

# EPISTLE

**February 2021**



vecteezy.com

**St. James United Church**

available on-line at [www.stjamesunitedchurch.com](http://www.stjamesunitedchurch.com)

[www.stjamesunitedchurch.com](http://www.stjamesunitedchurch.com)

YOUR INVITATION TO

HOLY COMMUNION

**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH**

Date: Sunday, February 14, 2021

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](mailto:stjames_uc@rogers.com)

Outreach offering in support of:

Out of the Cold (OOTC) Lunch Program (90%)

Minister for Local Outreach (10%)

Next Epistle Deadline: April 18, 2021 at Noon.

Please email all items to [sjepistle@yahoo.com](mailto:sjepistle@yahoo.com) if at all possible, or place in the Epistle mail slot at the church.

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## At A Table Where We Can Be...



As Black History month approaches with Lent following close behind, I find myself deep in thought and reflecting on loss. I yearn for a time that is different from the one in which we find ourselves. In some ways, how things were, needed no change. So, I find myself yearning for time with my cousins and our shared revelry of the past; for time with my aunts and their wise storytelling. A huge part of celebrating the month of February is embracing the diversity of the African diaspora. What makes my family unique as people of Jamaican descent is closely linked to how similar we are to those of Ghanaian or Nigerian descent, while differing from our Cuban, Bajan and Trinidadian family members.

Black History Month reminds me that all of "we" (us) can be found sitting around a dining table sharing stories long after a meal has ended and dishes are washed, in order to share in a different kind of hospitality... vulnerability. During these moments around a table, we lament, we celebrate, groan, laugh, interrupt one another with stories... stories of long,

long ago, stories of why events went just so, stories of the past week, and aspirations of what can be. Sometimes, we may even break into song; folk songs or spirituals. The younger ones of my generation may even slap and pound the table in syncopated drumbeats to rap or recite a rhythmic poem (much like Amanda Gorman's spoken word at the recent Biden/Harris inauguration). Even younger ones, around my children's age, may sit in awe or share how things have not changed, and if we are lucky... if they feel comfortable enough with the folks present, they may even perform the latest dances and put up with us "older ones" mimicking their moves. Here at the table, we are accepted as is; here, all pretences and guises fall away and we all know that we are loved. This I miss.

Gatherings like these are not allowed to occur during the Covid-19 pandemic. Yet, it is the ability to gather and exercise a certain amount of unabashed agency, in having a voice that is heard, that affords Black people the power to develop and maintain resiliency. We NEED these moments. So, the question upon which I ponder is, "What now?" I have no answer, just the challenge of observing what happens next.

During our upcoming children's times, "A Time of Wonder" I will be inviting you all to the table in conversations around why words matter. I hope that you will join me in taking part in what

is often discussed among the marginalized. Words often hurt when they are culturally insensitive. Words left unsaid, sometimes hurt even more. I will share how this may play out in the Church, for example, when we call the sacred scriptures of the Jewish faith (Jesus's faith), the "Old Testament" and the scriptures that share the stories of Jesus and the early Christian church, the "New Testament" - words matter.

I will also be inviting you to a United Church led book study on Desmond Cole's highly acclaimed book, "The Skin We're In". I haven't read the book (at the time of writing this), but I have heard great things about it especially regarding its Canadian context. Black History Month is a time during which I may enjoy being visible in spaces where I often feel invisible. Books like James H. Cone's "The Cross and The Lynching Tree" and Robin DiAngelo's "White Fragility" (both of which I highly recommend) are written in the American context and leave me wanting an additional chapter or two on how things may be the same and different in Canada. Book studies, engaging in conversations around books allow us to "write" these extra chapters together, don't they? They give us the opportunity to sit at a table to talk as a family of faith. I hope you will join me, every Wednesday at 7 p.m. starting on Feb. 24th.

As we head into Lent, we hear the call to repent, which literally means to

change our direction to face God - to surrender. During a time when some Christians give up something (or someone), I like to ask people to take hold. Instead of letting go of anything or anyone, take hold of someone and love them a little bit more. Take hold of a new ritual, like singing Psalms, or meditating every morning, or drinking more water. Obviously to take hold of something, we may have to let go of other things. Yet isn't it better under normal circumstances, to focus on what we may take hold of rather than give up? Imagine how important it will be during a pandemic when we have lost much. And so...

I go full circle in my reflection (as is my practise) and invite you to a table where we can all be vulnerable although we may not be alike. As one body of Christ, I invite you to share in the storytelling; to groan and to laugh, to slap the table in indignation (or celebration), to submit your weekly grievances and observations, and maybe... as we journey together, we may find ourselves crying and singing and maybe, just maybe, dancing a bit. For at the table, all are welcome and we are always safe.

