

EPISTLE

Nov/Dec 2020



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St. James United Church

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YOUR INVITATION TO

ADVENT COMMUNION

ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

Date: Sunday, November 29, 2020

Time: 10:30 a.m. – Service of Worship (Online)

Please advise the church office (416-622-4113) if you wish a phone visitation from our 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:
Red Door Family Shelter (90%)
Minister for Local Outreach (10%)

Next Epistle Deadline: January 24, 2021 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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Hope For It, Don't Wait For It!



Waiting is passive; it involves little more than doing nothing. It's like waiting for your children to get into college. They may not, so

should you save any money? Hoping is active; it involves preparation, making investments. Or like hoping for company, we sweep the bedrooms, change the linens - Look here!

The smell of warming hot cocoa fills the kitchen with scents of creamy chocolate and nutmeg. It oddly makes the scent of pine overpowering... and juxtaposed with the bright white lights and sparkly ornaments... home is not only where you live but a cocoon of comfort and joy. It's perfect... When suddenly (knock, knock, knock) a dishevelled figure appears at the door and "UGH!" once again 'Ole Man Sheppard' stands where once stood a trio of carollers last year. There on your front porch, or in the building lobby. (Ugh... why can't it be the carollers?) You crack the door to behold his wild eyes in a trancelike glare, "JESUS IS COMING! JESUS IS COMING! FOR ALL WE KNOW... JESUS IS HERE!" And you slip him a fiver, giving the door a good

slam... hoping he'll catch the hint and go away. Jesus is coming indeed!

Every Advent begins with Hope Sunday. A time when we are reminded that Jesus is coming. We are called to not merely wait for the Messiah's return but to hope for it... to prepare, to ready ourselves. Though we do not know when. ... Why? Why do we do this? Perhaps it is to appreciate what the people of his time were thinking and feeling about the Messiah's arrival. They did not expect their King; they waited for him but not really. Prophecies were whispered perhaps at bedtime like folktales, and children marvelled though like their parents barely hoped. We say that God spoke to the people at that time, but did He? God spoke to them through crazy old men hundreds of years ago... But now... The Romans had overrun the country, overtaxed - the people work tirelessly (no hope), abused and murdered - they're intimidated, just like their religious leaders who witness the propping up of Roman statues in the Temple... of Caesar's eagle above the door. The Temple, of all places?! Can you imagine?! And if the Natives got restless their occupiers threatened them with cancelling Passover... Passover, a festival celebrating their emancipation. Yes... yes, they waited, but was there hope? Was there goodwill toward humankind? Nope.

Much like us today... too many were surviving instead of thriving. The Messiah is coming, indeed. We cannot

Editor's Notes



As we slowly inch our way towards Christmas we wonder how we can celebrate safely. As convenient as the online option is, it comes with many distractions and opportunities for us NOT to participate in all aspects of the service, especially the music. For those who were able to be present in person, the service offered a wonderful experience of quiet reflection and participation in our community of faith that we miss so much. We look forward to the upcoming Candelight service featuring all our talented members including our choirs, soloists, keyboards and ensemble music. We encourage everyone to partake in our wonderful traditions this Advent season. Thanks to JC and the choir for taking this on. It will no doubt be a challenge to orchestrate everything, however we know it will be a treasured event. Thank you to the soloists and JC for helping us manage our new normal in spite of all the challenges you faced to keep our Sundays uplifting. We wish Bill

and Kathleen the best and hope they continue to sing and enjoy their gifts in another capacity.

Remember there is still a lot happening online via ZOOM to keep us engaged throughout the week. Please read the events page for more details. We are so fortunate to have so many people who work hard to keep St James present in our lives. Thank you to all and have a safe and Merry Christmas.

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

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

With Heartfelt
Sympathy

The family and friends of Mary Young,
with her passing on October 23, 2020
in her 90th year

The family of Joyce Eagle who passed away on October 15, 2020, at the age of 103. Joyce was the wife of St. James' second minister Rev. Glen Eagle (1964-1974). Joyce played an important role in our congregation with setting up and running youth programs that made St. James the place to be for young people, as well as creating and directing amazing Christmas pageants.

