

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

From the Incumbent's Desk...

Dear friends,

Greetings as we walk our Lenten journey from the ashes of our burned palms to the cross of Good Friday to the empty tomb of Easter morning. May this be a holy and sacred pilgrimage for you.

I marvel at how readily we are to find out the truth, even when it what we receive is far from the real truth. We are hearing more and more the saying "Alternative facts". And often, we are left to wonder what is the truth in a given context or conversation. This is perpetuated by politicians of each political party, by the media, by gossip that is spread and stories that are invented. And more often than not, to what end?

The truth is often shrouded by our interpretation of the reality we experience. The truth we believe in is formed throughout our lives and is constantly being challenged as we seek to further understand this notion of what is right and wrong, what is healthy and unhealthy and what is good and bad for us as a whole society.

I personally like to reframe those questions to include what is just and what is unjust. Issues of justice, fairness, mutual respect and the hope of reconciliation are all part of our spiritual quest for the truth. I look at all the people who suffer at the hands of others and my sense of God says there is something not right about that reality. The cycles of poverty, violence, discrimination, racism and all the phobias that are prevalent today are not just, and so for me out of my faith cannot be part of what is truth.

And likewise, faithfulness to what is at the heart of our relationship with God, lived out as followers of Jesus Christ informs our understanding of truth. There is a central truth prevalent in the gospel that values the good in all people that calls for love, caring, compassion and understanding in the relationships we have with one another. Somehow it saddens me that these very truths we hold at the core of our faith are being eroded away in the society we live in today.

Pontius Pilate, with Jesus standing on trial before him, asked "What is truth?" He had some glimpse of the answer to that as he went out and said to the crowd, "I find no case against him." The truth was plain and simple, yet so deep and complex too.

The truth was put on trial some 2000 years ago; and the truth as we believe it to be true is put on trial in our own time too. As we walk our Lenten journey of these next few weeks, I invite you to

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ponder for yourself what is the truth you hold on to in the midst of our chaotic world; what is the truth that gives you hope so you don't give in to despair; what is the truth that calls you to a different way of being than is encouraged by the world around us; what is the truth through which you read the newspaper or listen to the radio or watch the television; what is the truth that gives you new life and the promise of resurrection?

Lent is an invitation for us to rediscover and recommit ourselves to the truth that is at the heart of our faith and is found in none other than the one who calls us and leads us, Jesus. He suffered for the truth; he died for the truth; he rose again for the truth. That is our truth story; those are not alternative facts; they are the reality that is at the center and core of what we believe. And as such they are the truth that form in us who we are to be and how we are to live in relationship with God, with the creation of God and with one another as we walk side by side.

On Ash Wednesday, we hear the invitation, "I invite you to observe a holy lent ..." My prayer for each of us in these tumultuous times is that we will have a holy Lenten journey; and that with each step we take on that spiritual pilgrimage, that we may know more and more the truth that we believe in; and that we may be inspired to live it and proclaim it faithfully each day of our lives with each person we meet.

May God bless you with a sacred journey of Lent to the cross of Good Friday and the hope and promise of the empty tomb of Easter.

Mark ✝

I joined the women's march on January 21st

What a day it was, and what an experience! I had only marched once before - in 2003 when Canada stood up to the U.S. and said "no" to the invasion of Iraq.

Why did I march? On the simplest level I wanted to show solidarity to my wife, my daughter and my daughter-in-law (and eventually granddaughters). We have to take a stand and call out that enough is enough with the growing misogyny, disrespect and general incivility building in the United States that President Trump showcases at every chance- and that seems to find more and more expression in Canada as well. For me the march was a shout-out to politicians here that we just do not accept that

I didn't agree with everything the different speakers or sponsoring groups said or even represent. But that wasn't important - the core shared experience was one of community and shared humanity - and search for civility, justice and equality. And I do not want to lose focus on the need to reach for Christian reconciliation, community and fellowship by allowing myself to be distracted by differences of opinion that I may have with a group on either their strategy or all their program points or claims!

It was simply a great experience to be in a big crowd, side-by-side with people who look different from me and who have different opinions from mine, sharing conversation and jokes with them - and sharing our humanity. If we only spend time with people we agree with and who "are like us", where do we end up ourselves?!?!?! I think Jesus was watching us and smiling with us on the 21st!

Craig Robertson

Whenever a biblical passage from Corinthians comes up in my 'Daily Bread' readings at home or one is read in church about Paul's sufferings in jail I am reminded of the letters we received from family in Guernsey in the Channel Islands (off the coast of France) which were occupied by the German Army in the 1939 – 1945 wars.

Our family in Guernsey became aware that the letters they sent to us were being heavily censored either blackened out or cut out.

We were all in tears when they sent us a letter which was not censored, with the citation from 2 Corinthians Chapter 4 verses 8,9,10

- 8 We are afflicted in every way but not crushed; perplexed but not driven to despair
- 9 persecuted but not forsaken; struck down but not destroyed
- 10 Always carrying in the body the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.

