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

THE DRAGON FLYER



this issue

Getting to Know You

Wardens' Message

Reminders & Save the Dates

Parish Life



Dear Friends,
Easter is about hope, renewal and new life. Billy Graham once said, "God proved his love on the cross when he hung, and bled and died. It was God saying to the world, I love you." That's right, Easter is about God's love

for us. It is about Jesus dying for the sins of the world and more specifically for each of us, even before we were born. I've heard people say they are not as impressed with Easter as they are with Christmas. After all, Christmas has decorations, lights and gifts. But as Gord Hinkley once said, "There would be no Christmas if there were no Easter." Easter was the moment that we discovered that Jesus was more than a prophet, more than a healer, more than a miracle worker. Jesus was the son of God who lived, died and rose again.

There are some who remain a Good Friday people. They get stuck. "Stuck in the muck and yuck of Good Friday." All they can see is the pain and suffering and despair. Pope John Paul II responded well to those who get stuck in that head space when he wrote, "Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people." He understood that after the death came the resurrection and that changed the world. His sentiments were echoed by T.D. Jakes, who wrote, "Here is the amazing thing about Easter: the resurrection Sunday for Christians is this, that Christ in the dying moments on the cross gives us the greatest illustration of forgiveness possible." Just think of it this way, without the death, there would have been no resurrection. Another way to look at the issue comes from the writings of William Barclay who helped emphasize Christ's message of love when he wrote, "Love always involves responsibility, and love always involves sacrifice. And we do not really love Christ unless we are prepared to face his task and to take up his cross."

I believe that Easter is about the "New light of Christ's life, death and resurrection". I believe that Easter is about new beginnings and second chances. I believe that Easter is the absolute centerpiece of the gospel. I believe that the bible tells the story of Jesus' life, death and resurrection. I appreciate the ministry of Rick Warren who once wrote, "The bible tells us that Jesus Christ came to do three things. He came to have my past forgiven. You get a purpose for living and a home in heaven." Some would benefit from looking at it this way. "Easter is a time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life." Those words are from Craig Lounsbrough. Without Jesus Christ our death was inevitable but we were missing the possibility of eternal life.

The life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is considered by many as an historical fact. Those of us who have faith have no hesitation to announce Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

The Easter story surrounds the events that are known to be historical in nature. We begin by talking about a courageous woman. She can't sleep. She gets out of bed and gets dressed and chooses to travel a dangerous road in the middle of the night. The bible makes it clear that it was still dark. There is more than one kind of darkness happening here. She is in a spiritual and emotional darkness. She arrives at her destination only to discover that the tomb of Jesus Christ is open and the body is gone. Imagine her shock. Imagine the devastation. It's been a horrible few days and now when she thought it couldn't get any worse, he's gone. She immediately runs back to tell a small group of men who are living in fear for their own lives. Fear often comes with injustice, murder and unbelievable cruelty. Dazed and confused the men make their way to the same tomb. Mary returns with them. Consider if you will, this frightened and frantic woman trying to make sense of an impossible situation. She is overwhelmed by her grief and therefore she does not

recognize a man who speaks to her while she stands crying in the garden. Everything changes when Jesus calls her by name. Everything is new. She and the entire world around her have a new beginning. All of God's promises become a reality in that moment. After a few moments in the presence of Jesus she is commissioned to tell about her experiences. Mary returns to the men waiting in the room and tells them, "I have seen the Lord."

What does this moment in Mary's life say to us today? It was a dark time in her life. Hurting, confused, grieving and disappointed, she was searching for answers. Searching for some explanation, some reason. So what did she do? First, she went to the tomb, perhaps to find solace for comfort or perhaps to anoint the body of Jesus. When she experienced an empty tomb, she went for help. When she saw Jesus, she celebrated with others. We too, have moments of fear, loss, grieving and /or disappointment. We too need to go searching for Jesus in those moments. We may even choose to go and find others who will be with us in the midst of those moments. We also need to learn to celebrate those precious moments when we encounter Christ.

One important question comes out of Mary's experience. She witnessed the empty tomb. She had a face to face encounter with the risen Christ. That makes Mary an eye witness to the resurrection. A witness is a person who both sees something and is prepared to tell others what they saw and heard. Are you? Are you a witness to Christ? Are you a witness to the resurrection? Are you prepared to publicly tell others that you believe? It's not a trick question. As a matter of fact the answer is easy. Every time we publicly receive the eucharist, we witness to Christ.

Let's not forget the disciples. These were faithful followers of Christ who panicked in the midst of the arrest of Christ and became disillusioned in his death, only to receive irrefutable evidence of his resurrection. These were the followers of Jesus who embraced the resurrection with hope, joy and love. These were the original messengers on Christ's behalf in our modern world. In the end, they were faithful, courageous, and endured many challenges during their lifetime.

