

## “Mark’s Musings”

### From the Incumbent’s Desk ...

Dear Friends,

Blessings as we enter into the changing of seasons. As I have heard from many of you, it will be a welcome relief to move from the dark and cold of winter into the light and refreshing warmth of spring.

We live in a time when there are many threatening and discouraging events happening around the world. And, they are brought closer to home now in a way like they never did in the past through electronic media and the internet. Something happens in Syria, the Middle East or Nigeria and we know about it almost instantaneously. There is a negative side to that reality in that we experience increased fear and anxiety. However, there is a positive too in that with this awareness comes the opportunity to pray for those affected and in need. We really are a global village; what happens in one part of the world affects all of us. As people of faith, when we feel helpless to do anything tangible to make a difference, all we can do is pray. As so that’s what we do, with faith, hope and trust.

ISIS has presented itself as a real threat to so many individuals and countries around the world. The most obvious places where they have had an impact are in Syria, Iraq and Turkey. Brutal threats have been carried out resulting in atrocities that affect other countries and people too. They are a militant group of extremists, making themselves a very real threat to security all around the world.

A key to remember is that they are extremists. Not all Muslims believe that what they are doing is right. In fact, many Islamic leaders have condemned the actions of ISIS *and have spoken out* against this faction of their faith. It is important to keep that in mind. Over time, there have been extremists in all religions, including our own. They don’t speak for the whole; they are on the fringe. We need to pray for those who are not part of the extremist movement who are targeted by the rest of society.

The gospel throughout this coming Holy Week is also about a faction of the society of Jesus’ time which took the law into their own hands and condemned him to die unjustly for wrongs he hadn’t committed. The people were supportive of him; they wanted to learn from him; they trusted him; they sought out healing from him; they listened intently to his teaching; they proclaimed him as Messiah shouting, “Hosanna!!” But the swell of support was easily swayed and those cries changed radically to “Crucify Him!”

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Injustice, wrong and violence are not new; far from it. A reading of the Old Testament and the earliest of times shows it that reality. And today, they continue as enlightened as we are. Some things never change.

I wonder, if we are honest with ourselves, how do we contribute to continued injustice and wrong among people today who are hurt and abused. Maybe it's through a system which limits their social support when they are poor; or doesn't open systems that assist when they are not able to function for one reason or another; or judges people based on their cultural background; or supports government initiatives that label individuals as dangerous just because of where they were born.

Jesus continues to be crucified today; nails are hammered into crosses; innocent people are judged, put on trial and often found guilty with little evidence of wrongdoing. And we are often complicit to that, even if it's only because we say nothing, remain silent and let injustices keep happening. And I include myself in that as well as all of us together.

Spiritually, we are about to embark on the most holy and sacred journey we can make; from the triumphal entry of Palm Sunday through the last supper and Gethsemane to the arrest, trial, ridiculing, suffering and betrayal of Jesus; and then that walk to Calvary carrying the burden of a heavy cross, being nailed to it, and dying on it; being buried in a tomb and climaxing in the ultimate joy and promise of Easter and the gift of the resurrection. What a journey with so many different emotions, all of which bring us into the story that is at the center of our faith.

I encourage each of us to make this journey as completely as we can; be part of the story as it is lived out. By finding ourselves amidst the various crowds, we acknowledge that this isn't just a recounting of something that happened a few centuries ago; it is about today and we are active in many of the characters we meet. To walk this week in its entirety is a holy privilege; it will enhance our faith; and prepare us all the more for the Alleluia's of Easter morning.

As we have lived out a holy lent, I encourage you to live into this experience of holy week too. Yes, there is pain and suffering, but there is also joy too. My prayer for each of us is that in experiencing the highs and lows of this sacred walk, we will grow in our faith in God who loves and provides for us more than we can ask or imagine.

Blessings as we enter humbly into this holy and sacred week in our church year.

*Mark* ✝

## Missions in China

Last Year I went to 2 missions in China.

### CRRS Education Mission

CRRS is a charitable organization raising one million dollars a year to support 1000 poor students in Guangxi, a western province of China. Instead of having small schools in villages, Chinese government set up large schools in big cities. Free education from grade 1 to 9, but students have to pay for board and lodging. CRRS pays for the boarding of poor students. The students can only go home in weekends.

