

“Mark’s Musings”

Greetings as we move further into the fall season and into getting to know one another.

First, I would like to thank you for your welcome as my family and I are settling in here at St. George on Yonge. It is a pleasure to be here as incumbent and I look forward to the ministry we will enter into together.

I'll share with you some of how I've spent my first couple of weeks here at St. George's. The first thing to do was set up my office, unpack my books and place my pictures, etc on the wall. I'm feeling very comfortable and at home. I do notice there are still a few things to unpack. Isn't that often the way once we start to feel comfortable.

I've had the opportunity to attend a number of meetings from wardens to outreach to pastoral care to parish council to the weekly senior's group. I am looking forward to meeting the men's Thursday group, the board of the daycare, the prayer group, the servers, the Sunday school teachers and any other ministries that serve the vision of our parish community. Many of you are involved in these ministries. That is what makes a parish function well. Thank you to each of you for the time and effort you give to the ministries of St. George on Yonge.

As well, I've begun to meet some of the shut ins of the parish and presided at one of our senior's home services at Lansing. I look forward to going over to Del Manor and meeting the folks there. Pastoral Care will be shared with Janet in the ministry we share together. Meeting people's various needs is an important part of ministry in the church. If you have any need, please don't hesitate to contact us. Nothing is too small or insignificant. We are here for you to walk with you!

I have scheduled meetings with our area MP and our city Councillor. I think it's important to be acquainted and communicating with the various politicians of our community. This allows for opportunity to engage in issues and conversations that are happening in the wider community around us. I look forward to talking with them.

On Saturday October 26 the wardens and I invite you to a Parish Symposium happening in our parish hall. This will be facilitated by Susan Graham-Walker who assisted the selection committee with their task of discerning a new incumbent. Throughout the day we will reflect on what it feels like to be in transition and we will reflect on the history and story of St. George's over the years. This will be a good opportunity to remember the memories and celebrate them as a gift. Please set the day aside. It's important that as many of us as possible are here to share in this time together.

One of my traditions throughout Advent is to hold candlelight Eucharists midweek. I plan to do so on Wednesday evenings throughout December in the chapel. In the glow of candles, with contemplative music, we will enter into a time of spiritual preparation which Advent is

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all about. These services are meditative and an invitation to reflect on the gift of Emmanuel, God present with us. More information will follow. Watch for details.

We are off to a good and exciting start in our relationship together. I believe that God had brought us to this place and that God will continue to guide and direct us as we move forward together. There will be exciting opportunities before us. I look forward to walking with you and serving you as together we become more the body of Christ we are called to be, contributing to the building of God's kingdom.

Blessings,
Mark +

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The Language of Prayer



After all these years, I still don't fully understand prayer. It's something of a mystery to me. But one thing I know: When we're in desperate need, prayer springs naturally from our lips and from the deepest level of our hearts.

When we're frightened out of our wits, when we're pushed beyond our limits, when we're pulled out of our comfort zones, when our well-being is challenged and endangered, we reflexively and involuntarily resort to prayer. "Help, Lord!" is our natural cry.

Author Eugene Peterson wrote: "The language of prayer is forged in the crucible of trouble. When we can't help ourselves and call for help, when we don't like where we are and want out, when we don't like who we are and want a change, we use primal language, and this language becomes the root language of prayer."

Prayer begins in trouble, and it continues because we are always in trouble at some level. It requires no special preparation, no precise vocabulary, no appropriate posture. It springs from us in the face of necessity and, in time, becomes our habitual response to every issue - good and bad --we face in this life (Philippians 4:6). What a privilege it is to carry everything to God in prayer!

Read Psalm 142.
(From Our Daily Bread by David Roper)

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer.

Submitted by Margie Lyttle

St. George on Yonge Church School & Youth Program:

Who we are:

Our Church School and Youth Program is made up of children and young people ranging in age from infants to 19 years of age...and older. We come from diverse backgrounds, cultures and live in both local and distant communities. Each week, we come together to learn and grow in our spiritual journey through time in worship, prayer, music, study and fellowship... (and fun).

The Nursery/Toddlers (Room 015):

This area is open 15 minutes prior to the start of service with one teacher and a helper. Parents should bring their children to the Nursery/Toddler's room and are more than welcome to stay, if your little one needs comforting. Appropriate nursery items and toys are provided. Nursery staff includes Sarah Evans, Natalia Abass-Phillips and Collene Happi, with Pauline Leong coordinating the activities.