Joyce was extremely active at all levels of the United Church over the years in both governance and justice work. Some of these included chair of the former Toronto Presbytery, a General Council Commissioner, and a member of the Church and Society Committee of Toronto Conference. She was also one of the few lay people in the 1980s to sign the first public letter of support of LGBT people in The United Church of Canada.



5-24
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"Do you think God minds if I just rerun last night's prayer?"

UPCOMING EVENTS

valdosta.edu

Sunday, November 29 is the 1st Sunday of Advent (HOPE), Holy Communion!

And a Happy New (Church) Year to us all!

Sunday, December 6 is the 2nd Sunday of Advent (PEACE). Day of Remembrance (École Polytechnique) – Blue Christmas.

Sunday, December 13 is the 3rd Sunday of Advent (JOY). Christmas Pageant.

Sunday, December 20 is the 4th Sunday of Advent (LOVE).



Candlelight Service(Livestream):
Sunday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m.
Our Candlelight service will feature congregational carols, Senior and Junior virtual choir numbers, vocal solos and small ensembles and keyboard music, all surrounding a reading of the Christmas story.



Thursday, December 24, Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m.

Communion and Candle Lighting.



ONGOING EACH WEEK AT ST. JAMES:

Sunday School via Zoom, Sundays at 1:30 p.m. 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.

* * * * *

Our **Bible Study group** will be held over **ZOOM every Monday at 1p.m.** Please confirm your interest in joining by contacting Rev. Maya at revmaya.douglas@gmail.com and she will send you the log-in information. We will read through the four lectionary readings for the week and discuss each one as well as how they may impact our lives and the world. An evening session will also be made available if a growing interest is shared with Maya. Newcomers are always welcome!

* * * * *

The **SJUC Junior and Youth Choir** meets on Thursdays 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.

* * * * *

Senior Choir rehearsals are 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.



An Attentive Advent-Christmas For Us

Submitted By Rev Maya

This Advent is unlike any other for most of us. It's full of nots. (No, there's no typo). We are being told NOT to gather indoors. We are told NOT to travel to see family and friends. There will NOT be any awkward mistletoe moments. Perhaps there will NOT be any exchange of cakes and cookies. We will NOT have any dance parties into the New Year. Lots of nots. And, our church will NOT be having in-person worship.

If you are like me, this is going to hurt more than a little bit. The season leading up to and including Christmas and into the New Year is a time for fellowship, for gift-giving. For me, the greatest gift is time and presence. I am always in awe of anyone who would want to spend time with me; me out of millions and millions of people in this city. So, I offer you this thought and spiritual practice.

Every year we celebrate a journey of grace and Light in the world during Advent. We are called to pay attention to a young girl and her betrothed as they walk and ride to Bethlehem. It will end with the disappointment of inhospitality and still - God will arrive in their Christ-child. No one and nothing can cancel Jesus' arrival! No scandal, no census, no shutting of doors.

Each week, I invite you to pay attention to the little and big moments of joy that still come regardless of Covid-19. Did someone look at you and smile with their eyes? Ha! Take that wretched face masks! Did you see the stars on a clear evening? Can you imagine one bright shining star? Who is the star in your life? Or are you a bright star for someone? Aha! We are still connected in loving relationships. Love always wins!

As a guide, I invite you to reflect on these words - pray, reminisce, and journal (using words, or visual arts, or through song).

Week 1 (Nov. 29 - Dec. 5): Expectancy

Week 2 (Dec. 6 - Dec. 12): Preparation

Week 3 (Dec. 13 - Dec. 19): Faith

Week 4 (Dec. 20 - Dec. 26): Promise

If you want to share, please email me: revmaya.douglas@gmail.com

God bless you.



loyolapress.com



UPDATE FROM ST. JAMES FOOD BASKET

November 2020

Contrary to what I wrote last month, we have moved the Food Basket back inside! Doing so required setting up an appointment system, scheduling groups of 10 people every 15 minutes, to avoid long line ups in time for the cold weather. We aim to move food recipients into and out of Fellowship Hall as quickly as possible, to minimize personal contacts and keep everyone healthy. Our goal is to have each person indoors for only 5 minutes. This is why we cannot go back to using our “shopping” model where people took time choosing every item. I recently visited another Etobicoke food bank that is using a shopping model, and watched as one mother and youngster were in the fairly small room for 20 minutes.

