



FALL
2023

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

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

THE DRAGON FLYER



this issue

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Gardeners



Holy Hostas Team!!

Messy CHURCH

FREE!

**FUN, FAITH,
CRAFTS, FOOD, SONGS**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Oct. 14 | 3 pm - 6 pm



**ST. GEORGE'S
OF FOREST HILL
ANGLICAN CHURCH**

321 Fischer-Hallman Rd, Kitchener, ON

519-744-4751

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

Wardens' Message

It's The Most Wonderful Time of the Year!

It is that time of the year when our nights grow cooler and the September sun warms our shoulders, while sales for school supplies proliferate television ads and flyers tucked in our mailboxes. Looking back a year ago, we recall how the world was moving with trepidation and cautious optimism into post-Covid routines. The new "normal". This fall as the leaves begin to change colour, our thoughts at St George's move to a return to two Sunday morning services, setting up our Sunday School and Youth registration and planning our Start Up BBQ. All seems familiar and is so welcome! Will we thrive and grow in faith in the coming year? We will, with God's help!

Our Outreach Committee has wrapped up a successful summer with its Holiday for Hunger and weekly Ice Cream outreach at St John's Kitchen. Looking ahead we will once again host our Community Closet give-away of children's clothing and toys on October 21st--thanks to the donations from this parish. Our Deanery Refugee Committee reports that our latest family from Eritria continues to put down happy roots in Pioneer Park.

Fellowship is a huge part of who we are here. The monthly Men's Breakfast and Women's Luncheon give everyone time for laughter and conversations and food. Thompson Hall has enjoyed lively coffee hours over the summer and will continue to do that after each of our two services. In addition, the Social Committee will host a Halloween themed Potluck supper on October 28th. The Stewardship Committee will host two sittings of a Thanksgiving Dinner—with turkey AND ham—Friday, October 6th. The popular monthly Seniors' Brunch begins once again, September 27. Those who plan and organize the Christmas Market have been working a whole year to see it happen mid-November. Stay tuned for details our latest St George's Photo Directory coming later this fall.

Our Deanery is organizing a return to the ever-popular Messy Church children's programme to be hosted at St George's Saturday, October 14, from 3 – 6 pm. Adam and Adriana, our Youth Group leaders are currently working out the details for a two day retreat open to all youth groups from the Deanery to be held November 4th and 5th at Trinity Anglican Church in Cambridge (Galt).

As this edition of the Dragon Flyer is going to print, the new Holy Hosta flower bed beside the ramp at the rear of the building is in its final stages. The ground has been rototilled and parish members have brought in hostas to be planted on the very day folks enjoy the first BBQ of the season! We give thanks to those who

have pulled weeds and spread mulch and cut the lawns over the summer months. Our Property Committee is moving forward with plans for eliminating pot holes in the driveway, replacing the back stairs, and making our building more accessible for those who have mobility issues. We may expect a more comprehensive report by the time we hold our annual Vestry Meeting in January. Our Memorial Garden is looking to expand from two pillars to three. And our weekly Hall rentals have seen a return to pre-Covid activities. Bible Study resumes on Wednesday evenings via ZOOM and Thursday afternoons in person in the Fireside Room.

We have had 15 new families join our parish and baptized 10 infants in the last year and held two weddings this past summer. We continue to be committed to growing this faith family not just through services, but also through fellowship and social activities. Our Livestream and Facebook and TikTok numbers show growth as we look for ways to reach out beyond the walls of the church itself and invite others to join us. We are stronger when we worship together and pray together and consider how best to serve our local community and the world—together. May you all embrace each opportunity offered here. If you are wondering how to get involved look for sign up lists on the narthex Bulletin Board. Reach out to those organizing Outreach, the Choir, the Nursery or Sunday School and Youth programmes, Stewardship or Social Committees. We strive to make a difference here! In the words of the hymn, ALL are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

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



Tilling Holy Ground to Make Way for Holy Hostas!

Rector's Message



Rector's Reflections

Faith is a deeply personal issue. Some would even describe it as intimate. We each have our own perspective and feelings about our faith journey. It has been my experience that God shows up in the midst of the

most difficult circumstances including unemployment, divorce, poor health, and strained relationships. When we invite God into our situation and believe in His transformative presence, this is faith. It is easy to believe in a loving, caring, compassionate God when everything in life is going well. It is much more difficult when our sense is that everything is going wrong. Faith can be the desperate prayers in the middle of the night or the still, calm voice we hear while watching a gorgeous summer sunset.