*Rev. Maya Douglas*

## Editor's Notes



It's been one year already since the world changed from what we knew it to be. Words we like PPE, mask, social distancing have become a part of our lives. The world we knew has moved on. We know a lot more now about Co-vid 19 yet even with the introduction of vaccines our fears remain strong. Thankfully our faith has kept us resilient and words of encouragement during Sunday services has kept us grounded and for that, we are grateful. It's the people who continue to rise and shine; whether it's putting together the Sunday Services, helping Sunday School via Zoom or helping those in need through the Food Basket. We thank you for your service and devotion.

As we usher in the Year of the Ox (1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997, 2009, 2021) it is fitting that the prediction says "this is going to be a year when we will fully feel the weight of our responsibilities, a year when it is necessary to double our efforts to accomplish anything at all." ([www.thechinesezodiac.org](http://www.thechinesezodiac.org)). The Ox natives are natural leaders with a

great influence on those surrounding them." It looks like 2021 will continue to be the year where people speak up and pardon the pun, grab the bull by its horns!

In this issue, we welcome the new Baritone and Soprano to the Music Ministry and continue our tribute to Kathleen Wells as she has been such an integral part of St. James. We honour our volunteers Tony Gray and Marie Truelove. Remember there is still a lot happening online via ZOOM to keep us engaged. We are so fortunate to have so many people who work hard to keep St James present in our lives. Thank you to those who have contributed to this issue.

The final issue before we break for the summer will be on: April 18, 2021. Please send your submissions to [sjepistle@yahoo.com](mailto:sjepistle@yahoo.com) which is the preferred method during COVID-19.

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

[www.stjamesunitedchurch.com](http://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*



## Change of Address

Laura Hay, son John and the Hay family on the passing of Tom Hay on November 29, 2020.

Jackie and Ben Skopiwsy on the passing of Jackie's mom, Winifred Farquharson, on December 16, 2020.

Stephanie Hartill, her children Paige and Cameron Ballard on the passing of her dad, Jim on December 24, 2020.

Nancy Gibbons, Lisa, Matthew (Effie), Elizabeth, and grandchildren Demitra and Anthony Gibbons, on the passing of Bob Gibbons on Sunday, January 3, 2021.

The family of Kay Ross, who passed away peacefully in her sleep on January 11, 2021, at the age of 94.

Anne & Grant Tipler, Allison and Kelly on the passing of Anne's mom, Carmita Bernice Fetterly on January 16, 2021.

NOTE AVAILABLE ON WEB  
ON WEB VERSION  
PLEASE CONTACT CHURCH  
OFFICE FOR UPDATES.  
THANK YOU.

*Please update your directories*



## Virtual Events

aiim.org

**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.



January 2021

*Submitted by Marie Truelove, Chair*

Thank you! We were overwhelmed with the donations of cash we received in December and are very grateful. We gave out 281 Walmart \$20 gift cards to all the children whose families attended on the last Wednesday we were open in December. We appreciate your generosity.

Aside from gift cards, we are spending the donations on items people need: from rice to toothpaste! Because we have to package items for all families during the pandemic, we are buying food in order that we have enough for all the bags. We are currently packaging bags for 180 families, yet we rarely get enough pasta, beans, rice, cereal, granola bars, tuna or frozen chicken in a week to cover the 180 bags. For some items, we give them out every second week, in order to have 180 or more; for other items we purchase enough tuna or bread to get to 180. When we have extras, they go to the families of 5 or more -- about 60 families per week. Even our purchases at the Food Terminal are affected: cabbages (and other produce) are too heavy to purchase, since we cannot cut

them in half during the pandemic. We have had to calculate how much weight the bags and the food recipients can hold, and determine how to fairly distribute peanut butter, sardines or something else. This reminds us of how our previous "shopping model" of distributing food cannot be used right now.

Fortunately, Daily Bread and Second Harvest have stepped up. Daily Bread gives us enough milk for every family each week, and always includes other milk (such as almond milk or Rice Dream) for those who cannot have cow's milk. They also give us much more produce than usual. Second Harvest, in the past month, has given us thousands of children's masks, many of which we gave to Lady Bug and to another food bank. They also gave us 500 ml pump bottles of hand sanitizer -- enough for every family and 2 for large families. We supplemented by buying and distributing 2,500 adult masks, that are packaged as singles: this means that people can get a mask if theirs breaks, or if they forget one, without worrying that they touched another mask. We also replaced the church's supply of masks with these single-packaged masks.

