

“Mark’s Musings”

From the Incumbent’s Desk ...

Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I truly enjoy this time of year when things come to life, the sun shines, the birds sing, and there’s opportunity to sit on the deck and take it all in. I hope that you are having some opportunity to enjoy the arrival of spring too!

The most pronounced way we can show others around us who we are and what we are about is by truly and faithfully loving one another. That’s not always easy within community given different opinions, priorities, and the judgements we make as human beings. However, Jesus is pretty clear in his final discourse to his disciples before he died: **“I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”** (John 13:34-35). As I read that passage, loving each other as part of our discipleship and together as the body of Christ isn’t optional. And what joy and delight we experience, and God too, when we do truly love each other as brothers and sisters in Christ.

One of the most familiar passages in scripture dealing with love is found in I Corinthians 13:

“Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

Paul’s words are so poetic and yet so clear about the kind of love we are to embody as faithful followers of Christ.

Here are two reflection exercises using these familiar words from I Corinthians 13. First, what happens when we substitute “God” for “love?” We get quite the picture of the kind of love God has for us and which He makes so real in His Son, Jesus Christ. And we need to be so grateful that God is patient, kind, not irritable or resentful, rejoicing in the truth and all the other descriptive used by Paul.

A second spiritual exercise is the substitute “Christian community” for “love”. Isn’t that a description of the kind of relationship we are

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called to have with one another . . . not arrogant or rude; not insisting on our own way; rejoicing in the truth; enduring all things? And what our community life could be like if we truly embodied what Paul is inviting us into as ones who love each other as Christ has loved us.

I encourage us to think about our relationships with each other, and not just with people here at St. George on Yonge, but those we meet in our everyday life beyond this place. Are we loving each other as we know and believe that Christ has loved us? Are we embodying those very real understandings of what it means to love that Paul presents for us?

In our recent *Natural Church Development* survey, "*Loving Relationships*" was our lowest stave. To be clear, this doesn't mean that we don't love one another; it indicates that this area of our parish life here at St. George's can use some intentional reflection. Through times of transition, sometimes feeling tired and also overwhelmed with what the future holds, relationships can be taxed. We do love one another; I see it all the time in how we truly care for each other. With attentiveness and conversations, our love for each other will grow more and more and support us in all the other parts of our life and mission here at St. George on Yonge.

Three questions to reflect on individually and collectively: (i) where do we experience the kind of loving relationship in our life together to which Jesus calls us? (ii) What are some of the barriers that get in the way of the kind of loving relationships we are called to have with each other? And (iii) how can we build and sustain the kind of love we are to have for each other as we worship and serve God in the ministries we enter into as the body of Christ in this place?

Let me close with Eugene Peterson's translation of that well known passage from I Corinthians 13. His turn of phrase adds a depth to what I hear Paul saying about love . . .

Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self. Love doesn't want what it doesn't have. Love doesn't strut, doesn't have a swelled head, doesn't force itself on others, isn't always "me first," doesn't fly off the handle, doesn't keep score of the sins of others, doesn't revel when others grovel, takes pleasure in the flowering of truth, puts up with anything, trusts God always, always looks for the best, never looks back, But keeps going to the end.

Indeed, may that be our model of the loving relationships we desire with each other, and even more so with all those in our lives. For that is what loving one another as Christ has loved us looks like.

Blessings!

Mark ✝

VCP (Vital Church Planting Conference)

I was able to again attend the conference here in Toronto that was held on Jan 29 to Jan 31, 2015 at St. Paul's Bloor Street. For any of you who had not had the opportunity to attend one of the yearly conferences it is a whirlwind of three days of presentations, communication, and excitement about activities which are being planned and carried out by individuals and groups in an effort to bring God's message to individuals who otherwise might never experience it. After a decade of bringing in guest speakers from England to inform North Americans about what has occurred in their communities overseas, this conference was entirely focused on Canadians and activities which have developed here in our own country. The conference, which has spread both to the west and to the east over the past few years to reduce overcrowding at St. Paul Bloor Street, is open to all individuals (both lay and ordained) from all denominations. It should be pointed out that while the conference is sponsored by Wycliffe College School of Evangelism and the Diocese of Toronto, many of the presenters and active individuals currently involved in activities to spread God's message outside of the confines of their own Sunday services and their own congregations are in fact, sadly, not Anglicans.