Kindergarten Room (Room 015):

Our younger children (3 years - 5 old) are taught through an appropriate and fun curriculum called "Spark". This includes short stories, plus activities and music based on Biblical material. Time to play with toys is also part of the fun. Toddlers begin their morning at 10:30 in the chapel for prayer and song. The toddlers are brought to their parents for communion and remain with them for the rest of the service. The teacher is Kathy Baillie with Debbie Gunraj providing regular support. When needed, Stella Clennett and Cheryl Dawkins provide excellent supply support.

Children 6 to 12 years (Main Parish Hall):

These kids also use the Spark curriculum, including readings of the day that emphasize Bible stories in age appropriate language and understanding. Arts, crafts and other activities are also enjoyed with interesting discussion. These children also begin their day at 10:30 in the Chapel and are brought to their parents for communion, remaining with them for the rest of the service. This group is taught by Geoff Clennett and Peter Grauds.

Youth Program (Main Parish Hall):

These vibrant young people meet for discussion of themes and topics relevant to their lives, in a Christian setting. The curriculum used for this group is called "Akaloo", which ties one of the Bible Gospels to their conversations. Many of our youth take an active part in our regular Church services, as readers, servers and greeters. Depending on their discussions of the day, the youth group may or may not return to their class after communion. Stephen Powell facilitates the discussions, with supply support from Aili Bloomquist.

Young Adults/Careers:

We have several recent graduates of the youth program who are exploring opportunities to meet amongst themselves, to discuss relevant topics in an informal way, in a Christian setting. Generally self-driven by the participants, appropriate St. George staff will provide support, when requested.

Music:

Each Sunday during our time in the Chapel, Muriel Thompson provides superb piano accompaniment for our joyful singers.

The Teachers:

Our teachers are volunteers and teach for a variety of reasons. For some, it may be their calling, for others a joy. It's not always an easy job, but always a gratifying one. If you are interested in helping out, please contact Pauline Leong or Peter Grauds.

Special Events and Social Gatherings:

These are an important part of our journey together. Please watch for notices of these special times of fellowship and fun. We are looking to continue the traditions of bowling parties, visits to Toronto Island's Anglican Church, movie nights and more over the coming school year.

Registration:

Registration will take place during the month of September, after the 10:30 service. Please watch for the registration desk just outside our Parish Hall on Level "M". Information collected will help to ensure that the children have a safety, healthy and enjoyable school year.

A recent prayer from one of our 12 year old students:

"We thank you God for making my family and my life, for this amazing world and all of the awesome people and things in it".

We continue to ask for your prayers for our children, and for those around the world.

All-Ages Comedy Improv Returned to St. George

The **Bad Dog Theatre Company** returned to the Sanctuary March 16 at 2 pm. with their hilarious take on Comic Book Super Heroes.

The show "**Secret Origin**" had over 50 people attend, more than half from outside of the church. Focused on interactive family oriented entertainment, we were treated to the epic saga of Frogman, who along with his allies, Grasshopper Girl and Tadpole Boy were able to free his friend from the clutches of a car baby seat and stop the creation of a giant laser being built on a car sales lot. All in attendance had a great time, the children were an active part of the show, giving suggestions and often participating on stage, literally jumping up and down in excitement.

Bringing this type of show to our Church, and bringing people, that otherwise would not have known about St. George on Yonge or come in the door, is helping to build connections and awareness with the community. Complimentary tickets were given to Eva's and we would like to expand this to other deserving people and places in the future. We had people from Brampton (not the Clennetts), families from the Daycare, and people using our accessibility attend. SNAP community paper was there, so pictures were in the April edition.

I want to thank Karen Hayward who made the backdrop and added velcro to make it easy to set up for other events (the cost was covered by the money from Mboya's concert) as well as advertising in Community centres and Comic Book Stores. Lori Grauds, Alan Sperling, Ryan Erwin and Egan Done were also instrumental in making sure everything ran smoothly.

I believe we are just starting to realize what we can do with our space, to serve our community. We have brought family oriented laughter with Secret Origin and It's a Wonderful Improvised Life. We have had multicultural Classical music in East meets West and brought some jazz swing with Mboya Nicholson. People are starting to notice that St. George puts on great productions. All this joy and bridge building, just imagine the future, with your help.

Chris Hayward for the St. George Concert Committee

Getting to know each other...

Everyone is invited to attend a coffee gathering to get to know our new incumbent and so he can get to know us better. There will be a number of these gatherings in various people's homes throughout October and November. When the list is posted of possible dates, we hope you take sign up and share in this part of our transition together. The conversation will be light and the company enjoyable. Hope to see you there!