People enter the kitchen door, sanitize their hands, register, then receive their 2 sets of bags, have a few items to choose from, then get eggs and bread and leave via the ramp. There are a few people, with walkers and baby strollers who use the ramp both ways. We allow only 6 food recipients in the hall at a time; as one leaves, another can enter.

In many ways, this set-up is easier for our volunteers because we do not have to take all the bags of food outdoors. We do need extra volunteers to manage people entering and then helping people leave with a lot to carry.

Before the pandemic, we had over 100 volunteers every Wednesday. Many of them worked on preparing, serving, and cleaning up after snacks, lunch, and tea and coffee -- things we cannot do now. At this time we have just over 50 volunteers; 40% are new volunteers since the pandemic began. We are very grateful to our continuing and our new volunteers, for keeping us operating.

Many groups in the community have food drives for us. This year, we have asked them not to since we do not have enough people to sort the food and it is difficult to distribute the food fairly when we do not have a “shopping” set-up. We are grateful for donations to pay for the Walmart gift cards we hand out to all children younger than 18; this year, the gift cards will be for \$20.

We wish everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

Marie Truelove, Chair

A Message From Finance

Submitted by Bob Harris, Finance Chair



To the end of September our income was \$221,883. This includes \$28,050 from the government salary support program and \$34,545 in rental income. The income was only \$13,200 less than our expenses.

Through your generous support this year of COVID-19, and by careful watching of the expenditures we have managed to keep the operating expenses under control.

We could not have done this without the Property Committee work, all our volunteers and your financial support.

THANK YOU!

Mission & Service

Submitted by Marty Linton, Chair



We have received several thank you letters for our 2019/2020 M&S gifts. Letters of thanks are posted on the bulletin board in the entrance hallway outlining how The United Church of Canada M&S funds are being used to support people throughout the world during the COVID-19 pandemic. You may have seen the letter online with thanks from Eustina, a 63 year old widow from Dungiro Zimbabwe, who works to care for her 4 grandchildren. When COVID-19 struck she found herself out of a job and unable to provide for them. Because the United Church has partnered with the Zimbabwe Council of Churches your M&S gift means that Eustina can feed her family. **THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING MISSION & SERVICE.**

As of the end of October 2020, \$26,734.67(76% of our \$35,000 pledge) has been received. Last year at this time 87% of our 2019 pledge

(also \$35,000) had been received. If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, THANK YOU SO MUCH!

If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbor is at the heart of our Mission & Service.

Please send your donations 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”.

Thank you.



“If God is way up there in Heaven, shouldn't I pray a lot louder?”



Sunday School Is Zooming!

Submitted by Karen Forgrave

Virtual Sunday School is thriving at St. James! Every Sunday at 1:30pm, students from JK to Grade 9 tune in together to listen to the Bible story, sing songs, and participate in games and craft activities. We have recently completed our unit on “Moses, the Baby in the Basket”. Over the course of a few weeks, students got to participate in a Jeopardy Game, participate in a short Scavenger Hunt, create a “hidden Moses” book mark, and weave their own basket by “up-cycling” (reusing) an empty yogurt or margarine container! Here are some photos of the beautiful “baskets” that were created (you have to imagine them with colourful yarn, which does not show up in our black and white photos!) We are hoping to end our unit with a “Family Movie Time” featuring the movie “The Prince of Egypt” that follows the life of Moses, from his time as a baby in the basket, to leading his people out of slavery in Egypt. At the time of writing, final details around the movie night are still being determined.

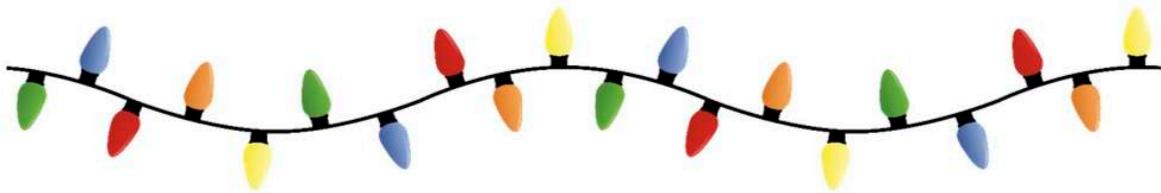
A reminder that if you have children or grand-children in JK – Grade 9 who would enjoy attending our virtual Sunday School from home, please contact Karen by email at karen_forgrave@hotmail.com to get the Zoom link. We have families

joining us from Miami, Florida, and also from Ottawa, as well as from all over Toronto and Mississauga! All are welcome!



