

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

“Hope, Peace, Joy and Love.”

Greetings:

Advent is the beginning of the Church year when Christians observe a time of preparation for Christmas.

Here at St. George on Yonge, we are encouraged to consider this time of year as a “fresh start” for the parish and for each of us. What would spiritual renewal look like for our worshipping community?

On the first Sunday of Advent, we have the opportunity to renew our baptismal vows, and I am suggesting that this could be a meaningful start on our journey through Advent.

I am looking forward to some of the old favourite hymns like:

*“Hark the glad sound! The Savior comes,
The Savior promised long;
Let every heart prepare a throne
And every voice a song.”*

This hymn, by Philip Doddridge, (1702–51) tells of the coming of Christ, and points to the season of anticipation and hope. It announces that Advent is here and gives us renewed energy to continue our spiritual journey, as we invite others to join us.

So may we have a new song in our heart, as we live in hope and experience peace, joy and love this Advent.

Leonard 
Rev. Leonard Leader

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Community Connection

Our Neighbourhood Ministry, now renamed Community Connection, activities continue to take shape here at St. George on Yonge and I would like to take this opportunity to pass on my thanks and appreciation for all those people who have had a role in the various activities that take place. No one can do it alone and it takes a team working together to make any event or activity a success. To that end we are always willing to accept help and support from new people.

You may ask "What is it that this group does?" or "Why do we do this?". The simple answer is that as Christians we are called, not to sit in a pew or on a chair watching, and listening, to a service, but to actively be a means by which God's love and compassion is spread throughout the community. We actually publicly state that fact each week when we read the Creed, stating that **"We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church"**.

As followers of Christ we are called to an active ministry in his name, not a passive one. Some of the examples which have occurred as a result of the efforts of this group, working along with Outreach and Parish Life, are the Poetry Café evenings, the Pancake Supper with invitations to non-members, the Parish Barbeque, the monthly Pub Knights, the Community Lunch which on our last event was attended by approx. 70 guests from the congregation, the community at large, the Mandarin Fellowship community, and the individuals who come to the church every month to obtain gift cards. Yes, each of these events contain food of some sort but they also all have conversation, compassion, entertainment and support to all those attending. They also, each of them, allow us to open our doors and invite those people in the community around us into our building, or in the case of the Pub Knights take us out into the community itself, to meet and get to know us and our beliefs.

This connection to our neighbours is important as shown by a poll done on people's spiritual basis overall in Canada, which found the following breakdown of groups and numbers as relates to Willowdale.

- 9 % - 14,000 - are regular (1/month) attendance at religious service
- 30 % - 39,000 - are privately spiritual (believe in God) but do not attend
- 30 % - 39,000 - are not spiritual or believer, but still pray for support
- 21 % - 27,000 - do not believe and would not attend
-

This survey shows that there is over 60 % of the people who are members or are on the fence ready to come in if asked or if they find the door open when they come looking for support. Imagine for a moment if you can, if only a small percentage of the 78,000 people who already know God or seek his support when in need joined us here each week. What would our church look like then, and what would we be able to do?

Some of the things that have been suggested for the rest of the year, and for which we ask for your help or suggestion, are a planned lunch for the recipients of our gift cards on December 4th when they normally come along with a repeat of the gift giving from earlier of warm gloves, scarves, hats and socks. I also would like to see us hold a "movie" afternoon for the community, with either popcorn or simple 'warm soup cups' and refreshments. If you have any suggestions, or are able to lend a hand, please let myself or Leonard know. With more support and volunteers there are many more things that we could get involved with or put together. Remember that God's power, working through us, can accomplish much more than we could ever ask or imagine.

Respectfully submitted

Doug Heyes

Children's Ministry

St. George Sunday Children's Program – by Kathy Baillie

This year we are using the Sermons 4 Kids program. Each week we start in Church until the Children's talk, sing in the chapel, and then hear a story and do activities related to the story.

Unfortunately, since I am the only teacher, there have been weeks that the program has had to be cancelled. When there isn't a program, there are activity bulletins for the children to do during the service. There will be no children's program on December 30th, February 17th and February 24th. Also, I had spoken with Rev. Leonard and informed him that I would only commit to continuing until Christmas but with the uncertainty of the leadership at the Church after Christmas I will commit up to Easter. Thanks to Debbie for all her help.

