

EPISTLE

November 2019



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St. James United Church

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www.stjamesunitedchurch.com

YOUR INVITATION TO
ATTEND ADVENT COMMUNION
ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH

Date: Sunday, December 8, 2019

Time: 10:30 a.m. – Service of Worship

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:
Yonge Street Mission (90%)
Minister for Local Outreach (10%)

Next Epistle Deadline: January 26, 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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The season of celebration has begun. We are about to embark on a journey of hope, peace, love and joy that will lead us to discover where God is born

anew today. In good times, and even more so in challenging times, we need the promise of good news and God with us.

Advent and Christmas are full of nostalgia and rich traditions, as well as sharp contrasts between light and darkness, the joy of family and friends and the pain of loneliness and loss, celebration amid suffering. Our Biblical story embodies these same two realities: Mary's song of joy and no room at the inn; the birth of God's love in a human being and the need to flee as refugees to escape a political tyrant.

Speaking of refugees, three years ago our Coordinating Committee voted unanimously to legally sponsor a refugee family of six who fled Pakistan and have been living precariously in Malaysia. Unfortunately the mother died while there, but all five of her adult children are due to arrive in Toronto in November to join with family here who will provide for all of their physical and financial needs. St. James' compassion, research and endless paperwork has enabled

reunification and new life for a family. Special thanks to Rod Lord for spearheading this on our behalf.



Of course, another tangible way we offer help week by week is through our **Food**

Basket. I hope you will read Marie Truelove's article sharing the latest news and consider donating towards a **Christmas gift card for children** birth to age 17.



Advent begins with our **Congregational Christmas Pageant** on December 1. It's a fun way to bring the story of Jesus' birth to life, as

anyone of any age who wishes to participate can come in costume, choose a prop or don some garb before entering the sanctuary. Sunday School youth will lead us through this amazing story.



On **Saturday**, December 7 there will be a **Kids Christmas Baking Class** from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. with Chef Julia and Carlyn.

Kids 8-12 will be baking Reindeer Crunch, Christmas Tree Brownies, Sponge Toffee and Shortbread. Yum!

They will also be making extra to sell after worship on Sunday, December 8, to the first lucky customers.



We will host our own **Blue Christmas** within morning worship on December 15 as we light the candle of “Love” and remember people who are special to us. Anyone who has lost someone in 2019 will have an opportunity to light a candle in their memory, and all of us will be given a Christmas symbol on which we can write the names of people we remember with love, and decorate a Christmas tree.



You will definitely want to plan on attending the **Christmas Candlelight Service on December 15 at 7:30 p.m.** and invite your friends to this fabulous evening of inspiring music by all three choirs, special guest artists and singing some of your favourite carols.

I hope you will join in the festivities and invite your family and friends to enjoy the warmth and welcome of this

special season. Here are a few of the highlights.

- Sunday, November 24 at 12 noon Full Lunch Buffet by donation. Menu includes Salmon Pasta, Pork Schnitzel, Roast Potatoes and Root Veggies, Kids Pasta, Salad and Dessert.
- Friday, November 29 7-9 pm Family Games Night.
- December 1 at 10:30 am. Christmas Pageant for all ages, Advent candle of Hope and Dedication of Stewardship Pledges for 2020
- Thursday, December 5 12:30 pm Seniors’ Lunch.
- Saturday, December 7 3-5 pm Kids Christmas Baking Class.
- Sunday, December 8 10:30 am Advent II Candle of Peace, Holy Communion, Outreach Offering for Yonge Street Mission, and Kids Christmas Bake Sale.
- Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 am Advent III Love Candle and Blue Christmas.
- Sunday, December 15 at 7:30 pm Choir Christmas Candlelight & Carols. The Chancel, Senior & Junior Choirs and flautist Catherine Richardson share the spirit and message of Christmas .
- Sunday, December 22 at 10:30 am Advent IV Candle of Joy

- Tuesday, December 24 at 7:30 pm
Christmas Eve Family Worship a joyous celebration for all ages with choir, communion, candlelight, the Christmas Story according to Chocolate Bars and the Mexican Las Posadas.



- Sunday, December 29 at 10:30 am
Rev. John Ambrose will be our guest preacher.

