

EASTER
2025

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

www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

THE DRAGON FLYER



this issue

- Outreach News
- Visioning Invitation
- Parish Milestones
- Wardens' Message



Canon Christopher Pratt receives the King Charles III Coronation Medal



The AV Team meets to plan upgrades to our Sanctuary

Holy Week Schedule of Services

Palm Sunday	8:15 am Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of the Palms
	10:00 am Holy Eucharist with Liturgy of the Palms
Maundy Thursday	7:00 pm Footwashing, Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar
Good Friday	10:00 am Good Friday Service (no Eucharist)
Holy Saturday	7:30 pm The Great Vigil of the Resurrection
Easter Sunday	8:15 am (BCP) Holy Eucharist
	10:00 am (BAS) Holy Eucharist



Coffee Hour Smiles

Wardens' Easter Message

We are an Easter People here at St. George's. Pilgrims on a journey. Indeed, each year as we move through the Lenten season and enter reverently and intentionally into Holy Week, we find great renewal! Finally on Easter Sunday we shall raise our voices to sing together and joyously proclaim Christ the Lord is Risen Today! Hallelujah!

We are excited about the new—and old—faces who will lead the parish in the coming year. Along with our Interim Priest, Rev Sharla Malliff, there is the slate of officers: Nelson Cuthbert, Rector's Warden and Debra Barclay, Deputy Rector's Warden, Catherine Carlson, People's Warden and Cindy Kellett, Deputy People's Warden. We also welcome Chris Wagner as our new Treasurer. Finally, after 21 years of faithful service, Valerie Clarke will retire at the end of April. (Happily, she will continue as a member of this parish.) Let us all enthusiastically welcome Pierrette Mangiardi as our new Office Administrator.

It is in this Lenten season that we look back to consider not only all St. George's has been, but also who it is we wish to become. And to that end, we are following the directives of Creedence & Co and Bishop Todd to accomplish this. First, we will hold a full-day Visioning Workshop on Saturday, April 26th. You will find in this newsletter an invitation from the facilitator, Rev Paul Poolton, to join us as well as an invitation from your Wardens. We cannot emphasize strongly enough how important the insights you share during the session will be for the resulting summary report that will serve as a guiding resource and help shape the future of our parish. We are hoping to form a search committee for a new priest and understand that the search could easily take a year or more. We need your voice and ideas and perspectives to discern the path ahead—together. Please, join us.

Following the visioning workshop, we will look for a date in the coming months to hold a conflict resolution workshop designed to help us move forward with greater understanding, unity and hope. Certainly, the last year has been challenging and contemplative. We walk by faith and not by sight! Let our prayers and faith move us forward together.

Spring is also the season when you will hear us speak of the Accessibility Project we began last fall. We have seen improvement in the drop off zone at the front doors of the church and paving of our driveway access from Fischer Hallman Road. In Phase two we will

install automatic door openers at the front doors and the lower doors into Thompson Hall. The doors in to the lower Hall will also be replaced. However, all of this work cannot be completed without the necessary funds. We express gratitude to all who have contributed thus far and ask each of you to prayerfully consider what you might further donate to see this happen soon.

And if it is spring, look for all of the traditional events to be held here! A date will be announced for the spring cleanup of the grounds and of the church. In addition, this year we will look for volunteers to clean and paint the rectory as we make it ready for a new priest and family. Our spring Children's Community Closet will take place on Saturday, May 3rd and our Annual Block Party will be held on Saturday, June 21st! Join us as we welcome our neighbors and wrap up the year with a joyful noise(s)! As always, your gifts given may be your time, talent and treasure. All are equally appreciated.

Let us lift our voices with the children on Palm Sunday to sing Hosanna! Let us join our choir members under the direction of Rob Aszmies and John Shaw and pledge Brother/Sister, Let Me Be Your Servant. While we share worship and fellowship in this place, let us give thanks for the Altar Guild members who prepare the space for worship, for those who volunteer to teach our Sunday School and Youth. Each week there is a team of Readers, Intercessors, Servers, and Lay Readers who lead and inspire by precept and example. Remember, we are always inviting new members to any of these groups.

