

From Steve's Desk

Getting to the 'happy ending'

"Let's get to the point"....."Cut to the chase"....."Skip the preliminaries and get to the meat"! In discussions and negotiations we often hear this sort of suggestion for getting to an agreement, to a 'happy ending', so to speak. In our culture generally, how impatient we often are to get to the conclusion. We want instant answers, instant gratification. We look for ways to shorten the times of waiting or preparation.

But such impatience runs counter to the way God works in our lives. As Christians we grow through the everyday processes and experiences of life. It is often in the time of suffering, in the hard times of pressure and stress that our Christian character is formed and our faith is strengthened.

In his letter to the Romans St. Paul reminds us:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing 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)

We of course want the joy and hope the Christian life offers, but find it difficult when confronted with the consequences of sin and suffering. Many people want to get to the joy and hope of Easter without first facing the agony and suffering of the crucifixion.

Yet the Christian faith offers a unique understanding of the nature of suffering. Sometimes we have emphasized the hope of the resurrection at the expense of the deep meaning of the death of Jesus. When we do this we fail to see that Easter day only makes sense when we have understood Good Friday. When we have seen Jesus, his arms outstretched on the cross bearing the shame and the pain, and effecting healing and reconciliation. When we have seen God dealing with our sin and enabling us to come back into a relationship of love with him. And when we do, our response is always one of humility and gratitude as we acknowledge and repent of our own sin.

When Jesus was crucified by the agents of the Roman empire, with the accusations of the religious leaders of the day, the pride and fear and violence of the world did their worst to him. But his prayer was, 'Father, forgive them; they don't know what they're doing'. In dying without bitterness, without pride, without retaliation, he changed the world. He acted out the victory of love over evil.' The cross stands at the centre of our understanding of God. Here we find the answer to suffering. Here we see the love of God.

So let us come to Easter and to the risen Christ by way of the crucified Christ.

I extend to you the blessings of a joy-filled Easter.

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St George's Patronal Festival April 22.

St George on Yonge is in its 90th year and we will be celebrating this milestone with our Patronal festival on Sunday April 22.

We will begin with a contemporary service for everyone at 10:30am followed by a pot luck lunch with entertainment in the Lower Hall.

St George's has had quite an eventful life. Few churches have had 5 church buildings in the course of a 90 year life and there will be plenty of historic materials on display to remind us of that journey. But we will also be inviting you to set out your vision of what the congregation will be like on its 100th anniversary in 2022.

So do make it a date - **APRIL 22.**



Painting of Original Building



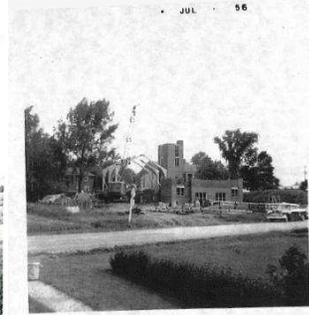
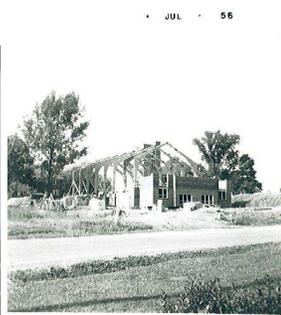
1930 Corner Stone



1949 Corner Stone



1956



Building going up in 1956



Prayers of the People

From Carol Friesen

Have you ever wondered about the value of the Prayers of the People? Is it just someone writing beautiful prayers which the congregation affirms periodically with a response such as, "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer." Is it for the most part, a mere listing of ministries and people around the world? After all it isn't like we know those for whom the prayers are prayed. Often we know nothing apart from the name of the individual and perhaps the ministry in which they are involved.

Even in our parish, we pray through an alphabetical listing of each person and each family in our parish, naming them in turn. Does it make any difference? Yes. Without question it does. I keep the little card that we are sent each time our family is prayed for at our home parish. When I look at the dates on which our family has been listed and prayed for there is set out before me a family or personal history attached to the timeframe in which we have been prayed for in the Prayers of the People. We were prayed for the Sunday a few days before my brother-in-law passed away, and again the Sunday before my father passed away, and the day I preached my first sermon at one of my placements. The list goes on and covers more than ten years of our lives. Each time we were prayed for, we were in special need of prayer.