Community announcements

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 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.odt.org/about**

The Archbishop's Levee: at the Cathedral Church of St. James, 65 Church Street (at King Street), on Tuesday, January 1. Join Bishop Andrew Asbil and the College of Bishops to offer best wishes and prayers for the New Year.

12:30 p.m.	Said Eucharist
1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	Receiving Line and Reception with the ringing of the Bells of Old York
3:00 p.m.	Festive Music
3:30 p.m.	Choral Evensong with presentations of the Order of the Diocese of Toronto

All are welcome. Nursery care provided.

Are you on PAR? Why not?

It is so easy! No worry about remembering to bring your offering Sunday mornings. It is painless. On the 20th of each month the amount you choose to contribute to the church is withdrawn from your bank account. In this way you are supporting your church even if you are not there. The church's expenses continue and your support is needed.

You can change your amount or cancel if your situation changes. Changes are made at the beginning of each month. There are forms in the office which must be filled in, in order to make the change.

There are PAR cards for you to put in the collection plate to show that you are a PAR contributor. They are located on the table in the Narthex or ask the ushers.

You can make additional donations for special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, etc. There are special envelopes available. Make sure to put your name on it so you will be credited for it. You can also use generic envelopes for any additional donations you wish to make.

Information brochures with an application form are available at the welcome desk. If you would like further information, please speak to me or give me a call at 416-225-2570.

Once on PAR you will wonder why you didn't do it sooner!

Anne Baillie, Envelope Secretary



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>

Announcements

ESL Conversational Classes: Tuesdays, 12:00 noon – 2:00 p.m. Separate beginner- and intermediate-level sections are offered. No registration needed.

Wednesday Morning Group: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Join us for refreshments and conversation. Topics often include travelogues, seasonal studies, and guest speakers. All are welcome. Speak to Ann Beecham for more information.

Mandarin Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Proverbs Class: Thursdays, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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

Advent Event: Join us on Saturday, December 1. Potluck supper at 5:00 p.m. followed by Advent activities. Fun for all. Contact Kathy Baillie at fambail@hotmail.com if you can help or require more information.

Taizé Service: The first Thursday of the 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. Upcoming dates are **December 6, January 3, February 7, and March 7**. 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 **December 9, January 13, February 10, and March 10**. 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."

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 the Christmas season. If you wish to contribute for the purchase of poinsettias, 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, December 16**. Thank you.

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 **December 27, January 24, February 28, and March 28**.

2019 Church Calendars are on sale for \$5 each following the services.

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 everyone's safety, please remember to refrain from bringing food that contains peanuts, tree nuts, fish, and seafood into the building. Thank you.



Advent and Christmas at St. George on Yonge



Advent Event

Saturday, December 1 5:00 p.m.
Pot Luck supper and activities – all welcome

First Sunday of Advent Eucharist

Sunday, December 2 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
with Holy Baptism at 10:30 a.m.

Second Sunday of Advent Eucharist

Sunday, December 9 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Third Sunday of Advent Eucharist

Sunday, December 16 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Fourth Sunday of Advent Eucharist

Sunday, December 23 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.



Weekday Services

Communion & Reflection

Wednesdays, December 5 & 12 12:00 noon

Candlelight Evening Prayer

Wednesdays, December 5, 12, & 19 7:00 p.m.

Taizé Service

Thursday, December 6 7:00 p.m.

Seniors' Christmas Communion

Wednesday, December 19 12:00 noon
followed by lunch provided by Lansing Retirement Residence

Family Christmas Eve Communion

Monday, December 24 7:00 p.m.
with "Spontaneous Christmas Pageant"

Yearly Christmas Visit to Emergency Workers

Monday, December 24 8:00 p.m.
with cookies, and other treats!

Almost Midnight Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24
10:00 p.m. Singing Christmas Carols
10:30 p.m. Festive Christmas Communion

Christmas Day Communion

Tuesday, December 25 10:00 a.m.

Pub Knights

Thursday, December 27 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
at the "Frog & Firkin" (4854 Yonge Street,
across from the Sheppard Centre on Yonge Street)

First Sunday after Christmas Eucharist

Sunday, December 30 10:30 a.m. (one
service only)

singing favourite Christmas Carols



Please submit your donations for 2018
by December 30.

Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 10, 2019. Please remember to set your clocks **AHEAD** one hour before you go to bed on Saturday.



St. George on Yonge Music Presents:

On Saturday February 9, 2019 at 7:30 p.m., The Interro Quartet, with guest artist Lloyd Van't Hoff (clarinet), will present a programme featuring works by Sibelius, Rachmaninoff, Borodin, Milhaud and Brahms. Ticket prices are Adults \$30, Students \$25 and Children under 18 \$10. You can get a feel for the mastery of Mr. Van't Hoff's clarinet playing at www.lloydvanthoff.com.

On Friday, March 29, 2019, the Cornell University Choir will be presenting a concert. The programme details will be announced well in advance of the concert, as will the ticket prices.

"Music for the Soul", featuring works by Mozart, Beethoven, Sondheim, Bernstein, Leonard Cohen and 5 Hebrew Love Songs. Musicians include James Wallenberg, violinist with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra. Ticket prices will be Adults \$20, Seniors/Students \$15. Currently scheduled for Saturday, April 6, 2019.

The Enterro Quartet will be presenting a second concert in May of 2019. The date (a Saturday evening), programme and ticket prices are still in discussion.

Staff

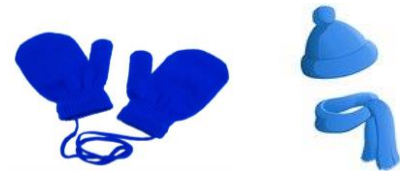
Interim Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Leonard Leader
Honorary Associate	The Rev. Canon Sister Constance Joanna Gefvert, SSJD
Assistant Curate	The Rev. Morning Wang
Organist & Director of Music	Michael Leach
Parish Administrator	Craig Gustafson



Winter is coming!



Winter is coming! We are looking for donations of hats, scarves, mitts and gloves for the participants in our gift card program. Please bring them to the church by December 1.



Special Appeal



The Executive has decided to install security cameras, on both the main and first levels, in the hallways and at the entrances.

If anyone would like to make a special donation towards this project, this would be appreciated.

Please indicate on your envelope that it is a special donation for this project.

Faithworks reminder

If you haven't yet handed in your Faithworks envelope, please do so before the end of the year. Remember that the money goes towards many important programs and some of it stays with our parish. Please put it on the collection plate or give it in at the office. Thank you

Community Bazaar and Craft Sale

Many thanks to all those who helped with this event. Donating your treasures, helping with set up or clean up, manning a table, working in the lunch room or counting the money. It was great to have so many parishioners work together for a cause. We raised approximately \$2300. Thanks also to our community partners who had displays and all the crafters who had tables at the sale.



Remembrance Day Service



Betty Clennett and Lt Aimee Adams, the two parishioners who laid the wreath at the Remembrance Day Service.

Next Ministry

A new ministry for Young Adults aged 18 to 35

St. George on Yonge is ready for growth and is ready to continue the mission of the church within the community of Willowdale. We are experiencing limited growth due to society becoming less religious due in part to young adults - 18 to 35 years old, distancing themselves from organized religion. We recognize that the church needs to reflect on and plan to respond appropriately to young adults and their need to have a stable faith community in their own backyard. We believe that spiritual transformation takes place best in the context of an authentic, caring community and that we need to make our church more valuable to more people. According to our estimates, starting a new Sunday evening service catering to young adults, will increase our growth by as much as 25%.

To address the above problem, we have formed a committee and over the last several months we have been tasked with the following:

1. Developing a new young adults' ministry, identifying concise short, mid and long term goals.
2. Adding to our working committee with key "youth centric" personnel from the Diocese and from the parish.
3. Identifying and recruiting a theology student who has the passion to lead.
4. Implementing new technology which young adults will use and which is relatable to their needs.

Risks: Increased cash outlay will be required for marketing, new technology and ongoing ministry. Based on our experience in new ministry work, having successfully supported the Mandarin Ministry, which is now thriving in our church, we recognize that it may take several months or even years, before we see any significant increase in our attendance levels. However, we plan to reduce that time by working with the Diocese and using its experience and guidance.

