Every Friday** all summer. Sign Up on the Bulletin Board in the Narthex or Speak to John Ryrie or Catherine Carlson
- **CLAY –August 15 – 19- St. George's Youth in Thunder Bay**
- **Start Up Sunday- September 9th; 8:15 & 10:00** -Sunday School & Bar B Q following the 10:00 o'clock service



Map to Mannheim Community Centre -
4 Churches' Picnic - June 10th



St. George's Youth Choir



The Choir Sings for Its Supper



Annual Car Rally

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