



SPRING
2023

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

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

THE DRAGON FLYER



this issue

- Outreach News
- Parish Profile
- Parish Milestones
- Wardens' Message



Women's World Day of Prayer



Parish Council 2023



Ladies' Luncheon



Winter Games Pot Luck



The Mathesons host Coffee Hour



Lenten Clergy

Wardens' Message

Wardens' Easter Message

The Apostle Paul stated that suffering produces endurance and endurance produces character and character produces hope. And hope does not disappoint us because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5: 3-5)

As we read and heard those words in the last few weeks, we were reminded that Paul's vision and truth certainly applies to us after the nearly 3 years of Covid in the global community. Suffering! Endurance! Hope! Here, at St George's we changed--numerous times--the way we worshipped during Covid. But not our faith! No! That faith deepened and sustained us. We were forced to change our personal habits and our work lives. But, by God's grace, with time we have returned vigorously to worship together both in person and via Livestream. We have returned to coffee hours and conversations that bring laughter and love for one another. We have grieved and we have celebrated and now we look to the coming months in Hope. We are an Easter People.

Our Social Committee has moved this winter and now spring into fellowship with a well-attended Games Event and Pot Luck dinner. We are looking forward to our Labyrinth Event and an evening with our Archdeacon Meagan. The Junior Youth Group and Sunday School will lead our worship this Palm Sunday as the young children wave palm branches aloft and they sing Hosanna in the Highest! So joyously familiar. The Holy Week is here and we will mark Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Saturday Vigil and then stand to sing Christ the Lord Has Risen Today on Easter Sunday. For the first time in 3 years there is a sign up sheet in the narthex for the Saturday Evening Vigil. We have suffered; we have endured' and now we live that Hope when we hold fast to our faith.

We are most grateful for the Livestream Team which has broadcast not only our annual Vestry Meeting, the 10 o'clock Sunday morning services, but also the Women's World Day of Prayer and most of the Holy Week Services. The viewing audience numbers indicate we are growing. Our Tik Tok team continues in short sound bytes to invite others to join us in faith and fellowship and fun. Our daily Facebook Page shares inspiration and Good News from our Parish. Our spiritual team of Rev Canon Dr Stephen, Rev MaryLynn, Canon Christopher, and Br Mark have taken us faithfully on this Easter pilgrimage and given us a deeper understanding of the relationship we



might have with Christ through the Holy Spirit.

The Parish Council and wardens are committed to give us all opportunities to engage through Outreach with both our immediate community and the wider global community. Our Deanery has seen its newest refugee family from Eretria arrive and begin to settle into a life in Canada. Their very lives embody the notion of suffering, endurance and hope. With your help we collected 400 pairs of socks and dozens of pairs of underwear to pass to the YWKW for distribution to the homeless. We have supported our African Soup kitchen, our Foster children in Ghana and India, our PWRDF outreach as well as our Potato and Carrot drive for St John's Kitchen here in the city of Kitchener. (For a more complete and detailed list of our generosity and outreach activities, see articles contained in this newsletter.)

It is time to continue our stewardship fundraising initiatives to undertake research on how to improve our worship space, not just for those worshipping in

person, but also for those who join us through Livestream here in Kitchener, but also around the global village! The Livestream viewers are, as has been so aptly stated, our Third Congregation. The first Fundraiser was most delicious and decadent. Purdy's Chocolate Sales—just in time for Easter!

Our Property Committee is looking at the best option for making our building more accessible to those who need it. We welcome your comments and suggestions as we prayerfully consider our best way forward.

All in all, we are eager to see where the spring will take us. The sun shines more frequently and the days lengthen. Just as we have set our clocks forward, so too have we nurtured our hope for the spring and months to follow. It takes an entire parish to see growth and good will happen on a daily and weekly basis. Such a place we surely find here at St George's. In the Apostle Paul's summary of our faith he says, *we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But, more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation. (Romans 5: 10-11)*

Indeed, let us all continue to vigorously and authentically proclaim the good news of Christ's crucifixion, His death and His resurrection in this most happy place! We are truly an Easter people!

