



SPRING
2024

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

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

THE DRAGON FLYER



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THIS IS A SIGN

of Hope & Peace

Come & Join Us!

Palm Sunday

March 24

8:15am | 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday

March 28

7:00 pm

Easter Sunday

March 31

8:15 am | 10:00 am

Wednesday

Healing Service

March 27 | 10:00 am

Good Friday

March 29

8:15 am | 10:00 am

Holy Saturday

March 30 | 7:30 pm

stgeorgesofforesthill.com/easter-services



Good Friday Nails in Jardinière at foot of the cross

Wardens' Message

Wardens' Easter Message

Wow! Is everyone ready for a busy year? It has certainly started out that way. We are a very blessed community and busy church! Our motto clearly states we are focused on *Faith in Action* and, looking at our calendar from January to June, that proves to be very, very true!

Here is a quick recap of the many events since Christmas: monthly Men's Breakfasts and Women's Luncheons. We hosted an Evangelism retreat which saw members of other parishes in the Deanery attend. The Lenten Retreat in March allowed contemplative time to refocus and renew our faith journey. Our Soup Luncheon supported the Migrant Farm Workers—which is a new partnership for us.

And as we look ahead, we will have a Stew Luncheon to aid PWRDF, and a Ploughman's Lunch whose proceeds will support our fellow churches in Amazonia. We were thrilled with the turn out for our Pancake Supper whose proceeds support our two Foster Children. (We cannot be sure...but it looks like we here at St George's love to eat!!)

Our Outreach Team has collected bed linens for the Women's Kitchener Emergency Shelter, Powdered Drink Mixes and Chocolate Easter Eggs for St John's Kitchen, Lenten Coin Holders for PWRDF, donations of food and household products for St Andrew's Memorial Cupboard --another new initiative this year. But not only do we have new projects and partnerships in the works, we also continue to collect donations of baking materials for Innisfree House and we plan to hold a second CCC event to give away children's clothing, books, and toys early in June. For a complete report please see our Outreach News Bytes in this edition.

For the third year, we hosted the Women's World Day of Prayer for 8 participating churches in Kitchener. Our new Photo directory will be in parishioners' hands shortly after Easter.

Our Annual Vestry meeting in January unveiled a new accessibility initiative. We will work to provide automatic doors at the front of the church and the side entrance to Thompson Hall. We hope to repair the driveway into the parking lot and make some much-needed repairs to our stairs at the rear of the building. These upgrades and repairs will happen over the next two years as we raise money for the improvements. We will fundraise with our Purdy's Chocolate Campaign, our Spaghetti dinner in April and our 2nd Annual Chili Cook Off in June—and more to come!

Warm up your pitching arm for the Dunk Tank happening June 29th at our first annual Block Party. We are counting on some very notable and brave

souls to be perched on a wee platform, just daring you to send them into “the drink”. This is a community welcoming event complete with bouncy clown castle, Sno Cone station, ice cream stand and Food Trucks! Come out and see what other surprises we have in store. All are welcome.

We will need volunteers for our June Block Party and also for our Vacation Bible School – Scuba!--happening August 12 -16. We will require both adult and youth to help. Our youth can achieve Community Service hours as well as an Honorarium and something to include on University Applications.

Speaking of youth, we are lucky to have an active youth group—the Holy Dragons—who have not only explored curriculum around their faith, but cheered on the Rangers at a hockey game and participated in a Deanery youth Event last year as well as sharing many meals together. Our Sunday school classes and youth are the promise of things to come and we are grateful to all of our teachers and youth leaders for nurturing and mentoring our kids.

An active church only stays healthy with your involvement. Consider joining the Social Justice Committee, the Altar Guild, our Choir, or our Stewardship-Social Committee. Please, check sign up lists in the Narthex for ways for you to roll up your sleeves and become involved! Whether you are making coffee or loading the dishwasher, or enjoying a meal with others, there is a place for you.

Maybe this is the summer, or the year, you “jump in” and involve yourself in a church event or committee that you have previously been unsure of joining. Remember, there is no time like the present, and no one quite like you!!

The Wardens want to take a moment to thank you for the time, and talents and financial support you extend to this parish all year long. We wish you a blessed and healthy spring and summer.

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



Rector's Message



Easter

Easter... In the blink of an eye God chose to embrace the world in love. He did this by sending Jesus Christ into the world to offer a message of love and forgiveness. Our world changed forever when we received the Son of God. Everything became new. The biblical evidence is found in the Gospel of John 3:16. "God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in Him should not perish, but have eternal life." This message is also echoed in 1 Timothy 1:15. "This is a true saying, and worthy of all to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners."