Muriel Corbet Thompson

A Prayer Shawl offered...

My new boss mentioned that his daughter had suffered from mental illness for many years now and while they thought they had everything under control she had suffered a major incident. For her safety and monitoring she was again in a psychiatric ward. He was visibly upset and worried that they must again examine the coping skills and medication levels she had been given. I asked him if he felt that one of our Prayer Shawls would give her a sense of comfort. I then asked Mark if it would be alright to pass on one of the shawls currently at the church. Having now passed on to her a shawl that was bright, and full of colour, it was reported that she was thrilled at the gift. She has promised to use it when feeling blue or unsteady. She was stunned that people who did not even know her would care about her or her problems, much less do anything for her. Hopefully our small gift will be able to make a difference in the life of this young woman and her family, who obviously loves her and suffers with her in her battles.

Doug Heyes

Church School



St. George Sunday Children's Program

takes place during the 10:30 a.m. service. Classes available are: 3-5 years old, 6-9 year olds, and 10-12 year olds. All children are welcome. Nursery facilities are available for parents use.

As was announced in the Vestry report, Geoff Clennett will be retiring from the Church School in June. Anyone interested in joining the teaching team please speak to Geoff Clennett or Leonard Leader.

We are Church school teachers because of the kids. The rewards are the smiles, the hugs and the laughter. But every once in a while it's also nice to be recognized for the work that we do. We were presented with the Order of St. George on Yonge Anglican. We are honoured.

Kathy Baillie and Geoff Clennett



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>

Pub Knights

Ever wonder what on earth 'Pub Knights' is, or what we do at such events? To put it exceedingly simple, a group of people from St George On Yonge (it is however not restricted to members only) get together on the fourth Thursday evening of each month at The Frog (formerly the Frog and Firkin) on Yonge St just above Sheppard. We enjoy a beverage of choice, which again is not limited to beer or wine, along with each person's choice from the restaurant menu. We engage in conversation about things that matter to us in the world around us, or our personal lives. We are always ready to offer kind words of support or encouragement to those facing problems or issues and each of tries to come to grips with what it means to live out our faith in a world that often seems to contradict what we believe.

One such example is our main topic of discussion at the event in February where conversation centered around the disturbing frequency and escalation of actions by people in our society targeting specific places or individuals which seemed to be solely based on the colour of their skin, the area of the world where they were born, or the religion that they followed. While incidents such as this had been reported by news reports for a long time they were often reported as having happened in some distant location, far from where we personally lived and worked. Sadly, as reported recently in local news recently that is no longer the case. Recent incidents in Montreal, downtown Toronto, York University, and a condo building less than two blocks from our own church building have shown that what we had long thought to be a safe, accepting, multi-cultural and diverse city may no longer be true for many people living around us.

It was suggested that we put forward the suggestion to follow an example of people standing up to these sorts of attacks in our neighbourhood. A group of people in the west end of Toronto recently took it upon themselves to 'tie a white ribbon' up around their neighbourhood with messages printed on them pointing out that everyone should be welcome, regardless of who they are or what religion they follow. As a result the Pub Knights have made a suggestion that here at St. George on Yonge we need to take a stand as well and have suggested that at a Sunday service in the future each person in attendance should be given a ribbon to take with them out into their community which can be wrapped around a tree or post to display a message of acceptance, dignity and inclusion that should be afforded to everyone in our community.

We look forward to your comments or suggestions. If you want to be a part of our next discussion drop in at 6:00 pm on March 23rd. Everyone is always welcome to join us at The Frog.

Doug Heyes

Leadership 2017

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
Student Intern	James Yu
Organist & Director of Music	Michael Leach
Parish Administrator	Craig Gustafson
Custodian	Philip Ikhuoria
Children's Ministry Co-ordinator	Geoff Clennett

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.

Taizé Service: Please plan to join us the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Sponsored by the St. George on Yonge Mandarin Fellowship. Bilingual in English & Mandarin. A quiet service of song, prayer, and reflection that is meditative and contemplative. The next dates are **April 6; May 4; June 1**. Everyone welcome!

Food Bank: The second Sunday of each month is "Food Bank Sunday" and we will try to fill our shopping cart. Upcoming dates are **April 9, May 14, and June 11**. 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. When you are shopping remember to pick up some non-perishable canned goods. And remember Jesus saying "When you did it for the least of these, you did it for me."

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 **March 23; April 27; May 25**.

The Altar Flower Request Form is available from the Ushers. If you would like flowers placed, please complete the form and place on the offertory plate or mail to the office in an envelope with a donation **at least 2 weeks in advance**. Suggested donation is \$50. Thank you.

The Altar Guild will Decorate our Church for Easter season. If you wish to contribute for the purchase of lilies, please complete the "Altar Flower Request Form" (which is available from the Ushers) and place on the offertory plate in an envelope with a donation **by Sunday, April 9**. Thank you.

