

EPISTLE

October 2020



St. James United Church

available on-line at www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

WORLD WIDE COMMUNION

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

Sunday, October 4, is Worldwide Communion Sunday.
We will not take Communion; we will be the Communion.
As disciples of Christ, we will remember that we are the body
and blood of Christ.

Please advise the church office (416-622-4113) if you wish a visitation from a minister or of any pertinent information necessary to update church records. Updates can also be sent to stjames_uc@rogers.com

Outreach offering in support of: CAMH
(90%)
Minister for Local Outreach (10%)

Next Epistle Deadline: November 15, 2020 at Noon.

Please email all items to sjepistle@yahoo.com if at all possible, or place in the Epistle mail slot at the church.

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Homecoming



Willow and clover lined my path to school when last I spent as much time in Etobicoke. The willow overhead heralded my arrival to the crossing guard.

The clover, I braided into crowns on my way home.

As a child I lived at the Westway and Martingrove, I attended Parkfield Elementary School. My family moved from Montréal when I was in Grade 1 and though I should have attended a Francophone school, they were averse to placing me on a school bus. So, I went to the local school where I struggled to comprehend English at first, and then multiplication. My favourite childhood memories came from attending Brownies. There I learned to sew and knit; we sang and played games. I loved Brownies!

I am excited to come back to my first Ontario “home” of sorts and serve in a church that keeps a Scouts troop. In many ways St. James is already familiar to me. For me, a church should be the hub of its community. It should hold a daycare, and places to explore and deepen ones life with a variety of spiritual practices. A church

should feed the people and tend to the people. A church should be filled with music, and somewhere the minister fits in with the people - not as an overseer but as a companion, a guide, a fellow disciple, a confidant. From what I see, St. James has all of these things and more. Am I wrong? I hope not, and yet I hope so. (You’ll get used to me and my love of paradoxes)!

There is more to my story. What is yours?

I hope and plan to hear most of your stories as we get to know each other. I am interested in not only your story within the St. James context, but your life stories. What trials have you been through? How did you become a churchgoer? What do you wish the church would do more of? Less of? What is your prayer life like? What are your hobbies outside of the church? What are the circumstances of your birth? Have you ever thought of death? Why or why not? What brings you joy? Who do you love? You know... easy questions like that! As a community of faith, how do we keep doing God’s work and grow, is a question which we can all ponder. Let me start the ball rolling ...

How did I become a churchgoer? Of course, as a child, one had no choice in whether they attended church or not, at least not back in the 70’s. I remember walking to Westway United Church and passing a car marked “Nova.” Now my first language was silence

(more on that another day) and then French and some Jamaican Patois. My older brother was always trying to teach me new English words so when we passed this Nova and he would say “Nova” and to upset him I’d say “Avon.” He would think I was serious and would correct me. “No it’s says Nova.” To which I would reply... Yes, you guessed it! “Avon.” We would go back and forth as we marched to church. All the way, I delighted in tormenting this poor boy with my backward speaking.

The delight in the journey, the silliness and fun (for me) is what began my habit of attaching those very same feelings to church. Church was where I had fun. Church was where I learned to read in English aloud without the stress of a teacher pointing out the words. I could make mistakes in church and be readily forgiven. Naturally, it was where I grew to feel comfortable and accepted. Church filled me with a sense of belonging that I rarely felt at school. When we moved to Mississauga, church was where I attended Girl Guides. This is where I learned leadership skills; the art of collaboration, the need for positive forward-thinking, and how to be an active listener. I am sure my life would be completely different if I never attended church. I look forward to our time in church and getting to know the congregation of St. James!

Rev. Maya Douglas



Disclaimer: Some of the articles submitted are intended for information purposes only and do not reflect the views of the St. James congregation

Editor's Notes



This year may feel like the 1993 movie, Ground Hog Day, where the character relives one day repeatedly. Even though we may feel like we're caught in the loop, changes are taking place in spite of COVID-19.

This fall the theme at St. James is about change. We welcome Rev Maya Douglas and after many years of service in the choir, Bill Price and Kathleen Wells are retiring. This brings a fresh new face to St. James' choir, Renee Farjardo, who is our new mezzo-soprano.

At the time of this publication, we started our first in-person service on October 4th after enjoying the on-line services tirelessly coordinated by Don & Karen Munday; Gord Burrell; Linda Maw; and Rod Lord. Thank you for your devotion to keeping the community of St. James alive. As we watch these services, we are reminded that we are not alone and He will guide use through difficult these times.

Below you will see tentative dates for future issues of the Epistle. We say tentative because of the many unknowns that could arise but we will strive to keep the Epistle running so that you are informed.