Dr. Stephen Ferriss once said that the use of stories presented the possibility of people encountering their personal faith through someone else's experience. There is a wonderful story about a teacher who gave three students a difficult mathematical problem to solve. He warned them that it would be hard to solve but, "there is a way". After many attempts, the first student gave up in despair declaring "there is no way". Now the second student has not yet succeeded but sat quietly with a smile on her face. She said, "I know it can be explained, because I have seen it done". The third student worked on the problem for an hour to conclude, "I know there is a way because the 'teacher' has said it". This wonderful story provides us with the insight and an explanation of faith – the confidence that rests not upon what it has seen, but upon the promises of God.

According to Augustine "faith is to believe what we do not see, and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe". Perhaps one writer got it right when they said, "in the realm of the natural, seeing is believing. In the realm of the spiritual, believing is seeing". Jesus said, "if you believe, you will see the glory of God". Anselm reinforces this point when he says, "I can't understand a religious truth until I first

believe it".

There's a wonderful story about three boys who were asked for their definition of faith. One said, "faith is taking hold of God". The second child said, "faith is holding onto God". The third child said, "faith is not letting go of God". I think all three boys were right!

Dr. Andrew Ivey spoke about the importance of faith as it relates to our daily attitudes. I think his words are most provocative and worthy of our consideration...he said, "religious attitudes of mind help keep people's bodies healthy. Attitudes such as love, faith, hope, unselfishness, forgiveness, tolerance, and a desire for justice and truth set the body at rest and strengthen it physically".

Perhaps Dr. Samuel Zwemer was correct when he wrote, "faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible".

I often reflect on the words of Dr. Raymond Edman who wrote, "faith is dead to doubts, dumb to discouragements, blind to impossibilities, knows nothing but success. Faith lifts its hands up through the threatening clouds, lays hold of him who has all power in heaven and on earth. Faith makes the uplook good, the outlook bright, the inlook favourable, and the future glorious".

Charles Spurgeon once told the story of a child in a burning house who escaped to a window's edge and hung from the window sill. A passerby shouted, "boy, drop! I'll catch you". The boy's thought was, is he strong enough to catch me? It was his saving faith that rescued the child as he fell into the arms of the man waiting below.

In each and every painful situation, our Lord shouts, "Drop into my arms!" thereby we trust in the mercy and grace of Jesus for it is in the moment of the trust that we are saved from our situation. The truth is that faith is a lifelong journey and has many peaks and valleys. The key is to never give up.

It is entirely possible that you are finishing this summer season in a calm, cool, collected place but for others, it is a challenging, complicated, and even difficult time. For you may I suggest the simple prayer, "God be with me in this moment and in the future days and weeks ahead that I may know your transforming power in my life. Amen".

*The Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen
James Hendry Stephen*

Spiritually Speaking...

I've spent most of my life, and I suspect you have too, adhering to other people's agendas, rules, regulations, laws, expectations, desires, guidelines, directives, memorandums, constraints, and the like. Did I miss any? Though I'm grateful for the many lessons learned the tragedy is it took me a long time to discover and realize that our Lord hasn't commanded any of them.



The Lord said to us, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me for I am gentle and humble of heart, and you will find rest for your souls." What does it mean to take Christ's yoke upon us? It means to humbly do His will and allow Him to guide and direct our lives. True, it's a hard thing to do when everyone around us clamours for our attention and time.

He also extended another invitation - "Come to Me all you who are weary and carrying heavy burdens and I will give you rest." It's a call from Jesus to those battling through life without hope.

I visited a Resident at Stirling Heights who was so engrossed reading his Bible he didn't hear me knock. He was startled to look up and see me standing near him. He said, "Why did I take so long to learn about Jesus?" "I've been a Christian all my life and I discovered I really didn't know who he is."

Good question. A lot of us trudge through life well versed in the rules and demands of the world et cetera, but when it comes to hearing what the Lord has said we come up short.

I'm an old man and admittedly I have more opportunity to think and explore the many wonderful things that "the Christ" has said. The words are wonderful, marvellous, and powerful in every way.

Make a commitment to listen to Him when you are young, and renew your strength to meet the challenges in your life today.



Ice Cream Outreach – Summer 2023

According to my notes, but for the COVID hiatus, our church has been providing ice cream to St. John's Kitchen during their summer Friday lunches for at least 14 years. I think this is a somewhat remarkable tradition.