As it is spring, we look around to see signs of rebirth and new growth. So let us look for new events or old familiar ones and rededicate ourselves to participation in weekly Bible Studies, Outreach, Prayer Quilts, Property, Stewardship, Social Committee, Communications, and the AV Committee—just to name a few. If you have a passion and wish to begin something new, why not speak with Rev. Sharla or your wardens and let us work together to make it happen?? With faith and prayer, all things are possible. May God abundantly bless you and your family in this Easter Season as we come together to proclaim the Good News of the Risen Lord--Jesus Christ!

Debra Barclay, Catherine Carlson, Nelson Cuthbert, Cindy Kellett- Your Wardens

Rector's Message



My brothers and sisters in Christ, As we approach the end of our Lenten journey, it is with great joy that we look towards the celebration of Easter!

As Easter people, we are always looking to the joy of the resurrection, but at this time of year, we look with even more expectation to the promise of God that he will make all things new!

As we begin to see the grass greening, and the bulbs beginning to poke their heads out of the soil, as we greet the return of the birds' songs and watch with hope and joy the buds about to burst on the trees, we are reminded that we have been blessed by the new covenant in the blood of Christ, a new life made possible through the resurrection of Christ and have become chosen people- gifted through grace and held strong in God's promise of salvation.

The Easter season is a time for us to renew ourselves in our personal worship as well. It is a time to continue living into the habits we formed through our "Giving up Something Bad for Lent". As we continue to participate in our outreach opportunities, we have an opportunity to show the local community, what the resurrection means to us. Our worshiping community has a great deal to offer to our friends and families who have yet to gather with us each week to praise God. I encourage you to invite someone to join us for worship during this Holiest of times as we give thanks for the great gift of grace found in the promise of Christ's sacrifice.

While we can never fully comprehend or repay the sacrifice that was made for us, we can offer our praise to God for that sacrifice by making a sacrifice of our own. As we prepare for our worship and celebrations this year, I invite you to consider making a special offering to the church in thanksgiving for His wonderful gift in Christ's sacrifice.

For now, as we continue our journey towards our Easter Celebrations, continue to praise God for the gifts He gives us as you journey through the rest of your own Lenten observance. Offer your own sacrifice, offer your own confession and offer your thanks to God as you feel called to do. This is a great time for us to grow in our relationship with God and a great time to take on that share of our promise; that we will praise him in all we have and all we do.

*Yours in Christ,
Rev Sharla*



St John's Outreach-Walk a Mile in My Shoes



Cindy is Soup-er Excited

To the Community of St George's of Forest Hill

God's peace to you all.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you all to join me on Saturday April 26th from 9:30am – 3:00pm as I lead the community through a visioning and planning day I have titled “Through the Eyes of Dragons”.

My plan for the day is to take us all on a journey of discovery discussing who we are as God's called community in your corner of creation and how that call might present itself in the days, weeks and months to come. In our discussions we will engage questions like, “What has shaped you to the community that you have become?”, “What inspires you in scripture and transforms your mission?”, “What are the needs of your community outside and inside the walls of your parish building?”, “What other opportunities and pressures affect the work of the church in your local neighbourhood?” and many more.

The day will be filled with numerous activities and conversation styles as well as different techniques I have previously used in many places for these visioning events. I will use my experience as a Congregational Coach as well as tools I've learned in earning my certificate in “Congregational Leadership and Conflict Management” at Conrad Grebel University College to guide us through the day.

My hope is that we will arrive at the end of the day with a vision for how you will prayerfully engage your inward looking and outward focused ministries in the coming time that lies ahead as you prepare to invite and welcome a new rector into your congregation.

I look forward to meeting and getting to know you on Saturday, April 26th as we look “Through the Eyes of Dragons” at what lies ahead for your community as you respond to your call to serve God in St. George's.

Until I see you then, I offer my prayers to you all for a continued blessed Lent, a pensive Holy Week and a celebratory Easter!

*Your brother in Christ,
Rev Paul*

The Rev'd Paul Poolton B.Th., M.Div.,
Cert.CLCM. Rector – Trinity Anglican Church
Doctoral Student – University of Toronto
School of Theology

Dear St George's Parish Family—An Invitation

As we continue our journey toward preparing to invite and welcome a new rector, we find ourselves filled with both reflection and anticipation. It is important for us to take time to come together as a community of faith and in the spirit of discernment, to engage in a visioning and planning session that will help guide our search for a new rector to help lead our parish into the next chapter of our shared life.