For your planning purposes these are the remaining deadlines:

November 15, 2020

January 24, 2021

April 18, 2021

Please send your submissions to sjepistle@yahoo.com which is the preferred method during COVID-19.

Thank you to all who have contributed and for your continued support.

Please access the digital version of the Epistle at the St. James website:

www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

Your co-editors,

Jennifer Flaxman and Jennifer Ling



The family of Karen Kennedy, with her passing on Friday, April 24, 2020.

Ann Linton, with the passing of her dad, Bob Linton, on Thursday, May 7, 2020.

Marg Cowan-Slamen, with the passing of her husband, Ed Slamen, on Tuesday, June 2, 2020.

The family of Bud Old, with his passing on Thursday, August 13, 2020.

Marilyn, Michelle, Marc, Karen Villett and family, with the passing of Reid Villett, on Thursday, August 20, 2020.

Carol and Wally Baerg, with the passing of their son, Eric Baerg, on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Nancy and Joe Polito and family, with the passing of Joe's mom, Dorothy Margaret (Cira) Polito, on Friday, September 4, 2020.



Mezzo-soprano Renee Fajardo, is our new Alto choral lead. Renee was born and raised in Manila, Philippines and currently studies with Elizabeth McDonald at the University of Toronto Opera program. She graduated with First Class honours from the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, London, England and has performed as a soloist across the Philippines, UK, France, Austria, Greece and Switzerland and is a recent member of the Nathaniel Dett Chorale. Renee is grateful to be currently based in the city of Toronto, and recognizes it as the traditional territory of many First nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit and now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.





valdosta.edu

Senior Choir rehearsals have resumed, virtually over Zoom, on alternate Thursday evenings at 8 p.m. To participate in the Senior Choir, and for Zoom rehearsal meeting information, please contact J.-C. Coolen, Music Minister, at (905) 683-5757 or jccoolen@sympatico.ca.

St James' Sunday School started back up at 1:30 p.m. via Zoom. If you have a child/grandchild from JK to Grade 9 who would like to participate please contact Karen at karen_forgrave@hotmail.com so that she can be sure that you are included in the mailing list, and she can send you the Zoom Link". The possibility of transitioning to in-person Sunday School will be revisited in October.

The SJUC Junior and Youth Choir started back on Thursday, September 24, from 6:45 – 7:30 p.m. via Zoom. We are excited to announce the introduction of our very own Vocal Training Academy, for ages 5-17. For details see the e-flyer on St James' website. To register, please complete the short survey at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WZTN8YF>

There is no deadline for registration. Singers may join at any time. If you have any questions or concerns, contact Choir Director Wendy Simone at wcsimone@gmail.com

Sunday, October 4, at 10:30 a.m., is our **Homecoming Service** which lands on Worldwide Communion Sunday. We will not take Communion; we will be the Communion. As disciples of Christ, we will remember that we are the body and blood of Christ.

Sunday, October 11 is ***Thanksgiving Sunday.***

Sunday, October 18, we will **honour Bill Price** our Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist who has retired from his position.

Sunday, October 25, the **Rev. Marlene Britton** will be our guest preacher.

Sunday, November 1, **don't forget to set your clocks** back one hour as Daylight Saving Time ends.

Sunday, November 8, is **Remembrance Sunday.**

Please note that the **Tray Favours Ladies** will not be meeting at this time due to COVID-19.

Letter From Rev Coral

Dear Members and Friends of St. James United Church,

This will be my last letter to you. I could not possibly leave without expressing my heartfelt thanks. You have been overwhelmingly generous to me and it was great to see so many of you (141 children, youth and adults) in-person on Sunday. For some of you this was your first time out since the start of the pandemic, others came from the other side of the city and each of you blessed me with a special card, beautiful flower and favourite recipe. I am also grateful for the cards that arrived by mail or email filled with kindness. THANK YOU!

As much as I am looking forward to retirement, I am feeling sad that I won't see you again for a year. I expect many of us know this feeling. Due to COVID-19 and for a variety of other reasons, we have missed being with family and friends, playing with grandchildren and giving and receiving hugs. You feel like my extended family, and I already miss you. Yet at the same time, I am grateful for every one of you. Each of you has left a fingerprint on my soul, brought me joy and inspiration, and been a partner in ministry. I am well aware that it is a team effort and nothing would be possible without you.

A huge thank you to Nancy Violo for planning my retirement celebration for the past several months, coming up with creative alternatives and for recruiting all the people who helped implement and assist with various parts of it. It was fabulous, joyful and ingenious. An act of love gratefully received.

I so appreciated all of the extra special touches in my final worship service - the beautiful anthem by the Senior Choir and Catherine Richardson on flute, the hymns enriched by Albert Conforzi on trumpet and flugelhorn and Tony Gray on the Djembe drums; the video tribute compiled and edited by Katrina Desjardins, and the gracious words of affirmation and appreciation. It means so much.