The Food Basket just received an award at the virtual New Year's Levee held by Yvan Baker, MP. The award is for Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community, and reads in part "The St. James Food Basket Volunteers are a

team dedicated to providing senior citizens, new Canadians, individuals receiving social assistance, the homeless, families and students, with food. Working with the Daily Bread Food Bank, Second Harvest and many other religious and commercial organizations to optimize resources, Marie and her dedicated team of volunteers proved nimble in developing innovative ways to deliver sustenance to members of our community during this challenging time.”

Thank you, St. James, for all of your support for this outreach to our community.



facebook/northcarolinagourdsociety



Sean is the vicar of a Protestant parish in western Newfoundland, and Patrick is the priest at the Roman Catholic Church across the road.

One day they are seen together erecting a sign which says:

"THE END IS NEAR.

TURN YOURSELF AROUND NOW BEFORE IT IS TOO LATE."

As a car speeds past them, the driver leans out his window and yells, "Leave people alone, you religious nutters. We don't need your lectures."

From around the next curve they hear screeching tires and a big splash.

Shaking his head, Father Patrick says "Dat's da terd one dis mornin' "

Pastor Sean nods, then adds, "Do ya tink maybe dat sign should just say BRIDGE OUT"?

## **Congratulations Tony Gray**

*Submitted by Coral Prebble*

On Sunday, January 17 Tony Gray, along with Marie Truelove and the St. James Food Basket team, and Rev. Brian McIntosh were among the recipients of the “Outstanding Volunteer Service to the Community” Award. This is an annual event hosted by the MPP for Etobicoke Centre; initially Donna Cansfield and now Yvan Baker. Anyone can nominate a person or group who you feel deserves our thanks.

During a Worship and Music Committee meeting, the members were sharing how they became involved with St. James and about their lives beyond the church. Rev. Coral Prebble was so impressed with all the ways in which Tony Gray served and continues to serve, that she nominated him. What follows is an abbreviated list of how Tony has made a positive difference since he and his wife Jennifer and their two daughters emigrated from Jamaica to Canada in September 1977 and joined St. James United in March 1978.

### **Tony’s Service with St. James:**

**Usher** – since Christmas Eve 1978 or 1979. Tony quickly advanced to head usher and has continued in this role for 41 or 42 years. The position involves recruiting and organizing a team of ushers, arriving early every Sunday,

counting the offering, staying late to clean up the pews, and being a first responder when anyone needs medical attention, as well as greeting those who seek benevolent help on a Sunday.

**Elder** – elected in 1978.

**Sunday School Treasurer** – 1983-1993 including preparing statements added to the T4’s of parents.

**Sunday School Teacher** for grades 7-8. Tony even went the extra mile by taking the class for a full day hike, picnic and sing-along.

**Visitor** – regularly visits nine members/shut-ins in their homes or Long Term Care residences, including Sunnybrook Veterans Wing where Tony would take his keyboard and entertain many of the veterans. He also did home visits with a gentleman who loved organ music and Tony would play on the congregant’s Hammond console organ.

**Communion Server** – since 1980’s and in 2011 became coordinator of the entire communion serving team.

**Worship and Music Committee Member**– for 40 years, helping recommend policies, plan for special events and coordinate special effect lighting during candlelight worship.

**Greeter Coordinator** – keeps a current list of people willing to welcome people as they arrive for

worship, recruits as needed and coordinates the schedule of their Sunday to serve.

**Finance Committee Member** – on five different occasions for 10 plus years

**Stewardship Committee Member and Chair** – for approximately 12 years from early 1980's. Chaired the committee for three years and in 2000 co-chaired the Community Building/Fundraising arm with pledges increasing by \$9,000.00.

**“Jamaica Night” Fundraiser** – in 2019. Tony initiated and organized the publicity, tickets, caterer, menu, beverages, decorations, set-up and take down, band of musicians (of which he was one), and raised \$2400.00 for the church.

**Scripture Reader** – one of the volunteer readers since 1984.

**Outreach Committee** – for three years was part of the team that recommends five local, national or global charities each year and helped to recruit speakers and writing promotional articles to educate our congregation

**Decorating Team Member** – Since 2012 Tony helps decorate the church for Easter, Thanksgiving & Advent/Christmas

**Hospitality Team member** – for the past 5 or 6 years.

**Feel Good Food Sunday Monthly Luncheons** – helps set-up and take down tables, chairs and cutlery for 100 people, assists with serving lunch and takes care of counting and banking donations.

**Garden Club** – helps with spring clean-up, and trimming tree limbs in the summer.

**Percussion and Piano** – provides percussion backup on bongo drums, maracas and tambourine upon request for worship, as adjunct support to the Guitar/Ukulele Group and played his keyboards to entertain the participants at the St. James' Food Basket Volunteer Appreciation lunch.