*Your Wardens: Catherine Carlson, Tim Goodison,
Cindy Kellett, Ann-Marie Shaw*

Rector's Message



Greetings,
The Good News of Easter is found in the bible in 1 Corinthians 6:14, "And God has raised the Lord and will also raise us up by His power." The promise of eternal life is found in the resurrection. This seems

to be a good place to start in this pastoral letter written for you as you prepare to celebrate the Easter season.

Easter means something different to everyone. I hope you can experience Easter to be a real, relevant and revitalizing season in the Church year, but more importantly a transformative experience in your life. Easter can be a life changing experience especially for those who are seeking a healthier relationship with Jesus. These are people who are deliberately seeking more joy, meaning and purpose in their faith journey. There are some people who have tried to discover fulfilment, joy, meaning, purpose and love in their jobs, families or other relationships only to discover that although they have indeed experienced all those things, not to the degree of satisfaction that they were hoping for. These are the people who are on a journey of faith and looking for a new experience of Jesus Christ this Easter. Might that include you? I believe that it's possible to gain new insight and new awareness of God's transforming love in your life this Easter season.

Families often have a blend of experiences during the Easter season. Many families can't wait to get together but others are already working on a "strategic plan" of to have a joyful experience. For some families Easter may be about food, family, friendships and faith. I'm not sure it matters in which order these priorities are celebrated. Some of us will receive our guests and others will do all the traveling required to experience encounters with family and friends. Perhaps one "key to success" is to be available for a pleasant surprise with each visit or meal.

Craig Lounsbrough once said, "Easter is a time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life." This is one of my favourite quotes because it speaks to one of our greatest fears. That being, that when our bodies and minds come to the end of their earthly purpose we might cease to exist forever. Not true! God has granted humanity eternal life. It is a gift that we are encouraged to accept, embrace and live out each and every day.

Clarence Hall once wrote, "Easter says you can put truth in a grave, but it won't stay there." Each Holy Saturday service we gather together to declare that truth and to renew our baptismal covenant, declaring

that we are followers of a risen Christ. May I invite you to consider attending the Holy Saturday service at 7pm? It is one of my favourite candlelit services filled with inspiring music and a message of new hope.

Acknowledging that some people are struggling this Easter with loneliness, despair, isolation and fear, I want to offer Floyd Tomkins words. He once wrote, "Let the resurrection-joy lift us from loneliness, weakness and despair to strength, beauty and happiness." I think that the Easter message includes God saying to the world and especially to you, you are loved, you are valued, you are appreciated and I want a growing relationship with you. The resurrection does not ignore pain, suffering, loneliness, isolation or fear. Indeed, as Foulton Sheen once wrote, "Unless there is a Good Friday in your life, there can be no Easter Sunday." This year we will come together on Good Friday to reflect on the most difficult moments in Jesus' life that granted Him profound empathy for our lives. He truly understood what it was to experience human suffering and that allows Him to meet us where we are in our life and invite us to keep moving forward even if it means that He carries us for a while.

Joseph Wirthlin reminds us, "The resurrection is at the core of our beliefs as Christians. Without it our faith is meaningless." Scripture reminds us that just because we cannot see Jesus in the flesh that does not mean that there isn't an abundance of evidence that he lived, died and rose again. In John's gospel we read, "Blessed are those who have not seen and have yet believed." (John 20:29) At the essence of what we believe is the scripture, "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

I have chosen to reflect on the Gospel of John 20:1-18. In this Gospel we encounter Mary in the dark hours of the morning: alone and frightened. Perhaps you are one of the people who are awake in the early hours of the morning reflecting on loss, pain, fear, or anxiety for the future. Mary was one of those people too. Her life had suddenly become empty and she was searching for God. More specifically, she was grieving the death of Christ.

Some of us choose to be alone in our darkest hours and others choose to search out companionship. Simon Peter and another disciple came to be with her at the tomb that morning. Mary's confusion, grief, and perhaps even anger at those responsible for her situation left her in a state of doubt.