Christmas Lights Scavenger Hunt!

(Brought to you by the Christian Development Committee)



Family Fun for all ages! All are welcome!

Friday, December 11th at 6:45pm sharp!

Meet online to receive the list of items you will need to find. Then, bundle up and head outside with a camera or phone to take pictures of items on your list (e.g., Can you find a house with only red lights? A house with candles in the window?)

Return online 45 minutes later to compare results – show your photos, and see which person or family team got the most “points”!

Ready to join in the fun? You can access the Zoom link from the weekly bulletin that is sent out electronically (make sure you are on the church’s email list – if you are not, contact Matty at the church office – 416-622-4113) Mark your calendars for Friday, December 11th at 6:45pm!

Any questions? Email karen_forgrave@hotmail.com



clipart-library.com

Submitted by Marty Linton

THANK YOU! \$515.00 was received for CAMH during the October outreach appeal to support frontline medical workers with mental health resources during the COVID 19 pandemic. Thank you to everyone who donated. Your generous support is greatly appreciated.

As you know All Saints, the Out of the Cold host church here in Etobicoke, will not be participating in the program this year. This means St. James will not be asked to participate in putting a dinner together, and an appeal for donations will not happen. Our Out of the Cold coordinator, Myrna Markovich, has contacted Dixon Hall who handles the administration for OOTC in Toronto. She has communicated by email with Cassie McIndoo, a Donor Stewardship and Engagement Officer at Dixon Hall. She has advised us to direct our funds to the area of Housing and Homelessness, which also includes their community meal program and respite. We have therefore donated \$246.45 (rolled over from last year's Out of the Cold donations) to Dixon Hall.

We have received notice from UCC that Mandate magazine has just issued their final issue after over 50 years of publication. "It was a difficult decision to make for this award-winning publication, but the realities of a small subscriber base meant we could not justify the production costs given our budget reductions. ... We are discussing the possibility of shifting some of the content that used to appear in Mandate to blogs, the United Church website, or other media." A copy of the final edition is available for borrowing in the entrance hallway.

Our next Outreach Offering will be received on the first Sunday of Advent (HOPE) November 29th and throughout December. We are asking you to support the Red Door Family Shelter. Since 1982 the Red Door Family Shelter has provided emergency shelter and support for women and children affected by domestic abuse, families experiencing a housing crisis, and refugee claimants with nowhere else to turn. Red Door has grown to be one of the largest family shelters in the city, providing shelter and support to over 350 families every year. They can be reached at www.reddoorshelter.ca



Honouring Bill Price. Sunday October 18, 2020 Service

Presented by Linda Maw



Well Bill, 42 years! How do I begin to do justice to covering such a long span of service in this small window of time allotted to us this morning. I hope that everyone has read or will read the two excellent biographical articles in the October issue of the church's Epistle. It certainly provides us with an understanding of the breadth of Bill's musical interests and expertise. Bill is passionate about music whether he is singing, playing, teaching, or listening to others performing!

On behalf of the St James choirs and congregation we want to thank you for sharing that passion with us – blessing us with over four decades of dedicated, heartfelt singing and committed vocal leadership.

Bill, as baritone choral lead you have guided and nurtured the bass and tenor sections of the choir with such enthusiasm and expertise. I am sure that both our music directors - Clive Dunstan and J.C Coolen, whom you have served under, have appreciated the wide range of your rich voice – from bass all the way to tenor – and your willingness to move from one to the other where-ever and whenever needed.

We, as the congregation, have certainly enjoyed listening to you - whether a solo, part of a duet or quartet during regular Sunday worship, or in an Easter cantata or during the annual highlight of the Choirs' Christmas candlelight carol service or while participating in a fund raising concert. There are all the many memorable lead roles you have undertaken in our St James musical stage productions - Gilbert and Sullivan, Joseph, Broadway to name a few. You have made so many wonderful musical memories for us – thank you Bill.