As of August 25th this year we will have served 26 large tubs of ice cream and various toppings (syrups, jelly dots, peanuts, sprinkles, chocolate chips) over eight Friday lunches. Our hope is to provide ice cream during two more lunches in early September – ten Fridays in all.

To do this requires volunteers. We have been blessed with an abundance of willing and able individuals – 15 St. George's parishioners, plus a couple from Spain visiting Catherine Carlson and attending one of our services. I will list them in my final report for Parish Council and Vestry.

Our summer Sunday service congregations have also been very generous with their donations. Up to August 20th, our parishioners have placed \$996.25 in our bowl at the back of the church (or simply handed \$10 and \$20 bills to me on the fly). Other contributions also typically come forward via church envelope stipulations, so we should be able to cover our expenses this summer, despite tubs of ice cream jumping from \$23 to \$26 and everything else costing a bit more.

Many many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this outreach. The patrons at St. John's Kitchen are unfailingly thankful for our efforts.

John Ryrrie



Ice Cream at St John's

Save the Dates- Upcoming Events

Messy Church – Oct 14th

Halloween Social Committee Evening – Oct 28

Turkey Supper Oct -6th

Community Closet Give Away – Oct 21

Parish Profile

Meet the Little Family – aka The 4 C's *Caton, Coralee, Cassandra, Cameron*

When you are first introducing yourself to Coralee at the back of the Sanctuary, you detect the trace of an accent which is definitely not from Southwestern Ontario...but where??? So, an invitation to coffee hour and conversation is extended and readily accepted.

The wonderful smile and gentle manner of Coralee's is so genuine and so engaging, we just needed to share who she and her family are—and indeed where they first called home.

Coralee and her sister were born in Africa in Zimbabwe. You might wonder how this English family made a decision to move so far away and take up residence in the continent of Africa? It was her grandfather who extolled the beauty of the country and its opportunities in Zimbabwe. He had been in training there during the war and the prospect of beginning again resonated in him. The Second World War left England and so much of Europe devastated. So Coralee's grandparents immigrated to the beautiful countryside of Rhodesia/Zimbabwe ready for a fresh start in a pleasant climate and raise a family.

After many happy years, a Civil War and political unrest in Rhodesia/Zimbabwe prompted Coralee's own parents to move. This time, Coralee's family felt called to New Zealand. At the tender age of 7, Coralee and her sister and their parents immigrated to New Zealand. They grew up there, and felt at home. Coralee met Caton first at their church's youth group, and then again at university, and they got married. Their two children, Cassandra, and Cameron were born in New Zealand and yet something tugged at them as a family and they all looked for a “new adventure”. Believe it or not, the thing that tipped the scale in favor of immigrating to Canada was the beauty of snow. Coralee says she has always wanted to live somewhere where there's snow; and when they arrived she and her

daughter were so excited, they thought it looked very much like Narnia! (You will have to ask them if the allure has worn off five years later....)

Since Cassandra and Cameron were nearly ready to enter university, they chose Kitchener Waterloo region because of the world class reputations of the Universities of Waterloo and Guelph. For Caton, who is an IT specialist, the presence of Google “ticked another box”.

Fortuitously, Caton's firm actually got taken over by a Canadian company so he was able to continue working for them when they arrived.

Currently Cassandra is in her 3rd year at Guelph University majoring in Psychology and Political Science. Cameron is in second year of Computational Math at the University of Waterloo.

Coralee works in Westvale as a child care worker and has enthusiastically signed up to help out at St George's in the Nursery and with the Messy Church event coming in early October. She has worked with children in various

capacities for two decades, and was thrilled to officially become an Early Childhood Educator when they came here. During this fact-finding mission we expected that since Coralee's family was English they had always attended an Anglican church. However, she grew up attending an International Baptist church, where they worshipped for many years. Then when Caton and Coralee's children were little they enjoyed attending their local Anglican church in



NZ which was closer to home.

So, why choose to join St George's?! Coralee says that is was the beautiful building, the warm welcome, and feeling of family, and the beautiful worship/music ministry at the 10 o'clock service that drew her in and brings her back each week. We have only shared a very small glimpse into who Coralee is, but invite her into conversation at coffee hour and you will discover much, much more! Now, please, enjoy the selfie of the Little family (with Fumi their cat) that was taken on Mother's Day this past May.

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place!