**Tony's Service to the Wider Community:**

**Long Term Care Therapeutic Keyboard Musician** – for approximately 13 years. In the late 1980's through to the 1990's Tony played keyboard music 1-3 hours non-stop every Saturday for the residents at Erin Mills Lodge, and from 2003 to 2010 for the residents at Wesburn Manor living with dementia and/or Alzheimer's disease.

**Cancer Society Canvasser** – door-to-door in the 1990's

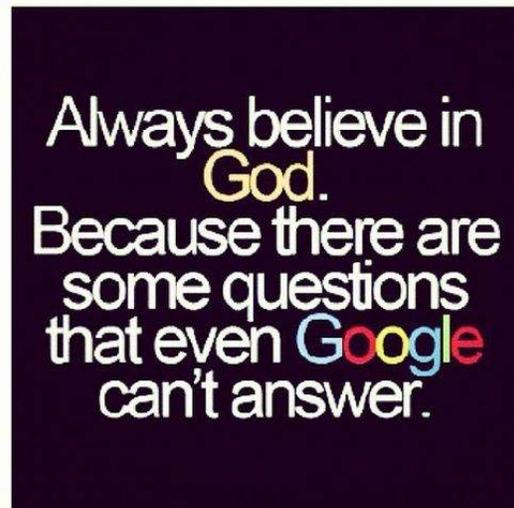
**Heart and Stroke** – Tony served as Chair of Heart and Stroke fitness events, “Dance or Jump for Heart”. He visited every gym and fitness centre in Mississauga, organized 3-

hour aerobic fundraising marathons, and dropped in to every one to give a 10 minute talk on the importance of a healthy, fit lifestyle, and to promote the good work of the Heart and Stroke Foundation. In 1993 he increased the fundraising revenue from \$12,000 to \$44,000.

**World Vision** – since 2003 Tony served as a Life Change Network Volunteer soliciting sponsors for disadvantaged children worldwide. He has personally sponsored children in El Salvador, Central America, and Africa, which included helping the whole village (not only the sponsored child) with clean, running water, medical supplies, organized sports, etc. In 2019 Tony completed his last sponsorship of a boy in Niger, Africa whom he has supported for 14 years from the time he was 4 years of age until he has now finished school and has a secure job.

As you can tell, serving others is a way of life for Tony Gray and he does it all with joy, passion, dependability and excellence. He has a soft spot in his heart for those who are disadvantaged and has brightened the day of many seniors. Tony not only volunteers personally, he also inspires others to get involved, and brings a beautiful spirit of joy and enthusiasm to all that he does. Tony Gray is a mentor, an inspiration and a hugely generous and talented community volunteer. In Tony's own words "my volunteer service stems from the role model

exhibited by my father. His volunteer service and public life undertaking earned him the Order of Jamaica from the Queen."





## A Message From Finance

*Submitted by Bob Harris, Finance Chair*

Final financial information to the end of the year 2020 is not available for this report, but indications are that givings for December were higher than previous months and that our income for the year will be close to our expenses.

This would not have been possible without the judicious watching of property expenses and the federal government support programs, but most of all your continued support. THANK YOU. Final numbers will be available at the Annual General Meeting on March 7.

THANK YOU also to those on the Property/Finance Committee who worked so hard keeping our church expenses under control. They are: Al Graham, Brian Isard, Gord Burrell, Marie Truelove, Don and Karen Munday, Danuta Zawierucha, accountant, Norm Da Costa, Worku Gebrekidan and Rod Lord, Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee.

HAPPY NEW YEAR to all.

## Mission & Service

*Submitted by Marty Linton, Chair*

Balance of 2020 Donations to M&S:  
We reached 95% of our 2020 pledge.

2020 Donation:

November \$2672.50

December \$4006.50

YTD: \$33,413.67

Thank you for continuing to support United Church initiatives here in Canada and globally in 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, our donations are appreciated even more.

Please continue to make M&S giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbor is at the heart of our United Church Mission and 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](http://www.stjamesunitedchurch.com)

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

Thank you.

## Our New St. James Directory Is Ready!

*Submitted by Mhairi Godley*

Did you know that every year or so, the church produces an updated Directory of names, address and phone numbers for our St. James family of friends?

The latest edition - January 2021- is ready! In the past copies have been available from the church office for \$2 each to cover the cost of printing. Due to increased photocopying costs, this year the NEW PRICE will be \$3.00,. You can pick one up in the office. (Please call ahead to arrange). If you however wish to have a directory MAILED to you, please send \$5.00 by cheque or e-transfer to [stjames\\_uc@rogers.com](mailto:stjames_uc@rogers.com) (to cover printing and mailing costs) and one will be mailed to you ASAP!

When you are thinking about someone, it's great to have a current phone number so you can call. The directory also contains many e-mails too, so if you want to let someone know you are thinking about them, and it's midnight, you can still send a message.



