

Parish Update - St. George on Yonge – June 11, 2021



Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that.
Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.
– Martin Luther King Jr.

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

DO YOU KNOW?

- 1) **Who** will speak about the process for working toward inclusivity and fuller inclusion?
- 2) **What** are we doing on June 13th at 1:00?
- 3) **Where** can you enjoy a refreshing glass of virtual lemonade? (or a real one if you are so inclined!)
- 4) **When** is Intergenerational Sunday?
- 5) **Will** you read all the way to the end? (We hope so – or at least take a quick glance)

Did you find all the answers? Congratulations! Now you know!

PLEASE JOIN IN FOR WORSHIP

CALL TO WORSHIP: The Sunday service for June 13th 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.

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS FOR JUNE

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|---------|---|
| June 13 | Social Justice Vestry motion - Inclusivity |
| June 20 | National Indigenous Day of Prayer |
| June 27 | Intergenerational Sunday - Children and Youth |

SUNDAY JUNE 13 - "COMMITTING OURSELVES TO ANTI-BIAS, ANTI-RACISM AND INCLUSION"

The June 13 service will focus on St. George's 2021 Social Justice Vestry Motion, and will centre on the scriptural calls for and the Christian imperative of inclusion of all people as equal and beloved children of God.

Dr. Andrea A. Davis will speak about the process for working toward inclusivity and fuller inclusion; she will then lead a dialogue with Nancy Dodsworth and Craig Robertson who will share what the Vestry Motion and the Parish's journey toward deeper inclusivity and discernment of bias and racism, mean to them as parishioners.

This service is intended to launch our Parish's anti-bias/anti-racism and inclusivity mission: the launch group will be announcing further activities and events in the near future – please send your feedback and suggestions to Craig Robertson – mcrobertson3@gmail.com or (647) 531-9044.



Dr. Andrea A. Davis is an Associate Professor in the Department of Humanities and Special Advisor on the Faculty of Liberal Arts & Professional Studies' Anti-Black Racism Strategy at York University. She is former director of the Center for Research on Latin America and the Caribbean and a 2021 recipient of the 3M National Teaching Fellowship, Canada's most prestigious recognition of excellence in post-secondary educational leadership and teaching. She is known to many of us at St. George as a former parishioner.

INCLUSIVENESS IS ABOUT EVERYONE!

Our Parish Vestry motion is not about inclusion for one racialized group – we should strive to ensure that we are welcomes and inclusive to EVERYONE in our community – of all racial backgrounds, of all genders and gender expressions – always within the framework that Jesus taught us.

June is a very busy month. June is Pride Awareness Month, June is Seniors Awareness Month, and June is also Indigenous Awareness Month and contains National Indigenous Day of Prayer. Two weeks ago we observed Refugee Sunday.

We also have all heard about the horrific attack in London Ontario on the family walking on a warm Sunday night – motivated apparently only because they were identifiably Muslims.

St. George has strong and deep DNA that leads us to embrace diversity and support other communities in their times of pain. This month can we all be especially open and mindful to all these opportunities for us to reflect on the diversity of our community, and seek out ways – perhaps seemingly small and insignificant – to show and express our loving support and respect to everyone around us. Even with the COVID restrictions, you can likely find online forums where you can express your support!

From Craig Robertson.

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR VIRTUAL LEMONADE ON THE LAWN – June 13th



Now that it's June we are changing our beverage choice. Come and join us for our virtual Lemonade on the Lawn on June 13th at 1:00 p.m. (It's the same as a Virtual Coffee Hour but we suggest an optional cold beverage like lemonade instead!) But for you dyed-in-the-wool coffee drinkers (you know who you are!), it's still OK to bring your java to Lemonade Hour!

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. **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**

THE ISLAMIC SHIA ITHNA-ASHERI JAMAAT VIGIL FOR THE LONDON ATTACK

“Surely, we belong to God and to Him we shall return.” Holy Quran, 2:156.

The Islamic Shia Ithna-Asheri Jamaat (ISIJ) of Toronto grieves for the devastating loss of life following the horrific hate-motivated truck attack on a Muslim family in London, Ontario, who were out for a walk on Sunday evening. The attack left four family members dead and one in hospital. Our hearts, thoughts and prayers are with the families of the victims and those injured in the attack.