As a token of our appreciation and gratitude we have a number of gifts to present.

Instead of just signing a card, the members of the Senior and Chancel choirs sent words of appreciation and

best wishes and shared memories to Kathleen Wells who has compiled them into this booklet adding a selection of photos that illustrate some of the many musical hats you have worn over the years.

Last night as I was preparing for this presentation, I wondered whether there might be some St James' members who would like to add their thoughts to the choirs' in this booklet - perhaps sharing with Bill memories of roles or solos he has sung that touched them or would like to add their words of thanks. There is always room to add another page or two. (Bill's street address and email address are listed in the church directory)

Bill, a senior choir anthem has been dedicated in your honour – one that we know is dear to your heart: Mendelssohn's “He, watching over Israel” from his oratorio Elijah. The dedication on each copy reads: “dedicated in celebration and recognition of Bill Price and his 42 years of service as St James' Baritone Choral Lead. Oct 2020.”

While you are stepping down as the section leader we are thrilled that you will be staying on as a member of the chancel and senior choirs. There are still more musical memories for us to create together!

In honour and appreciation of your distinguished service and ongoing participation in the St James Choirs, this week, at the choir's suggestion,

and the W and M Committee request, St James' Co-ordinating Committee members unanimously and enthusiastically voted to bestow the honorary title of **Baritone Choral Lead Emeritus** on you.



Shining Waters Report - Nov 4, 2020

Submitted by Mhairi Godley, Shining Waters Rep For St. James U.C.



Rev. Evan Smith of the Toronto Urban Native Ministry opened the meeting, followed by worship led by the Intercultural Diversity Circle.

A conversation about anti-racism in the Region followed, led by HeyRan Kim-Cragg, from Emanuel College.

I acknowledge that the following report stems from my own position of white privilege.

Racism in the region is systemic and structural, and historically stemming from the colonial era. There is a tangled web of racism which needs to be untangled. Even our worship is embedded in systemic racism. At St. James, we recognize Black History month, but anti racism should be part of our every day lives. Colour symbolism is rampant, where white = good, black = bad or evil. In the United Church culture, white equates with divine presence. White is the liturgical colour for Christmas and Easter, new life, joyful occasions and celebrations. Black is perceived as the

colour of mourning. However, in many other cultures, white symbolizes death and sadness, and is common at funerals. Joyful occasions are celebrated with bright colours, especially red. HeyRan suggested 3 Hs to untangle racism - Hutzpah (audacity), Humility and Hope. She suggested Hutzpah to discuss the Bible stories from the perspectives of Hagar, not Abraham, Onesimus rather than Paul, the Canaanites rather than the Israelites. Humility demands that we listen to people's stories, especially those involving generational trauma. Hope, the life beyond death, the life beyond racism. We were encouraged to let the light of Jesus shine through us.

We were then sent to 'breakout rooms' to discuss two questions.

What stands out in our church regarding racism?

Share one concrete thing you will do to end racism in your church.

In my group, we talked about symbols, colour and 'rearranging the defaults', e.g. darkness is comforting when you are cosy in bed.

When people declare, "I don't 'see' colour", what they mean is "I don't want to be distracted by your colour, it just doesn't matter to me." E.g. in a band, or sports team. However, it was also suggested that colour does matter, and should be acknowledged as part of the person's identity.

Can we recruit non-white lay leaders, and do so without burdening them with unrealistic expectations and pressure?

HeyRan then gave the groups 2 more challenges:

Identify an object or symbol that reflects one key learning from the presentation.

How might that symbol or object remind you to keep engaging antiracism in the church?

Our group came up with an image of a round kitchen table, with all the chairs different. Everyone is equal, everyone is different.

Another idea was a communion cloth made from fabrics from all over the world and pieced together into one whole. It could include pieces of plain fabric decorated in any way by people within the church family.

Different components can give strength in unity, like plywood!

Proposal from the Intercultural Diversity Circle

Communities are like ecosystems; diversity is essential for the survival of all.

Members of the group spoke about their personal stories and experiences, and a motion was passed by a huge majority to form an Intercultural Diversity Commission, which would give the Circle more scope to share ideas more widely.

The afternoon session began with the budget and other financial matters, the Nominations Committee Report and Accountability Reports. All passed. Details can be found on the Shining Waters website.