You took my breath away and moved me to tears with your immensely generous gifts: tuition for an International Reflexology course, a holiday in Hawaii (when it is safe to travel), plus the beautiful stained glass window based on the sanctuary windows ("I am the vine, you are the branches." John 15:5). It helps me know I will always be part of your community in Christ.

It has been a great joy and privilege to get to know you and serve with you. Thanks for your open and cooperative spirit, your loving support and generosity and a lifetime of great memories. You are an inspiring community of faith who truly make a

big difference both to the St. James family and the wider community. Your lay leaders and staff, past and present, are exceptional – Spirit-filled, talented, wise, generous, good-hearted and a delight to work with as a team. And we are all blessed by Rev. Linda Maw, your Volunteer Associate Minister (V.A.M.) or as her husband Dave shared, these initials might better stand for “Value Added Minister”. St. James has the good fortune of several ordained ministers who have generously stepped up to serve in various capacities, yet Linda has been a steadfast gift to me and the congregation ever since her retirement 11 years ago, and as a great lay leader prior to her ordination.

I also want to thank my partner, Cindy, who has been a tremendous support to me in every way. As a United Church minister herself, she would listen, reflect and offer her wisdom, brainstorm children’s stories and sermon ideas, supported countless Reiki training weekends especially in the early years when we needed everyone willing to help, and, of course co-led five six-week “Be Happy” courses with me. She has made it easier to be your minister.

I am confident that God has a great future ahead for St. James United Church. Rev. Maya Douglas will be very fortunate to be part of this tremendous community of faith. Thank you again for your part in making St. James such a loving,

dynamic and inspiring place to be. You will always have a special place in my heart. Wishing you God’s abundant blessings.

With love and gratitude,

Rev. Coral







ST. JAMES FOODBASKET

UPDATE FROM ST. JAMES FOOD BASKET

October 2020

-submitted by Marie Truelove, Chair

Unfortunately, we cannot have a flu clinic this year. Toronto Public Health is not targeting food banks this year. It was always very handy for many people, especially our volunteers, but everyone will have to find an alternative source this year.

We have re-opened after being closed for 3 months! We opened June 10, and have operated from the parking lot every since. Only 15 or so volunteers are allowed in the building at a time, and no one else. We provide PPEs for volunteers, and everyone signs in and out in case contact tracing is needed. Outside, everyone (food recipients and volunteers) wears a mask and works to keep physically apart. We have 2 tents (provided by the local Kiwanis), one for computerized registration and the other for food distribution.

Our volunteers assemble 2 sets of bags indoors on Wednesday mornings: one that contains shelf-stable items (cereal, tuna, rice, pasta, granola bars, soup, etc.) and the other contains fresh produce and dairy products. Every family receives both of these bags. Right now, we are seeing over 170 families per week, so filling these bags is a daunting prospect each week -- but our wonderful volunteers manage it well.

Once we open, a new set of volunteers constantly takes these bags outside for distribution. We also stock an outside table with items that are too difficult to package (such as bread), and items that only some people want (such as cat food or peanut butter). We also have a few items each week to add to the bags for large families. This is a complicated process!

We are very grateful for the extra support provided by Daily Bread. They have discontinued skid fees (for delivering food) for one year, and gave us a grant to help purchase items needed for the pandemic, such as bags and masks. Over the summer they also increased the amount of healthy food they delivered, such as eggs, dairy and fresh vegetables.

As the weather gets cooler, we are not rushing to move back inside. Being outside is safer for all and Toronto Public Health is encouraging us to distribute the food outdoors. The people we serve, in general, are quite vulnerable in terms of their health. Think of us as you watch the weather on Wednesdays this fall!

Audio Visual Technical Team Appreciation Presentation Aug 30th

Submitted by Linda Maw

During the June 2020 meeting of St James' Worship and Music Committee, the members agreed that the church needed to show their appreciation to the Technical Team who have been creating and producing St James' taped virtual worship services since March 22, 2020; although we knew that they did not wish to be paid. A gift was decided upon and on August 30th, 2020, Linda Maw made the presentation to the Team. An edited version follows...

“As we complete the final service of the summer I would like to take a moment to express the gratitude and appreciation of the congregation to our volunteer Technical Team who have spent hundreds of hours over the last five months filming and creating and editing the wonderful virtual services we have been enjoying.

The Team as you know is comprised of:

Gord Burrell who looks after sound and also creates the audio recordings;

Rod Lord, present for every taping, loaned his camera equipment and

coordinates and hosts Sunday worship by telephone and Zoom for those without computers.

Karen Munday who creates the slides and participates as a reader during the service each week.

Don Munday who is the mastermind creating and producing the audio-visual virtual worship experience as well as participating in each service as a reader.