This is not just a procedural step — it is a blessed opportunity.

The purpose of this visioning session is threefold:

1. To reflect on who we have been, honoring the history, ministries, and milestones that have shaped us;
2. To explore who we are today, naming the gifts, challenges, and realities of our current parish life;
3. And to imagine who we are called to be, prayerfully identifying our hopes, values, and needs as we look to the future.

Your voice matters deeply in this process. The heart of our parish is its people. The insights, dreams, and prayers of each member will help form a clearer picture of the kind of spiritual leadership we need. This work will lay the foundation of our search for a new rector and provide those interested with a deeper understanding of who we are, so that we may find someone who will walk with us, inspire us, and shepherd us with wisdom and compassion.

We invite you to attend this visioning session and be a part of shaping the future of our parish.

Your presence will help us discern not only what we seek in a new minister, but who God is calling us to be together.

Details for the session:

Date: Saturday, April 26, 2025

Time: 9:30 am – 3:00 pm (lunch will be provided)

Location: St. George's of Forest Hill Church

RSVP: Sign-up on the sheet posted in the Narthex or call the office at 519-744-4751

Our story is not complete without your voice. Please join us.

*With faith and hope,
Your Warden Team*

Parish Profile

OUTREACH APRIL NEWS BYTES

St. George's Outreach – a community working together to do God's work

- Collaborate to lead initiatives supporting those in need in our community
- Aid to KW agencies
- Reaching those in need in the world around us
- Environment of caring

Your Outreach Committee has been very busy over the past few months. Thank you all so much for your caring and generous support. We have been able to accomplish together amazing things in support of others in our community and beyond.

ST. ANDREWS CUPBOARD

Our Outreach Committee and the people of St. Andrews have been “blown away” by the amazing generosity and support that this program has received from you, our parishioners, over the past year. It is amazing that our church donated over \$9000 worth of food and household supplies that have been distributed to those in need. THANKS TO ALL WHO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM!!! Thanks to Heather for collecting, sorting and delivering the donations to St. Andrews.

We would also like to thank the amazing Mabel King for her “time and talent”. She knitted 28 woolen hats that were donated to keep the people that St. Andrews supports warm during the cold winter weather. She was also kind enough to knit them some slippers as well. THANK YOU MABEL!!!

SOUPERBOWL SOUP DONATIONS

Thanks to all of you who donated cans of soup, half went to the Food Bank on Aldelt Avenue and the other half to the House of Friendship Food Bank. In total 490 cans of soup were donated that will make a difference in people's lives.

TIM HORTONS GIFT CARDS

A total of 163 \$5 gift cards were donated and blessed on the alter. These cards were given to St. John's Kitchen and will not only give many people an opportunity to have a warmup drink but will also give them a break from the relentless cold that we have experienced this winter. Thanks to all who donated these gift cards.

SOUP LUNCHEON FOR AMAZONIA

Thanks to Charlotte and her crew that put together an amazing soup luncheon after our annual vestry meeting. There were 9 different soups and a splendid array of yummy sweets to enjoy. Thanks to the many volunteers that helped us to raise \$562 for our companion diocese in Brazil.

PANCAKE SUPPER

On Tuesday March 4, we hosted our annual pancake supper in the church hall. Many thanks to the 30 amazing volunteers who cooked and served the pancakes and sausages. We raised almost \$1600 that will go in support of our 2 foster children that we support in Ghana at an annual cost of about \$1200.

ALONGSIDE HOPE

This agency, formerly known as the Primates World Relief and Development Fund, provides many services to those in need around the world. This year, again, we will be offering a Lenten Coin Folder to those who would like to contribute to this amazing cause. These folders are available in the Narthex and funds can be donated in cash, cheque or via etransfer. Please see Wendy Sherlock for details.

IRISH STEW LUNCH

Charlotte and her talented team provided us with an amazing stew lunch in the church hall March 16th after the 11am service. We sure love to eat at St. George's and the proceeds all go to worthy causes.

PLOWMAN'S LUNCH

Charlotte and her team of volunteers will be providing a plowman's lunch on April 27th in the church hall after the 11 am service.