Five candidates for Admittance/ Designated Lay Ministry/Ordination each presented short videos about themselves. The Service for these people was held on Sunday afternoon, October 18, via Zoom.

There was unanimous support for the Equity Action Plan, which includes differently able people, LGBTQ2+ people, as well as Black, Indigenous and People of Colour.

The one item of New Business was a prayer for the Sipekne'katik Mi'kmaq lobster fishers in Nova Scotia who are being subjected to horrendous racism, vandalism and violence while the RCMP stands by.

Mhairi's personal reflections:

A while ago, we at St. James hung our 'white Jesus' picture out of sight, (not wishing to offend the donors by removing it completely.) The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) has produced a generic 'Jewish Arab Jesus' picture. What would it say to newcomers and visitors if we had an 'ethnically accurate Jesus' picture in the foyer of our church?

2. The Humility of listening:

A few years ago, on one of my Arctic adventures, I was privileged to hear the personal story told by an Inuit elder grandmother who had been forced to attend a residential school. She spoke about the effects that that experience

had not only on herself, but also on her parents, and her children, and her grandchildren. It was one of the most powerful experiences of my life. Most of us cannot walk in the shoes of people who are subjected to discrimination of any kind, but we can (must?) listen to their stories.

Do You Want to Get Involved in Livestreaming?

Submitted by Don Munday



Livestreaming of worship services at St. James began at the start of October and is now part of our Sunday morning routine. These broadcasts have allowed almost everyone in the congregation to take part in the worship experience, including the many who cannot attend in person due to mobility issues, or COVID-19 concerns.

With the assistance of Gord Burrell, I took on the challenge to get livestreaming up and running, and it has been an interesting learning experience. Unfortunately, I cannot continue to operate the livestreaming equipment every Sunday forever without the help of others! Are you willing to pitch in and get involved?

Of course, I would train you, answer all of your questions, and sit in on your first few services to make sure you are comfortable running everything on your own. If you would like to learn more, please contact me at munday@sympatico.ca





Submitted By Lila Bowen

The garden is closed for the season. I wish to acknowledge and thank the following:

Clive Dunstan for care of the memorial garden in memory of Pat's mom, Pauline Marks.

Norm da Costa for once again trimming the yews.

Al Graham, Tony Gray, Brian Isard, and Norm Da Costa for their expertise.

Joanne Atkins, Clive Dunstan, Susan Taylor, Conrad Aristodema and a welcome addition, Jim Cook for Saturday morning faithfulness.

Joanne for innumerable weekday hours in the gardens.

Conrad for walking the property each Saturday morning and picking up the garbage.



Many thanks to all for being so willing and cheerful.

Please note:

St. James gardens have many plants that can be split and shared. If you wish to have these, drop by on a Saturday morning in the warm weather to receive such. It all belongs to you.

bluestoneperennials.com

Adieu Kathleen

Submitted by Albert Conforzi

It was with mixed emotions that St. James learned of Kathleen Wells' decision to retire from the choir. As a member, with 42 years of service and devotion to the church and the Choirs of St. James, it is likely we will never again see that level of commitment and professionalism in combination with such musical excellence. At the same time we are filled with gratitude for all her gifts she has so generously shared with us.

A talent such as Kathleen's does not just happen. It is a gift that is usually inherited, and Kathleen is no exception in that regard. She recalls fondly her mother's fine voice filling their Etobicoke home coupled with the joy of singing along with her. Her mother was her biggest supporter; always an encouraging and knowledgeable "voice". She never missed a concert or a performance.

Her father was also very musical, and we fondly remember the numerous Remembrance Day services when Mr. Sutherland was our fine piper, thanks to Kathleen.

Her musical journey to St. James was guided by some very familiar and special names. Caroline Laughlin was her first voice teacher, and it was not long before she was singing solos at

nearby Westway United Church. She attended Kipling Collegiate where she met Clive Dunstan for the first time.

It was a couple of years later that Caroline Laughlin encouraged Kathleen to go to St. James to work with Clive Dunstan. It did not take long for Clive to recognize her talent and she began her career as a soloist at St. James. Soon thereafter she became soprano lead in both the Chancel and Senior Choirs. Kathleen's solo work (and the Choirs as a whole), always benefitted from the expert and sensitive accompaniment of Pat Dunstan.

