

Parish Life

Getting to Know You- Prathibha Murali & Sandeep Vijay

Covid has brought many things we would not wish to see repeated, but the addition of this wonderful young couple to the parish of St George's is NOT one of them!! Let me try to share a little of their story.

Both of them were living in southern India in the city of Bangalore when they met 4 years ago. Prathibha was working for an Immigration Consultancy firm and Sandeep, a lawyer, came to make his application for Permanent Residence in Canada. As she completed the paperwork they discovered that not only did their fathers know one another, but they lived only two lanes apart!

With the blessing of both families they were married in St. Mark's Cathedral, a 212 year old Christian church in Bangalore. Prathibha had been born a Hindu, but she was educated in Christian schools and felt called to Jesus and was baptized before their wedding. As Covid restricted their gathering numbers, only 25 were allowed to attend the marriage ceremony.

They both worked Online for the same bank during Covid. Sandeep worked for one of the branches in New Zealand, and Prathibha worked for one of its Australian branches. As they worked, they waited impatiently for their Visas for entry into Canada to be approved, Prathibha applied for a Student Visa and when hers was approved she moved to Brampton with a friend to take Online classes in Business Management at Conestoga College.

It took courage and determination to separate and have her travel here, while Sandeep patiently waited for his chance to travel. Prathibha actually filed his application in Pearson Airport. She credits modern technology and her skills in using her phone to being able to do such a thing when she had only been in the country a few minutes! Now that is a testimonial to true love and the power of the internet!!

Six months later, with his Visa in hand, Sandeep joined Prathibha, and they moved to Kitchener since her classes had shifted to in-person and Sandeep looked for work. Somehow, by God's grace, they ended up renting a house on Pinehurst Crescent and St George's was a logical fit for them.

Sandeep explained that the reason they came to choose Canada as their forever-country was because they had the freedom to worship as Christians without fear of marginalization or persecution they would surely face in India. One day they hope to move their parents here to live and we will be happy to welcome them as well.

September is a month and cause for many celebrations for this happy couple. Their wedding anniversary is Sept 14th. Sandeep's birthday is Sept 22nd. And starting Sept 12th, Sandeep will begin working for Toyota while Prathibha finishes her last year of Business Management with a goal of working once again for a bank. We are feeling truly blessed to have them become a part of St George's faith family.



Outreach Committee

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

As COVID restrictions ease, we are hoping to resume our community support, as in the past.

-INNISFREE HOSPICE

From May 29th to June 12th we collected specific items to support Innisfree. Through your generosity, we were able to deliver two van loads of much needed items. They are always so appreciative!

-ST. JOHN'S HOLIDAY FROM HUNGER

This was a new Outreach initiative to help support St. John's Kitchen during the Summer months. We were able to donate \$1,380 towards the purchase of essential supplies THANK-YOU!

-Children's Community Closet-CCC

For the first time in almost 3 years, we are able to open our doors to your neighbors for the CCC! This will be for 2 days-Aug 19th and 20th, for a couple of hours each day, in hopes of reaching more families as they start to think about back to school clothes and supplies.

Future Activities-we will keep you updated through e-blasts on our initiatives

Thanks to each and every one of you for your generous support. We are truly making a difference in our community!

*Outreach Co-Chairs:
Dianne McCandless and Heather Murphy*

Parish Profile

Dreamcatcher Bursary Recipients

After revelation of hundreds of unmarked graves in residential schools across this country, our Social Justice Committee wished to make a concrete plan for peace and reconciliation. Not just words of shock and apology, but an active plan for supporting the current youth in First Nations community. Once Rev Rosalyn Elms preached last September we decided that bursaries might be awarded to deserving youth in the six Nations Territory.

It took some doing with the constraints of Covid, but we finally settled on a programme which is called Music for the Spirit (MFTS). Parish Council wholeheartedly approved we set aside money for six \$500 Bursaries. At Rev Rosalyn's suggestion, we partnered with Richelle Miller and Taylor Hill who co-ordinate and facilitate this group of anywhere from 10 to 40 youth from the Six Nations Grand River Territory.

Let us tell you a little about the young people you see in the picture, from Left to right.

Ashley Cattyrse – will begin her post graduate studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, Brantford campus with studies in Psychology and Policing. She has embraced her pathway with international recognition of her talents as an artist with academic proficiency. Join us in celebrating one of her exhibitions, Sept 14 or Sept 21 at the University of Waterloo.

Gracie Martin – will enter Nursing in September

James Wilson – is a graduate from Humber College with his social Services Certificate, then his Bachelor of Social Work at Laurier University in Brantford with a minor in Indigenous Studies—an opportunity to reconnect with his Haudenosaune ancestry. He will enter the Bachelor of Education programme this September with an eye to become a teacher in the Six Nations Reserve. His love of playing guitar, teaching music and innate ability to connect with youth are natural ingredients for excellence in his classrooms of the future!

Jared Hill – As an accomplished athlete in community sports – hockey, lacrosse, and

baseball—Jared played on numerous teams in the Six Nations community. He recognized the impact of active participation in sports on health and well-being. So being enrolled in the Kinesiology programme at Western University is bound to be a good fit for him. He is hopeful as he explores his options that he will enter the sports management industry. Jared is optimistic and passionate about his continued academic journey which includes Ivey League considerations from Hillfield Strathallen College (HSC).

Kahati:ne Melissa Miller – Melissa's academic journey began at HSC where she says students learn with joy and live with purpose. She dedicates herself to making a difference in her community as a tradesperson and will soon be part of her father's business as a skilled electrician. Melissa has studied at Conestoga College in the Skilled Trades

apprenticeship for/as Construction Maintenance Electrician. She is specializing in designing, installing and maintaining electrical systems within the territory of the Six Nations planning new projects, and installing or upgrading old systems for her community.

Ronnie General –(absent)-her academic journey at Brock University as she studies Psychology supports her passion for giving back to her community now and in the next generation. She has been a Youth Coach in the MFTS programme sharing her musical knowledge of various instruments and language. Ronnie looks to professional development of counselling in her career goals.

I think the words in the Music for the Spirit mandate, say it best:

The creative consciousness is a powerful energy that connects all things.

We dance the same dance as the planets moving around each other. We paint our canvases like the sky paints itself a beautiful scene. We let our voices shine bright like the sun and soft as the glow of the moon.

We are a reflection of what we see and it inspires us. See all of the good in life and you'll see it in oneself.