DATES TO NOTE ON YOUR CALENDAR

UPCOMING SERVICES & EVENTS

Celebration of Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday, October 13

8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Fergie's Knights

Thursday, October 24

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Frog & Firkin

4854 Yonge Street

Seniors' Moments

Wednesday, October 30

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Preventing Elder Abuse

Autumn Bazaar

Saturday, November 2

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Seniors' Moments

Wednesday, November 27

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon

Fergie's Knights

Thursday, November 28

6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Frog & Firkin

4854 Yonge Street

Please watch the bulletin for more events.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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) at 6:00 p.m. to approximately 8:00 p.m. See "Upcoming Services and Events" for dates.

St. George on Yonge in Transition!

The arrival of our new incumbent marks another step in our transition at St. G's. However, the transition continues as we build our relationship together. The following are some important dates and steps that will happen and facilitate a smooth transition over the coming months.

Special Service to Celebrate the Rev. Mark

Kinghan's New Ministry with Us: Sunday, September 29 at 4:00 p.m. at St. George. The Bishop will be with us. A reception will follow.

Parish Symposium facilitated by Susan Graham-Walker as a means of getting to know each other better: Saturday, October 26, 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The purposes of this workshop are to share the history of St George's with our new incumbent; to get to know Mark and his spiritual journey; to explore and celebrate our strengths and values; to be ready to move into the future with Mark with faith, confidence, and hope.

Six months down the road . . . Parish Symposium to vision future opportunities for ministry
Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these important gatherings as we journey through this time of new beginning.

Church School Registration continues each Sunday. The church school staff is excited to welcome children of all ages to our fall program. Our Nursery opens at 10:15 and classes for children up to 12 years old begins in the chapel at 10:30. Details about our program will be handed out to families at the time of registration.

Pastoral Visiting is a very important ministry to our Homebound or those now residing in facilities. Four trained visitors respond to this ministry with monthly pastoral visits. This October we invite you to consider training to become part of this team. If you feel called to this ministry please speak to Janet Kirk for further questions or to register for classes, which will be held Thursdays, October 17 to November 21, from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.

St. George Parish Library Cart News:

There are two new titles that have been donated to the Library that are available for loan. The loan period is two weeks.

"Isaiah 53 Explained" by author Mitch Glaser.

"Aging Joyfully" by authors Dr. A. Timothy Starr & Leona Choy. Dr. Starr recently attended a "Senior Moments" session at St. George to discuss his book about aging. This was a well attended and informative event.

Thanks to the people who have so generously donated some other books to the Library. There are a few more vintage C.S. Lewis titles that have been added to the collection.

Green Scene:

Everything Old is New Again:

There are many small ways to make a difference in the lives of people. By donating your used eye glasses you can assist people with low vision and help to prevent blindness.

Hakim Optical & Lions Club International are in partnership to provide used eye glasses to needy people in developing countries. You can drop off your used glasses directly to any Hakim Optical. There is a location on 5643 Yonge St. @ Finch. For further information you can go to www.hakimoptical.ca

There is also a box available for your eye glass donations which is on the Library on the book cart.

Stamp Out Poverty & Hunger:

Have you been saving your used postage stamps and wondering what to do with them? Did you know that Oxfam Canada has raised over \$300,000 since 1980 by collecting Canadian, foreign & commemorative stamps. Your used stamps can help Oxfam Canada through partnerships with local and international communities, governments and ngo's (non government organizations.)

Oxfam brings humanitarian aid, clean water and sanitation to communities and countries experiencing floods, famine, crop failure and other natural and human disasters. For further information you can go to www.oxfam.ca

There is also a box available for your used stamps on the Library book cart. Please make sure that the stamps have a slight border on them.

You Can Recycle Your Electronics:

There is no good reason to throw them out to take up space in the landfill site. We can all be stewards of this spectacular planet, our fragile island home. www.recycleyourelectronic.ca is the Ontario Electronic Stewardship consumer website to assist and direct you to find approved reuse and refurbishment organizations to dispose of electronic waste in a safe manner. There are more than 600 approved collection sites in Ontario that accept 44 types of home, office and portable electronics. Some of the accepted items include cameras, televisions, computers, printers, turntables, etc.

