

*St. George on Yonge Anglican Church: 5350 Yonge Street, Toronto, Ontario*

## From the Incumbent's Desk...

Dear Friends,

Greetings and blessings as we enjoy these wonderful days of spring!

As I write this, I can hear the song of the birds outside my window. There's so much life and joy in the calling back and forth and in the melody that is created. Sometimes I like to just stop and listen. This can be as beautiful as hearing an orchestra or a piece on our amazing organ in the church. Such a simple thing to notice, but an invitation to receive in that moment the gift that God is offering to stop what we're doing and simply listen.

I'm much attuned these days to being aware and present to the glimpses we are offered into the beauty and awesomeness of God. Sometimes it's on a grand scale; at other times it's in the minute details of the center of a flower; sometimes it's walking down Yonge Street and looking up at the sky; and at other times it's driving along a road in the country seeing the cows or horses in a field.

However, we can easily miss those opportunities if we're not somewhat intentional about looking for them. How often do we walk down the street looking down instead of up? Or are we in a hurry so we take the highway instead of the side roads that are slower and less travelled? Do we miss the obvious right in front of us because we're so fixated on busyness and our hectic schedules? Do we ignore moments of joy and delight because we're concentrating so much on stress and frustrations of the day?

Going on retreat has opened my eyes again to a real need in me to be intentionally attentive to what is around me, and in particular the glory of God that is revealed to me in so many ways. There is always work to do; calls to make; shopping to be done; details at work that need our attention too. And often our very livelihood depends on being sure these are attended to. That is a reality we can't avoid.

But, we need to remember that in the creation story, on the seventh day God rested; in the gospels on a number of occasions Jesus went off away from his disciples and the crowds to simply "be" because he knew he needed it. These are reminders to us that we too need to take time to be renewed in our spirits; to reflect on what's happening in our lives; to be aware and name the things that bring us joy and delight. That in turn allows us to return to what's expected of us with a new outlook we can embrace which is healthy and life giving.

### Inside this issue:

From the Incumbent's Desk	1 & 2
Celebrating our Faith Stories...	2
Anglican Communion Sunday	3
Church School	3
My first Clergy Conference	3
Faith Conversations in the Park...	4
Free Prayer	4
Leadership	4
Screening in Faith	4
Spring and Summer	5
Lay Ministry Appreciation Sunday	5
Announcements /Community Notices	6
Why, Gay Pride?	7
Faith on Film and Television	8 & 9
Marriage Cannon	9
Pride Parade	9
Services	10

Summer is a natural time when people have some down time. Many travel to visit other parts of the country or world. For some, it's a "staycation". Whatever we might do in these couple of months to come, may we be intentional about being open to seeing, recognizing and experiencing the goodness of God. And, may it be a microcosm for our life the whole year through. When September arrives and the busyness ramps up again, let's remember what it was like and how it felt to take that time to be restored and revitalized.

Friends, let's covenant together with each other and with God to maintain a rhythm of life that is beyond existence and work and that invites us into each new day anticipating what is to come. And may that rhythm not be a chore or burden, but something that brings us delight and faithfulness in all we do and in each person we meet. And in all of that, may we offer to God and each other and the world around us the best of ourselves and our faith that we may bring others joy too even as we have felt joy ourselves.

I pray for safety and the gift of time as we enter into this summer season. May it be a blessing to each of us individually and collectively in our shared life together.

Blessings,

*Mark* ✝

## Celebrating our Faith Stories...

By Mark Kingham

In each issue of our newsletter, I will interview a member of our parish to learn about their faith journey. As we read of their experiences, may we be inspired to reflect on our own.

I'm pleased that Craig Robertson agreed to be interviewed for this edition.

### 1. Who was influential in your faith formation?

Craig's "big brother" John had an impact on him throughout his life, especially his enthusiasm and his faithfulness. More locally, here at St. George on Yonge, Craig was influenced by Geraldine and her constant faithfulness to God and the community. John Wilton was also important to Craig in the way that he was critical and intelligent and in the sharing of his personal reflections on God and the world.