[centralcity.co](http://centralcity.co)



[steemit.com](http://steemit.com)

## Stewardship - Time, Talents and Treasure

*Submitted by Mhairi Godley*

Dear Friends,  
First, many thanks to those of you who have already responded to our Stewardship plea through the Pledge Sheet sent at the end of 2020.

To everyone else, if St. James is to continue to share an effective ministry, we need YOUR time and talents, as well as treasure.

If you are relatively new to St. James, consider joining one of the teams. We all need to hear your input, and it's the best way to meet people! Interested in what happens in the Worship Services? Join Worship and Music. Are you a Caring person? Join the Pastoral Care Team. Is Christian development and Education your interest? There's a place for you there. Mission and Service? Outreach? We need you! Finances? Stewardship? Are you handy, good at DIY, or have a specific skill? (plumber, electrician, painter...) The Property team is looking for you. Hospitality? Communications, Media and Marketing? (several new members needed.)

**Please** consider one or more of the above!

As much as we need new voices on all our teams, we also need Leaders.

ME? A LEADER?? Yes, YOU!

Please consider prayerfully the following NEEDED positions:

**Chair of the Coordinating Council and Unified Board.** Our present chair, Rod Lord, and others will help you to negotiate your way through this. It's not nearly as difficult, or time-consuming, as it sounds... really. Preferably begin after the AGM in March, 2021.

**Chair of Worship and Music.** Again, a great team is there to support you. Begin in June 2021.

**Chair of Communications, Media and Marketing.** Needed ASAP. Creative ideas needed re: letting the wider community know we are here, and what we do. Event advertising (including print media) will be needed for specific events once we are allowed to hold them again. Now would be a great time to begin... Write your own job description!

If you would like more information about ANY of the above, please contact Rod Lord (416 621 7710) or Mhairi ("Varry") Godley (416 912 4764). We promise not to apply pressure!!

Seriously, if St. James is to survive, we need more people to participate in these areas.

THANK YOU for thinking about where God's gifts to you fit into the running of our church.



**STEWARDSHIP**  
*Managing God's Gifts To Us*



facebook.com/thinkpositivepower

## Shrove Tuesday Via Zoom

February 16, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.



<http://www.stjohnsramsey.org/event/shrove-tuesday-pancake-supper-0>

We will miss being together in person this year to enjoy our traditional Pancake Lunch, prepared by the Richards' family.

However, we are inviting people to come together on Zoom at 7:00 p.m. You can bring your dinner or dessert pancakes to eat in front of the screen. We will "sit down at a table together virtually" and have a chance to chat with other members of our St. James family!

The Zoom link will be in the church bulletin that is emailed out by Matty. Hope to see you there!

## Sunday School News

Submitted By Karen Forgrave



A Christmas Card with a hand-drawn Nativity Scene is ready to go out to a church member to share Christmas

We had a very busy Advent Season in our online Sunday School. We engaged in numerous online activities that reflected the theme of the candle being lit that day in our Advent Wreath. For example, we created edible snowflakes on Peace Sunday, and created beautiful nativity scene ornaments on Hope Sunday. On the Sunday when we lit the Candle of Joy, students participated in an art lesson to learn how to draw a simple nativity scene. This art was done inside a Christmas Card that was then sent to a member of the congregation, to bring them some Christmas Joy! Receiving hand-decorated cards in the mail is a sure-fire way to generate smiles! The students also did a wonderful job creating a Virtual Christmas Pageant

this year, which was shared in the live streamed church service on December 13th. Thank you to our narrators, Jasmin and Ross, and to the parents and children who participated by dressing up in costumes and taking up multiple photos or short videos that were digitally combined to create our pageant. It was very successful!



A special mention to our live “Baby Jesus” this year, who was Nancy and Jim Cormier’s baby grandson (a son to Neil and Stephanie) – only 3 weeks old at the time of filming!

The New Year started off with an online drawing lesson of the Three Wise Men. Students were encouraged to think about what gifts they could offer to the world in 2021. How can we share God’s love with the world to make it a better place? How can we use our God-given gifts to bring joy, peace, love and hope to the world? It was nice to share students’ work online and admire each other’s talents! We have a talented group of students in Sunday School, with many gifts to share!

In January, we started a rotation on Faith, specifically looking at the story of Jesus healing the Centurion’s Servant, and commenting that he had

not seen anyone with such great faith in all of Israel! We also talked about Paul's "Shield of Faith" and how having faith that God is with you can protect you from the "fiery arrow" or difficult times in life. We did a number of great science experiments on faith, from watching how a shield can extinguish a flame to fitting an egg inside a bottle! (Really! Ask a Sunday School student about it if you are curious, or tune into Karen's video which is posted on the church Facebook page). Here is a fun one you can do at home the next time you have a clementine or small orange: float it in a glass of water. As long as the "shield of faith" is on the orange, it will float in the water of "life's troubles". When the shield or faith (peel) is removed, it is overwhelmed by life's problems, and will sink in the water. What a great example to remember to keep our faith strong – God will see us through the difficult times – we are not alone!