Is this a coincidence? No it is not. For surely the Lord who knows the number of hairs on each of our heads is actively at work in our midst by His Spirit, calling us to pray for each other, whether it be in what may seem to be a random alphabetical listing, or when we get a nudge or urge to pray for someone in particular. The next time you pray along with the Prayers of the People be expectant. Look for God to work in and through us and in the prayers we pray. In Matthew 18: 19-20 Jesus tells his disciples, "Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven. For where two or three have gathered together in My name, I am there in their midst."

Carol Friesen is completing her final year of a Master of Divinity degree at Wycliffe College. She is an Ordinand of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

E-100

Essential 100 Challenge

Everyone is invited

Each Wednesday Evening

Starting April 18th from 7.30 – 9.00 pm

Coffee and desert, followed by a guided discussion of the key biblical passages from both the Old and New Testaments that will give us an introduction to the sweep of the biblical narrative.

Please pick up a copy of the Discussion Guide.

Church School & Youth Notes



The Church school curriculum moved into the New Testament for the winter term and each class spent time learning more about the life of Jesus as he traveled the country with his disciples spreading God's message through teaching, healing and showing examples of God's love for everyone they came in contact with. They discovered how relevant that message is for us today.

Three of our babies were baptized in January and banners were created to welcome Benjamin, Niko and Connor to our parish family. Special thanks to Geoff and Kathy for putting the finishing touches on these banners. Banners were also created in March as the parish welcomed Leo, Evelyn and Kohl.

The church school also had the pleasure of creating the gift of a "wall hanging" for the Rev. Pam Prideaux to celebrate her Ordination as a priest of our Diocese.

This past Sunday Pam came to visit the church school and led us in an Instructed Eucharist. We thank Pam for taking the time from her regular duties to lead us in this service.

The church school staff joins me in wishing you a very special Holy Week and Easter.

Janet

Pastoral Associate

UPCOMING EVENTS:

GOOD FRIDAY – On Friday, April 6th the church school and youth and Link Musicians will lead a "Journey to the Cross" beginning at 9:00 a. m. All are invited to join us. Juice and hot cross buns will be served in the parish hall following this service.



A REHEARSAL for our Good Friday Service will take place on Saturday, March 31st on level 3 at 10:00 a. m.

April 22nd - Patronal Festival - with special opportunities for kids to write about their vision of what the church will look like ten years from now.

Church School Teacher's retreat will take place on Saturday, May 5th on level #3 of our parish church. The retreat will run from 8:30 am. – 3:00 p. m. The theme for this Retreat is "Doors".

AS YOU THINK AHEAD TO SUMMER – Summer Camps have wonderful programs for all to enjoy. The United Church has asked us to let you know about a very special camp at Sparrow Lake. This camp provides opportunities for a fun filled time for all ages. Please watch our parish bulletin for details or speak to Janet Kirk if you are investigating camps for your family this summer.



Imagination and Laughter filled our Sanctuary



On December 28, St. George on Yonge hosted our first non-church event in our new multiple use Sanctuary. The Bad Dog Theatre Company performed "It's a Wonderful Improvised Life". A unique, zany, entertaining, spin on the classic film.

Over 80 people from the community came to be entertained under our roof, they laughed, and had a memorable night, getting to know where we are, what we are, and what our new home can offer, walking away with good memories of St. George.

We got a half page of coverage in the January 5 edition of the North York Mirror and raised \$500 for the church. This event helped us get started towards our vision of our church as a part of the community, supplying a home for events that enrich the Willowdale area.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Parish Council for taking a chance on a new type of event, and a special thanks to Egan Done, Lori Grauds, Alan Sperling, our new custodian and my family for their help above and beyond what could be asked.