Please join us in solidarity for a prayer vigil on Sunday June 13, 2021 at 2:15 pm at the Jaffari Community Centre (9000 Bathurst St., Thornhill ON L4J 8A7) as we honour the memory of the lives lost and pray for the swift recovery of the sole 9-year old survivor. It will be broadcast live at jaffari.org/live

#OurLondonFamily

MEMORIES OF SGY

My parents (John and Helen Hunter), four brothers and myself moved to Toronto from Montreal on the Labour Day weekend in 1964. On Sunday my mother suggested that she and I take a break from unpacking boxes and walk through Northtown Plaza (an open-air large plaza at Church and Yonge) to go a church service at an Anglican church she saw on Yonge Street – St. George’s.

Even though it was a long weekend, the church had a large attendance. We were welcomed at the door, we were introduced to some parishioners, given a bulletin that had a lot of parish information and shown into the church. In Montreal we were parishioners at our local church and as a family had been very active in church functions. We were accustomed to a large parish with many young families, many children and adult programs. That is exactly what we found in St. George, Willowdale. Every Sunday St. George’s held a minimum of three church services, two different timed sessions of Sunday School classes and, especially during the festival services, we needed to line the aisles of the church with portable chairs to accommodate everyone. Although we were technically living outside the parish boundaries, we decided to stay at St. George since the church was so welcoming and close to our house. My family did move from our original home to a house even further away from St. George but our family always felt welcomed and comfortable here and stayed.

One of my fondest memories of St. George was the St. George Young People (St.GYP) group. This group of young people became and still are some of my best friends to this day. Members of this group would be involved in the choirs (both junior and senior), some of us were servers or helped with the Altar Guild, some of us taught Sunday School classes as we got older, some of us were involved in the Girl Guides/ Ranger and Scout programs, and some of us were involved on the church’s social and advisory boards. We met as a whole group every Sunday evening but a lot of us saw each other during the week at different functions although we attended several different schools in the area. We supported each other in many ways.

St. GYP’s was very involved in the various activities of our church. One of the most successful social events that St. GYP’s participated in was a Dinner and Theater night. With the assistance and support of the whole parish, our group helped to sell tickets for the event, decorated the lower hall gym, set up tables for the dinner, served the dinner, performed a play on the stage and then helped to clean up. We were exhausted by the end of the night but boy did we have fun! If my memory serves me well, the audience, mostly parishioners, seemed to really enjoy the dinner and show as well.

These are some my memories of fond, busy yet great times at St. George’s.

From Laura Pummell

JUNE IS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH

How much do you know of the history of the treatment of the original people of this land which we proudly call Canada? What was done to settle and make something out of this 'empty barren wasteland'? Find out more by joining us on Tuesday June 29th at 7p.m. over ZOOM to watch a viewing of the CBC Documentary "Colonization Road". It is a history that every Canadian should know, but is often overlooked and ignored in History classes in schools. For more information, please contact Doug Heyes at dougheyes@gmail.com.

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Are there any special celebrations or birthdays to be recognized?
Please let us know.

“...whether you be a king or a skillful workman, read, follow and build your life on the word of God, for one day God will examine the type of worker that we have been for him.”

Submitted by Dorothy Ewer

SENIORS' FELLOWSHIP

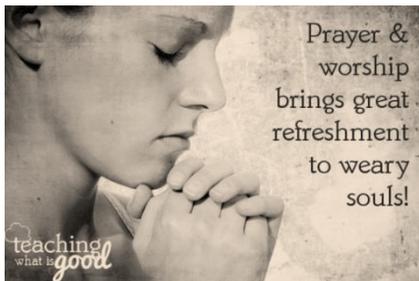
Next fellowship will be this coming Wednesday, June 16th at 11:00 a.m. Please note there is no minimum age to qualify to participate in this fellowship! This week's theme is “Earliest memory(ies) of being in Church”.

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EVENING PRAYER WITH THE PARISH FAMILY



Join us for evening prayer by Zoom.

Thursday evenings – next service is on – **June 17, 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.