### 2. What is your favourite biblical passage or story?

1 Corinthians 13, Paul's writing about "love". For Craig it is about humanity and presents a message that is simple and straightforward. As well, there is an obvious absence of dogma to detract from the essential message Paul is conveying.

### 3. What are some significant moments along your faith journey?

The birth of his children; working with mentees and the relationship that is built in sharing time together; on the subway as he sees people, when their eyes connect and that momentary glimpse into another person.

### 4. How do you pass on your faith to others?

Craig shares what he does by talking about it with others, and especially why he has the impulses to do the things that he has a passion for. The basics that apply to all people are what are most important. So for Craig, he strips away the dogma that might create barriers.

We give thanks for Craig, for his faith that has grown throughout his life and for his ministry here at St. George on Yonge!

## Anglican Communion Sunday

**Sunday May 29**, around the world, we were asked to observe "**Anglican Communion Sunday**". The Sunday closest to the feast of **Saint Augustine of Canterbury** was chosen as the suggested date because it was Saint Augustine who was sent by Pope Gregory to undertake the conversion of England. The conversion of England had already begun, of course, and there was Celtic Christianity in the British Isles before Augustine arrived; but it was Augustine who is recognised as the first Archbishop of Canterbury and who established his seat at what is now Canterbury Cathedral – the mother church of the Anglican Communion.

We pray for our Anglican Communion, for the bonds that we share together and for Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

***Gracious God, we give you thanks for the gift of the world-wide Anglican Communion of churches: for the experience of belonging to all the ages, for the gift of thoughtful prayer that you have taught us, and for the task of reverent study to which you call us. We thank you for the love of worship you have stirred up in our hearts, and for the love of justice you have implanted in our wills. Remind us that you are with us in times of trouble as in times of joy; nurture in us thankful hearts when we stand together, and send your holy wisdom into our disagreements. In dispute, may we be gentle and loving; in unity, may we be humble; in poverty, nourish us with hope; in wealth, help us become responsible and generous. In flame us with prophetic vision so that our fellowship may bear the likeness of the incoming kingdom proclaimed for all by Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

## St. George Church School

The Church school will be wrapping up for the year with our last Sunday being June 12<sup>th</sup>. We would like to thank the families and the children for a great year. We are looking for people to join our teaching team, anyone interested please speak to Geoff or Leonard.

## My first Clergy Conference

Anglican clergy from across the Diocese of Toronto gathered from May 25-27 at Brock University in St Catharines. The theme of the conference was "Preaching Luke, Hope for Our Times" with guest speaker Dr. Paula Gooder, a writer and lecturer in biblical studies. As a recently ordained priest, I looked forward to this event, and came away with lots of ideas for my own Bible Study, and for communicating the Good News to others. The presentations and discussions about the importance of parables from Holy Scripture, and how we could allow the parables to live again, were the highlights for me. There were also several opportunities for corporate worship, and some social time. We were all challenged to look at ourselves as disciples, who not only follow Jesus; but who continue to learn, grow and deepen our relationship with Christ. This invitation, I suggest, is open to all who "confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share in his eternal priesthood."

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>

## Faith Conversations in the Park...



**Tuesdays June 14, 28** and the second and fourth Tuesday of July and August, from 7:30 to 8:30 pm anyone who is interested and available will gather near the gazebo in Dempsey Park on Beecroft to discuss topics that engage us in our everyday faith and recognizing God in the routines of ordinary life. All you need to bring is a lawn chair and water for yourself and an open spirit. It will be good to be present faithfully in our neighborhood. Who knows if others passing by might be drawn into our conversation in some way!

## Free Prayer...



On Thursday mornings, Mark & Leonard will be offering prayer to anyone who wishes it in **Mel Lastman Square**, near the farmer's market. Stop by if you're there and say hi! And pray for those who might stop to chat and even ask for a prayer.