The good news came in the blink of an eye. Mary and the other disciples were shocked that Jesus' body was gone from the tomb. Each one of us comes to faith in our own way. I am sure you have your own experiences. I am also sure that you have noticed in

Our Deanery Welcomes...

...continued

the Gospel story that even when the disciples left the tomb with their renewed faith, Mary stayed. Perhaps you have had moments whereby you remained in a state of chaos, confusion, and uncertainty. Maybe even in a situation that left you in tears. Maybe Mary was reflecting on her situation when God sent an angel to be by her side. Perhaps you have had a moment of an encounter with the Holy...just when you were about ready to give up.

I have always been amazed by the question presented by the angel, 'whom do you seek?' At Easter, you might want to ask, 'whom do I seek?' Is Jesus a figure in history for you? Is Christ an intellectualized conclusion for you? Is he a person of interest or analysis for you? Or is he the Christ who transforms lives?

When Jesus spoke with Mary, she had a powerful awareness that she was in the presence of the transformed Christ. You would have thought that there would have been much more conversation but instead Jesus sent her on a mission to tell others that He was alive and eager to engage them. His parting thought was, 'do not hold me...go to my brothers... Our faith is not lived in isolation. Faith is strongest when lived with those we love. Faith is strongest when it is shared. My prayer for you this Easter is that you have a 'Mary experience' with the Lord. This will come in the presence of the Holy sent by God. Our responsibility is to be aware and ready for that encounter.

Easter is about a fresh experience of Christ. Easter is about new life and new experiences. May you be prayerfully intentional about embracing the Holy moments of Easter.

*Yours in Christ,
The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Hendry
Priest and Pastor*

Welcome to our Latest Refugee Family

On Thursday, February 23rd our refugee family touched down at Pearson Airport having flown from Addis Ababa the day before.

Four of us from the Deanery Refugee Committee were at the airport by 8:30 am. Our family emerged from Customs at 11:00 o'clock--with considerable luggage! The family of four is from Eretria, but as they spent some years in the Refugee camp in Kenya, the children are Kenyan.

The drive to Kitchener's Pioneer Park was awful--incessant freezing rain that my front defroster would not melt, and a major accident near the Eden Mills Ski Hill that took a long time to get by. But we arrived safely and spent a considerable amount of time Thursday afternoon patiently explaining critical details of the apartment building to Binyam (dad), Elganesh (mom) and 8 year old Yoursalem and her 6 year old brother, Yonaton. All of this happened through our gracious interpreter. They were showed the apartment thermostat, the stove, the oven, the microwave, the bathroom toilet and shower, the garbage chute down the hall, the black fob on the key chain that opens the closest outside door one floor down, and how to punch in numbers on a portable phone.

Their English is minimal at this point, but they are keen to learn and embrace their new life here in KW. As the family is Christian, the children will be enrolled at St Timothy's in Pioneer Park where they may walk to school.

This is the fifth family that our Deanery has sponsored since 2016. That is roughly one a year with a bit of a brief hiatus due to Covid. Many thanks to all churches and folks in the Deanery who make this life-changing ministry possible. If you would like to be more actively involved, please speak to John Ryrie.

John Ryrie



Parish Profile

Getting to Know You: Ross & Cindy Kellett

in Cindy's words, more or less...

Ross and I met in my hometown of North Bay. I was working at the Country Style and Ross was stationed at the air force base there. Ross would come for a coffee after dinner as the coffee shop was nearby. One day he came on a motorcycle and I said I would love a ride and I gave him my address. So, Ross went and only my father was home and they ended up having a nice chat. That evening when I came home my Dad "gushed" about this guy that had dropped around to see me. My Dad was in love with Ross before me! I was doomed! And blessed!

In 1978 we moved to Trenton and the following year, in 1979, we were married. We were off to Lahr, West Germany, in 1982. Lots of travel and beer fests and some time later both our boys were born there. In 1988 we moved to Winnipeg. Ross retired in 1996, but not before the military moved us one more time back to North Bay. Once there I became Assistant Manager with WalMart and they moved us around more than the military!