Chris Hayward

Why Improv Matters

When I say, I love improv, I often get confused looks, both not sure what I mean and/or why? Improv is theatre of the moment, made up spontaneously from audience suggestions and crafted by talented, committed improvisors. It may seem easy but it takes training and talent to make it come alive. I like to compare it to jazz music, you take the structure of story, character, environment, and movement, you study and practice them (like scales etc. for music) and then you take that leap of faith and trust that something will happen. When it works it can be joyful and transcendent when it doesn't you learn and try again, knowing that the joy makes the effort and occasional pain worth it. Can there be a better approach to life? To me this was a why it was a great start for special events in the Sanctuary.



St. George Library Update

Submitted by Lori Grauds

The Parish Library is not in full swing yet. The room is almost complete except for the library doors. There is an eclectic collection of old, not so new, (classics & vintage) newer, & contemporary. There are a few bibles, atlases and rainy day or any day reads. Parish cookbooks are available for \$5.00. These make great gifts. You are most welcome to browse and borrow books once the library is open.

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The Happiest of Birthdays goes out to Sister Constance Murphy of The Sisterhood of St. John The Divine. (S.S.J.D.)

Sister Constance celebrated her 108th birthday on February 2, 2012.

Over the years, Sister Constance has been part of many celebrations and milestones in her long rich life. In 1997, Sister Constance published her memoirs at the tender age of 94. "Other Little Ships." This book title of her autobiography is from the Gospel of Mark, who recalls when Jesus rebuked the wind and calmed the storm.

This book is available for loan from St. George Parish Library.

Honourable Mentions from Sister Constance's memoirs:

CURRICULUM VITAE OF SISTER CONSTANCE, S.S.S.D.

*Born in Baltimore, Maryland, February 2, 1904.

* Parents and grandparents were strong in community interests.

* One grandfather, founder and editor of a newspaper called the AFRO-American in 1892: the other a successful caterer and generous benefactor.

* Father, principal of a school for 50 years. At one time it was the largest elementary school in Baltimore.

*Attended elementary, high school, in Baltimore. Graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1928 with the degree of B.S.c. in Education, and taught in Baltimore until the end of 1932.

Came to Toronto at the end of 1932 to test her vocation in the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine. Was professed in the S.S.J.D. on December 21, 1936. Taught Special children at a school in Aurora during 1937 & 1938.

Just a few tidbits found on page 172 from these wonderful memoirs that we can all take a page from Sister Constance's book. This is a timeless good read.

****Milestones****

When Sister Constance turned 105 she was asked by a reporter "What's your trick to living so long"? She replied "I just say, "Here I am just send me."

Sister Constance continues to inspire many and also to live a faith filled accomplished life.



Saint George

Saint George is our Patron Saint. **April 23 is Saint George Day.**

Here is a brief biography & summary of Saint George's life.

Born in the year 263 AD in the city of Lydia near Jerusalem.

In a date unknown in the 17th century, George enlisted as a cavalry soldier in the army of the Roman Emperor Diocletian. George was considered a good soldier with a sunny disposition. This was a brutal time of Christian persecution under Diocletian's rule. George was a devout Christian.

George requested a meeting with the Emperor Diocletian and he was granted one. George tried to appeal to the rulers senses. He was met with molten lava anger and commanded to recant his religion of which George refused. George was arrested, tortured and executed on April 23, 303 AD. George was canonized in 494 AD by Pope Gelasius.

George the Dragon Slayer:

According to legend, ancient storytellers recall George the Knight as delivering a princess (damsel) in distress about to be consumed by a dastardly dragon. The story has it that George approached the hungry dragon and made the sign of the cross. The dragon was caught unawares when George wounded the dragon with his lance. Once the dragon was rendered docile, George killed the dragon with his lance. George saved the princess and the day. This tale has also been referred to as an allegory rather than a legend with Saint George representing Christianity and the dragon being represented as paganism. This depiction of good triumphing over evil became a symbol of a character building program by Lord Robert Baden Powell in the Scouting Movement in 1908. This led to George becoming the Patron Saint of the Scouting Movement.

The following poem became Lord Baden Powell's favourite rhyme.

"My warmest good wishes I am sending you
 And hoping that the winter is through
 You will start out afresh to follow the lead.
 Of our Patron Saint George and his spirited steed;
 Not only to tackle what ever my befall,
 But also successfully to win through it all
 And then may you have an enjoyable spell
 Of hiking and jolly good camping as well.