This is the last service where Don will be creating the service in the format that has been used up to now. Starting next week, hoping to cut down the hours of post editing, the services will be Live Streamed – recording as the service unfolds in its natural order.

This is a new venture and will mean a learning curve for the Team, who have already been practicing. Please bare with them as they learn how best to use this process.

In the meantime Gord, Rod, Karen and Don - as a small token of our appreciation and grateful thanks, the Worship and Music Committee on behalf of the entire congregation have dedicated to all four of you, a favourite anthem of the Mundays - “You'll Never Walk Alone” from the musical Carousel, in recognition of all your time and effort and the resulting gift of the wonderful, virtual services. These on-line services have provided not only a meaningful time of worship, but also a much needed connection with

our church family during these chaotic, isolating times.

Along with the anthem dedication we hope that these gift cards will provide a relaxing, enjoyable meal picked up from or eaten at a favourite restaurant when it feels safe to do so. Again, Thank You!”



A Message From Finance

Since the start of the COVID-19 crisis, St. James has been significantly affected. The givings have been down by 14% (approximately \$20,000) and our rental income has decreased by a similar amount. However, this has been partially offset by a Canada Emergency Benefit for wage assistance of (CEB) of approximately \$24,000, and we have managed to keep our expenses under control at an amount of approximately \$12,000 more than our income.

Our expectation is that by the end of the year the operating deficit will be in the \$20,000 to \$25,000 range. To protect us from this we have taken out a \$40,000 interest free partially refundable loan with a 12 month term.

Your generous support is appreciated and is needed to get us through these times.

Sincerely,

Bob Harris
Chairman, Finance Committee



Submitted By Marty Linton

Mission & Service - Contributions as of August 31, 2020

Our 2020 pledge to M&S of \$35,000 was passed at our Annual Meeting on March 1st.

2020 giving to M&S by month:

	YTD	of pledge	
January	\$2,544.17	\$2,544.17	7%
February	\$2,745.50	\$5,291.67	15%
March	\$2,817.60	\$8,109.17	23%
April	\$2,466.50	\$10,575.67	30%
May	\$2,616.50	\$13,192.17	37%
June	\$2,606.50	\$15,798.67	45%
July	\$2,446.50	\$18,245.17	52%
August	\$2,407.50	\$20,652.67	59%

By August 2019 month's end we had contributed \$24,911.00 which was 71% of our pledge of \$35,000 for 2019.

Thank you to all of you who are able to continue to give to the Mission and Service Fund. Your contributions makes the mission work of the United Church of Canada possible.

For those of you who wish to renew your support for M&S or to join our M&S contributors, you may do so by mail or online. Please send your donation to St. James United Church, 400 Burnhamthorpe Rd., Etobicoke ON M9B 2A8 and mark your envelope “M&S donation”, OR donate on-line at our website www.stjamesunitedchurch.com,

Please add “M&S donation” under “special instructions to the seller”



Out of the Cold

Submitted By Myrna Markovich

Dear Loyal supporters of the Out of the Cold program at St. James,

Please review the email below, received from Nina Arsenault at All Saints Anglican Kingsway Church. In it she thanks all the volunteers for their ongoing contributions over the years, but for the OOTC season of 2020-2021, All Saints will be taking a pause. So, as with so many things during this time of COVID, the OOTC program that we knew at St. James, has come to an abrupt end. I came to the program in the 2010-2011 season and I have been privileged to work with many enthusiastic volunteers during that time. As you will read below, there are efforts by the city and Dixon Hall, to meet the needs of guests who accessed this program.

While I will keep St. James posted about future developments from All saints, I will not be a part of any newly designed program.

Many blessings,

TRUE BEAUTY “is the person who shares a smile with a perfect stranger, lends a helping hand to someone in need, listens open-heartedly to

people in pain, gives love unconditionally, and who finds joy in all situations.”

You, OOTC Volunteers/Supporters are TRUE BEAUTY... a remarkable TEAM.

Thank you for all you have done for our guests at OOTC All Saints Kingsway for the last 25 years! I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to meet and work with such dedicated folks who truly care about all members of our community.

Unfortunately, the health and safety concerns related to COVID, which caused our OOTC to close our doors in March 2020, are still present. The City of Toronto has strongly recommended no overnight respites and no sit-down group meals be offered at respective faith-based community locations.

OOTC All Saints Kingsway will not be opening this season. In it's place Mary-Anne Bedard (City) and David Reycraft (Dixon Hall) are working to identify a location to run a 24hr winter respite program for approximately 80 to 100 guests nightly (COVID regulations dependent) from November to April.

