

St. George on Yonge – February 5, 2021



To our St. George on Yonge Parish Family and Friends,

THE 'I READ IT' QUIZ

Congratulations to all of you who figured out the picture at the end of the email was of Galilee but were too shy to submit your answers! Who is going to get their answers in this week? Don't be shy! Submit them to office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca and we will congratulate you in the next issue.

- 1) What are we asking to be submitted to be included in the parish updates for the month of February?
- 2) When is the next virtual Coffee Hour?
- 3) Who is featured in the Black History Month article?

Please find attached

- Letter from the Bishop
- The bulletin for Sunday February 7th online service
- Kids Corner and Youth Zone page
- 2021 Spring Toronto Diocesan ACW Newsletter
- Poster on *Flourishing Congregations for Today and Tomorrow* webinar

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING – this Sunday

February 7, 2021 by Zoom. The meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Vestry Reports have been electronically sent to all members of the parish (the audited statement was sent out yesterday for people to review before the meeting), with printed copies delivered to those on the vestry list without email. Please read the reports thoroughly before the meeting so that we can proceed efficiently through the agenda. This is especially important as the meeting is being held via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions. As always, only the members listed on the vestry list for the parish are eligible to vote on motions presented at the Vestry meeting.

The information on how to join the meeting was included in the email with the Vestry Report.

FLOURISHING CONGREGATIONS FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW

Please see attached a poster about a webinar recommended by Janet Marshall. This interactive webinar [Flourishing Congregations for Today and Tomorrow](#) is being led by Dr. Joel Thessien, a Professor of sociology and Director of the Flourishing Congregations Institute at Ambrose University in Calgary. It is taking place on Thursday, February 11th from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. Information on how to register is on the poster.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Black Heritage Service will be online

The Diocese's annual Black Heritage Service will be held on Zoom on Feb. 28 at 4:30 p.m. The service, which is in its 26th year, is usually held at St. Paul, Bloor Street but will be held online this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. The theme, "God's People: Grounded in Faith, Filled with Hope, Called to Action," reflects the context of the Anglican Church's response to the issue of anti-Black racism and bias. A new feature of the celebration will be a moderated dialogue between Bishop Andrew Asbil and two young members of Black Anglicans of Canada, Aleshia Johnson and Brittany Hudson. The service, sponsored by Black Anglicans of Canada, will be available on [Zoom](#) and streamed live on [YouTube](#).

As it is Black History Month, it is time to learn about some of the black people who have been a part of building our country. Here is an article submitted by Doug Heyes.

Lucie and Thornton Blackburn:

Lucie and Thornton Blackburn, like many of the Underground Railroad refugees, headed for the towns and cities where they could find work and where they would help mould the character of their new homes.

The Blackburns were fugitives from Kentucky who escaped slavery and settled in Detroit. However, their former owner tracked them down there and tried to return them to slavery. In a highly publicized escape that left Detroit engulfed in riots, the Blackburns were able to make it to Canada. The Canadian Courts defended them against the threat of extradition. This was seen nationally and internationally as a symbol of Upper Canada's role as a safe haven for Black refugees.

The Blackburns settled in Toronto and, in 1834, built their home on what are now the grounds of the old Sackville Street School. Thornton operated the first cab in the young city of Toronto. The Blackburns worked tirelessly in their new community for the abolition of slavery and to help other Underground Railroad refugees settle in Canada.

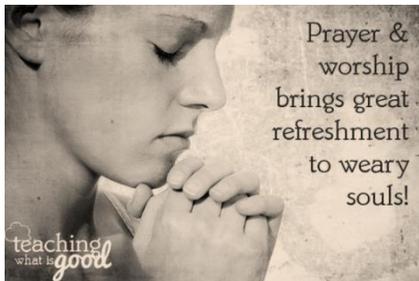
In 1985, archaeologists in downtown Toronto discovered what would become the most highly publicized dig in Canadian history: the remains of a house belonging to the Blackburns.