Recommendation: To start this new ministry, we will need the Diocese's support both financially and with human resources. We have studied the ward profile for Willowdale and know that the church is surrounded by a young, racially diverse community. We are passionate about being an intergenerational church and we seek to be a community where young adults not only feel that they belong, but can also participate. We feel that our experience in supporting the formation of the Mandarin Ministry in our parish will serve us well as we embark on another pioneering mission in our community.

Progress made: The working committee has consulted with Bishop Patrick Yu, Bishop Kevin Robertson, Sister Connie, Annette Brownlee – Chaplain - Pastoral Theology Professor at Wycliffe College, Cormac Culkeen – Director of Youth Ministry at St. John's West Toronto, Mary Conliffe – Diocese of Toronto, and we are working with Ian Physick – Area Youth Ministry Coordinator York-Scarborough. We are actively looking to recruit a suitable leader who can lead a Sunday evening service and an Alpha Film series, for this age group.

Members of our congregation who are interested in participating in the development of this ministry may contact Anne Wynter or Kwan Luk for more information.

Diocesan Synod November 9th - 10th, 2018

From Laura Pummell

Geraldine Sperling, Izunna Umezinne and myself were the lay delegates for St. George on Yonge at Synod this year. The theme of the Synod, "Growing in Christ", was a continuation of the Diocese's Strategic plan that was introduced in 2016. The strategic plan is a five year vision for the Diocese. The goal of the strategic plan is to establish foundations/programs for how all the parishes will work together to build healthy, missional Anglican communities that engage faithfully with the world and share the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Included on the Synod agenda for the two days were presentations from parishes and diocesan leaders describing missional and outreach moments, some business matters pertaining to the operation of The Diocese of Toronto and several smaller group sessions to further the discussions, reflections and considerations about the proposed changes to the Marriage Canon to allow for same-sex marriage in our Church.

Here are a few of the highlights of this year's Synod.

1. The Synod begun with a Eucharist Service being shared with approximately 400 people. Imagine the warmth and the wonderful sounds of all those Anglicans singing the hymns.
2. The inspiring missional presentations were about parishes trying new approaches to programs and projects to meet people within their own communities. The projects included operating summer sports program, organizing a 850 km canoe pilgrimage from Midland to Montreal over 2 weeks, opening a food bank, and operating a youth drop-in centre one day a week.
3. The outreach presentations were given by PWRDF and the Archbishop's Working Group on Intercultural Ministry.
4. The opportunity to engage in small group sessions of listening and contributing to discussions about the proposed changes to the Marriage Canon to permit same-sex marriages. The results of these sessions will be presented to the General Synod in July 2019 where a vote on the motion will occur. The acknowledgement that this subject has been on many agendas for a long period of time and perhaps there was a feeling of weariness and fear. Regardless of the decision at General Synod, there will be a mixture of reactions to the result of the vote. Nevertheless it was stressed that the overall need was for us to move forward in faith with compassion and empathy in boldness representing the diversity of all of us-the people of God.
5. Near the end of the Synod, the Archbishop Colin Johnson addressed the assembled audience to report that this Diocesan Synod would be his last as a Diocesan Bishop since he is retiring as of the end of December 2018. Bishop Johnson offered the assembly a recap of his time serving in the Diocese Office as well as being The Bishop of Toronto, highlighting some of the changes he has witnessed in the Diocese and the missional work within the Diocese and the effects on our lives. Then the Coadjutor Bishop, Bishop Andrew Asbil, offered his comments about the how grateful he was to have been elected in the June Synod to replace Bishop Johnson in January 2019. He acknowledged that currently he is "in-training" but he definitely is very energized and inspired to proceed with the work of the Diocese of Toronto.

In summation the two days offered a brief glimpse into the workings of the Diocese of Toronto and allowed me to reconnect with a few of my Anglican friends that have moved to other parishes.

Services

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Said Eucharist (BAS 1962)
	9:00 a.m.	Mandarin Fellowship
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist (BAS)
Wednesday	12:00 noon	Worship at Midday

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

The next edition of the newsletter will be coming out March 24, 2019. **Deadline** is Tuesday, March 12th at 5:05 p.m. Articles submitted after the deadline may be excluded 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