Wishing you the blessing of God's love and light.

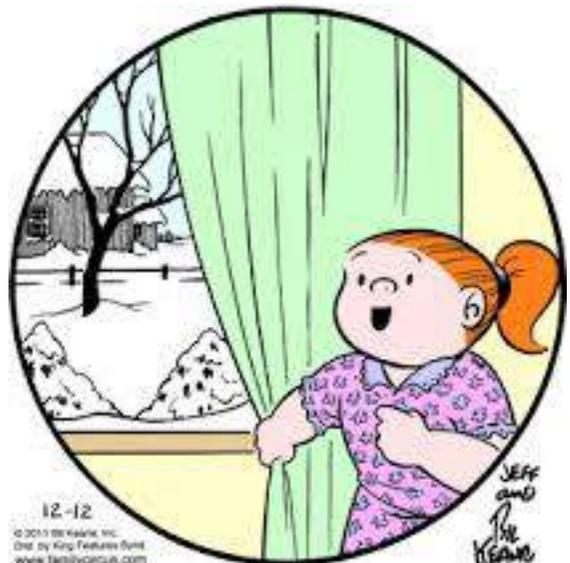
Rev. Coral



12-22
© 2011 by Family Circus, Inc.
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By
and
JEFF
KEANE

"Joy to the world,
the Lord has gum ..."



12-12
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JEFF
and
The
KEANE

"Look! God sent us an early
Christmas present!"

Editor's Notes



There's always so much to report at St. James. As the weather gets colder, we are reminded that Christmas will soon be here. It's a festive season at St. James. We're looking forward to all the joy that comes with this season.

In this issue, you'll read about James Ty's adventure in China, Victor Kitagawa's experience at Shining Waters Regional Council Inaugural meeting and much more. We're so grateful to be a part of this vibrant community.

Just a reminder, in the next two issues, we are planning on putting in as many stories as possible about Rev Coral but we need your help. Please share your memories or words of appreciation for all she has contributed to St. James. Pictures are welcomed too. We do not know how many submissions will be received so we will dedicate the next TWO issues to personal wishes for Rev Coral.

For your planning purposes, the next Epistle deadlines in 2020 are January 26 and April 19th.

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

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

All submissions can be placed in the Epistle mailbox or via e-mail:

sjepistle@yahoo.com

Don't forget, you can also access a 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



www.ocduk.org



Change of Address

www.michigan.gov

Web version
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Address” is not
available due to
privacy concerns.
Please contact
church office of a
copy of the address
changes.





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The family of Marion Pattison with the passing of Marion on Thursday, September 19, 2019.

The family of Jean Stuckum with the passing of Jean on Thursday, October 17, 2019.

Nancy Low, with the passing of her brother, Raymond Carl on Tuesday, October 29, 2019.

The family of Charlie Doan with the passing of Charlie on Thursday, November 6, 2019.

Carol Jones, Gord Burrell, and family with the passing of Carol's mom, Dorothy Jones on Sunday, November 10, 2019

Don and Karen Munday on their first grandchild, Charlotte Elizabeth Allen (pictured below. She arrived on October 30th; daughter to Kristen and Rebecca, and great-granddaughter to Anne Westhouse.



Coral's Retirement



By now most of you will have heard that I have made my formal request to retire next summer, with June 30, 2020 as my last official day at the church.

I feel unbelievably blessed to be part of St. James United Church and this incredible community of faith. I love you the people of St. James, long-time and new, and joyfully serve as your Minister.

It will be twenty-nine and a half years since my beginning on January 1, 1991 as your half-time Christian Development Minister, coordinating the Sunday School, three youth groups, weekly adult education and sharing in Sunday worship. I expanded to three-quarter time when we added a second Sunday morning worship service in a more informal and participatory style, created the healing ministry, and began to share pastoral visiting and more frequent preaching. It was the fall of 2003 that I became your Coordinating Minister.

Yet in truth you and God's Spirit are the backbone and bedrock of St. James United Church. Nothing would be possible without you, the dedicated leaders, volunteers and supporters of

this church. Thankfully, St. James' has an abundance of generous, thoughtful, capable people and a great staff complement. So I know we are in good hands and in God's hands.