A “Spooktacular” Invitation! - Oct 28th



The Social Committee invites everyone to our **Halloween Potluck Party** on Saturday, Oct 28, at 4:00 pm. For a Spooky Good Time dress up in your favourite costume and be prepared for some Halloween Mirth & Merriment. Sign Up Sheets will magically appear on the Narthex Bulletin Board! Boo!!

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

INNISFREE COLLECTION

This year we collected goods for Innisfree for 3 weeks-May 25th to June 18th. We were able to deliver 2 van loads of the non-perishable goods they needed most as well as \$65 in cash. They were absolutely thrilled with our donations!

Thank-you all so much for your generosity 😊

Holiday from Hunger-St. John's Kitchen

This year we ran this campaign from June 18th until July 2nd.

We were able to send \$265 to St. John's Kitchen to help with supplies. Thank-you for all your support 😊

Ice Cream

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Many, many thanks to everyone who has contributed to this outreach. The patrons at St. John's Kitchen are unfailingly thankful for our efforts. *John Ryrie*

ON THE HORIZON

Children's Community Closet – SEEKING DONATIONS

We are thrilled to be able to open our closet to the community again in 2023! Our CCC event will return this Fall and be open to the public on **Saturday, October 21 from 9 – 11 am**. We are seeking donations of gently used children's clothing (newborn to teens) and items (diapers, toys, books, strollers, high chairs, pack n' plays, exersaucers, play mats, etc...). Items can be brought to the church office or left outside the Fireside room marked "CCC". Tell your friends and neighbours about this FREE community wide event where items can find new homes at absolutely no cost. We will also be looking for helpers who can assist with setting up the hall and laying out the clothing on Friday, October 20 starting at 6:00 pm. If you can help, please talk to Debra Barcla

Share the Warmth:

We will be collecting good used winter outerwear, coats, boots, snowpants, hats, mitts. We will be collecting these items at the end of Oct. and beginning of November.

We are looking into supporting **St. Andrew's Memorial Anglican Church Outreach Cupboard**. They meet the basic needs of new comers, students and seniors. The committee will be discussing this new initiative at our Sept. meeting.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!!!!
YOUR GENEROSITY HAS BEEN AMAZING!!
The Outreach Committee**



Connie Loving the Prayer Quilt



John, Julia & Eric - The Taylor Wedding



Joyce & Fr Stephen
Relaxing & Recharging



July Worship: Rev Sharla, Rev
MaryLynn & Rob



FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

What a summer—and how fast it went! I would like to talk about having needs. This summer I discovered that I have some back issues and after six weeks, it bothered my leg. Then the pain decided to travel up the middle of my back. All of a sudden, my back went out and I ended up at SMGH at 7:30 am on Saturday August 19th. I had no idea that my family had planned a surprise 70th birthday party for me that day. I texted my kids at 7:30 that morning and said we wouldn't be over for lunch as I was on my way to the hospital. I couldn't sit, stand or lie down. I was not going to make it over. But after being at the hospital, I said to my husband Paul that we might as well go to Rob's because at least we wouldn't have to cook. I texted Rob around 11:30 to say we were coming over.

As we were sitting outside our son's home, people started arriving and I was thinking, whatever are they doing here? Then it clicked! What a wonderful surprise. I was dreading hitting 70, but it was such a great day. Paul has taken care of all of my needs for a week while I deal with the pain. I have learned that we all have needs, whether it be in our bodies, in our minds or in our spirits which—in my case—were all three. It is okay to ask for help and accept that help when we need it. I do not like asking for help. From now on, I will practise what I preach! What an amazing church family we have here at St George's. By the way, my son told me that I made his hair turn white in those three hours that Saturday!!!!

Deacon MaryLynn



Start Up BBQ

Milestones



Ella, MVP with Number One Fans - Roberta & Ray



Hannah - Gold Medal Lacrosse



Andrew Our Blue Jays Hopeful



Surprise!! Happy 70th, Deacon MaryLynn



Terry & Connie McCoy Celebrate 54 Years



Veronique Gauthier & Zolu Gobah's Wedding



Children's Focus

Hymns To Make You Smile

*Give me a sense of humour Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,
To get some humour out of life, And to pass it on to other folks!*

Dentist's Hymn
Contractor's Hymn
Tailor's Hymn
Optometrist's Hymn
CRS Agent's Hymn
Shopper's Hymn
Weatherman's Hymn

Crown Him with Many Crowns
The Church's One Foundation
Holy, Holy, Holy
Open My Eyes that I Might See
I Surrender All
In the Sweet Bye and Bye
There Shall be Showers of Blessings