Don Valley Refugee Resettlers – by Max Wynter, representative of St. George to the DVRR

For some years St. George on Yonge, through the outreach committee, has been a member and supporter of the Don Valley Refugee Resettlers Association (DVRR). DVRR is supported by eleven Anglican and United churches in our community and since 1998 it has sponsored 13 family groups or a total of 49 displaced persons who have found refuge in Canada. By the time you read this newsletter the fifteenth family, the Elmis, should have arrived from Malaysia. This family of seven fled Somalia, found temporary refuge in Malaysia and are fortunate to be joining relatives who have been living in Toronto for some years. Most refugees are not as lucky.

A refugee is a person whose life will be at risk if they were to return to their country of origin. There are many reasons why return to the country of their birth might be life threatening. The most frequent are race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, tribe or clan, political opinion and sexual orientation. To be defined as a refugee one must therefore have fled their country and be living in another country that is not prepared or able to offer them permanent residence.

In 2011 there were 10.4 million refugees globally. Of this number only 79,800 found refuge in 22 countries that offered them a new home (including Canada). In 2012 Canada admitted 13,000 refugees making it one of the most accommodating countries for displaced persons and second only to the USA.

Refugees originate in many countries but recently there have been significant numbers of Iraqis and Iranians via Turkey and Sudan, Bhutanese via Nepal, Columbians via Ecuador and Eritreans from Eastern Sudan. Syria also hosted large camps of refugees but now is itself a significant source of refugees now camping in Turkey.

We help refugees for a number of reasons. First and foremost is because it is required of us as Christians, to love and help our brothers and sisters. As Jesus said in Mathew 25:-

³⁴ *“Then the King will say to those on his right,*

‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’

³⁷ *“Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’*

⁴⁰ *“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’*

We also help refugees because our society needs more people. Ontario needs 135,000 newcomers each year to support our growth and to ensure the security of our health and pension systems.

The DVRR is supported by AURA, the Anglican United Refugee Alliance. This is a joint body set up by the Anglican and United Churches with a small team of experienced persons who are dedicated to helping qualified refugees find a home in Ontario. AURA receives some of its funding from Faithworks which we at St. George also support.

The DVRR is able to sponsor one family approximately every two years. The average family costs \$24,000 during the period of sponsorship (1 year) and during that period DVRR helps the family to find housing, learn English, learn to get around in Toronto and acquire the skills necessary for regular employment. Whenever a new family arrives there is a flurry of activity as the team works to find, furnish and provide basic supplies for the family's new accommodations before they arrive (often with just a few days notice from the Government of Canada). Then after their arrival the DVRR helps them to get their children in to school, OHIP registration, transportation, shopping and establishing relations with communities that are able to help them to settle. After two months or so everything goes quiet until it's time for the next family.

As a member of St. George you can share in the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping persons in desperate need, by your Faithworks contribution and by supporting the DVRR fundraising activities. When a family is expected DVRR issues a call for help, usually for donations of items required to furnish their first home in Canada. The family will need new or used furniture, small kitchen appliances, pots, pans, plates and cutlery and a computer. They will also need unused towels and washcloths and winter clothing.

Unfortunately there are no resources to store items and so DVRR cannot accept donations, other than cash, during the 'in between' periods, when not preparing for the immediate arrival of a family. Cash donations are always accepted since the DVRR is almost always supporting a family or expecting a new arrival.

The outreach committee is grateful for the support that members of St. George has given to the DVRR over the years and welcomes any contributions in time or money that congregants are able to make.

Faith on Film and Television by Craig Gustafson

As some people at St George will know, I enjoy a good movie and a good series on television. I love a well written story, and characters that bring the story to life. Of particular interest is how people of faith are portrayed in these media. In this article (which I hope will be a series), my purpose is to share some movies and series that I have seen, and in particular a couple scenes, and leave you with some thoughts or questions about how faith is "used" as a tool in telling a story, and what we can learn from these media. The movies and series I share are not necessarily my favourites, but have something to say to us. If you have a suggestion for me to see, please let me know.

Sounder (1972). Starring Cicely Tyson, Paul Winfield, Kevin Hooks, Carmen Mathews, Taj Mahal, Eric Hooks, Janet MacLachlan. Available for purchase and through the library. Based on the novel by William H. Armstrong (1969).