## Leadership 2016

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
Children's Ministry Co-ordinator	Geoff Clennett

## Screening in Faith...



The Diocese has a set of standards and policies parishes are asked to engage in to maintain safety in relationships, in the handling of sensitive and confidential information and in the dealing of anything related to money and financial matters.

Thanks to Craig Gustafson for the work he has put into this in the past and for working with me on this now to ensure our compliance with Diocesan expectations. There are two "Boundaries & Ethics" sessions which will be held on June 5 and 12. Thanks to those who have signed up. And thank you too for your ministry here at St. George on Yonge!

**SPRING & SUMMER**

**at St. George on Yonge**

- Tues., June 14 & 28;**     *Faith Conversations*  
**July 12 & 26;**             in the Dempsey Park  
**August 9 & 23**
  
- Thursdays,**                 *"Free Prayer"* at the  
**June to September**       Farmers Market
  
- Sat., June 11**     *"The Testament of Mary"* a play at  
Young Centre for the Performing Arts  
\$36 – sign up in the Narthex
  
- Sun., June 12**     *Lay Ministry Appreciation Sunday*
  
- Sat., June 18**     *Parish BBQ- 4:30 p.m.*
  
- Sun., June 19**     *National Aboriginal Day*  
Preacher: The Rev. Canon Andrew Wesley
  
- Sun., July 3**       *Pride parade* ... interested in marching
  
- TBD**                     *Poetry in the Park*
  
- TBD**                     *"Faith & Film"* sponsored by the **NOW**  
group of St. George on Yonge

**Mark your calendars!!  
Invite your friends, family, and neighbours!!**

**Lay Ministry Appreciation  
Sunday  
June 12, 2016**



Including prayers and blessings for our various Lay ministries here at St. George on Yonge  
And lay reflections in place of the sermon  
At both 8 & 10:30

We have much to give thanks for  
In each person who gives of themselves  
Here at St. George's!



The tulip cross in the Church School Garden

*Thank you to everyone who helped with the garden planting and the donations received towards this.  
It was a great day and the garden looks wonderful. Check it out.*

## Announcements

### 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.

Mandarin Bible Study: Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.



Pub 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 the Knights for spirited conversation, a cold beverage, and great food at the “Frog & Firkin” (4854 Yonge Street, across from the Sheppard Centre on Yonge Street). The next dates are Thursday, June 23, July 28, August 25, and September 22.

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.”

Did You Know? Bulletins along with recordings of the service (sermons and announcements) are available on our

website. Click on the “Latest Sermon” or “The Sermon Archive” links on the front page. Bulletins are available through the “Next Service” link on the front page; from there you can look at past services. If you cannot make it to the service, we hope you will feel connected to us via these tools!



Please remember that we strive to keep our building a seafood and nut-sensitive environment. For the safety of our children, and the children in the daycare, please remember to refrain from bringing food that contains peanuts, tree nuts, fish, and seafood into the building. Thank you.

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!

Morning would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support in the postulancy process. She has been accepted as a postulant, which means she will enter into a time of formation for two years with the hope of ordination following. Please continue to hold her in your prayers.

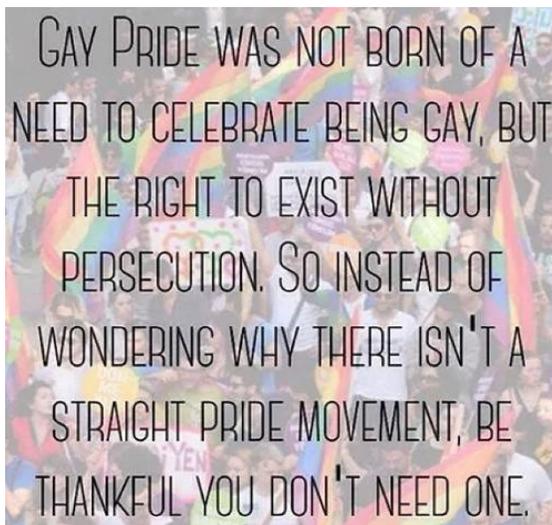
## Community Notice

Yonge Churchill Child Care Centre: Full day summer camps AND before and after school programmes are available! Please see the flyer on the Welcome Desk for contact information.