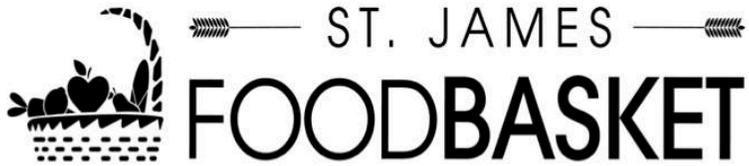
I met with members of our Ministry and Personnel Committee, chaired by Nancy Violo, and plans are underway to facilitate meaningful opportunities to reminisce, express thanks and say goodbye, as well as take steps to prepare for a smooth transition and the bright future that lies ahead. Key leaders are already working behind the scenes to prepare everything Shining Waters Regional Council and the United Church of Canada needs before we can post a vacancy and begin the search.

I am sure there are many excellent ministers who will feel as fortunate and privileged to serve with St. James as I have been and that God will guide you to discern the best person to serve with you moving forward.

It is with sadness that I will end my ministry with you, yet a clear sense of knowing this is the right time, both for you and for me. Thank you for your friendship, support and faithfulness. I am deeply grateful.

With love and appreciation,

Rev. Coral



Submitted by Marie Truelove, Chair

UPDATE FROM ST. JAMES FOOD BASKET

We have just finished a successful flu clinic thanks to Toronto Public Health. Thanks also to volunteers of the Tzu Chi Buddhist Foundation for their support that afternoon and to all the people who attended and got a shot.

We are preparing for another busy December. We will be handing out \$10 Walmart gift cards to all children younger than 18. We gave out almost 400 gift cards last December to this group, so we would appreciate your help in donating funds to pay for these cards.

Daily Bread, North York Harvest, and Mississauga Food Bank have just released this year's Who's Hungry report. They found that food bank visits continue to increase: about 4% more than last year, which is also what we are experiencing. All three of these organizations are advocating for investments by government in affordable housing, tenant protections and affordable childcare. You can read this report at www.dailybread.ca/whoshungry.

Another worrying finding in this report is that many people struggling with low income and insufficient money to provide enough food to their families are not using food banks. That's why it is so gratifying in our community to have everyone working to make sure that St. James Food Basket is well known and welcoming. Local schools lately have been noticeable in directing people to us, and raising awareness with food drives. The latest food drives that have helped us are thanks to Bloordale Middle School and St. Elizabeth Catholic School. Our church supporters have also been doing fall food drives, and our community police officers are currently working on one.

A shout-out to all knitters! We love receiving all hats/toques, mitts and scarves. We can distribute all donations! Thank you to St. James for your ongoing support! We wish you and your family a healthy and happy holiday season.

Shining Waters Regional Council Inaugural Meeting

Submitted by Vic Kitagawa

The Inaugural meeting of the Shining Waters Regional Council was held at Georgian College in Barrie on May 24 to the 26 with 350 delegates in attendance. The theme of the meeting was entitled "Creating Connections".

The Opening of the meeting and Acknowledgement of the Land took place at 1:30 p.m. on Friday May 24. Followed by the Sacred Fire Opening Ceremony led by Rev. Evan Noodin Smith and Jess Bimwidoon Waazkon Swance-Smith. Among the other activities presented during the afternoon were: Orientation and Connecting; Theme and Worship under the topic of "How We Are Going To Be In Community and Our Commitment to Each Other". Then the 5 Ordinands and one Admittand offered their reflections. This was followed by the Introduction of Governance, Budget, and Nominations. The Circle Groups identified questions and suggestions.

After supper, in keeping with the theme, "Creating Connections", several Communities of Faith partook in "Emerging Clusters and Networks". On behalf of St. James, yours truly spoke on the "Intercultural Diversity Network". The agenda continued with the Theme and Worship session under the topics, "Acknowledging the Light

Within; Those Who Feel Left Out and Cloud of Witnesses". The rest of the evening was spent on "Opportunities to Gather".