Our team consisted of 22 members from Toronto and Vancouver. Most members are still working. We visited schools in 7 cities in 2 weeks. From pass experience, the students very much like to meet and talk to the sponsors in person. There are always emotional scenes of hugging and tears. Normally in each school we sat down with the students we supported. We gave them encouragement and some advice on life, and they told us how poor their families are, and always ended in tears. We also visited their village homes in some cities. Their poor conditions are expected.

We had a couple of alumni dinners. It is very rewarding to see students we supported graduated from universities, having good jobs, and some got married and have children. There is a huge change in their lives.

I am in email with 5 of them, they email in Chinese and I in English.

## EMAS

It is a charitable organization sending medical teams to China and Africa. I joined the Guangdong team.

The team consists of 15 members, 4 doctors and 2 ultrasound specialists, 2 dentists, 2 dental assistants, one pharmacist, 2 general help and a lot of medicines. I am one of the general helper. Most of them are still working. We stationed in one city near Hong Kong, and traveled each day to a small town and usually to a church. People would line up and waited for the treatment. Helpers will register them, check their blood pressure, give them numbers, and escort them to the doctors/specialists/dentists.

We worked 5 full days, Monday to Friday. Each morning, we worshiped from 7 am to 7:30, breakfast 7:30 to 8, and then on our way. I requested CRRS to schedule their trip so that I could go to the 2 missions back to back. This year I am not so lucky, I am going to the medical mission end of May, and the education mission in November, 2 separate trips.

Kwan Luk

## *Faith on Film and Television*

by Craig Gustafson

Everwood (2002–2006, 4 seasons, 89 episodes). Starring Treat Williams, Gregory Smith, Emily VanCamp, Debra Mooney, John Beasley, Vivien Cardone, Chris Pratt, Stephanie Niznik, Merrilyn Gann, Tom Amandes, Scott Wolf, Sarah Drew, Jan B. Felt. Available for purchase.

Dr. Andy Brown is a very successful brain surgeon in New York. The medical world is in awe of his talents. He has a wife, Julia, and two children, Ephram (aged 15) and Delia (aged 8). Because of the demands of his career, and because he is a workaholic, Andy neglects his family. Like his father, Ephraim has a unique gift; he is a talented pianist.

One stormy night while on her way to Ephram's piano recital, Julia is killed by another driver (possibly through this driver's negligence). The family is in shock and extreme grief. Out of a promise he made to her, Andy decides to leave his gift behind about eight months after Julia's death, and moves to the town of Everwood, Colorado, population 9,000. Here he hopes to get to know his children, who are relatively unknown to him, and his patients, as in the past he merely has operated on them and has not shown an interest in them. His focus for his patients becomes quality of life, rather than longevity of life.

Delia adores her father, but Ephram is very angry that his father neglected his mother, and has moved them to the middle of nowhere following her death. Ephram also feels some guilt for feeling angry, because Andy has missed many of his important life events since he was saving lives through his gift. This series is about Andy trying to find happiness and peace after the death of his wife, as well as becoming a good parent to his children whom he has greatly neglected. In fact, only after making peace with his children, can Andy mend the estranged relationship with his father (in

the last episodes of the series), whom he has not seen since Ephram was four years old.

Andy is a Christian, although more out of heritage than current beliefs. Indications are that Julia was a devout Jewish woman, and taught her children about her faith. As part of honouring their mother, Ephraim and Delia try to remember her faith, and occasionally follow it.

“Deer God,” Season 1, Episode 5

A lost deer wanders into town, and into the Brown home. Andy arranges for animal control to come and take the deer home. When the animal control worker arrives at the house, he remarks to Ephram that he does not plan to take the deer home to the reserve, but to the nearest forested area where the worker himself hunts. Angry, Ephram sends him away, and insists upon taking the deer home; Andy insists upon going too, which does not please Ephram because of their strained relationship. After venturing far into the woods for two days, they finally find the reserve, and they have a sudden realisation that a fire has destroyed it, which is why the deer wandered in the first place. Ephram loses his temper because he only wanted to take the deer to the home she knew because she belongs there and she would be safe there. Andy suddenly realises that Ephram wanted to take the deer home because he wants to go back to life the family knew before Julia's death. Both the deer and Ephram are lost and long for their previous homes, but neither home exists anymore, and they need to adjust to their new homes.