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Parish Life

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ST. JOHN'S KITCHEN EASTER APPEAL

We will be supporting St. John's Kitchen again this year by providing Easter treats for distribution. Please bring Easter eggs and/or candy to the church and place them in the box in the Narthex. Thanks for your support in making Easter a little bit brighter for those that depend on St. John's Kitchen for support in their daily lives.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY CLOSET

We will be having our Community Clothes Cupboard event on Saturday May 3rd in the Church Hall. Please bring your donations of gently used children's clothing, diapers, books and toys to the church before May 3. Volunteers will be needed to help set up tables on May 1st, for set up on May the 1st and 2nd and for the event on May 3rd. Sign up sheets to volunteer are posted in the Narthex. Thanks to Debra Barclay for leading the team, as well as the many volunteers that make this event a large success each year.

The Outreach Committee

Thank you for your continuing support! Your generosity has been amazing!!

Just a reminder, new members are always welcome. If you would like to get involved in Outreach, please contact Heather Murphy (519-998-4975) or Dianne McCandless (519-807-9205). ☺



Meet Pierrette Mangiardi- New Face in the Office



Prathiba, our Newest Server



The Yes Chef and the Sous Chef Team



Marc & Jim Mentor the Kitchen Team



Wardens Cindy & Catherine Got This!



200 cans of Soup to the Guelph Street Food Bank

Waterloo Deanery Refugee Committee Update

March 17, 2025

Our committee met last on Feb. 12 at our church. Several bits of good news came forward. Binyam (the Dad from our latest family) was still employed by Renison College, and – at least for the moment – had been temporarily bumped from part-time to full time. Either situation would allow the family to be financially independent, which after two years of our committee's support has been our long-term goal.

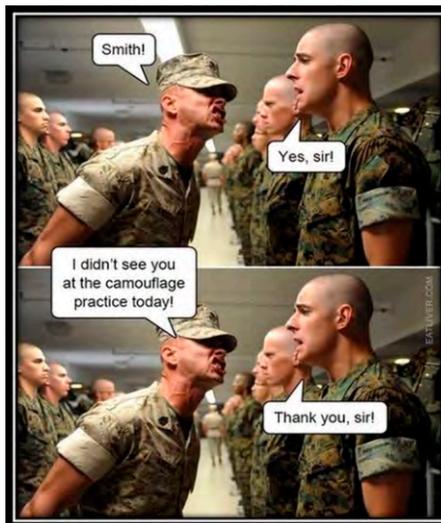
Rim, the Mom from our very first family who arrived way back way back in 2016, reportedly recently earned the highest marks in her Medical Technician class – a wonderful achievement, and an indication that she and Thaeer are continuing to fully integrate into our region and its work force.

Financially, via the new rules set up the government and Diocese, we need to have \$18,100 in the bank prior to choosing a new family of four. As of Feb. 8, we had \$11,705.11 in our account, with another \$1000 expected fairly shortly from one of our twelve churches. This means we need an additional \$5400 to move forward, which works out to \$450 per church, or \$75 per month over a six-month period. We think this goal is achievable at some point in 2025, but we are not locked into a specific time line. My own guess would be that we could very well bring a new family to our region by September or October. Time will tell. What I should probably also point out, however, is that - long term - we are likely to need more than \$30,000 to completely and fully sponsor a new family. Inflation is continuing thwart our outreach intent, as is the likely prospect that any new family will need our support for up to two years., rather than just the traditional one.

Notably, our church has been very very generous in continuing its support - \$10,278 since last October! I would thankfully appreciate any further contributions that can be made to our multi-church refugee initiative, as our parish is able to do so.

John Ryrie

Jokes of the Day...



Ruth introduces Marilyn to Share stories of the Halifax Explosion



Finance Workshop in London with Chris & Nelson



Ian, Catherine & Connie - Tim Cards for St John's Kitchen



Mind Your Fingers! - Prayer Quilts

Milestones



Identical Twin Granddaughters - Emily & Sophie for John & Pat Dale



Drs J Hill and B Bruneau Dec Wedding



Celebrating Connie McCoy's Life



Jack Graham's Prayer Quilt



Farewell to the Butlers



Fran Rothenberg admires Donated Knitted Caps for Cancer Patients



Quintin & Riylah Bascombe-great grandchildren of MaryLynn & Paul Forrest



Zel & Ken Creed



BCP Baptism for Grayson