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

THE DRAGON FLYER

SPRING
2018

this issue

From the Rector
Wardens' Message
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FROM THE RECTOR

A hurried young man made his way into Tim Hortons for a large double double when he spotted a senior sitting alone in the corner. It was going to be a busy Easter day. Hard to believe that he had dance, hockey and gymnastics all scheduled with his children. His wife had invited her family and he was not looking forward to a discussion about politics and religion later that afternoon. As he sat down with the older gentleman, he smiled and said, "Happy Easter... What's your story?" The short, stout, wrinkled gentleman simply stated, "Today it's not my story, it's Christ's story that matters." The young, hurried man knew he was going to regret it as he heard himself say, "Tell me more." The old gentleman began to speak. "The story has been handed down for 80 generations and every one of us has to decide whether we believe it or not. Then we have to decide what it means in our lives."

"It all began the day Jesus was crucified. By 6:00pm his body had to be removed from the cross. It was a small blessing that Jesus was dead earlier than that. A man by the name of Joseph of Arimathea went to Pontius Pilate and asked for Jesus' body in order to provide burial. Jesus was placed in a tomb by Joseph and a friend named Nicodemus, both whose lives were profoundly affected by Jesus' ministry. The Sabbath had begun. They placed him in a tiny vault in the side of a rocky hill. Rolling the stone in front of the opening they wandered away. Within a short time, Pilate had received visitors insisting that the tomb be guarded. He granted permission. Sometime in the next 24 hours the soldiers experienced chaos and confusion. Early on the third morning two women approached the tomb in order to put spices on the

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Easter Service Dates

Palm Sunday at **8:15** and **10:00am March 25**
Maundy Thursday at **7 pm March 29**
Good Friday at **10am March 30**
Good Friday at **2pm March 30** Stations of the Cross
Saturday Vigil at **7pm March 31** Rt Rev Linda Nichols, Bishop of Huron, will preside and preach
Easter Sunday at **7:15 am, 9:00am, 11:00am April 1**

The Resurrection of the Lord
is the only reason I believe.
HAPPY EASTER EVERYONE!

Dates and Events

Photo Directory
April 9-14
Parishioners will get a call to set up an appointment

Messy Church
April 14 4-6pm

Deanery Confirmation
April 15 at 7pm

Parish Auction
April 21

Children's Community Clothes Closet
9am – noon
April 28

Suubi Concert:
9 Youngsters from Uganda-African dancing and drumming
Fri. May 4 at 7:00 pm

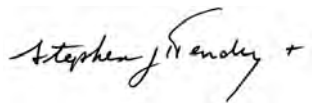
Car Rally
May 5 at 2pm

Food Trucks
May 26

...cont.

body. This was a custom of their time. They were shocked and stunned to discover the stone rolled away and the body missing. To their amazement angels told them "Do not be afraid..." Jesus had risen from the dead."
"There is more to this story", said the old man looking intensely into the hurried young man's eyes. "You see, apparently a couple of the disciples went to the tomb and found it empty as well. Later that same day as the women and disciples gathered together, Jesus Christ was suddenly in the room offering them gestures of peace and comfort. Another startling moment came when two of the men returned from a trip during which they said Jesus approached them as they were walking. They only recognized him while they were sharing dinner together. Then he vanished from their presence."
"Week's later", continued the old man, "it was Peter who suggested they all go fishing. It was during this adventure that Jesus approached them on the beach and shared breakfast with them over a campfire. They all agreed that it was his still, quiet voice and yet another miracle of an abundance of fish for breakfast that helped them fully realize he was in their presence. It's unbelievable", the old man said. "Again and again Jesus showed up. The number of eye witnesses is staggering." There was a pause in the conversation and the old man looked into the busy young man's eyes and said, "What do you believe?" Tears filled the young man's eyes as he quietly whispered, "I believe I met you on purpose this morning. But it was God's purpose, not mine. I think it's time I called my pastor since I haven't seen him since Christmas. I think the story could be a life changer."
The young man stood up and shook the senior's hand. Looking down he saw the Sunday morning bulletin in front of the old man. The old man smiled and said, "7:15 am comes early on a Sunrise Easter morning. The young man looked down at the aging, wrinkles, worn and torn old man and quietly whispered, "Happy Easter, thank you... you've given me a lot to think about." As the young man walked away he wondered if he would ever meet his new friend again.