The variety of activities currently underway is large and varied, and each 'expert' offering a presentation is available to explain in detail what they have done, why they did it, what are the results experienced, and well as to offer advice and support to others who think that something like this might work in their neighbourhood. Some of the 'fresh expressions' which were on tap at this year's conference were:

- A husband and wife clergy team from New Brunswick who physically gave up much of their duties at the church where they were working in order to physically move into one of Saint John's most depressed areas, opening up a street ministry out of their apartment taking place mostly on the sidewalks around the community.
- The founder of "Shred la Messe" in Montreal who physically built a skate park for skateboarders to use, hang out at, and to experience God's loving hand through conversations.
- The host of the 'Good God!' podcast originating in Hamilton who uses social media to connect with

individuals through stories, conversations and creative projects.

- A church 'planter' who started a prayer meeting in downtown Hamilton which has grown, almost accidentally, into a regularly meeting church service.
- A church who had a desire to hold a Christian day camp for young people in the summer who lacked any available space at the church to facilitate it, who set out training groups of individuals as 'leaders' and obtained permission to use people's back yards. Community was obtained by joining all small groups of children each Friday to go on a field trip together.
- A priest who, after being present at the official closing of many deconsecrated churches in Huron Diocese had the privilege of actually re-opening a building he had closed and building a new congregation in its space.

As you can see, there is no one way to do it, and each activity is special and unique. There are similar requirements however no matter which path is taken on their journey with the Spirit. These were highlighted by two activities undertaken by all on our final day together. The first was to go out from St. Paul and physically walk around the area, looking and listening to what is happening there. If at all possible to actually join in conversation with people we came in contact with. The final activity of the conference was to divide ourselves up on both sides of the room and by walking towards each other to come face to face with someone who had been on the other side. After careful listening to the person opposite, and their listening to me, about something that troubled or concerned each of us at that moment, each person took a brief moment to personally pray for the other, asking for help and guidance in whatever concern or worry the conference discussions brought to mind. It was a great joy to see the expression on the postulant's face after praying over him, convinced that my prayer had removed his fear from himself completely and placed it in God's lap.

If anyone is interested in hearing more about what I heard at the conference, or wanting to talk about ideas that they might have, please feel free to let me know.

Doug Heyes

Faith on Film and Television

by Craig Gustafson

Pollyanna (1960). Starring Jane Wyman, Richard Egan, Karl Malden, Nancy Olson, Adolphe Menjou, Donald Crisp, Agnes Moorehead, Kevin Corcoran, Hayley Mills. Available for purchase and through the library. Based on the novel by Eleanor H. Porter (1913).

Pollyanna Whittier is the daughter of missionaries, and she becomes an orphan when she is about twelve-years-old. She goes to live with her mother's sister, Polly Harrington, in the community of Harrington. Polly practically owns the town, since she controls the bank, industry, newspaper, and real estate through her wealth. Nothing happens without her approval. Everyone in the town is unhappy, angry, and depressed.

Pollyanna, however, has had a rather poor childhood. Her father was a minister and struggled to provide for his family, but always made sure there was happiness in the household. They relied on the missionary for anything they could not afford. The family had a "glad game," which encouraged them to find something about which to be glad in any situation. As an example, when the family asked for a doll through the missionary for Pollyanna, she instead received crutches; her father remarked that they should be glad because they did not need to use them.

Pollyanna spreads her happy disposition to no less than six townsfolk by forming a personal relationship with each of them. One of them is the pastor, the Rev. Paul Ford. When Pollyanna meets him, Paul and Polly are discussing this week's sermon. She is directing him on what to say and on which scripture passage to focus. Her philosophy is that the pastor only has the congregation one short hour a week, and there are six long days of mischief for them; therefore it is important to strike hard on Sunday the unfairness of God's wrath, and to instil dread in God's wrath, and hope they will carry it with them

at least a few days into the week. Paul readily accepts this view, as his sermons are typical "fire and brimstone" exhortations, where even the chandelier in the church vibrates. The people shift uncomfortably in the pews, as they look up to the preacher from a high pulpit. The household staff challenges Pollyanna to find something about which to be glad about Sundays. Pollyanna thinks for a moment and says, "We can be glad because there are six whole days until Sunday comes around again."