In February, we will study the story "Jesus Blesses the Children" with some great songs, crafts and art activities. February 14th falls on a Sunday this year, so students will be encouraged to wear red, white or pink for our online Sunday School time that day! If you have a child or grandchild in JK to Grade 9 who would like to join us at 1:30 p.m. on Sundays, please let Karen know (Karen\_forgrave@hotmail.com) and she can add the name to the Zoom invitation list.



*Doing the "Orange Shield of Faith" experiment online together on January 24th.*



*Hosting a Zoom cooking class - Jasmin Li*



## Thank You St. James Family

*Submitted by Betty Ginger*

When I first went to St. James, I had a booth at the craft sale. A lady greeted me by the name of Catherine Evans and she told me all about the church. She said St. James wasn't like other churches in that you became part of a family when you went there. This is something I have never forgotten. I found out, at the sale that year, just how friendly the members were, as so many of them came and talked to me.

I learned about the minister and the different services. I was invited by one of the members to the 9a.m. service, and started going. I really enjoyed it and everyone was so friendly. We had Betty Robson's goodies with coffee after the service, and I came away with a message that I could apply to my everyday life. All this took place in the late 1990's. After that I started to participate in some of the activities, and soon learned how true Catherine's words were.

One morning another member, Peggy Linton, said she thought I might enjoy the 11a.m. service as they had a wonderful tenor soloist singing by the name of Leander Mendoza. I went and his solo was so beautiful. We later became friends and remain so still.

As I went along in life, my husband became my caregiver, and the ladies of the church were there to support us.

Bernie and I switched rolls many times throughout the years, and again, the ladies were there to support us with a lemon pie, a date loaf or a casserole and many phone calls of kindness. Three years ago I became a caregiver again, and was reminded, that as a woman, God gives us the extra strength to cope with all of this.

Over the last two and a half months, Bernie has only been home for two weeks, and again we received wonderful support from the church family through emails, phone calls, cards and food. I don't know how I would have gotten through this time without their care and encouragement.

I will never be able to thank them enough for their help. The pandemic has been bad enough, but being on your own and lonely on top is worse. You realize how important phone calls, emails, cards etc. are.

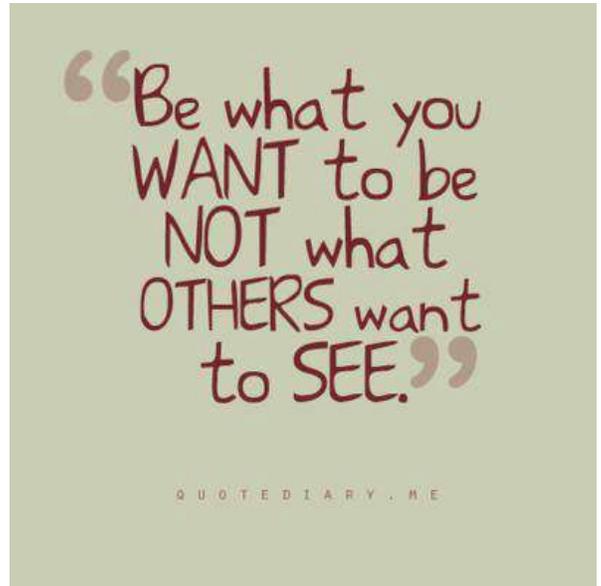
God always seems to direct us to where we should be and I thank him for leading me to St. James. I also praise all those caregivers in the congregation. It is not easy, and everyone needs support. Help always seems to be available. Thank you St. James for being so family oriented and taking that hand when someone reaches out.

## Bernie's Update:

Bernie is still in Trillium Hospital. If any of you have any spare time, I know he would love to hear from you.

He is probably going to be in there another two to three weeks. The number is 905-848-7100 and he is in room 406 right now.

Happy New Year to you all from both of us.



forbes.com





**2020 St. James Christmas Pageant  
Directed by Karen Forgrave**





[clipart-library.com](http://clipart-library.com)

*Submitted by Marty Linton*

Your donations during this past Advent season contributed to the Red Door Family Shelter's HOPE to provide a safe space for women and children affected by domestic abuse. Your response brought some PEACE to families experiencing a housing crisis. Your gifts created JOY as women and children found new community connections and programs that they need to heal. God's Christmas LOVE was felt through the gifts you shared with families in need.