Answers... The world had spent hundreds of years searching for answers about the meaning and purpose of life. There had been a tumultuous relationship between God and humanity as God consistently invited people into healthy relationships based on faith and obedience. And yet, up until now, it was clear that people struggled profoundly with their egos and often made unhealthy decisions, damaging relationships, and disappointing the God of the universe. Jesus Christ became the answer to the questions: Who are we? Where are we going? How do we get there? Who is in charge? The invitation is stated clearly in the Gospel of Matthew 11:28: "Come unto me all that labour, and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you."

Salvation... Jesus Christ brought the message of salvation. It is a message of love, compassion, clemency, and concern for all humanity. The message is quite simple: people everywhere need to ask for forgiveness for their mistakes. God's response is to forgive. This allows humanity a new beginning with new opportunities to live life to its fullest without a constant sense of regret and remorse about the past.

Salvation is the assurance that we accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. We return God's embrace of us, with our embrace of Christ believing that He is truly the Son of God, the Messiah of the world. This message is also stated in 1 John 2:1-2: "If anyone sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He is the propitiation for our sins."

Trust... So much scripture is about how can we learn to trust God through Jesus Christ. This may be one of the most difficult things that human beings try to do. Many experiences in our lives have taught us to not trust others. What makes it more complicated is that we can see the people around us, but we cannot see Jesus. We tend to function so much on our senses that it is difficult to trust someone when we cannot see

them. Notwithstanding, we can see the cause and effect of Jesus in the world around us. We can see how forgiveness, mercy, and clemency, have changed people's lives giving them a fresh start, a clean slate, and a new beginning. We are invited to trust God and believe that as He has responded to our needs in the past, He will respond to our needs in the future.

Empathy... You and I are encouraged to have empathy for a broken and shattered world. We are to be intentionally concerned about issues of social justice, war, and abuse of others. We are encouraged to step up and speak when we believe that the events and activities around us would not be approved by Christ. We need to be a voice for justice... For peace... For hope... And for love.

Resurrection... The resurrection is the answer to life's most complicated questions. God provided Jesus Christ as Lord and Messiah for all humanity. But without the resurrection, Jesus would have simply been an extraordinary communicator and phenomenal healer. It is in the Resurrection, and therefore the celebration of Easter, that Jesus is identified as the eternal Son of God. Not even death could stop Him from fulfilling His purpose. As the Savior of the world, God allowed His death but with an intentional plan in mind to raise Him from the dead. This promise extends to our experience for it is absolutely true that when we are done with our human bodies, and when life has ended on earth, we will rest in peace and rise in glory in the presence of God. I invite you to read the Resurrection story during Holy Week this year (John 20:1-30).

May God bless you and those you love this Easter.

Yours in Christ,

The Reverend Doctor Stephen Hendry Pastor and Priest



Parish Life



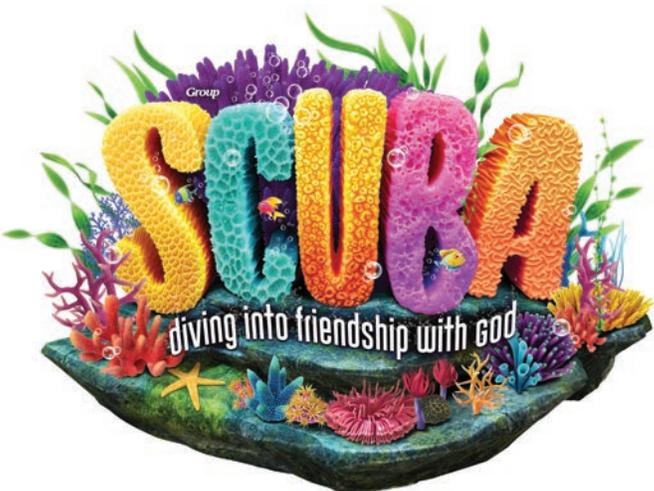
Pioneers in Our Pancake Supper



Holy Dragons at a Rangers Hockey Game



Chelsea, the dog, leads Children's Focus



VBS: Aug. 12-16



Parish Profile

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

YWKW

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who generously donated items to support YWKW's emergency shelter.

We delivered 58 towels, 18 sets of sheets and 18 blankets.

Thank you so much!!! Your kindness and willingness to help others in need is much appreciated! We could not do this without you!!

Pancake Supper Feb 13/24

A wonderful event to support our foster children.

A terrific kitchen crew, and serving and clean up team.

Pats on the back all round to the organizers. And of course, to Jim Stirling, who has set us up for success!!!