There is a flood in the local orphanage when the pipes burst. The mayor wants to hold a town bazaar to raise the funds to build a new orphanage, rather than fixing the old one. Even though Polly has the means to pay for the repairs, the mayor believes it would be better for the town to ban together and act like a community, and take pride in its services. For too long the Harrington family has big on charity, which people do not appreciate. As the mayor observes, one person has been acting as the town council and the whole city conscience.

Polly is against the bazaar, and as a result, nobody will advertise it. In fact, the bazaar is endangered of being cancelled because in all likelihood no one will come for fear of antagonising Polly and feeling her wrath. Indeed, one person owns the town, but Pollyanna observes, "Nobody could own a church." Therefore the bazaar committee visits Paul, asking him to announce the bazaar during Sunday worship. He refuses because the church should not influence the community, and should avoid taking sides. The committee, however, senses that he does not want to cause problems in his congenial relationship with Polly. The mayor's nephew states, "I guess Pollyanna was wrong."

Later that day, Polly sends Pollyanna on an errand to take some scripture passages to Paul to "advise" his next sermon. Pollyanna asks him if likes being a minister, and talks about her father

and how he had difficulty getting through to members of his congregation. Of course Paul feels that he has the same problem, and asks if her father was ever able to solve it. She says he once came across a quote that helped him, and had it inscribed on a medallion, which is the only thing she has from her parents. "When you look for the bad in mankind expecting to find it, you surely will." After Pollyanna's father read this quote, he decided to look for the good in people, and focus on their good qualities rather than dwelling on their faults. She also says that her father would focus on the "happy" or "glad" texts in the Bible, where God tells his people to be happy and to rejoice. After Pollyanna leaves, Paul reads the note from Polly and realises that he has been like everyone else, following Polly's directions, and being an unhappy and depressed person, and passing along this disposition to members of the congregation.

When the people arrive for the next Sunday service, they are greeted with three surprises. Paul begins by reading one of the "happy" texts, encouraging everyone to be glad in their relationships with God and each other. He promises that their visits with God will be more joyful. Second, he apologises for wasting the last four years when he could have been a friend to the people of his flock; he admits that he has failed them and asks their forgiveness. Third, he encourages everyone to go to the bazaar that evening. With a loud voice and a smile on his face, he tells them, "If you're not there, I'll lamb into you something fierce when I get you in here next week, and you know I can do it too!"

As people of God, we are called to see the light of Christ in each person we meet, whether we meet the person in passing or through a long-term relationship (either as friend or foe). How do we focus on the good in people? How do we accept others' faults?

What is the church's relationship with the wider community? How should the church be involved in the community's projects? How should the church influence the community?

"I am the vine, you are the branches." John 15.5a

This recognizable verse of scripture is an excerpt from the Gospel reading for the fifth Sunday of Easter, the day of my ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons in Christ's Holy Catholic Church. But I believe that we must be careful not to allow our familiarity with some passages of scripture, like this one, to diminish the impact of the message.

An essential Christian discipline is to stay connected to the true vine and continue to be in relationship with Christ. I am sure that many parishioners here at St. George on Yonge would readily share your walk of Christian discipleship; and your stories, I guess, would be quite unique.

My own nurturing in the Christian faith started with infant baptism, as a cradle Anglican, through Sunday school, confirmation, serving at the altar, choir membership, warden, and on to an extensive lay ministry. Now, I look forward to participating in this vibrant ministry here at St. George on Yonge, where God has blessed us with many opportunities for Christian service.

Thanks for welcoming me as we endeavour to stay connected to the true vine through our prayers, the study of scripture and participation in the Eucharist; and to reach out to the wider community as we share the Good News with others. Thanks Be To God.

Leonard



Are you on facebook??

St. George on Yonge is there too!!

Be sure to look us up and "like" us at ...

<https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeonyonge>

St. George Music Knights Who and what we are.