To say that Kathleen flourished under Clive's watchful eye would be an understatement. Beyond her musical development she developed the leadership skills necessary for the lead role. Clive brought out the best in his people, and in Kathleen he revealed both her musical acumen and reliability that gave the choir it's extra edge.

Through the years, Kathleen performed leads in most of the St. James' productions. Early on in her career, Kathleen began working with the St. Pat's Players Gilbert & Sullivan group which led to many memorable roles from Yum-Yum in the Mikado to Angelina in Trial by Jury. She remembers with great joy other roles including being onstage with Anne Tipler as shared Narrators in Joseph

and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.

From a music and worship standpoint, Kathleen was fortunate to work with a long list of profoundly musical people such as Anne Tipler, Bill Price, Leander Mendoza, Joey Niceforo and Brynne McLeod. The quartets, trios and duets were always a spiritually uplifting experience. For Kathleen though, The Advent season's Christmas candlelight service and Christmas Eve service have always been favourites and two services she will miss the most.

Choir was much more than just singing for her, as evidenced by the lifelong friendships with choir members, past and present, that have endured. Choir trips, Kiwanis festival performances, Sunday afternoon musicales all brought the choir together for other reasons and built the foundation of shared experience and purpose.

So after 42 years of rarely missing a Thursday night or a Sunday morning, what is a Soprano soloist to do? Well in addition to her demanding work career, Kathleen expects to share as much time as she can up on Lake Huron at her sister's cottage. A break has definitely been earned! We should, however, not be surprised if we see Kathleen in a community theatre production sometime in the future for a little time limited fun!!

For us, Kathleen is leaving behind a legacy of treasured musical memories and, for Kathleen, she is grateful for all that St. James has been and meant to her- “for it is in giving that we receive”.

So, in the best tradition of music and the St. James Choirs, she bids us Adieu- to you and you and you!

Thank you, good luck and God’s blessings, Kathleen, from your St. James family.



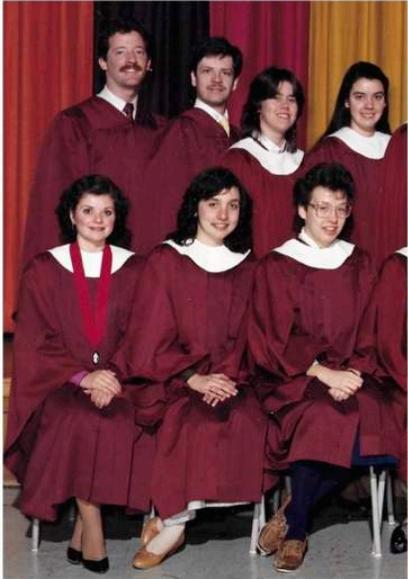
Kathleen through the years



40 Years and counting revue- 2017



Christmas Chancel Concert



Early Chancel choir days



Miked and ready to role



HMS Pinafore



Joseph 1993 with Anne Tipler



With Leander Mendoza in Grease “revived”

A poem by the mother of Marilyn
Myhre (Margarette Routley)

THE STAR (Matt.2:10)

*O, Bethlehem how very blest you are.
Yet, only shepherd must have seen the Star.
Leading them to where the Saviour lay
In a humble stall that first Christmas Day.*

*O, Israel, how very blest your are.
Yet, you never, never saw the Star.
Your eyes were blind, you could not see
The Baby in Bethlehem - your King was He!*

*O, Wise-Men, how very blest you are.
To find the King you followed the Star.
Your gifts you laid at His holy feet;
And worshipped Him there as you did meet.*

*O, Nazareth, how very blest you are.
And yet, you never, never saw the Star.
Though Christ lived among you day by day,
You never knew He was the "Way".*

*O, World, how very blest you are.
And yet, you never, never saw the Star.
God's message of hope was in His Son;
He sent Him to earth for everyone.*

*O, Friends, how very blest we are.
And yet, we never, never saw the Star.
But, Christ of Bethlehem, we humbly pray
Accept our lives, and love for You this day.*

(Margarette)



Fundraising In the Time of Covid

Submitted By Mhairi Godley

This is a perfect time for getting our living spaces in order! Are you tired of certain items? Never will use that gift from several years ago? Downsizing?

