



SPRING
2021

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

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

THE DRAGON FLYER



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Dear Friends in Christ

I really enjoy the story of the minister who stood in front of the window in an art store and looked at a painting of Jesus on the cross. A tiny child arrived beside him. "Do you know who he is?" asked the minister. "That's Jesus," replied the child. "Those are soldiers around him. That woman is his mother." The minister, overcome by the child's response chose to walk away. The child ran and caught up with him and said, "Excuse me...I wanted to tell you that Jesus rose again." The child seemed elated to be able to tell the Good News. We are an Easter people. Everything we believe about Christ centres on the Easter experience. The challenge in our Christian faith is that some people want to make it about one day of the year. I love the story of the minister who selected a processional hymn during July. He chose Christ the Lord is Risen Today. One of the helpful volunteers corrected the pastor by saying, "You must have made a mistake. That is an Easter hymn," The clergy replied, "There is no mistake. This is the hymn I want. Every Sunday is Easter Day." In the midst of Covid it is hard to remember that as Christians every day is Easter Day. Sometimes the realities around us wake us up in the middle of the night.

It is not unusual for many of us to be awake in the early hours of the day. For some of us it is when we think and pray. That First Easter Day, Mary Magdalene was awake. She was searching for something or perhaps it was someone—someone she thought was gone forever. She was searching for her faith in the midst of a crisis of the loss of Jesus. She decided to go for a walk and arrived at

the tomb of Jesus. Mary was terrified to discover the stone enclosing the tomb had been moved. She ran for help. Two of the disciples ran for the tomb. They discovered the linen wrappings lying there, but no body. They departed, but Mary stayed. She encountered two angels. They spoke to her and said, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She responded, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." Mary was in shock. She was grieving and she must have felt totally alone. As she turned away, she saw someone who she thought was the gardener. He too asked her, "Why are you weeping? Who are you looking for?" In her desperation she said, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus stood in front of Mary. Jesus understood Mary. In His compassion and sensitivity He responded, "Mary." She immediately recognized his voice and called Him "Rabbouni" [teacher]. Jesus warned her not to try and hug Him because He had not yet ascended to the Father. He gave her very specific instructions to go and tell the disciples what He said. "I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." Mary Magdalene went and told this good news to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!" She replayed the message as He had requested her to do.

As we read the Easter story, we must be clear that it was written for the purpose of conversion. Author Martin Marty writes, "So we talk about conversion to make a textbook case out of this. We recall that the Hebrew word for 'convert' is shub, meaning to 'turn back' to 'return' or the Greek is Metanoia, which implies a 180 degree turning. Both indicate the involvement of the heart and not just the head, though conversion includes a change of mind or intellectual dimension." This conversion may

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Parish Life

continued...

happen at Baptism, but it is also a process as we mature in faith. For Mary and Peter the conversion happened immediately. For many people there is doubt, fear, resistance and anxiety before there is acceptance.

The bottom line is you cannot be converted if you are not open to the Holy Spirit prompting you. When Mary saw and spoke with the Lord, conversion occurred. In other words, both her heart and mind were forever changed! I think it's important to remember that Jesus once said that His followers would recognize His voice (John 10:4). Jesus called her by name. Jesus gave Mary an amazing gift. He explained to her that she had encountered Him in the midst of a set of events which included his death, resurrection, and ascension. He basically says stay tuned...more to come soon! Gregory Robbins explains the moment when he writes, "God works redemptively in and through all that Jesus undergoes." In this moment Jesus is sharing something with Mary that changes her heart and mind about Him forever. But there is more because the news she shares with the disciples is only "the beginning of an ongoing revelation of what resurrection and implication might mean." [Gregory Robbins]

How do we respond to the Gospel? Well, let's begin with how John, Peter and Mary respond. John runs to the tomb and sees the linens. He instantly has an awareness that something has happened. Perhaps it's odd, but he appears to instantly see and believe. Was it his optimism or his hopefulness? What happened in his heart and mind in that moment? We know people like this guy. They don't need evidence or statistics. They don't require witnesses or forensic evidence. They just believe. They experience an inner knowing.

Peter's experience was different. Does Peter react to the news out of guilt or shame? He did deny Christ three times. Is it possible that Peter had a little time to reconsider his doubts, fears and anxieties? Peter had run from Christ. Now he was running toward Him. Maybe Peter hoped for a miracle. Maybe he hoped for an opportunity to reconnect with Christ somehow. One thing was for sure, this time he was going to arrive with an open mind to the extraordinary possibility of the resurrection.

What about Mary? She showed up! She was a faithful servant and friend. She may not have been thinking clearly, but she knew her feelings. She was a courageous woman who was willing to take an enormous risk to journey alone in the darkness only to discover that the risk was worth it as she encountered the risen Lord. Mary came to realize that the most important story we can ever tell is our own. She reminds us all that we have a faith story to share. Furthermore, our faith story can profoundly impact the spiritual journey of friends, neighbours and family.