Meanwhile, one of Delia's classmates sneezes, and she says, “God bless you.” Her classmate immediately becomes angry and claims that God does not exist. This idea frightens Delia as she believes her mother is in heaven with God. If God does not exist, then where is her mother? While Ephram and Andy attempt to take the

deer home, Delia stays with Edna, Andy's nurse and a veteran, and her husband, Irv. Delia asks many questions about God, which makes Edna very uncomfortable and uneasy. She tries to change the subject when Delia talks about God. Delia does not understand how people talk to God, and how God answers. Edna remarks, "God doesn't like to give easy answers." To appease Delia, Edna takes her to the nearest military camp to see the Chaplain, who is Jewish. His answer sounds like it came out of a textbook, and is not at all helpful to an eight-year-old. On the way home they run out of gas, but make it home anyway. Delia takes this sign as an obvious proof of God's existence.

How do we recognise God's existence? How do we have a conversation with God? How do we know God hears us? How does God answer us?

"Till Death Do Us Part," Season 1, Episode 8

The town is abuzz with anticipation. Every year the Rev. Tom Keyes, the minister at Everwood Hope Church, gives his Hope Sermon, and names the person in the community who most exemplifies the virtue of hope. It does not appear that it is much of a contest, as Irv has been named for the last three years.

In the week leading up to Hope Sunday, Tom and his wife, Sally, go to Andy with a medical problem that prevents them from being intimate. Sally feels her husband takes her for granted. When Andy fails to determine the cause of the medical problem, he tries to counsel them instead, but they decide to separate. While he witnesses this couple with marital problems, Andy remembers that the same week holds his and Julia's 20th wedding anniversary. He cannot understand why anyone would choose to end a marriage, given that his ended so tragically, and he would give anything to have Julia back. Ephram is away on a class trip, and Andy faces these problems alone. After a very distressing week, Andy finds himself at the church one stormy night, praying for his joy and life back because he is quite distraught. Everyone in his life is just as broken as he is. He has no joy, and no longer knows the purpose of his life. Tom himself goes to the church to pray, and hears Andy's words of desperation.

The next Sunday, Tom announces the end of his marriage, and his visit to the church earlier that week, looking for God's comfort, but found instead someone more dispirited than himself. This person demonstrated a broken heart and a weakened spirit. He reminds the congregation of the importance of community; we need to lean on each other. Hope, he determines, is the ability to look into the future and imagine a better moment for which to strive. He announces that this year he names the person of the community most deserving of hope and the support of the community: Dr. Andy Brown. Tom encourages the community to help Andy find what he came to Everwood to seek: peace, joy, and hope.

Many times we are so caught up in our own difficulties that we do not see the pain of others, and do not ask ourselves what we can do to help the other person. One of the best ways to heal ourselves is to help others. Who do we know who is worthy of hope?

The Rev. Tom Keyes makes two more appearances in this series, and we learn something about faith each time, not because he is a minister, but because he is a person of faith who experiences challenges and disappointments.



## What's Happening at St. George on Yonge This Lenten and Easter Season

### ✦ Candlelight Communion

Wednesday, March 25 7:30 p.m.

*Candlelight Communion & reflection on Handel's Messiah*

### ✦ Holy Week

Sunday, March 29 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

**Palm Sunday**

*Remembering Jesus' entry into Jerusalem to shouts of Hosanna!*

Monday, March 30 7:30 p.m.

*Candlelight Communion & reflection on Handel's Messiah*

Tuesday, March 31 7:30 p.m.

*Candlelight Communion Service with Anointing for healing*

Wednesday, April 1 7:30 p.m.

*Candlelight Communion & reflection on Handel's Messiah*

Thursday, April 2 7:30 p.m.

**Maundy Thursday**

*Remembering the Last Supper Jesus had with his disciples*

Friday, April 3

**Good Friday**

*Remembering the day Jesus was on trial and nailed to the cross.*

9:30 a.m. Family Service of "Stations of the Cross"

11:00 a.m. Solemn Service for Good Friday

### ✦ Easter

Saturday, April 4 8:00 p.m.

**Holy Saturday**

*We keep vigil & celebrate communion sharing the joy that the tomb is empty!*

Sunday, April 5 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

**Easter**

*Communion Services to celebrate that Jesus is risen! Alleluia!!*



Come and join us in this spiritual pilgrimage  
as we walk the way of suffering, death, & passion  
to ultimately embrace  
the joy & new life of resurrection!

## Announcements

**March is Census Month:** in order to ensure that we have everyone's contact information (as well as the correct contact information), we ask you to check the information that we have, and to add any information that we are missing. The contact list will be available following the services for the month of March. Please take a few minutes to check. If you require a nametag, a request can be made at this time. Thank you!

**ESL Conversational Classes:**

Tuesdays, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m.  
Separate beginner- and intermediate-level sections are offered. No registration needed.