Yes, there is grief that comes with this announcement. We have saved lives. We have made friends with “guests” and volunteers. We have

provided food, respect and kindness. There will be a void. Keeping in mind that no “guest” should have to move nightly to different locations, potentially seven in seven days, to sleep on a mat in a room full of people that they may or may not know I am filled with hope. Hope that perhaps what Sister Susan started 34 years ago as an emergency shelter will finally be incorporated into the city plan that can be funded and offered safely.

Where does this leave us at All Saints Kingsway? What can we as volunteers do? I will keep you posted on developments with the city respite and what their needs might be that we can service.

OOTC All Saints Kingsway will take a pause for this season. We will use this time to assess needs in our community and how they can be addressed moving forward in coming seasons. Please reach out to me with any line of thinking that you have.

Stay Safe and Hopeful,

Nina

Autumn Poem

By Elda Dunham

Red and orange, gold and brown
Autumn leaves are tumbling down.
Corn's in the silo, potatoes are dug,
Apple cider is in the jug.
Apples, pears and pumpkin pie,
A feast for the stomach and the eye!

Skeletons rattling chairs and bones
Uttering chilling shrieks and moans.
Ghosts floating off the ground
Cloud-like garments billowing 'round.
Witches on broomsticks, flying high
Silhouetted against the sky...

The Royal Winter Fair's in town.
In every nation – much renown.
Cows and pigs and sheep and goats,
Pumpkins, apples, hay and oats,
Each jumper, roadster, Clydsdale vies
gamely competing for the prize.

Thank you, God, for this time of year:
for Harvest, Hallowe'en and Fair.



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Sunday School Is Zooming!

Submitted by Karen Forgrave

This fall, we were hoping to be back to “in person” worship...but the Corona virus has other plans! So, instead, St. James’ Sunday School’s “Kick Off” Sunday took place on Zoom on Sunday, September 20th at 1:30 p.m. Our first theme this year is “Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden”. Normally, our rotation would include children rotating through science, cooking, arts and games workshops at church, but it is amazing what can be accomplished online!

Karen delivered “Welcome packages” to Sunday School families the week before Sunday School started. Each package contained an apple, some craft materials, and a Bingo Game that would be used in our first rotation. We are all learning to adapt to online learning! For the first week, we had 18 students attend. Rev. Maya shared the Bible story with us, and it was fun to get to introduce ourselves and share a bit about our summer happenings.

We ended the first week with a science experiment, making an “Apple-Volcano”! Karen demonstrated online, and then families were encouraged to try the experiment with the provided apple at home. Here are some photos that families sent in! Just like the apple explodes with foam, like a volcano, we talked about how Eve was

pressured by the snake to eat the apple in the Garden of Eden... and how, like an overflowing volcano, this set in motion a series of events that led to Adam and Eve both being expelled from the Garden of Eden.



“Apple volcano” created by students



We also talked about how God loves us even when we make mistakes – he was disappointed, and upset at Adam and Eve for breaking his one rule, and he punished them, but he also provided them with clothes from animal skins and went with them when they left the Garden. We are never alone. God’s love is ALWAYS with us.



Apples were delivered in the Welcome Package.

On September 27th, we talked about “Orange Shirt Day” to commemorate the survivors of residential schools in Canada. We watched a video clip of Phyllis Webstad, who got a brand new shiny orange shirt to start school when she was six. However, when she attended school, it was taken from her, as students were forced to give up all mementos of their home, and she never got to see it again. We talked about “Thinking, Acting, and Being...” (kind, thoughtful, helpful, caring...). God’s love is for all people – we can help share that love when we

share a kind word or a smile, or encourage a new friend at school (online or in person!) to join in and feel welcomed.



Above: trying to get a photo for “orange shirt day”

During this rotation online, we took turns reading the story of Adam and Eve from various children’s Bibles, played Bingo together to review the story, and created crafts. Families were also provided with a recipe to recreate apple sugar cookies. Here is a picture of some created by Samantha and Hailey’s family. They look delicious!



As time progresses this fall, we will revisit whether we continue with online Sunday School, or are able to move back into church with in-person activities for Sunday School students, with appropriate health measures in place. Until then it is great to see everyone's smiling faces online! I missed seeing everyone in my St. James Sunday School Family over the summer!





clipart-library.com

Submitted by Marty Linton

THANK YOU for continuing to support the work being done for others outside of our St. James congregation through your Outreach Offering gifts. In spite of the restrictions placed on individual, spontaneous giving during the temporary closure of St. James due to COVID-19 restrictions our congregation was still able to share resources with two support groups.

In May we sent our \$125 donation to the fundraiser for the GO Project. Check out their Facebook page, go to <The GO Project> to see how this money is being used and for information on programs.

In June your Outreach Offering was received for the St James Food Basket. We donated \$495. Thank you. All donations helped bridge the summer gap in funds and were very much appreciated.