As every Easter comes and goes, we get a little older and begin to seriously consider the promise of Easter. The resurrection of Jesus comes with a promise that every one of us can be saved by His love and grace. It would follow that we are assured that we will spend eternal life with Christ. One of my all-time favourite stories is about an old clergyman who was lost on an unmarked road in the 1930's in Texas. He stopped at a farmhouse to ask for directions. A small freckle-faced little girl gave the following directions: "Go right on down the big road for several miles. Sometimes you will bog down and get stuck, but keep going until you come to the graveyard. Go right through the graveyard and just on the other side you will come to a paved highway. Turn to the right and the place you are looking for is just around the corner. When you get to the paved road beyond the graveyard, your troubles will be over." As the senior clergyman continued along his journey, he thought to himself, "I am travelling down the rough road of life. Sometimes it seems that I am bogged down. After I travel life's road for a few more miles, I will come to the graveyard and then my troubles will be over, for God's highway and the heavenly home are just the other side of the cemetery." This intriguing story by Walter Knight is the reminder that we begin to embrace the Kingdom as God's extraordinary gift through Jesus Christ in the midst of this life. Beyond that, there is also the promise of eternal life.

Yours in Christ

The Rev Dr Stephen Hendry



*Kathryn Orloci - Goddison
Alexander Arbory Wedding*



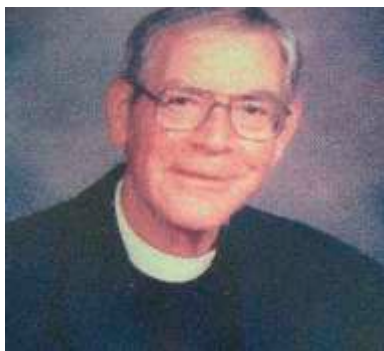
*John Shaw – masked-
practising organ*



Canon Christopher Pratt, his wife Caroline and Fr Stephen – marks 40 years of Ministry



Mike Duboluy - St George's own Pied Piper, was recently honoured by the BBC for his contribution in the 1960's.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/blogs/genome/entries/23d54836-97e0-41a6-a38b-f99105964b89>



Jim Horne – 90 years young this year

FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

Spring is coming and I am so happy about this! It has been quite a year and as much as we still need to be cautious and careful due to the Covid 19 virus and all the variants that have showed up with it—at least we will be able to enjoy the sunshine! We can sit or walk outside and say hi to our neighbours as they pass by. It is a new beginning. While it could be a very slow new beginning, I am thankful to be alive.

There are so many things we could complain about—yet there are so many more things we need to be thankful for. I have a variety of coffee mugs with different inspirational sayings on them and I choose which one to use depending on what I am going through. I have one that makes me laugh and the saying on it is this: Dear Lord, please keep your arm around my shoulder and your hand over my mouth! Amen. Something to think about....

Rev MaryLynn Forrest

It's about “NEW”

I can't recall specifically how I may have felt in the past about spring and summer, but this year I am absolutely ecstatic. Not that I've ever been blasé, but I'm just so conscious of new life around me this year. With this new life is the Easter message and the Gospel ringing in my ears...“Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again!” It's about new life for each one of us. I'm reminded of a verse from a new hymn, In Christ Alone. “No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the power of Christ in me. From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny. No power of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand. Till He returns or calls me home, here in the power of Christ I'll stand.” Saint Paul may have said it best. “For me to live is Christ, for me to die is gain.”

[Philippians 1:21] May the Sunday of the Resurrection [Easter Sunday] have a special message for you this year; one that is new and bold and wonderful and refreshing and exciting.



Ontario Trillium – Canisbay Lake Canoe Trip

Rich blessings to all! You know? The ones you feel in your heart and see in your life. Amen



Parish Life

St George's Outreach Mission

Collaborating to do God's work by leading initiatives and partnering with KW agencies, impacting people's lives in our community and the world

Angel Tree

With the Pandemic we took a different approach last November-December to support those in need--in a way that was safe for our parishioners and those we were supporting. The parishioners' generosity donated a total of \$6,380 to support the Angel Tree! These funds went towards supporting 4 families, 4 youth and one adult with disabilities. Thank you!! The money donated was used to purchase gift cards for food and other goods. You have helped enable us to have a significant impact in our community. Your generosity is amazing!!



St. John's Festive Lunch

Last December we were able to support a New Year's Lunch for patrons of St John's Kitchen. This year, instead of our usual preparation and serving of the meal, \$1,055 was donated and presented to our contacts at St. John's Kitchen. "Wow!" they said. "Thanks so much!!"

PWRDF Lenten Thankful Calendar

Previously, we have utilized a Lenten Coin Folder to set aside a certain amount every day during Lent as a sacrifice towards Primates World Relief & Development Fund. This year, due to Covid, we have modified our plan to suit the times. We prepared a Lenten Thankful Calendar that allows you to set aside a certain amount each day, but does not require you to use coins. Donations to this worthy cause are being accepted until April 1st. Please, drop off a cheque or cash to the church office or etransfer the amount to stgeorgefhdonate@golden.net. Remember to indicate Lenten Collection.

St. John's Kitchen Easter Meal

In past years we have donated food and Easter treats in support of an Easter meal. With Covid, we can support an Easter meal via financial donations. We are collecting donations up until April 4th. Again, you may donate cash or cheque at the church office or make an etransfer and indicate where you wish to direct the funds.

Easter Services

Limited In-Person Services – Contact Office to Confirm Attendance

Wed, March 24	Memorial Service	7:00 pm
March 28	Palm Sunday	8:00 am, 9:30 am [Livestream] 11:15 am
Thurs, April 1	Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm [Livestream]
Fri, Apr 2	Good Friday	10:00 am, 3:00 pm
Sat, April 3	Holy Saturday Vigil	7:00 – Livestream only
Sun, April 4	Easter Sunday	8:00 am, 9:30 am [Livestream] , 11:15 am



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