Saturday morning, there was a Sunrise service at the Sacred Fire. The Theme and Worship included "Our Hopes and Dreams for Clusters and Networks and Where We Will Be in 10 years?" Included in the Business portion of the agenda were "Answers to Questions on Governance and Budget Proposals". The rest of the morning was spent on "Open Space Conversations"- - i.e. it was an opportunity to post a specific question or topic that we were interested in and engage with others.

The hope was that this time spent would have heart and meaning to us". After lunch, we prayed and connected amongst each other's Communities of Faith". The highlight of the day was the Celebration of Ministries Service where the five Ordinands and one Admittand were accepted into the United Church of Canada. Rev. Maggie Dieter, a member of St. James and Executive Minister for Indigenous Ministries and Justice within The United Church of Canada, preached on each of us being a Spark of Light and Spark of Love. An invitation to Communion followed. The rest of the evening had Opportunities To Gather - - Art Installation; Making of clay butterflies; Speed Faithing; and a Labyrinth Community Walk for Peace and Sacred Fire Teaching.

Sunday morning the Sunrise service at Sacred Fire was held again. Then the Youth led the Worship based on how we are mistreating the earth, water and sky and the desperate need for change. Among the Business raised were the Equity Policy; Ratification of Governance Model; Ratification of the Budget; Elections and two approved Proposals. The first Proposal was entitled "Social and Ecological Justice Commission for Shining Waters Region."

This approval was massive because it will have a significant impact on the future direction of the region because Shining Waters hopes to organize itself to do direct education, action and advocacy on a host of social and ecological justice initiatives, in such a way as to make a gospel-based impact both within the church and within the public sphere. The second Proposal was "Mental Health, Sexuality and Gender Support and Educational Resources for Communities of Faith". Shining Waters recognizes the need for comprehensive educational resources that blends the four fundamental pillars of a healthy life (emotional support, physical support, mental health support and spiritual health support).

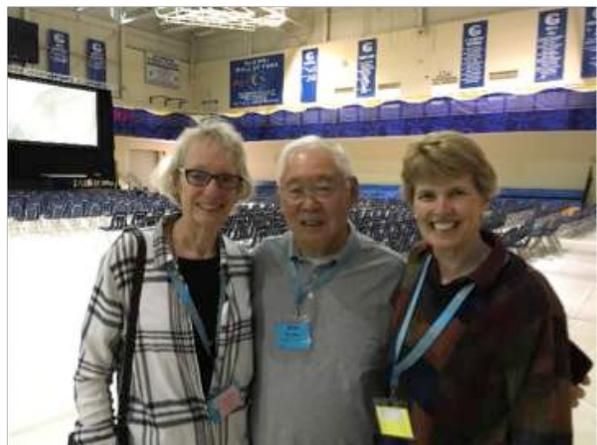
Subsequently, the Council honoured the Retirees and Jubilands. The Theme and Worship was entitled "Our Commitment to One Another" The closing of the Sacred Fire was held. The Celebration lunch saw a procession led by the newly ordained

and admitted, new retirees, and Jubilands over 40 years. The new President, David Leyton-Brown made some final comments.

The Shining Waters Regional Council Inaugural meeting concluded at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, May 26, 2019.



Pictured above: Maggie Dieter



Pictured above: Rev Linda Maw, Vic Kitagawa and Rev Coal



*Submitted by Marty Linton, Chair,
Outreach Committee*

We believe that God is present in the
darkness before dawn;

In the waiting and uncertainty where
fear and courage join hands,

Conflict and caring link arms, and the
sun rises over barbed wire.

We believe in a with-us God who sits
down in our midst to share our
humanity.

We affirm a faith that takes us beyond
the safe place;

Into action, into vulnerability and into
the streets.