This is the story of a sharecropper African-American family, the Morgans, in 1933 Louisiana. Nathan Lee and Rebecca have 2 sons and a daughter, all under the age of 15. They have taught their children to be kind and thoughtful. The family has a difficult time putting food on the table. After an unsuccessful hunting trip, Nathan Lee steals food from a local store out of desperation. The authorities quickly track him down and arrest him. While he is being taken away, the family dog, Sounder, runs after the sheriffs, one of whom shoots him. The bullet scraps Sounder, who disappears. Nathan Lee is sentenced to hard labour at a prison camp for one year. The sheriff refuses to tell the family where he is being sent. A white family friend and the black church's priest try to determine his location to no avail. The oldest son, David Lee, goes on a voyage in search of his father. The stories of the father and the dog parallel each other, as each are taken from the family for a time, are injured, and are sought by David Lee.

Despite the father of the family being taken, the Morgans band together and work hard to till, plant, weed, water, and harvest. If they cannot raise the desired crops, the family will most certainly loose the farm. As a family of faith, they rely on God to see them through the tough times. Their priest, having tried to learn the location of Nathan Lee, visits the family, and assures them of their parishioners' prayerful support, and offers them a blessing that God will be with them in their time of challenges. Take your miseries and trials to God, he urges. As David Lee is the only member of the family who is able to read, they rely on people with education, like their priest, to tell them what is written in the Bible and how to apply it to their lives. Even with many joys in life, the reality of being poor and oppressed is never far away. The story gives a glimpse into changing attitudes toward African-Americans, and hope for the next generation.

Stories of pioneers and poor families, whether fiction or non-fiction, often feature families and individuals with deep faith. As humans, we become more focused on faith when we are at the mercy of the elements. It is striking that often the people with much faith have very little else. Do we take God everywhere we go? Do we spend our day with God, or just a short visit at the beginning or the end? How can we increase our faith, and our reliance on God?

I must relate a funny scene. On a walk home through the village, the Morgans and some of their neighbours pass a "white church," a place of worship for Caucasians. "What they do in the white churches, Momma?" David Lee asks. "The same as we do," replies Rebecca. "They pray." Ike, a fellow sharecropper, tells a story. "You know, one time by mistake, I went into this white church, and to this very day I don't how I ever got out of there alive."

Nathan Lee remarks, "Well, they probably thought you was crazy." Ike replies, "Oh man, I guess so. But I went home, and you know me, and did me some praying to the good Lord. I said, 'All I want to know is how in the devil I ever got out of there alive.'" Nathan Lee asks, "And what did the good Lord say to you, Ike?" Ike answers, "Well the good Lord say, 'Ike, you know, you're doing better than me, because I've been trying to get in there for 200 years and I haven't made it yet!'"

Do we "allow" God into our church, or is He knocking at the door waiting to be invited into our church? How do we invite God into our place of worship? Can you relate with the experience of Ike, where you felt like an "alien" in a church? How do we welcome God's children into our place of worship, especially the people who seem "different?"

St. George Autumn Bazaar

St. George's Autumn Bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 2nd in the lower level Parish Hall, between 10:30 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The Bazaar will feature crafts; children's items such as toys, books and games; used books; home-made baked items; a white elephant table; a silent auction; and a raffle of several attractive gifts. We also plan to offer a modestly-priced lunch.

Lots of support is needed from parishioners, both in contributions and in time. The following contributions are needed:

- Baked goods for the bake sale
- Sandwiches, cookies and squares for the lunch room
- Books, children's items, jewellery, and other items you no longer need to supplement sales tables.
- Treasures in very good condition for the silent auction. These can be brought to the Church any time between now and Nov 1st

In addition to these donations, we also need to call upon a few hours of everyone's time to make the Bazaar a success. This includes:

- Setup on Friday evening November 1st
- Greeters on the main level and lower level to welcome visitors to the Bazaar
- Handling the book sale table
- Handling the miscellaneous items table
- Helping with the silent auction
- Selling raffle tickets in advance of the Bazaar
- Handling the raffle on Bazaar day
- Helping with food service for the lunch room, in the kitchen and at the tables

For more information, and to let us know what you can contribute in the way of items and time, please speak with Geraldine Sperling (416-221-8342) or Hazel Perkin (416-229-2674).

Community Notices

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

Special Service to Celebrate the Rev. Pam Prideaux's New Ministry: Saturday, October 5 at 4:00 p.m. at the Church of the Nativity, 10 Sewells Road (northeast of Neilson Road and Sheppard Avenue), M1B 3G5. Reception to follow.

Services		
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist (BCP)
	10:30 a.m.	Choral Eucharist (BAS)
Tuesday	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, November 24, 2013

Deadline is Sunday, November 10, 2013 at 4:13 p.m.

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

**We're on the Web! See us at:
www.StGeorgesToronto.ca**

5350 Yonge Street, North York