Submitted by Lori Grauds



Upcoming Services & Events

Looking Ahead

(more information coming soon)

Doors Open Toronto

Saturday, May 26, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
(Please note that last admittance will be at 4:00 p.m.)

Marion Singers Concert

Saturday, June 2, 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming Services

Sunday, April 15

Outreach Sunday

Sunday, April 22

Commemoration of George,
Patron Saint of England, Martyr, 4th century
(transferred from April 23)
Patronal Festival with Contemporary Liturgy

Parish Announcements

The Church Office will be Closed Friday, April 6 to Monday, April 9. In an emergency, please call the church and, when prompted, dial "1" to be forwarded to the emergency church cellular phone. The phone is carried by members of the pastoral staff on a rotational basis. You can reach this phone any time – day or night!

Please send Donations for the
Our Faith – Our Hope

Campaign directly to the Diocese of Toronto at the following address:

Our Faith – Our Hope Campaign Office
% St. James Cathedral
65 Church Street
Toronto, ON M5C 2E9

Lenten & Easter Services

Wednesday in Holy Week

Wednesday, April 4
12:15 p.m. – Eucharist

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 5
7:00 p.m.
Eucharist with Washing of the Feet & Stripping of the Altar



Good Friday

Friday, April 6
9:00 a.m. – Journey to the Cross
11:00 a.m. – Meditation at the Cross of Christ

The Great Vigil of Easter

Saturday, April 7
9:00 p.m. – Eucharist



Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter

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



As we get more settled and comfortable in our new building, we have begun to re-focus our attention on what motivated the people of St. George on Yonge to begin our redevelopment project in the first place – the desire to connect with people around us, to be a support to them, and to engage with them in the shared life of the neighbourhood. I would like to highlight two events in the next couple of months that will help us to think about the connections between our church community and our neighbourhood, and to make connections with those around us.

Sunday, April 15 will be Outreach Sunday. Our theme is “Outreach is Reaching Out.” We will explore the connection between God reaching out to us in the person of Jesus Christ, and our reaching out to those around us. Through our prayers and the Scripture readings, through the homily and written materials, we will celebrate the accomplishments of our congregation in the area of Outreach, and look toward a future filled with possibilities for building relationships with our neighbours.

On Saturday, May 26, we will once again invite our neighbours *in* to see our new building, through a fabulous program called Doors Open Toronto. Doors Open Toronto was first held in 2000, and has since attracted 1.5 million visitors to participating buildings across the city. The event allows community members to get a peek inside a variety of public and private buildings, to find out about the history and purpose of the buildings, and about the people who live and work in them. One past participant said, “Doors Open is not just about historical buildings, but also buildings that play an important or distinct role in the fabric of the participating community.” We are honoured to have been selected to participate in this year’s Doors Open event, and to be featured in the Doors Open Ontario guide as well. We look forward to inviting people into our church home, and to sharing our story with them.

Rev. Pam Prideaux

Community Notices

Annual Good Friday Walk for Justice will be held on April 6, beginning at 2:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity, Trinity Square, 10 Trinity Square, Toronto, M5G 1B1. The theme of the walk will be “Cries from the Cross.” The walk will end at 4:30 p.m. at the church, where soup and bread will be served.

St. Theodore of Canterbury’s 45th Annual Monks’ Cell Steak House: From an idea from a former minister of St. Theodore, the “Monks’ Cell” was born in 1968. The success of the original exceeded expectations and it became an annual event. Friday, April 20 and Saturday, April 21. \$35 per person. For reservations, contact Kari Wood at (416) 222-6198 or monkscell@hotmail.com



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 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

Services

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
	10:30 a.m.	Choral Eucharist (BAS)
Tuesday to Friday	8:30 a.m.	Morning Prayer (BAS)
Wednesday	12:15 p.m.	Holy Eucharist (BAS)

The next edition of the newsletter will be coming out on Sunday, May 13, 2012

Deadline is Sunday, May 3, 2012 at 3:02 p.m.

Email articles to the editor: Kathy Baillie at family.baillie@sympatico.ca



We're on the Web! See us at:
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