OUTREACH APPEAL FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

The Prime Minister announced that Canada has moved into the Second Wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. Your Outreach Committee began looking for a comprehensive “care for

the caregiver” program to support frontline workers. There are so many different care groups it was hard to pinpoint one. As we read the articles and comments by health care workers it became apparent they are aware that they will need to find strategies to remain in good mental health in order to help others (<https://www.cbc.ca/radio/whitecoat/running-on-fumes-amid-rising-covid-cases-health-workers-struggle-with-fatigue-lack-of-support-1.5729298>).

We found that CAMH is one of five hospitals in the GTA who partnered with the Ministry of Health and Ontario Health to provide resources for frontline healthcare workers.

From the CAMH website:

“Individuals who meet the following criteria are eligible to self-refer for psychotherapy and psychiatric services:

You are a health care worker in Ontario

You are impacted by stress related to COVID 19

You require mental health and/or addictions support.

You and your colleagues working on the front lines of health care continue to rise above the call of duty as the COVID-19 pandemic evolves. With increased demands, we’re reminded more than ever that mental health is health.

To support patients and their families, it’s important that you also take care of yourself. CAMH provides access to mental health and addiction

“Brothers, Sing On”- Ode to Bill Price!

Adapted from an article by Marjorie Taft 1997



This song by Edvard Grieg was the theme for the 60th reunion of the American Boy Choir School (formerly the Columbus Boy Choir School). The reunion was held in Columbus Ohio, Nov 21st- 24th, 1997. You might ask: “Why would this interest us here at St James?” The answer, I believe, is two-fold. The first is that you have heard and admired the vocal versatility of our baritone- tenor soloist Bill Price who has been much involved with our sacred and secular music over the past 42 years. Bill is a 1963 alumnus of this school but was born and raised in Flin Flon, Manitoba.

It is not surprising to learn that Bill's parents and grandparents were pianists, organists and choir directors involved in many operettas and Broadway

shows in which Bill performed and was part of.

In November of 1960 the Columbus Boy Choir from Princeton, New Jersey came to Flin Flon to perform. Bill auditioned for the Choir by singing selections sung by “Amahl” from Menotti's “Amahl and the Night Visitors” - a role he had sung with the Flin Flon Glee Club. Acceptance was immediate and he was granted permission, by his parents, to attend the school in January 1961. In addition to the education gained touring the United States and Canada giving concerts, the School provided vocal and piano lessons, encouraging a busy, organized life conducive to learning.

Bill was at the opening of the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York City September 1962 when the Columbus Boy Choir participated in Mahler's Eighth Symphony with the New York Philharmonic Orchestra, with Leonard Bernstein conducting. He sang at the Choir's Christmas Concert, also in 1962, which was part of the tree-lighting ceremony at the White House. Vice President Lyndon Johnson and Mrs. Johnson stood near by to the Choir.

The 1997 reunion with classmates from the Choir School included a joint concert featuring the alumni Choir and the current members of the Boy Choir School. The program included folk songs, spirituals and a motet as well as

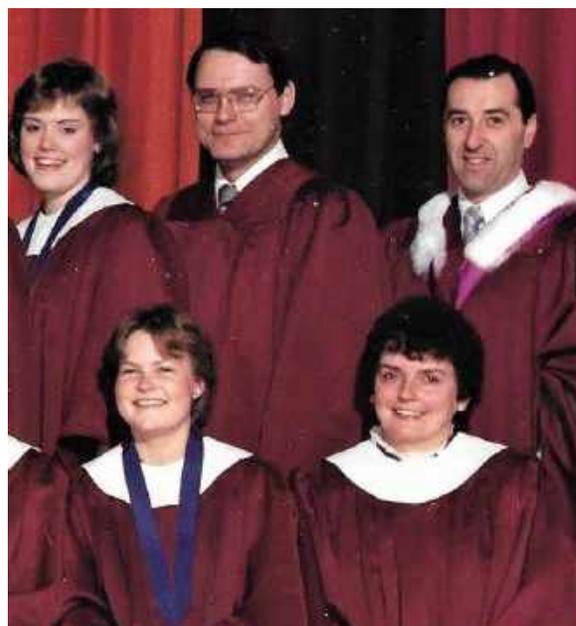
choral music with a four-part brass choir and organ.

We are pleased that Bill found his way back to Canada in 1963. He continued his education earning a Bachelor of Music Education from Brandon University, also achieving an Associate of Music (ARCT) from the Royal Conservatory of Music as “Teacher” and from the Western Board of Music as “Performer” - both in piano. When Bill came to Toronto he completed the requirements for two more ARCT's in voice as “Teacher” and “Performer” at the Royal Conservatory here. Bill has had extensive choir experience, which has included many years with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir. Singing with The Toronto Concert Singers, under the direction of Clive Dunstan brought him to St James in 1978.