The Rev. Dr. Stephen Hendry



Message from Your Wardens

We hope that you are off to a great start in 2018! St. George's has many activities that are flourishing in the New Year!
Our Vestry meeting in January was very successful! For the first time in a number of years, Vestry supported a 10% Growth budget with a variety of plans in the works. These plans were summarized in a Mission and Ministry document which was supported as well. Despite the many building and maintenance projects last year, we came within $400 of our 2017 budget. Our sincere thanks to all parishioners for their support. The Rectory underwent significant updates most of which were done by volunteer parishioners. The 19 year old HVAC unit for our Sanctuary succumbed to old age and had to be replaced just in time for our Christmas Services. Many other updates have occurred. Thank you to all for your work and support!
Last August, we welcomed our new Rector and his wife, Rev. Dr. Stephen Hendry and Joyce, to St. George's. Their energy and enthusiasm is infectious and we look forward to many years of joyful work together as we seek to further Christ's message in the community and in the world. Father Stephen has begun many initiatives in the short time here including parishioner visits, daily Facebook videos, weekly radio shows, weekly pastoral letters, a Lenten day, an ecumenical worship service, and many more! His homilies are thoughtful, engaging, Christ-centred, and heartfelt. We are blessed!
There are many more activities, projects, and programmes at St. George's. We encourage all to come out to worship and to get even more involved in the parish. 2018 is going to be a wonderful year for us!

Mary Ann, Charlotte, Mike and Nelson-Parish Wardens

New Faces at St. George's - Welcome to our Faith Family!

Sarah McCormick & Mark Kuprowski, Lucas & James (we'll miss you)

Jennifer & Jeff Poolton

Jacky Beckford Henriques

Gretchen Jones

Melissa & Jimmy Bui, Matthew & Jonathan

Gargis Disho

Molly Mahachi, Mzila Moyanna & Thabisile

Stephanie Bayley, Ben Goodyear & Charles

Betty & Bob Robertson

Cameron Mott

Becky & Nazim Ramzan, Cayden & Lacey

Debbie Link

Melanie Mitchell

Trent Leclair, Jaxon, Heather Johnson

Angela Young

Maita with daddy Martin, in green is Matipa then Lulu. That's the Mazarura family

Barb & Ralph Bailey

Sue & John McKellar

Ken Goodyear, James Emslie [cousins]

Parish Life

Spaghetti Night, Optimist Fund Raiser for Camp Little Dragon

Katherine & Jack host our First Movie Night

Commission of Rev Dr. Stephen Hendry as Chaplain for the 38 Scouts

Photo Directory Team – Put Yourself in the Picture: April 9-14

World Day of Prayer, Calvin Presbyterian

Messy Church

New Christmas Chasubles, donated in memory of David MacIntosh

Br Mark, honoured with Bishop William Cliff in Thunder Bay

The Bench Warmers

***Parish Council 2018**, some members absent*

Garrett Prong receives Religion in Life Certificate

Tia McGraff and Tommy Fulham perform for CLAY - $630 raised!

Getting to Know You: George Green

Regular attendees at our 10:00 a.m. services should need no introduction to Sidesperson George Green. Often present 30-40 minutes prior to the service, George is there to assist by monitoring attendees, taking collection, passing out material as needed, and checking/tidying pews at the conclusion of the service.

His accent tends to give him away and therefore it should be no surprise to confirm that George was born and spent his early years in Carboneur, NFLD. For grades 1-5, George attended St. Andrew's P.S., one room 'school' with its pot belly stove but was forced to travel to the north side of town to St. James for grades 6+. George left school and went to work prior to graduating from high school. Permanent and well paying employment was difficult to find, so in his mid 20's he picked up stakes and moved to Kitchener. He was a valued employee at Heidt Medal Products for 28 years. Heidt Medal produces school and patio furniture. In the mid 1990's, with new ownership and changing market conditions, some of the production facilities closed and George was forced to look elsewhere for work. He has had a variety of part-time and full-time positions since leaving Heidt.

George met his wife Maureen at a singles dance held at Bingeman's in 1982 and were married the following year. They moved into a rental property owned by Maureen's mother on Overlea Drive. Maureen worked as a secretary and did some babysitting of local children which helped with the family budget. Daughter Jennifer, the couple's only child, is presently engaged to be married.