A "Thank you" from the Red Door Family Shelter:

**"YOU ARE HELPING FAMILIES THROUGH CRISIS-**

Journeys filled with hope, healing and the promise of brighter futures are possible because of amazing people like you!

At a time when everything in our community continues to feel uncertain, we at the Red Door find strength and inspiration from each of you. Your belief in our mission and work we do every day to open doors to new beginnings for families ensures no one

is left behind. Together we are building a community of caring partners."

Our donation totalled \$595. THANK YOU!



## **Tribute To Kathleen**

*Richard Lindsay's Speech Via Zoom to Kathleen Wells January 17, 2021 Church Service.*

Kathleen, there is nothing like having a special occasion to say thank you for someone, who has provided over 42 years of musical excellence and devotion to the Church and Choirs of St. James.

With the COVID pandemic, we are required to virtually say thank you for your musical gifts to us over the years. We have been accustomed to hearing your uplifting spiritual vocals for Sunday services, and being thrilled with your performances playing leads in many of the St. James Musical productions.

By just saying thank you for your musical excellence, professionalism, dedication and commitment over a ZOOM call, gives me a little empty feeling and that it is not quite enough. Your leadership and support over the years has not gone unnoticed.

Sharing your knowledge and ideas for improvement of the choir was always appreciated.

We all relied on you to ensure the choir would stand, recess and be seated together, during choir movements in the Chancel for every service.

What also has impressed me is your dedication to the church, in always being one of the first to arrive for Sunday Services and rehearsals, even during the most severe winter weather.

I also imagine how bittersweet it must feel to retire after being with the choir for all these years, having recently retired from my professional life, after 40 years with the same company.

Now you only have to decide how long it will be before you take a step back from your work career, so you will be free to do all the things you never had the time for.

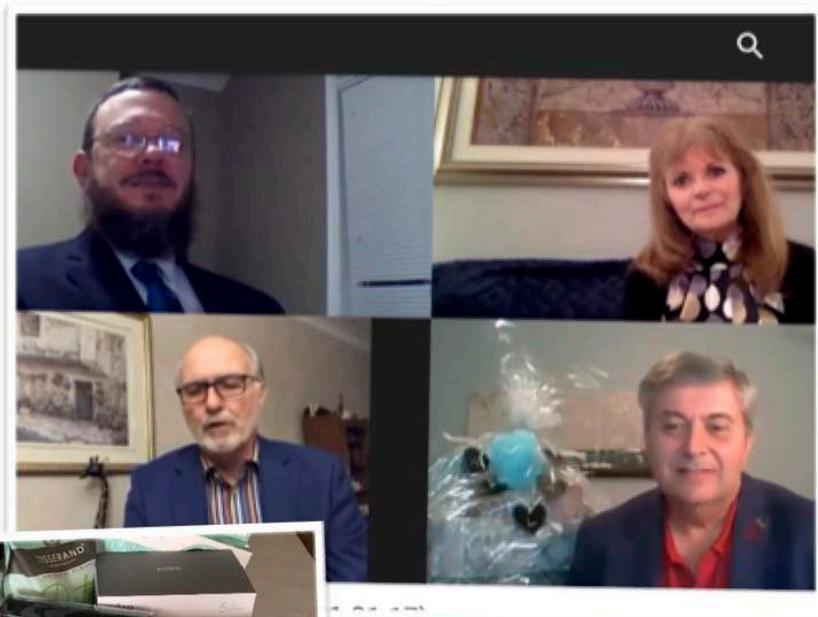
I feel that my words today are also an expression that is shared by the entire congregation, in sending to you their Best Wishes, for all of your future endeavors.

Kathleen we will miss your guidance and seeing you in the front row of the Chancel choir, but I know you will stay in touch with your St. James family.

**THANK YOU KATHLEEN FOR THE 42 PLUS YEARS OF MUSICAL MEMORIES!**

# Farewell Kathleen

January 17, 2021 Church Service



# Choir's Tribute To Kathleen

*Submitted By Albert Conforzi*

Kathleen, we wanted to mark this occasion with something more tangible that you can enjoy and look back on as a symbol of our gratitude for all that you have done at St. James.

First, Jennifer Allin Heltcher was instrumental in creating a magnificent gift basket to pamper yourself with (perhaps even on a Sunday morning!)

Second, we have created a memory book of Notes and Pictures from the congregation and your choir colleagues. We were able to find some amazing photos of some of the great times we have all enjoyed with you. And you'll be happy to know that you haven't changed a bit!

As you know St. James has offered the opportunity to have anthems dedicated for people for any number of reasons. An anthem "King All Glorious" has been dedicated in honour of your retirement and this milestone celebration of your service.

Fourth, It was unanimously agreed the the title "Soprano/ Choral Lead Soloist Emerita" be bestowed upon you, and so we are pleased to present you with this Certificate to evidence this honour.