## Why, Gay Pride?

by Chip Barkel

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s discrimination and repression were still rampant against homosexual men and women. Shame, social stigma, housing and job discrimination, and institutionalized violence were commonplace. Suicides (Allan Turing, who cracked the Nazi secret codes and likely won WWII for The Allies being just one example) and murders were not unusual. Internalizing that shame and hiding led to the expression being "in the closet", where fear, shame, and darkness prevailed. Civil servants and military personnel were often fired and given dishonourable discharges just because they were gay.



GAY PRIDE WAS NOT BORN OF A NEED TO CELEBRATE BEING GAY, BUT THE RIGHT TO EXIST WITHOUT PERSECUTION. SO INSTEAD OF WONDERING WHY THERE ISN'T A STRAIGHT PRIDE MOVEMENT, BE THANKFUL YOU DON'T NEED ONE.

"Annual Reminder" demonstrations began in front of Independence Hall in Philadelphia in 1965. Yes, Independence Hall, the very birthplace of liberty in the United States. The purpose was to protest and carry picket signs reminding Americans that gay men and lesbian women did not receive equal rights, despite the fact that the major Civil Rights Act of the century had been signed into law just a month before.

In June, 1969, police once again raided a bar in Greenwich Village, in New York City, violently harassing and beating the patrons. The lesbian,

gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) patrons decided enough was enough, and fought back. A riot and further protests ensued. This event is considered a watershed moment in what was then called Gay Liberation, freeing shamed and repressed homosexual men and lesbian women from the handcuffs and closets society had imposed. A plan was made to march in protest to allow individuals to hold their heads high and be seen. While the march was planned for June 1970, the first anniversary of The Stonewall Inn riots, groups in other cities were also encouraged to hold parallel protest marches. In Toronto, a similar violent police raid happened in February 1981. That June, the first Gay Pride march of protest was held here. The term "pride" was adopted to counteract "shame", and the rainbow flag was eventually adopted to reflect the diversity of the gay community. The individual colours represent: life (red), healing (orange), sunlight (yellow), nature (green), harmony (blue), and spirit (purple/violet). Gay Pride is now celebrated in cities around the world.



Today, we (in Canada, at least) enjoy many freedoms that were previously denied: same-sex marriage in the secular community, ability to adopt children, protections from job and housing discrimination, and wider societal acceptance. We even have a Premier of Ontario who is a proud lesbian. Gay Pride demonstrations have evolved into month-long celebrations. Yes, celebrations! What a difference a few decades can make. Protests and riots have evolved into *celebrations*! Discrimination and violence has led to acceptance. It is fitting that both Canada Day (July 1<sup>st</sup>) here and Independence Day (July 4<sup>th</sup>) in the United States, both holidays celebrating freedom, coincide with Gay Pride celebrations. Let's appreciate and celebrate our differences, and thank God for them.

## *Faith on Film and Television*

by Craig Gustafson

When Charles Chaplin joined Keystone studios in 1914, motion pictures tended to be short (10 to 30 minutes was the norm), and plots tended to be formulaic (get to the chase as soon as possible). The objective was to release as many films as possible, as quickly as possible. Chaplin became a film pioneer, as his focus turned to developing more sophisticated stories which meant more screen time was needed for the film, more time was spent on filming, and there was a greater time lapse between each release. The following two films feature a conversion experience. Easy Street was one of twelve films released for Mutual studios. The Pilgrim was Chaplin's last short film and his last film under contract to another company (First National) before becoming independent.

Easy Street (1917). Starring Charlie Chaplin, Edna Purviance, Eric Campbell, Albert Austin, James T. Kelley, Henry Bergman, Charlotte Mineau. Available for purchase and through the library.