In 2005 we were in Fort Frances, Ontario, and our oldest son, Mike, was attending Laurier University in Waterloo. Our youngest, Brian, also decided that he wanted to come to enrol in school in Kitchener-Waterloo! That was just too far away from our babies...so, Walmart moved us here. Shortly afterwards, I left that job to work at Home Sense.



Ross decided to come out of retirement and took work at Home Depot in the electric department. (Be sure to drop in and say hi!) Since 2016, I am back to selling Real Estate with Remax. I had been doing that way back when we lived in Trenton all those years ago. It just felt like the right time to return to it.

When we first moved here I tried many different churches to see which one felt like "home". St. George's outreach programme was very appealing to me. But it was the people who were so warm and friendly that clinched it for me. I was hooked! Some of you might remember pre-Covid, at the Medieval Feast and Whodunnit Night there was a Fortune Teller--in costume--who offered to trade your future for a little money to be donated to the proceeds that evening??? Yup! You guessed it;

that was me!! Incognito. Currently, I am so happy to be involved with our Tik Tok videos and to see our following growing. Catherine is a hoot and we both hope you have as much fun watching them as we had filming and posting them!

Let me close by saying I am pleased to be serving you all as the Deputy People's Warden and Ross and I look forward to having you come and say hello so we can get to know one another better! The Fortune Teller in me can see a wonderful future—for all of us at St. George's!!

Cancer Turbans - Fran Rothenberg

For the past 16 years volunteers from St. George's and members of the KW May Court Club have been gathering at the Church to finish hand sewing the turbans and enjoy fellowship and laughter. Our monthly meetings were interrupted by Covid, but many members continued the sewing process at their homes and so we were able to take on average 50 – 70 turbans/caps to the Grand River Cancer Centre each month, September to June! Since its inception we have provided the patients at the GRCC with an average of 600 plus turbans/caps per year. Using a little simple math that works out to over 9 600 turbans!

Anyone who has an interest and can thread a needle is most welcome to join our monthly gathering. Simply contact the church, leave your name and number and you will be contacted as to the time and date of our next sewing circle.



Cancer Turban Ministry

Parish Life

OUTREACH-

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

Assisting People experiencing homelessness in our community

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to supply 400 pairs of socks; 84 pairs of underwear and 10 pairs of gloves to YWKW. They were so grateful for these much needed items

Pancake supper

The pancake supper was held on Tuesday, February 21 and was a huge success. Thanks to the many volunteers and supporters, we were able to raise \$1,100 to cover the annual cost of our 2 foster children. THANK-YOU

African Soup Kitchen

Sunday, January 22nd the soup luncheon was able to raise \$500 for the African Soup Kitchen. It was a wonderful time of fellowship for a great cause-THANK-YOU

St. Patrick's Day Stew in aid of PWRDF

The stew luncheon was a huge success on March 19th. We were able to raise \$480 to aid PWRDF. Thank-you to all who participated and helped Charlotte with this fund raiser.

Also for PWRDF

The Lenten Coin Holders are available on the table in the Narthex. They will be available unit Easter. Thanks to your generosity this was a very successful Outreach initiative last year.

St John's Kitchen Easter Campaign

We are collecting potatoes; carrots and Easter candy to support St. John's Kitchen to help provide meals for those dependent on this service. This campaign will continue until Sunday, April 2nd. Financial donations are also welcome through the Church office. Thank-you!

ON THE HORIZON

Innisfree Dry Good Collection.

Watch for an e-blast about Innisfree donations this June. Rev Mary Lynn will get a list of the most needed items and we will send it out for your information. Usually we collect for 3 weeks during the month of June. Thank-you

Holiday from Hunger-St. John's Kitchen

Last July we were able to support St. John's Kitchen and hope to continue this campaign. Please watch for an e-blast on what is needed most at that time.

Ice Cream

As in previous years, Friday lunchtime ice cream during the Summer has been so appreciated at St. John's Kitchen. Look for more information as the time come closer.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!!!!

YOUR GENEROSITY HAS BEEN AMAZING!!