Today you and I are the contemporary disciples. We are called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with a broken and shattered world. We are called to shine in the dark places. We are called to speak the truth in love and we are called to show up for Christ.

This is your personal invitation to join us for Easter worship at the Easter Vigil, Saturday, April 20 at 8:00 pm and Easter Sunday at 8:15 am or 10:00 am. Look forward to seeing you here.

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you and grant you peace.

Yours in Christ
The Rev Dr Stephen Hendry
Blessings, FR Stephen

Message from your Wardens



The spring edition of the *Dragon Flyer* is always filled with good news items which parallel the good news of our Easter

celebrations. Christ's death on the cross and resurrection on Easter morning, was testimony to his message of love, forgiveness and concern for others. Spring is the season of rebirth and renewal. As a parish family we did just that at our Parish Vestry meeting at the end of January. The well-attended meeting featured the endorsement of our Ministry and Mission plan and the parish budget for 2019. Both are ambitious but achievable if we live up to our commitments of time, talent and treasure.

We have much to be proud of as we move forward together in 2019. We are fortunate to have a dedicated team of clergy and support staff, and we are pleased to have launched exciting new training schemes for our new wardens and lay-readers. The number of names of individuals and families on our Parish Register continues to grow. In this context, attendance of some of those new to our church at newcomers' wine and cheese celebration on February, 9th was indeed encouraging. It is good to know that others will share the rich experience of membership of St. George's.

Regarding Outreach, one of the things of which St. George's is proudest, wide-ranging projects carry on our effort to help the disadvantaged. Through regular givings and special appeals such as Ascend, our parish home is in good shape. We can look in the near future to new signage that will increase our ability to inform our community of the many activities that occur at St. George's on a weekly basis.

The many committees, clubs, and social activities—including our coffee hours, Medieval Feast, car rally, and church picnic—all enhance personal relationships which are so vital to the health of this parish. Most important, of course, are the opportunities to worship and share our faith together. Please, take the opportunity to attend one or more of the services during Holy Week; a full listing is included in this issue of the *Dragon Flyer*. Finally, thank you for the confidence you have shown in us as members of the Parish Executive. As always there is an open invitation to each of you to make us aware of issues that need addressing and/or share the good news of the day with other members of our parish family and broader community. Enjoy your Easter celebrations!

Nelson, Jim, John, John

Parish Profiles: Roberta and Ray Finnie

Some of our 'older' parishioners will remember Sadie Hawkins dances and I'll get to the significance of these as the story of Roberta and Ray unfolds. Roberta, born in Oakville moved with her family to Toronto when she was 11. Ray, born in Vancouver, moved several times before ending up attending George Vanier S.S. in Toronto at the same time as Roberta. For younger parishioners, the success of a Sadie Hawkins dance depends upon the responses the girls get when they ask the guys to go to the dance (kind of like the shoe is on the other foot). During their grade 13 year (another sign of the times), Roberta felt Ray was a decent guy so she approached him in the school hallway to ask him to the dance and what answer did she get??? ... "I'll have to let you know." I said "what were you thinking Ray?" He went on to explain that there may have been a tentative promise to go with another girl but that was a misunderstanding. Later that evening Roberta phoned and Ray accepted the invitation. We are glad he did as the twists and turns of life led to romance, marriage in 1972, and eventually seeing the couple settle in Kitchener.

After secondary school, Roberta went on to complete a legal secretarial course and then a ECE program at college which led to employment in child daycare centres. Ray completed an honours degree in Business Administration before receiving his C.A. designation in 1976. He joined the firm of Deloitte & Touche, becoming a partner, and opened the Kitchener office in 1977.

Their initial home was on Dunsmere Drive but they have lived in their present dwelling on Bent Willow Drive since 1986. Roberta's family was very active in Anglican church life while Ray had roots in the United church. St. George's was the closest Anglican parish to the Finnie's first home and with Ray's blessing they decided to give it a try. By chance, their first Sunday was also the first Sunday of a new parish priest at St. George's by the name of Bob Bennett (we all know

how well he did).

Ray and Roberta certainly immersed themselves in parish life. Among other commitments to St. George's, Ray has been treasurer and a parish Warden at the time of our expansion overseeing the raising of the \$200,000 necessary to proceed with the development plan. As Warden Ray established our Laity committee structure which provides input to, and implements initiatives of, Parish Council. More recently he has been active on the Stewardship and Outreach committees. With her ECE background, teaching Sunday School was a natural fit for Roberta but she also has been supportive of Brownies/Guides and many other of our parish committees and clubs. Both Ray and Roberta hope we can continue the renewal of social activities which in the past included gourmet dinners, pub nights, dances, bus trips and even the fellowship enjoyed through special projects such as the sausage booth at the Elmira Maple Syrup Festival.