The St. George Music Knights are a vision with a mission (and soon a T-shirt!) I am looking to increase the use of the Sanctuary and bring more people into our building.

I love live music when something is created there in the moment never to be repeated exactly.

Headphones and earbuds are fine but live music is something special, unique and artistic.

We are fortunate to have a wonderful space, we should make full use of it's potential.

To me, live music in our space is a fresh expression and a celebration of life.

On May 8 we had a great start, to what I hope will be a series of concerts over the years.

A Louis Armstrong Tribute Concert with Mboya Nicholson and William Sperandei.

The sound was amazing with 55 in the audience paying a very modest \$10 to \$15, the Concert was lively with a spontaneous standing ovation, the musicians were delighted with the acoustics, a respectable amount of money, and the attention and appreciation of the audience.

Check out Youtube to see and hear what it was like.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8aM92kYDOWDZ6COhs5-lnA> or Youtube search "St. George Mboya"

June 5 should be another wonderful night of music with Mboya and vocalist Katie DuTemple doing Timeless: Jazz Standards. All Advance sales \$10 (order at jazz@stgeorgeonyonge.ca)

The St. George Music Knights have a mission "Dedicated to Quality, Affordable, All-Ages Live Music in our Community" and a credo "Honour the Music, Honour the Listener, Honour the Musician"

We can accomplish this for our community with our congregation and our building.

If you have ideas, or want to help please contact Chris Hayward in person or at jazz@stgeorgeonyonge.ca

Thank You, Chris Hayward

PS - If you want to see an great music documentary try "Searching for Sugar Man" on DVD from the library. For a great song try "A Living Prayer" by Alison Krauss (good on youtube)

Announcements



Food Bank Sunday is the second Sunday of each month and we will try to fill the cart in the Narthex. The cart will be presented at the Altar along with the offerings that day as a symbol of our gift in reaching out to the hungry in our community. Donations will be appropriately distributed by the Outreach Committee. When you are shopping over the next couple of weeks, remember to pick up some non-perishable canned goods. Remember Jesus said, "When you did it for the least of these, you did it for me."



Annual Prayer Breakfast: Saturday, June 13, 9:00 to 12:00 noon. Bishop Linda Nicholls will be our speaker. Mark your calendar and come out to this time of prayer, spiritual reflection, and renewing our faith. Please RSVP by Thursday, June 11 with participants' names and contact information to office@stgeorgestoronto.ca (preferable option) or (416) 225-1922. There is **no charge**, but donations toward the cost of food would be most gratefully accepted.



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 June 25, July 23, August 27, and September 24.



Community Bazaar and Craft Sale: Saturday, October 17 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. All members of the Parish are invited to take part in this fundraising event - collecting items for sale, helping on the day of the event, promoting it in the community, and of course, as buyers. We want to build on the tradition of past bazaars and make it even more

profitable to help with Church expenses. We are looking for contact information for crafters who might want to have a table at the sale. As well, we want to involve the community, (e.g., seniors' residences, our own daycare) so if you know of any community businesses that might like to take part, please let us know! If you can help with any of the above, or want to let us know what you would like to help with, please speak to Lorraine Baillie (905-881-1465 or lbaille@rogers.com) or Geraldine Sperling. With everyone's help, we can have a very successful sale. Thank you!

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!

Summer Vacation

Members of the Parish Staff will be on vacation for different parts of the summer. 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!

Leadership 2015

Incumbent	The Rev. Canon Mark Kinghan
Assistant Curate	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Honorary Associate	The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
Associate, Mandarin Ministry	Morning Wang
Organist & Director of Music	Michael Leach
Parish Administrator	Craig Gustafson
Custodian	Philip Ikhuoria
Churchwardens	
People's Warden	Max Wynter
Rector's Warden	Aili Maki

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。

Mandarin Fellowship will not meet June 7, 14, and 21. *The service will resume June 28.*

During July and August, there will not be an 8:00 service. *The service will resume September 6.*

The next edition of the newsletter will be coming out on October 4, 2015

Deadline is Sunday, September 20 at 3:45 p.m.

Email articles to the editor: Kathy Baillie at fambail@hotmail.com



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