We have delighted in his rich baritone voice and impressive stage talents over the years and have much appreciated his devotion and commitment to the church's music program. He has graciously contributed his gifts and we feel truly blessed to have had his expertise leading the men. Thank you Bill for all those wonderful heartfelt solos that we will cherish and remember forever.



2008 Mikado



1985 Chancel Choir

William Price - Baritone Retires

Submitted by Mhairi Godley

It was 1977 when a young Bill Price came to Toronto from Flin Flon, Manitoba, with ambition to sing with the Toronto Mendelssohn Choir. Bill comes from a very musical family, with both parents involved in various musical enterprises in Flin Flon as he was growing up. His grandparents were musically talented, too, and his first cousin once removed, Percival Price, was the player of the first carillon in North America, at Metropolitan United Church in downtown Toronto.

While waiting for the annual auditions for the Mendelssohn Choir, young Bill approached Dr. Melville Cook, the organist and choir director of the Metropolitan United church choir and the Metropolitan Festival choir. He was immediately auditioned and accepted into both, and is still a member of the Festival Choir. A friend in the Metropolitan choir suggested he might like to join the Toronto Concert Singers, which rehearsed closer to where he lived. The Singers were directed by one Clive Dunstan, and so began a long musical and personal friendship. In 1978, Clive asked Bill if he would be interested in leading the bass section of the choir at St. James, for a small remuneration, and Bill gladly accepted

the position. Later, he also successfully auditioned for the Mendelssohn choir, and sang with them for 23 years. He also joined the Masterworks Choir of Oakville, Etobicoke Centennial Choir, and the Toronto Choristers, amongst other choirs. Bill just loves music, especially singing, although he is also a gifted pianist.

From the beginning, Bill was embraced by the warm and friendly atmosphere at St. James, and the delight of being a leader in the very talented choir. He really appreciated the challenging solos Clive gave him over the years. He finds the joy of singing most exhilarating, along with the collective concentration and feeling of unity when blending with all the other voices of the choir.

Luckily, Bill is a very healthy individual, and rarely misses a practice or service. However, one Christmas season after singing about twenty two carol services with no problems, he then had to sing six extra *Messiahs* with the TMC, which seriously taxed his voice. The next day was the St. James Candlelight Service, and he had no voice left! Luckily, there were others able to take over his solos, while he lip-synced the choir pieces.

Over the years, Bill has greatly enjoyed participating in many shows. When pushed, he declared Koko in the second *Mikado* production to be his favourite role, as it was quite the most challenging music to sing, with notorious tongue-twisters, sung at

breakneck speed. He is astoundingly fast at learning new music, a skill he credits to touring North America with the Columbus Boy Choir of Princeton, N.J. for three years, and having to memorize 5-6 weeks worth of music at a time.

You will rarely see Bill without his glasses, as his sight is quite poor, reduced to coloured blurs without them. However, in shows, he is a consummate artiste, and will not wear his glasses. This has led to a few problems, especially during blackouts. He says that sometimes all he could see were Clive's hands 'waving about'. This also was the cause of his most embarrassing moment. During the first Mikado, with a huge storm raging outside the church, he was downstairs with others in the cast, chatting. However, he did not notice them leaving! When he realized he was about to miss his entrance, he had to rush upstairs, find the bicycle he was supposed to ride (without his glasses) for his grand entrance, while two exceptionally quick-witted young ladies on stage ad-libbed furiously. "Time for tea" is still a big joke with them, apparently.

However, after forty two years, Bill has decided to retire from his official leadership role at St. James. Fortunately for us, he will remain as part of our choir. He says that he will miss singing the really great challenging solos and leading roles, and the special teamwork of the days when the "Quartet" used to sing

regularly with the Dunstans. He is not ruling out future solos, duets or larger groups, though, and will continue to support others in the choir whenever needed. And the lasting friendships and the appreciative support of our congregation will be with him always.

Bill, on behalf of everyone at St. James, we thank you most profoundly for your incredible forty two years of music; your magnificent voice which can go from bass to baritone to tenor, and back, and for your unfailingly cheerful and excellent vocal leadership. You are amazing!