As much as Ray and Roberta have enjoyed and been so active at our parish for 40+ years, they are excited and re-energized by the arrival of Fr. Stephen and Joyce. It is important that leaders lead and for our Parish Executive, Council and Committee Chairs to set ambitious goals and challenge the Laity to look beyond our traditional way of thinking, and be open to new ideas and initiatives.

The Finnies have three children (Elizabeth, Chris and Michael) and 5 grandchildren ranging in age from 16 months to 10 years of age. While they have had the good fortune to travel and see much of North America and Europe, most months of pleasant outdoor weather are spent at their Muskoka cottage enjoying time spent with family and friends. Roberta and Ray also take pleasure in skiing, theatre, movies or relaxing with a good book. Although they are a very busy couple our parish has been blessed by their presence and ongoing commitment to our collective journey of faith.

in photo: Ray, Roberta, Ella & Hannah



Parish Life



Elizabeth Turns 100!



Clay Bake Sale



Brenda Newell & Fr Stephen



Doug Berg & Fr Stephen

Parish Life

Lay Readers Programme

The new Lay Readers programme will include 6 candidates in our parish. Lay readers are trained to preach, officiate at Morning Prayer and at Evensong. These candidates will be required to read 12 books over the period of 12 months. Every month we gather as a group to reflect on the current book being read. There is intense theological reflection on each of the books. The Lay Readers will study biblical theology, systematic theology, church history, liturgy, preaching and healthy relationships in a parish setting. Each candidate will also spend 52 hours in class and in one-to-one consultation with the priest.



At the conclusion of their training, the Diocesan Lay Reader Chaplain will conduct a verbal examination of the candidates. It is up to the Diocese whether or not the candidate is approved to be a Lay Reader in our parish. The Diocesan Bishop will choose whether or not to approve the candidates. It is the Rector's responsibility to ensure that each candidate be thoroughly prepared for ministry. These candidates are not candidates for ordination, but rather they are given the tools and techniques to enhance their gifts for ministry. Please, pray for John Shaw, Catherine Carlson, Joyce Hendry, Susan MacKellar, Allan Lee and Adriana Cronin.

The training for the Lay Readers has already begun and their immediate focus is spiritual vitality, personal well-being, healthy relationships, anointed ministry and spiritual competencies. This is an exciting ministry and I invite your prayerful support of these candidates for this important role in our ministry together.

Fr Stephen

in photo: Lay readers Sue, Joyce, Catherine, Adriana, Allan, absent John Shaw.



Christine, Cameran Meet & Greet



Taylor, Julian Shanahan with Fr Stephen



Fr Stephen, Claudette Mayer



Scouts Celebrate Founder's Day

An Important Opportunity: The Sign Fund

With the ongoing work of the Sign Subcommittee, one of the key focus areas of ASCEND will be addressed: **the building of a New Digital Sign at the front of the church and the refurbishment of the Memorial Monument.** As you may recall, we voted at Vestry last year (2018) to support this initiative (budget: \$51,500).

We are taking this in two stages with the first being the building of the new sign to replace the current "temporary" one. Signs by Jukes was the successful bidder. The fall was spent in application to the City of Kitchener for our plan and we have been successful in obtaining the necessary approvals needed to proceed.

The SIGN Fund has over \$3 000 in it now with your donations to ASCEND thus far. **We are about \$20,000 shy of our goal. To address this, a generous parishioner has offered to match any new, unpledged donations dollar for dollar which will come in to the SIGN Fund before the summer of 2019 up to a maximum of \$10,000.** This would allow us to make up the \$20,000 shortfall and achieve our goal: \$10,000 from parishioners and \$10,000 from matching funds.

If you are able to contribute in this manner, please use your regular weekly envelopes and indicate the following on the face of the envelope: **MATCHING SIGN FUND DONATION** along with the amount of your donation.

Hate Evil, Love Good, Establish Justice

The Social Justice Committee met for close to two hours on Saturday morning, February 9th. John Dale brought forward a letter requesting our federal government address the destructive environmental impact of single-use plastic materials, which five members of the committee agreed to sign. John Ryrie brought forth a letter focused on the extent of poverty in our Diocese (as highlighted during Vestry). With a few minor revisions, this letter was also signed by five members of the committee and has been sent to Ontario Premier Doug Ford: and a copy has been forwarded to all of the local MPPs in our Region. A list of books with topics related to social justice is now on the bulletin board down by Thompson Hall as is a letter addressed to the President of the TD Bank about some of its insurance practices. We are hoping that Frank Thompson, a former rector of St. George's, will agree to let us print a very well written brief letter he set to John Shaw just before Christmas concerning our environment. We wish in the not-too-distant future, to involve the parish and our congregations in the committee's concerns and initiatives. For the moment we are still finding our way forward and trying to determine how we can be effective as a small group. Join us on April 13th in the Fireside Room!