So, what to do with items which could be treasured by someone else?

We live in hope that there will be a “Fall Fling” in 2021, but if you do not want to store stuff until then, why not sell it - ON LINE!

If you are not tech-savvy, ask your children/grandchildren to set up an online ‘shop’ on Kijiji and/or similar sites.

Any money you make from the sales to others who will “Treasure” the items can be donated to St. James!

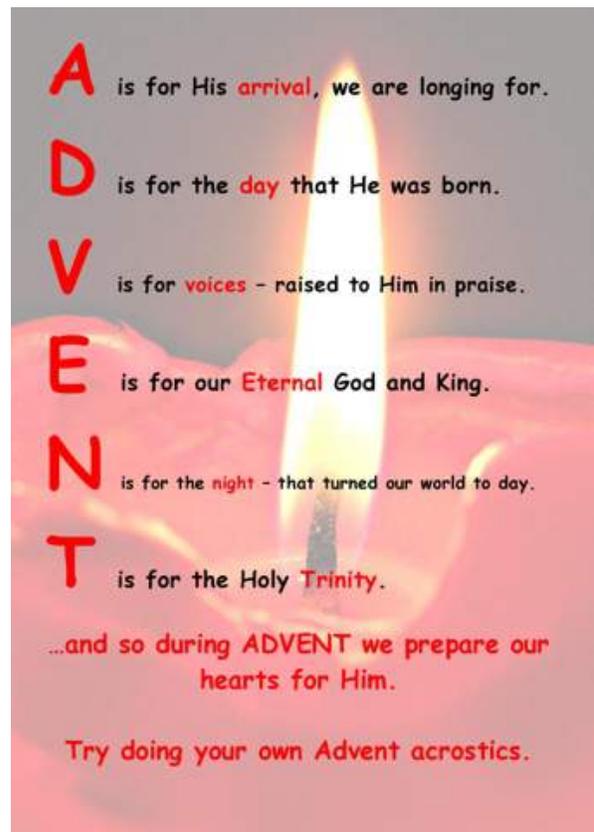
If you have any fundraising ideas, please go ahead and implement them!

Or contact “Varry” (Mhairi Godley)

for support at:

416-912-4764

mmgodley@hotmail.com



Stewardship of Time and Talent

Submitted By Mhari Godley

In November, we are highlighting Stewardship; giving back to God from the abundance God has given to us. Is it time for you to share your time and your God-given gifts? As Rev. Maya lamented in the November 15 service, “gifts are useless if you hide them or bury them!”

Do you possess the gift of empathy and caring? Many people in our community of faith are feeling lonely, especially at present, and would really appreciate a phone call, and perhaps a visit later on next year when it is safe to do so. Marty Linton is compiling a comprehensive list of people who love to chat and would be happy to call people from the comfort of their home. At present, the need is great and increasing, and the callers are few! Although many of you are making phone calls to others, it would be useful for Marty to have all that information centrally, so that we can make sure that everyone in social isolation receives phone calls, and that your gifts of caring and empathy can be shared equitably.

Do you have the gift of Leadership? Several groups are leaderless at present, notably Pastoral Care, and Communications. There are willing workers, but someone is needed to

coordinate all their efforts. Could that person be you!

Also, we really, really need someone who is willing and able to take over Leadership of the Coordinating Committee, with 1 on1 guidance from Rod Lord if required from now until our next AGM in March, 2021. Perhaps this is the time for you? Rod will retire after the 2021 AGM, and we cannot function without a leader. Do your best, and we will all support you, and of course, so will God! You will not be alone! Do not be afraid!! (Rev. Maya again on Nov. 15!)

Do you have the gift of creative ideas, but are not ready to be a leader right now? Various teams in our church need you, especially Christian Education, Stewardship, and Fundraising although I'm sure many other teams would welcome new ideas too.

And of course, Marie Truelove would greatly appreciate hearing from you if you are now available to volunteer at the Food Basket!

Please prayerfully consider the above. If we can all do a little more, St. James can continue to live out God's presence in this community. If you are ready to share your gifts and your time in a new way, please contact “Varry” (Mhairi Godley) at 416-912-4764, or mmgodley@hotmail.com
THANK YOU!