We were able to deposit **\$1312** in the Outreach account to cover the cost of our Foster Children for one year.

Thank-you to all who came out to support this initiative 😊

Charlotte's Soup Luncheon Feb 11/24

We had wonderful support for the soup kitchen luncheon.

Lots of variety of soups and a great team to helpers to serve and clean up. The luncheon was able to make over **\$400** to be donated! Thank-you to everyone you came out to support this initiative.

Charlotte's next event is the St. Patrick's Irish Stew luncheon on March 17th. Proceeds will be donated to Amazonia!

Charlotte's final initiative for this year will be the **Ploughman's Lunch** and that will take place on **April 28th.**

These proceeds will go to PWRDF. Charlotte goes through the catalogue and chooses a number of goats or livestock to donate!

St. Andrew's Cupboard

This initiative was started last Fall and has been ongoing monthly. Each month we are given a list of a few items most needed and our congregation has been amazing in their support for the Cupboard! Deacon Kay, at St. Andrews, is overwhelmed by the generosity of the St. George's congregation! **Thank-you** 😊

St John's Kitchen Easter Campaign

This year St. John's Kitchen is collecting Easter Cream Eggs for their desserts and powdered juice. There is a box in the Narthex for your donations until March 24th. **Thank-you** 😊

PWRDF-Lenten Coin Holders

During Lent we have been collecting coins for PWRDF.

If coins do not work for you, there are many other ways of donating to support financially. Please return them as soon as possible after Easter.

THANK-YOU 😊

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!!!!

YOUR GENEROSITY HAS BEEN AMAZING!!

The Outreach Committee



Pancake Supper for Our Foster Children



Deacons Kay and MaryLynn at St Andrews Memorial Cupboard



Soup Luncheon



Ladies' Feb Luncheon

Parish Life



5 Priests, One Deacon and One Warden



Away in a Manager- Children's Pageant 2023



Induction of 2024 Parish Council



Our New Choir Gowns!!



World Day of Prayer



FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH



Another spring is just around the corner. A time for new life, buds on the trees, flowers waking up from the winter, baby animals waiting to be born. It is a time for waiting, for patience and for peace.

Many of you have wondered what has happened to me during these past few months. As of December 17, 2023 I started a six month leave of absence which takes me to the end of June 2024. During my leave, I am not able to provide pastoral care within the parish, nor am I able to participate in our outreach activities or sit on any committees. In other words, I am taking a break.

The bible often refers to Jesus retreating to a quiet spot away from the business of the world where he can sit, be still, pray, talk to God and just be who he is.

There comes a time in one's life when you just need to take a step back and reflect on who you really are and where God is calling you to be. This is my time to do just that. I am spending time in quiet prayer, self reflection, discernment and time with my spiritual director. When I am not worshipping at St. George's, I have been experiencing worship service at other churches.

I thank everyone for your concern, your prayers and well wishes. You will find me sitting in the pews from time to time during the next few months. It is wonderful to see all the smiling faces and feel the warm welcoming hugs when I attend services at St. George's.

May you wrap your arms around the ones you love, look them in the eyes, and tell them how much you treasure them. May you take time this season to reflect on what Easter means to you. Peace be with you!

Deacon MaryLynn

Spiritually Speaking...

Have you ever had an individual talk so much or so loud you had the urge to say, "SHUT UP!" So importunate that you wanted to scream, ENOUGH! Well, I feel much the same way when it comes to dealing with the noise of the world. It just never stops and never slows down. This invasive chatter can infuriate the spirit and it is known to have negative effects on our mental health.

Our Lord had a remedy for this situation. At times, he went away by himself, to be alone [Matthew 14:23; Mark 6:46-47; John 6:15]. "He went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God" [Luke 6:12].

When I was in full time ministry I went through a period when I put in twelve hour days for weeks. Then Father "T", as he was affectionately known, had a little "heart to heart" with me. Though I resented his intervention, I knew he was right. I learned that I was actually being selfish and whatever my motivation, it wasn't healthy.

I've learned to get away. My passion for the wilderness is my first form of retreat.

I meditate.

I pray the Rosary.

I'll take in a spiritual retreat.

I've learned to shut off television and other devices and absent myself from vexatious conversations.

I've learned to be comfortable with self.

I make time for the Lord, often.

So...what do you do? Seriously. What is it you do to combat the hustle and bushel and the noise of the world? Is what you are doing healthy?

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark".

Brother Mark



Milestones



Celebration of Bill Cromarty's Life



*Dulcie, Nikki & Nathan-
3 Generations at the Junior World Cup*



Funke & G-Kids



Karen Baker's Memorial Service



What a Team!