Callison Lte Out - Emmanis with Grace (2021-01-17)

Finally, what would a celebration of your musical career at St. James be without a song! We are grateful to Eleanor Shapero for the lyrics and to our Baritone Emeritus Bill Price for singing a heartfelt tribute to you based on a very familiar tune.



Callison Lte Out - Emmanis with Grace (2021-01-17)

# Dedication Of A Song For Kathleen

*Words by Eleanor Shapero, 2020*  
Sung to the tune of Danny Boy

Farewell Kathleen, our last refrain has ended

The many years of magic, song and fun

We thank you so for all your dedication,

your gorgeous voice and spirit full of love,

We will think back on every skilled performance,

your stunning smile, the laughter and the cheer

Deep in our hearts, we feel the sadness growing,

Memories of gold, but now it's time we bid adieu

(repeating the final line of music)  
But dear Kathleen please know how much we will miss you



[songlyricdesigns.com](http://songlyricdesigns.com)

## Welcome Soprano Anna

*Submitted By J.-C. Coolen*

Anna Wojcik is a Polish-Canadian soprano, in the third year of her Bachelor of Music degree at the Glenn Gould School in Toronto.

Since beginning voice lessons at the age of nine, Anna has won countless competitions including the Oakville Chamber Orchestra Youth Concerto Competition, the 69th Marcella Kochanska-Sembrich Vocal Competition, and the Doreen Chaddock Vocal Scholarship Competition.

In 2015, Anna sang in Carnegie Hall for the American Protégé Competition Winners Recital. She received the 2016 Mississauga Emerging Music Artist MARTY Award for her accomplishments. Within the past two years, Anna performed multiple opera roles including Susanna in Mozart's Marriage of Figaro, Annina in Verdi's La Traviata, and Nora in Vaughan Williams' Riders to the Sea.

She is an active volunteer and Regional Director of the Toronto Region for the Back to BACH Project, a world-wide initiative to inspire and encourage young children to learn musical instruments.

As a second generation Canadian, Anna is happy to maintain her Polish

culture through regularly singing within the Polish community and discovering the little-known repertoire of Polish composers.



## **Welcome Baritone Nicholas**

*Submitted by J.-C. Coolen*

As of January 1st, we are delighted to welcome Nicholas Gryniewski as our Baritone Choral Lead/Soloist Scholar.

Nicholas is currently a Grade 12 student at Cawthra Park Secondary School in Mississauga. He is in the regional arts program there for singing and will be pursuing Classical voice for post-secondary education.

Nicholas has won many awards including the Grade 7 RCM provincial gold medal, the Grade 8 RCM OMFA Gold medal and the Ron Lenyk Inspiring Youth Award. He has been a member of multiple choirs as well as an active member of community theatre groups. Welcome, Nicholas!

We're looking forward to your musical ministry with us!



## Pastoral Care

*Submitted By Mhairi Godley*

For Emergency Care, PLEASE contact Rev. Maya directly, anytime. Her phone # is 416 436 6340 or email: [revmaya.douglas@gmail.com](mailto:revmaya.douglas@gmail.com)

If someone you know needs a phone call or card please contact Mhairi (“Varry”) at:

[mhairi.godley@yahoo.com](mailto:mhairi.godley@yahoo.com) or call 416-912-4764. I will then pass on the information to the appropriate Pastoral Care Team Member.

You are all encouraged to call each other, especially during these cold, grey days of lockdown. A new St. James Church phone directory is available now at the church office. Please call to arrange for your copy at a low cost of \$3.

Reiki. Did you know you can book a Distance Reiki II session? Contact Nancy Violo at 416- 622-0894 or email [nancyviolo@hotmail.com](mailto:nancyviolo@hotmail.com). A photo with your eyes clearly visible is all that’s required.

Hands-on reiki and Integral Healing will resume once it is safe to do so.

If you own a computer, you are encouraged to register with Matty in the office to receive e-mail messages. It is also very easy to use ZOOM, which is wonderful for chatting to people while you can safely SEE them! (Please, ask a friend, neighbour or child/grandchild to help you to download the FREE programme. Once it’s downloaded, all you have to do is click on the email link, and the magic will happen automatically). As an incentive, Rev Maya would like to have a ZOOM Congregational Lunch, so she can meet you, and you will be able to chat with her, and friends from church that you can actually SEE. How much fun will that be!

More volunteers are needed, both to help with writing cards, or to make phone calls/visits. Please let me know if you have a few spare minutes to write cards occasionally, or to call a small number of people regularly.

Meanwhile. Let’s all keep up the good work calling or connecting in other ways with our St. James ‘family’ members.

Stay safe and well!