**Proverbs Class:** Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.  
Many Mandarin people are very interested in learning, in terms of both the English language and the Bible. At this phase, they are seekers of faith. Therefore, we will teach English to them by using the Book of Proverbs as a curriculum, hoping that we can share the Gospel through the Word of the Lord.

**Fergie's Knights:** Come join the Knights on the 4th Thursday every month. The longest journey begins with just one small step. Take that first step and join Fergie's Knights for spirited conversation, a cold beverage, and great food this month at the "Frog & Firkin" (4854 Yonge Street, across from the Sheppard Centre on Yonge Street). The next dates are Thursday, March 26; Thursday, April 23; Thursday, May 28; Thursday, June 25.

Due to the Lenten study at the Sisterhood of St John the Divine, 233 Cummer Avenue, M2M 2E8 (east of Willowdale Avenue), Fergie's Knights will meet (on March 26) to the Convent. Remember, any journey begins with that first step and the path travelled always seems shorter when you have company along the way. As always, please feel free to join us there as well. If you would like to join us, please let Doug Heyes know as the Convent kitchen needs to know the number of people coming. A service of Evening Prayer begins at 5:00, and supper begins at 5:30. We will eat our supper and chat together. The cost for supper is \$10 and is paid at the time.

**Did You Know?** Bulletins along with recordings of the service (sermons and announcements) are available on our website on the "Worship Schedule" page. If you cannot make it to the service, we hope you will feel connected to us via these tools!

**The Anglican Journal** is a newspaper published monthly (except July and August) by the Anglican Church of Canada. All Canadian Anglican members are entitled to receive this publication at \$10/year. If you would like to receive the newspaper delivered to your home, please write a note for Craig Gustafson, or send him an e-mail message at [office@stgerogestoronto.ca](mailto:office@stgerogestoronto.ca) and he will add your name to the list. You can also view the newspaper on the National Church's website at [www.anglicanjournal.com](http://www.anglicanjournal.com)

## Leadership 2015

**Parish Executive (also members of Parish Council)**

**Elected by Congregation**

People's Warden	Max Wynter
Deputy People's Warden	Sherwin Ferdinands

**Appointed by Incumbent**

Rector's Warden	Aili Maki
Deputy Rector's Warden	Kien Siu

**Appointed by Wardens**

Deputy Warden for Property	Egan Done
Deputy Warden for Finance	Anne Wynter

**Parish Council**

Elected by Congregation  
Clavel Lyttle, Hazel Perkin, Angela Goodwill, Kwan Luk, Margie Lyttle, Raj Sircar, Geraldine Sperling

Appointed by Incumbent

Carolyn Poon Woo, Chip Barker, Colleen Happi, DeLacey Graham, Doug Heyes

## Community Notices

**Yonge Churchill Child Care Centre:** Before and after school programmes are available! Please see the flyer on the Welcome Desk for contact information.

### Services

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Said Eucharist (BAS 1962)
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist (BAS)
		3rd Sunday of the month (AAWE)
	12:00 noon	Mandarin Fellowship

BAS 1962 (Book of Alternate Services) uses the 1962 rite which is the traditional language as in the BCP (Book of Common Prayer)

BAS (Book of Alternate Services) uses contemporary, inclusive-language

AAWE (Amazing, Awesome, Alternate Worship Experience) is a Communion service that is more informal with alternative music and prayers

Mandarin Fellowship is offered on the 2nd Floor. We hope our Mandarin Fellowship can be a "harbour for love," where we seek truth together, while experiencing and receiving the abundant grace of God.

衷心欢迎您来到圣乔治堂大家庭。我们的国语团契每周日中午12点在教会二楼举行主日灵修聚

会。盼望国语团契可以成为一个爱的港湾，在这里我们一起寻求上帝的真理，一起经历上帝的同

在，一起领受上帝的恩典。

The next edition of the newsletter will be coming out on June 6, 2015

**Deadline is Sunday, May 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 p.m.**

Email articles to the editor: Kathy Baillie at [fambail@hotmail.com](mailto:fambail@hotmail.com)



**We're on the Web! See us at:**  
[www.StGeorgesToronto.ca](http://www.StGeorgesToronto.ca)

**REMEMBER,  
EVERYONE IS WELCOME  
AT ST. GEORGE ON YONGE CHURCH**

**"To nurture our relationships with God in Christ,  
with one another, and with our community."**

**5350 Yonge Street, North York**