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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, June 13th** at 11:30 a.m. 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**. We are having our Zoom program **Saturday, June 19th** at 11:00 a.m. **Save the Date!** Join us for a short time of prayer, stories, and activities filled with faith and fun!

You can just join in at the right time, no registration needed, but if possible, let Sarah (3-5 group) or Kathy (6-11 group) know that your child will be there.

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You can reach us at:

Sarah: sarah.layman@stgeorgestoronto.ca

Kathy: fambail@hotmail.com



525 Bloor Street East
Toronto, ON M4W 1J1

416-588-1612
www.auraforrefugees.org

Every minute, 20 individuals are forced to leave their lives behind to escape war, terror and persecution. On **Sunday, June 20th**, AURA invites you to commemorate the strength and courage of refugees around the world. We will be joined by **Hassan Al Kontar**, also known as the "Man @ the Airport". After being deported from UAE to Malaysia in 2017, Hassan refused to return to Syria and face military service. He ended up stuck inside the Kuala Lumpur Airport.

Hassan was able to share his story with the world through social media, and finally received refuge in Canada. He is now a permanent resident, an advocate for refugees, and author of his first published book. Hassan will be reading a passage from his book and holding an interactive Q&A with the audience.

Please see attachment for more information.

GARDENING UPDATE



More and more colourful each day

STEWARDSHIP REMINDERS TO PARISHIONERS:

- If you are not already donating using PAR, please seriously consider switching to this method of intentional giving, to assist during this time of exceptional need. Envelope Secretary Anne Baillie at family.baillie@sympatico.ca or 416-225-2570 will be happy to give you more information and help you with the application.
- This is a time when people are not attending in-person worship services, but the need for clergy and pastoral support continues in difficult times and is even greater
- Presenting virtual church services is complex, with greater time commitments, technology costs, and soloist fees
- The Office Administrator's role is as busy as ever during the pandemic
- The church still has utilities and maintenance expenses so the daycare can continue to operate, and in turn make contributions to the church

THE GREAT CANADIAN GIVING CHALLENGE – ON NOW FOR THE WHOLE MONTH OF JUNE!



What is the Great Canadian Giving Challenge?

The Great Canadian Giving Challenge is a month-long initiative to encourage people to donate during a slow time of the year for fundraising. Historically, this has been the month of June. CanadaHelps wanted to change that so in 2015, they launched the first Great Canadian Giving Challenge to help charities engage their supporters and raise more money.

Here's how it works:

Every dollar donated to St. George on Yonge in June through CanadaHelps is an entry for a chance for St. George on Yonge to win \$20,000. Donations must be made via canadahelps.org. So far we have 100 entries! And it only takes the right one to win. <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/49496> (Minimum \$3 donation required). Contest runs from June 1, 2021 at midnight (NDT) to June 30, 2021 at 11:59:59 p.m. (PDT). See full rules at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/givingchallenge-rules>.

Please note we are not asking you to switch over to giving through CanadaHelps. Continue to give through envelopes or PAR to save the Church the credit card processing fees (3.75%) CanadaHelps charges. While we know these are hard times for many, we are asking if it's possible for you to give a little extra during the month of June to give St. George on Yonge a chance to win the \$20,000 prize. Thank you!

PHOTO GALLERY

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

* * * *

SMILE OF THE WEEK!



In these times, anything that makes us smile is very important. Do you have something that could make someone else smile? Please submit anything you have to the office for consideration.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING TO SAVE GOD'S CREATURES GREAT AND SMALL



We know we tell you every week but sometimes we just need a little reminder. With the necessity of wearing masks, if you are using disposable ones, please cut the elastic/ribbons before disposing of them properly; some ribbons can simply be pulled free of the mask. Animals, birds, fish, etc. can get caught up in the elastic. Don't forget to cut the plastic rings of can holders too. Please say no to plastic straws... there are many alternatives out there now. And please use reusable bags when possible.

If you have the opportunity to share this message, please do so. The more people we make aware of this, the better off God's creatures may be. Thank you.

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

We Remember in Prayer Today and This Week . . .
Congregation Cycle Ethel McWatt Henri Miller Patrick Muchiri Kariithi and Family Wilson Nsasira and Family Edwin Nuwagaba and Family



*“There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free,
there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in
Christ Jesus.”*

Galatians 3:28