The Outreach Committee



Outreach for the Homeless



Connie & Chef Jim Pancake Supper



Soup Lunch for African Soup Kitchen



Erika & Linda at PWRDF Stew Luncheon

A Special Invitation

The Social Committee is pleased to invite all the Women of St. George's to a special evening with our Archdeacon Megan Collings-Moore. We will enjoy a potluck dinner together on **Wednesday, May 10th** and the Archdeacon will speak on "A church and society in change - and dealing with the aftermath of a pandemic". Evening details to follow so mark your calendars!



The Ven. Megan Collings-Moore

Archdeacon - North
(Saugens; Huron-Perth; Waterloo)



FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

"Be generous with your smiles and hugs. They cost so little- yet give so much. Smiles are small gestures that offer great warmth and reassurance. Hugs can touch and wrap a heart in

love, affection, or comfort. By expressing ourselves more freely, we experience life more fully." I found this saying in a small book I have and I find it to be so true. I am a hugger, and most people know that about me. I also have a caring heart. The deeper my relationship with Jesus becomes, the more I tend to understand the "fruit of the spirit" (Gal. 5:22)...Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. The more we follow these gifts that we all have, the more we care for others and the more we show that we care. Love never fails, love never ends. God loves us and so we should love one another. A smile, a hug can do more for someone than we may ever know. HAPPY EASTER---MY HUG TO YOU!

Deacon MaryLynn

Spiritually Speaking...

When things get really tough and you suddenly find yourself pounding the panic button, what promises did Christ make to you that come to mind? When you did everything in your power you could possibly do, what came next?

Faith is really fantastic – *when everything is going well*, but when the floor gives way and the roof falls in our belief system, if healthy, should kick in. Right? So...what would that belief system look like for you or for me as followers of Christ?

To begin with, Christians are a Resurrection People. We astound other faith traditions when we proclaim the Resurrection of our Lord and Saviour. No one else does that.

It may be prudent to astound ourselves all over again or even for the first time by walking with the Lord during Lent and listen intently to the promises made. Then come the Sunday of the Resurrection, rejoice in the fact though our panic button may not have worked as well as we had hoped, He did.

When I'm lost for words and I'm alone in the secret places of my heart I am comforted by a text from Hebrews 11:1 - "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Even in the midst of pain, sorrow, anger, rage and unconsciousness.

Remember when Roy Rogers use to say, "May the Good Lord take a likin to yah?" Tennessee Ernie Ford use to say, "Bless your pea-pickin heart." Billy Graham use to say, "May the Lord bless you real good." The Church says, "May the blessing of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you... ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE." ✠ HAPPY EASTER! ✠

A resource I use in my work. It's called the Bible Promise Book (Apply God's word to your life today.) published by the Tyndale organization.



Parish Life

Milestones



Celebrating Canon Rev Dr Stephen Hendry!



Krista & Tyrell's wedding with Rev MaryLynn & Paul Forrest



Remembering Gary Ayre



Caleb Accepted Into Eastwood's Music Programme!



Rev Elizabeth & Ted Appleyard Reception

Things To Make You Smile...

- Life is too short to waste time matching socks
- My spouse says I only have two faults: I don't listen and...something else...
- I hate when I see an old person and realize we went to high school together!



MAY 6, 2023
LABYRINTH EXPERIENCE



WORLD LABYRINTH DAY

is an annual international event sponsored by The Labyrinth Society. Every year on the first Saturday in May thousands of people around the world participate in this moving meditation for world peace and celebration of the labyrinth experience.

ST GEORGE'S OF FOREST HILL

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**JOIN US AS WE
EXPERIENCE A
ROLLING WAVE OF
PRAYER FOR PEACE
IN OUR WORLD**

**A HANDS ON
EXPERIENCE OF
CREATING AND
WALKING THE PATH
OF PRAYER**

CALL TO REGISTER

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**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME**

12:00 TO 3:00 PM

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

321 Fischer-Hallman Road, Kitchener, ON N2M 4X9

519-744-4751

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

stgeorgefh@outlook.com