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 congregation, 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.

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@stgerogeonyonge.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

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.

Free Daily Devotional Books are Available in the Library that help readers spend time each day in God's Word.

Large and Regular Print: Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. It is also available via e-mail, cassette, and braille. It is also available in Spanish. www.forwardmovement.org/subscriptions.aspx

Regular Print: Our Daily Bread is published by RBC Ministries. Each daily thought is designed to draw the reader into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ and to evoke responses of worship, love, trust, and obedience. It is also available on radio, podcast, e-mail, and mobile. For social networking users, it is available on Twitter and Facebook. It is available in more than 40 languages. www.odp.org/about



Lent 2017 at St. George on Yonge Anglican Church



*I invite you, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by
self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating
on the word of God.*

(from the Ash Wednesday Exhortation, BAS)

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| ❖ Communion Service & Joel reflection
Wednesdays, March 22, 29; April 5 | Chapel
10:30 a.m. |
| ❖ Candlelight Communion Services
Wednesdays, March 22, 29; April 5 | Chapel
7:30 p.m. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Quiet, meditative, contemplative music, candlelit</i> | |
| ❖ Lenten Series
<i>"The Prophet Joel . . . Join Others Encountering Lent"</i>
Wednesdays March 22, 29; April 5 | following the Candlelight Communion Service |

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

*Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.*

(Psalm 51:10–11)

Faith on Film and Television

by Craig Gustafson

Colonia (2015). Starring Emma Watson, Daniel Brühl, Michael Nyqvist, Richenda Carey, Vicky Krieps, Jeanne Werner, Julian Ovenden, August Zirner, Martin Wuttke, César Bordón, Nicolás Barsoff. Available for purchase.

Many of the characters are fictional, but the film is based on historical events. In 1973 there was a coup lead by the military and police in Chile which removed President Salvador Allende, and appointed Augusto Pinochet as Supreme Head of Chile. Paul Schäfer, a former German Nazi, setup an isolated farming community called "Colonia Dignidad" (Dignity Colony) in Chile in the 1960s, purportedly based on Baptist and anti-communist principles. Schäfer worked closely with Pinochet as a place to send political prisoners. Schäfer was accused of manufacturing chemical weapons and testing them on residents of the colony.

Daniel is a photographer from West Germany who visits Chile before the coup. He develops sympathy for Allende and becomes an activist in the campaign to keep him in power. Lena is a flight attendant and his girlfriend, and she meets up with him when one of her flights lands in Chile. Within days the coup occurs, and Daniel and Lena are apprehended on suspicion of being Allende's supporters. Daniel is identified as someone who has been involved in rallies, and is taken to be interrogated and tortured so that he will implicate others. He refuses to cooperate, and when the military feels his injuries are severe enough to render him no further threat, they hand him over to Schäfer, who presents himself as someone who will protect Daniel from further harm. Everyone believes Daniel to be intellectually disabled as a result of his injuries; therefore, he acts as if he is disabled so that he will be left alone.

Meanwhile Lena is released and learns where Daniel has been taken. The colony is secluded and presents itself as a charitable organisation where people can live a simple life in a community and be near God. Lena visits Amnesty International, and the worker

knows what really happens behind the gates of the colony. She decides to join the colony in order to rescue Daniel against the worker's advice.

The colony is really a cult, where Schäfer is seen as God and everyone must obey his every command. He tells Lena from the beginning that once she joins the colony she will never be able to leave. People are forbidden to talk others. Men, women, and children are separated; babies are taken away from their parents and are not told who their parents are. A leader always knows where the charges are, and the charges are often locked in their rooms so that they cannot freely travel in the colony. Leaders will often say derogatory things to their charges, and people are encouraged to hurt each other out of their "love" for each other. In a terrible irony, people lose their dignity and are made to feel useless and without value.

This film gives a glimpse into the structure and activities of a cult, which is why they are usually dangerous and harmful to the members. There is no accountability for leaders, who tend to exercise their authority and power in order to accomplish their personal goals to the detriment of the members, who they profess to protect and nurture. Schäfer had the ability to perform these autocracies partly because he had the support of Pinochet and the Chilean military and police, as well as officials in West Germany. It is a prime example of the phrase, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing" (attributed to Edmund Burke), for presumably good people worked with Schäfer, even though the evidence against him could not be denied.

It is important for our places of worship (as well as our communities) to be transparent, in terms of how power is exercised and how resources are used. People must be allowed to join and leave as they choose. Causing harm to others can never be tolerated. Members must speak up if behaviour by leaders is harmful, and there should be no fear of consequences for speaking up. We all have the responsibility to ensure that each person is treated with respect and treasured. I believe this duty is at the centre of our Christian faith.

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 May 28, 2017.

Deadline is Sunday May 14th what ever time is convenient to you. Articles submitted after the deadline may possibly not be included depending on available space. 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