A Derelict (Chaplin) is sleeping outside Hope Mission. Singing from the mission awakens him, and he ventures inside. The sermon and singing have an effect on him, as well as a conversation with the Minister and a pretty Mission Worker. He is invigorated to make a difference. When he leaves, he sees a sign outside the police station advertising for recruits.

Easy Street is a rough neighbourhood, where there is violence on the street and in the homes. The police try unsuccessfully to use force to maintain law and order. The ruffians, however, beat up the police and take their uniforms as trophies.

The Derelict as the new recruit receives some whacks from the Chief, as part of the interview

process, to ensure he is up for the job. As he patrols Easy Street, he realises he needs to use his brains rather than his brawns to defeat the bullies. Because of the welcoming and encouraging people at the mission, the Derelict finds a purpose for his life, and brings peace to the neighbourhood of Easy Street. The mission changes his life, and he has a profound effect on the neighbourhood.

The Pilgrim (1923). Starring Edna Purviance, Charlie Chaplin, Sydney Chaplin, Mai Wells?, Dinky Reisner, Chuck Reisner, Tom Murray, Kitty Bradbury, Mack Swain, Loyal Underwood, Henry Bergman. Available for purchase.

Lefty Lombard (Chaplin) is a convict who escapes from prison in California. He happens upon a parson who is swimming in a pond, and trades his clothes for the parson's. He moves onto a train station, where an eloping couple want him to marry them. After several encounters with sheriffs, Lefty decides to get as far away as possible. Having found money in the parson's clothes, he buys a ticket to Devil's Gulch, Texas.

The congregation in Devil's Gulch is awaiting the arrival of the new parson, Philip Pim. When Lefty disembarks the train, the contingent presumes he is Philip, and immediately escorts him to his first service. He takes particular interest when the collection is taken. He ensures no one is missed, and shames the people who he feels have not given enough. He does not want the collection to leave his sight, as he hopes to sneak off with it. After he fails to steal the collection, the deacon gives it to him for safe keeping. He is taken to the house of a parish family where he will stay. On the way, he comes across Howard Huntington, a former cellmate.

Lefty takes a liking to the daughter of the family. While they are in the yard, Howard comes along and introduces himself as Lefty's college friend.

He is invited inside, and tries to steal the deacon's pocketbook and the family's money. He eventually steals the family's earnings, and Lefty runs off, promising to get it back. Then the sheriff arrives and tells them about Lefty's past. Lefty manages to get the money back, and takes it to the daughter, along with the collection the deacon gave him. The sheriff arrives to arrest him, and the daughter pleads for mercy for Lefty.

The conversion that Lefty experiences here is not a religious experience but a personal one. He tries to steal the collection, but when Howard shows up, Lefty goes out of his way to ensure no one is robbed. He has had the opportunity to become acquainted with members of the congregation and the family which has taken him into the home. He changes by their example. He cares for them and does not want to see them used.

As people of faith, what effect do we have on acquaintances, either by our words or by our actions?



Please pray for the **General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada** Meeting here in the Diocese of Toronto in July.

Changes to the Marriage Canon will be One of the main agenda items.



### **Pride Parade**

**Sunday July 3 in the afternoon**

**If you're interested in walking as part of the Diocese of Toronto contingent  
Speak to Mark.**

**We can travel down together by TTC.**

## Services

Sunday 8:00 a.m. Said Eucharist (BAS 1962)  
 9:00 a.m. Mandarin Fellowship  
 10:30 a.m. Sung Eucharist (BAS)  
 3rd Sunday of the month (AAAWE)

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

Mandarin Fellowship is offered in the Sanctuary. 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教会大家庭，我们的国语团契每周日上午9点举行主日聚会。

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。

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

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

The next edition of the newsletter will be coming out on Sunday, October 2, 2016

**Deadline** is Sunday, September 18, 2016 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.StGeorgeonYonge.ca](http://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**