George's life has always been tied to the church. Each Sunday, father George Sr. and mother Margaret would pack up George Jr. and his two sisters and walk up to St. James. George remembers that this church had a prominent flagpole with a flag which would be lowered to half-mast to inform all in the town that a parishioner had passed away. To find a spiritual home, George and Maureen tried a number of churches in this area but felt most welcome here at St. George's. George loves to cook and bake which is a family tradition and many here in our parish have sampled his creations.

Unfortunately Maureen passed away unexpectedly on Valentine's Day in 2016. Her wish to have her organs donated was honoured and then recognized by the commemorative medal presented to George and depicted in the picture accompanying this article. We are fortunate to have committed parishioners such as George who give of their time and energy to enhance our parish activities.

Youth Group is off and running in 2018!

Our Youth Group has been very busy over the last two months. We continue to meet at the 10:00 service on even numbered Sundays, discussing a whole bunch of topics! There's never a dull moment! Our new youth room is fabulous, and we love the paint colours and new-to-us furniture. You haven't had a chance to see the new digs, please come down and have a look. You'll find us where the old nursery used to be.

We invited the youth to join us for a movie in January, and last Friday night, we hosted our first ever taco and margarita night. We ate and drank, talked and played video games. What could be better than that? You might have seen our youth team at the pancake supper. We had a fun time together and appreciated the opportunity to help out with this very worthwhile cause.

Excitement is building as CLAY draws ever nearer. We are pumped! Fundraising for this amazing event is in swing. We shared in some of the proceeds from the Tia McGraff concert on Feb 2 and have just finished another successful bottle drive. It's not too late to enjoy some mint smoothies. Just talk to anyone from the youth group. We'd be happy to sell you some. Thank you to everyone for your support, both financial and otherwise.

Stay tuned for more exciting fundraising activities to come, like our scrapbooking day on March 3, and our crepe breakfast at the end of April." The fun just keeps on coming!

April and Alison

FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH!

We are in the middle of the season of Lent and what comes to mind for me is how Jesus was tempted for 40 days in the wilderness and what He was offered if He would only obey Satan. It also makes me think about the way Jesus lived his life. This is a time for self reflection--a time to think about what tempts us in the way of our faith and and worship. What prevents us from practicing our own spiritual formation, or the time we spend in personal prayer? How do we live our lives outside of our Sunday worship---do we practice what we say we believe---or do we leave those intentions on the steps of the church as we walk out the door? Can people tell that you walk in the footsteps of Christ by your actions? Something to reflect on this season of Lent and Easter.

Deacon MaryLynn

Pneumonia Vests

Outreach Committee

Thank you for your generous support of our Outreach Committee initiatives!

Angel Tree
This year we provided Christmas for 7 families and 5 youth through Family & Children's Services "Holiday Support" program. In total we supported 29 people. Thanks to the generosity of our congregation there were over 89 gifts as well as $1,710.00 in grocery vouchers.
The families we sponsor through our Angel Tree are brought to us through parishioners, through our summer camp, through contacts with Waterloo Region District School Board as well as KW Family & Children Services. If you know of someone who could benefit by the Angel Tree in 2018, please speak to Fr. Stephen Hendry or Rev. MaryLynn Forrest by September 2018

St. John's Kitchen Dec 29th lunch
With funds from Outreach, donations from Erb and Good Funeral Home and Johnson farms and generous support of time and food donations from our congregation we served 165 plates of a hot turkey meal and 5 servings of chili (with some chili left from staff retuning on Monday). This event ran very smoothly and the hot turkey meal was well received and appreciated.

Share the Warmth
We donated 25 bags of winter outerwear!
Socks for the Homeless
We collected 440 pairs of warm socks!

Outreach - Potatoes and Easter treats
Fresh vegetables, such as potatoes are a special part of a dinner meal. At St. John's Kitchen it is not common place and when it is provided, it makes the meal even more special. This Easter your Outreach Committee is asking for your support to fulfill this need. We thank you for your overwhelming support last year, providing 620 lbs of potatoes! Let us aim to meet or exceed last year's donations. Please bring your bags of potatoes and/or Easter treats to the church from March 4 thru March 18. Collection area is in the Narthex.
Any questions, please speak with Susan Butt or an outreach member.

Coming in April ... Children's Community Closet
The date in April will be communicated shortly. Please check your closets for gently used children/youth clothing items for this growing community initiative. Donations can be dropped off at the Church (bottom of the stairs in the basement).

Mark your calendars in June ...
We'll be collecting dry baked goods for Innisfree. Details to follow this Spring.

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