John Ryrie, Chairperson

Looking Ahead...

On **Wednesday, May 8** at 6:30 pm, we have invited a representative from Henry Walser Funeral Home to come and talk to our parish about pre-planning a funeral: what is involved in doing this and the advantages of pre-planning. This is not to suggest that anyone use this particular funeral home. I have dealt with Walser's on many occasions and I feel very comfortable in having them provide us with this information. We will have refreshments before and during the presentation. Bring any questions you have and they will answer them to the best of their ability. There will be a signup sheet in the Narthex, just so we have an idea of how many folks to expect.

Children's Community Closet



Our next Children's Community Closet will be open again on **Saturday, April 13** from 9 – 11am

This is a **FREE** community wide event in which children's clothing and items can find new homes at absolutely **no cost**.

We are seeking donations of gently used children's clothing—newborn to teens—and miscellaneous items: diapers, toys, books, strollers, high chairs, etc. We will need volunteers to assist with setting up the hall and laying out the clothing on **Thursday, April 11th** and **Friday, April 12**, starting at 6:30 pm.

FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH



As we prepare ourselves for Easter and the resurrection of our Lord, we need to be intentional about setting aside some weekly time to Be Still and Know God is God!

At the end of February I embarked on a silent prayer retreat for a week end. My intentions were to deepen my relationship with God and I had my own ideas of how that would happen. I took my bible and a book, *Be Still and Listen*, along with many journals that I try to keep updated. On that Saturday afternoon as I was settling down to do some reading, I had a hard time focusing, so I decided to be still and listen. God's plan and my plan, as it turned out, were different plans.

God's plan was for me to be still and to be in His presence, in the silence of the day, and to take the time to notice outside of the retreat centre and in the small chapel of St. Francis which was about a ten minute walk from the centre. I saw God in the seventy other people who were there for different retreats. I heard God speak through the priests and the spiritual directors who were available to help us. There is so much more to silence than just being quiet...there is so much more! Totally immersing myself in God's presence and doing absolutely nothing else for the week end, was a very rewarding and spiritual experience. This silent prayer retreat was a wonderful way to rejuvenate my soul and my spirit. Thanks be to God!

Deacon MaryLynn

Easter Events & Dates

April 14 – Palm Sunday – 8:15 BCP; 10:00 - BAS

April 18 – Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm

April 19 – Good Friday – 8:15 –BCP; 10:00 – BAS

April 20 – Pancake Breakfast –Optimists -Easter Vigil – 8:00 pm

April 21 – Easter Sunday – 8:15 BCP ; 10:00 BAS



Melanie's Health Minute



Tips to Help Keep Those 2019 Health Goals

Remember way back to your New Year's Resolution where you decided to put

yourself first? Let's aim to keep you on track!!

· Stay away from the all-or-nothing approach. Allow yourself treats and meals out occasionally.

· Keep unhealthy, trigger foods out of the house.

· Track or monitor your progress using great free apps such as *My Fitness Pal* which allows you to choose your diet and exercise goals, track your workouts and even scan the barcode of food packages that will pull up the nutrition information to add to your food diary.

· Start your day with a high protein breakfast—at least 10 grams to help keep you fuller longer in the mornings.

· Carry healthy snacks—hard-boiled eggs, nuts, grapes or protein bars—to help curb unexpected hunger cravings.

· Find a buddy to keep you motivated and accountable whether you are changing your diet or exercising regularly.

You've Got Mail!!

Distributing parish information via means of the mailboxes in the Narthex is desirable as a low cost alternative to the use of Canada Post. Parish Executive does realize however, that the alpha listing and the five row configuration makes access for some, if not all, difficult. The Property and Communications Committees have been asked to consider changes to make the mailboxes more functional. Changes may include raising the entire unit, using a numerical in place of an alpha identification system, doubling the size of each mailbox, etc. We will seek input from parishioners prior to moving ahead with any changes which likely would occur over the summer months. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Parish Executive



Quillows

All students graduating from high school this June are Quillow Candidates. If your child fits this category, let Fran Rothenberg know. Francesrothenberg@gmail.com or phone: 519-744-2502

Parish Potpourri

Can you count the total number of parishioners—no repeats! —shown in the pictures in this issue? Put your answer in the box provided at the back of the church. Include your name so that the valuable prize may be yours!! Although, bragging rights are also exceedingly worthwhile...

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