Karolyn Smardz Frost spent years researching this era of the Underground Railroad. Her book, *I've Got a Home in Glory Land: A Lost Tale of the Underground Railroad*, which recounts the saga of Lucie and Thornton Blackburn, from slavery in Kentucky to freedom in Ontario, won the Governor General's Literary Award for non-fiction in 2007.

Link to report on Global News in 2020: <https://globalnews.ca/news/6601355/thornton-lucie-blackburn-toronto/>

We are asking for stories to be submitted to be included in our weekly Parish Updates during the month of February. Please submit to the Church office at office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca.

EVENING PRAYER WITH THE PARISH FAMILY



Join us for evening prayer by Zoom

Thursday evenings – next service is on **February 11th, 2021**.

Time 7:30 to 8:00 p.m.

An opportunity to invite family and friends interested in evening worship.

Interested in being a reader? Please respond to this weekly update or call Rev. Leonard at 416 225-1922 x515.

To join by computer, tablet or smart phone – Go to the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4136849381> You may have to download Zoom. **You must use a passcode 1922**

Please note that you will be put into a virtual waiting room when you first go to the link.

To join by phone – Call **647-374-4685** When prompted to enter the Meeting ID number, enter **4136849381** Then press #. If prompted to enter a participation ID, just press # and stay on the line. **You must use a passcode 1922**

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR VIRTUAL WALKATHON



Mosaic Interfaith Out of the Cold (www.miotc.ca) reached out about their Coldest Night of the Year Virtual walkathon being held on February 20th 2021. Some of the sites have set up teams and are raising funds, so they reached out to see if our site can do the same; either by being a participant or sponsoring others among the congregation.

This year it is a **virtual walkathon** which means you register and raise funds online, and then walk anytime in February, anywhere you want. You might want to think of setting a specific goal, such as to walk 5 or 10 kilometers since this is not a specific planned 'walk'. The amounts can be accumulated over time (i.e. 1 - 2 kilometers each time) so long as they are tracked and logged. Then on February 20th, they are having an online celebration!

For more information and to donate or set up a team go to www.cnoy.org/location/richmondhill

PLEASE JOIN IN FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP: The Sunday service for February 7th is being streamed live on the St. George on Yonge Facebook page at 10 a.m. ET: <https://www.facebook.com/stgeorgeonyonge/>

Watch with your fellow parishioners! And please comment so we know who is joining in.

The entire video will also be available on the page immediately after. Please invite your friends and family and let's watch, pray, sing and react together while being physically apart! Since you'll be in your own homes, you can belt out the hymns if you like!

You can continue to access the services at <https://stgeorgeonyonge.ca/sermons>. Services for previous Sundays can be accessed from the website by clicking on *Sermon Archive*.

You can hear the sermon by calling the church phone number and choosing option 8.

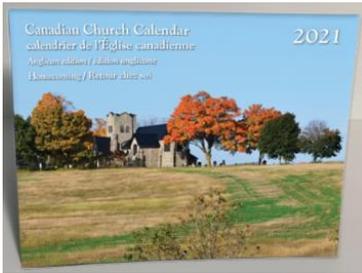
Please note: Rev. Leonard will be away from the parish from February 8th to 16th. We welcome back Rev. Carol Friesen who will be the celebrant at our Sunday worship.



Are there any special celebrations or birthdays in February to be recognized?

Please let us know.

CHURCH CALENDARS



There are still some 2021 Church calendars available for **only \$6 each**. Please let the office know if you are interested in purchasing a calendar and we will make arrangements for you to pick them up from the Church. There is also a possibility of having them delivered depending on where you are located. Email the office at office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY



Opportunities for the children to connect with us and each other while staying safely apart!

Calling all **6-11+ year olds**. We are having our Zoom program this **Sunday**, February 7th at 11:30 a.m. (this will continue weekly in February). We will hear a story, we may attempt to sing a song or two, and do some activities related to the story. (Please note that if there are any children older than 11 and they would like to join in – you are most welcome!).