HMS Pinafore 1984

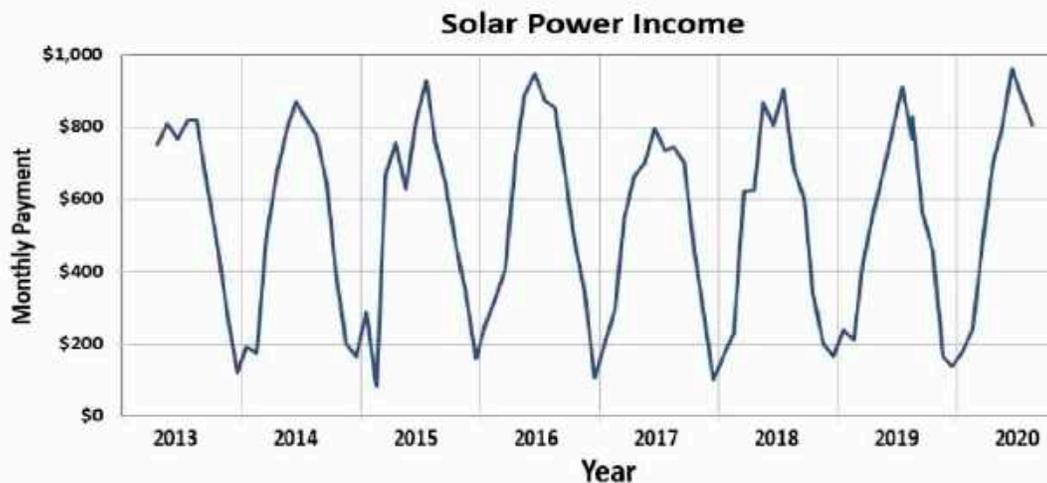


Solar Panel Update

In August 2020 our solar panels reached a special milestone, when their \$48,300 installation cost was finally paid off. It took 7 ½ years to reach this point since they began operating in April 2013. This payback period is what we expected.

Every year, our panels have consistently generated about \$6,000 income. The graph below shows the annual up and down cycle through the seasons. Although electricity production drops in the winter months, nothing completely stops them; not even political scandals or COVID-19. Barring catastrophe, as long as the sun keeps shining the panels will continue to do their job.

Here is the monthly income produced by our solar panels.



Since start-up, the panels have generated 89.3 MWh of power. That is roughly equivalent to:

- Driving the average gasoline-powered passenger car 250,000 km (more than half way to the moon).
- Driving a Tesla Model 3 electric car 595,000 km (to the moon and then half way back to Earth)
- The amount of electricity used by 10.7 average homes in one year.
- The amount of electricity generated at Niagara Falls in about 3 minutes. That may not sound like much, but hey, we are talking about a HUGE waterfall!
- Offsetting the production of 63 tonnes of CO₂

For the remaining 12 ½ years of our contract, receipts from the sale of solar power will be directed into a new trust fund to be established by the Trustees. This fund, in turn, can be drawn upon as needed to support the ongoing work of St. James, all while we continue to produce green energy.

May the sun continue to shine on all of you, and our solar panels!

Submitted by Don Munday





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Submitted By Carol Jones

Back in the winter, Emily Corthay did a presentation to a packed group in the lounge about climate change. She told us that two of the three main contributors of carbon in our atmosphere were driving and home heating.

I had received a brochure a few years ago from the World Wildlife Fund about Bullfrog Power and had never looked into it. After listening to Emily, I took the time to learn about Bullfrog Power.

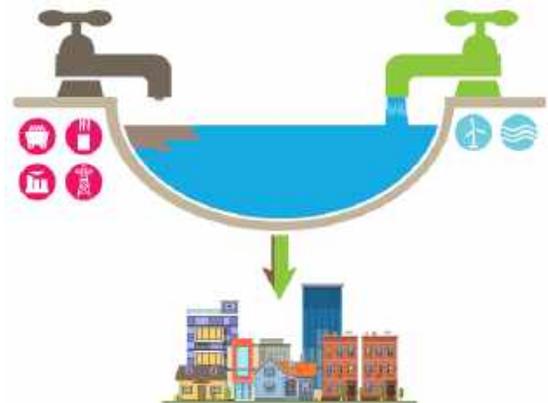
Bullfrog Power is a 15 year old organization that develops and operates various renewable green electricity and green natural gas projects. I was interested in green natural gas.

Green natural gas comes from organic waste (like apple cores and egg shells). Bullfrog Power harnesses the gas released from decaying material at a Canadian landfill or wastewater treatment plant and puts it in the gas pipeline. When used, the green natural gas releases only the carbon dioxide that is part of the natural carbon cycle. It is the same carbon dioxide that is

needed by the next generation of plants and animals to grow.

I liked the sound of that. So, I signed us up. We continue to pay our regular natural gas bill plus we invest about \$38 a month in green natural gas projects with Bullfrog Power.

We are taking meaningful action to green our environment.





Thank you Telephone Network Volunteers!

You have been asked many times this year to disseminate necessary lengthy and detailed information.

You have graciously accepted the challenge and provided a vital connection to many who are feeling isolated during the pandemic.

With appreciation,
Lila Bowen
Telephone Network Coordinator