Calling all **3-5 year olds**. Save the dates!! Sessions will be done on February 13th and 27th at 11:00 a.m.

Please email Sarah (3-5 group) or Kathy (6-11 group) to let them know that you are interested in joining in. Stay tuned for more information on the 12+ age group.

To join by computer, tablet or smart phone – Go to the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4136849381> You may have to download Zoom. **You must use a passcode 1922**

To join by phone – Call **647-374-4685** When prompted to enter the Meeting ID number, enter **4136849381**

Then press #. If prompted to enter a participation ID, just press # and stay on the line. **You must use a passcode 1922**

You can reach us at:

Sarah: sarah.layman@stgeorgestoronto.ca

Kathy: fambail@hotmail.com

ATTENTION ALL FAMILIES!

Don't miss out on picking up your DIY Shrove Tuesday Kit!

Kit contains: pancake mix, a devotional family prayer, spatula or whisk, and a Lenten devotional that you can follow together for the six weeks of Lent. **Note:** Take a photo or two of you and your family making and enjoying your pancakes and send them to Sarah at sarah.layman@stgeorgestoronto.ca and she'll put them together in a



slideshow that we can share during our service to help us all feel a little closer together.

Pick up: You can pick up your kit by stopping by the Church Office on Tuesday, Thursday, or Friday between 9:30am-3:00pm, just contact Kathy to let her know when you're coming. If you cannot make it during these hours please contact the Office or Sarah and we will try to arrange an alternate option.



VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR – Save the date!



(drinking actual coffee is optional)

Sunday, February 14th for a special Valentine's Day Coffee hour. It's the same as the regular coffee hour except we are suggesting you have some chocolate with your beverage and wear something red or pink.



(eating chocolate is optional)

It's a lovely way to connect with others which is so important in these challenging times. We hope to see some new people. Who's going to join us for the first time?

Information on how to join in will be in the update on Feb. 12th.

We are looking for people to be hosts. This simply involves welcoming those who take part, and making sure everyone has a chance to speak and to interact with other participants. It's a pleasant and rewarding time for everyone, including the host. Please let the office know if you can help out.

NEW SECTION! PHOTO GALLERY



Geraldine & Alan Sperling visited the Holy Land in 2017, & took these photos at the site of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River.



The wall of the welcome centre with an excerpt from Mark's Gospel about Jesus' Baptism (the passage was in several languages so you can see 'English' above the picture).

Thank you to Geraldine Sperling for these wonderful pictures.

Do you have any pictures of interest that we could share? Please submit them to the office for consideration.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

In these COVID-19 times, anyone needing to be at the church, for any reason, must sign in a log book as required by public health directives for contact tracing. People must inform Rev. Leonard or the Office Administrator or a Churchwarden why they need to visit St. George.

OFFICE HOURS

The Church Office is officially closed at this time because of COVID restrictions. We will be checking emails as well as phone messages so please don't hesitate to reach out when needed. Rev. Leonard is on call for emergencies.

The church phone number is **(416) 225-1922**.

Office Ext. 501

office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca

Rev. Leonard Leader Ext. 515

leonard.leader@stgeorgeonyonge.ca

Michael Leach Ext. 504

Prayer Requests – Margie Lyttle 416-512-6265 mmlyttle@hotmail.com

IMPORTANT LINKS

For regular updates on COVID-19 from Toronto Public Health, or for updates on the impact of COVID-19 on City services, please visit www.toronto.ca/covid19. This link will also connect you to Provincial and Federal information.

For information and updates from the Diocese, please visit www.toronto.anglican.ca

“He (Jesus) answered, ‘Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.’”

Mark 1:38

If you no longer wish to receive our email updates, please email office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca with “remove” as your subject. Please feel free to share with friends. If you have received a forwarded copy and would like to receive the emails directly, please email office@stgeorgeonyonge.ca