We commit ourselves to work for
change and put ourselves on the line,

To bear responsibility, take risks, live
powerfully and face humiliation;

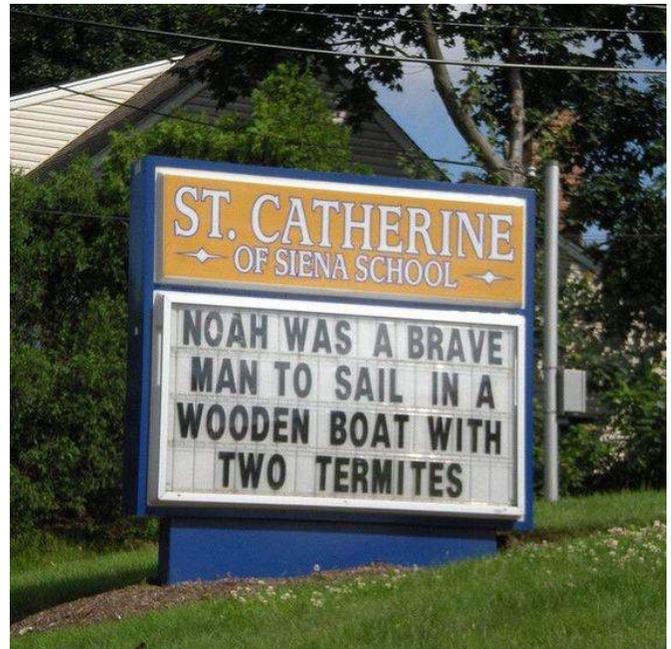
To stand with those on the edge; to
choose life and be used by the spirit

For God's new community of hope.

Amen. (Iona community) - from
KAIROS Strategic Plan 2016-2020

Our October Outreach Offering was
received for KAIROS. Thank you for

your generous response! \$895.00!
90% will be given to KAIROS, half to
the National Office and half to the
Toronto West Branch. The remaining
10% has been added to our Benevolent
Fund to be used at the discretion of our
Minister for emergency pastoral care.



China Travels

Submitted by James Ty

1) We heard recently you went to China as part of your school. Can you elaborate on this?

Yes, I recently travelled to China to complete my teaching internship with my education program at the University of Toronto. I went with two other classmates who were also in my program. I was the foreign English teacher for eight grade 3 classes, and two grade 5 classes. In the classroom, I was responsible for immersing my students in an English speaking environment and helping them practice their oral English skills through things like songs, role-play activities, and educational games. I was in China for around four months, from the end of February 2019 to the end of June. 2019.

2) What part of China did you go to?

I was teaching and living in Beijing and was able to explore the city and all of its rich historical and cultural sites. Since I had Fridays off, I was also able to travel to many different cities in China, notably Shanghai, Luoyang (the ancient capital), Guilin, and Xiamen. Living and travelling in such a unique country was an incredible experience and allowed me to learn a lot about Chinese history and culture.

3) What was the most interesting thing about China?

There were definitely many interesting things about China! I was hit with an immense culture shock when I first arrived, and it took a while to get used to living in a city that was so different than Toronto. What really stood out to me about Beijing was the large population of the city, the complex and developed subway system, and the more relaxed rules of the road (I had to be very careful when crossing the street!). On a cultural level, it was interesting to notice more collectivist values such as harmony and conformity which were present at the school that I was teaching at. For example, all of the students were required to complete a morning exercise together in uniform, and there was overall less deviation from the “norm” at school.

4) Was it difficult not knowing the Chinese language to communicate and get around?

It was quite difficult at times not being fluent in Mandarin, as most Chinese people in stores or on the streets won't understand English! I had to rely on my phone and on Google Translate a lot of the time, but I did manage to learn some basic Mandarin phrases to get by, which was very helpful.

5) Did you have a chance to go to

church? In the past, Christianity was frowned upon, Can you talk freely about religion now?

I didn't actually have the opportunity to go to church although I did know of a Christian church that existed in Beijing not too far from where I was staying. I would say that you would be able to talk about religion fairly freely.

6) Taoism and Buddhism still play a big part in China, did you notice other religions?

There is definitely a huge influence of Taoism and Buddhism in Chinese society which was evident through all of the many temples that I visited (most of them Buddhist). Many locals would go to these temples to pray for good fortune (I had a friend that would visit to pray for good final exam marks) and would also burn incense there. I also noticed a very small Muslim population in Beijing, and there was a restaurant near my residence that was run by Muslim owners which I went to often (Their dumplings were delicious!).

7) What was your daily routine?

From Monday to Thursday, I usually woke up around 8am and got ready for my first class of the day. I lived at the school residence so everything was close by and convenient- the school even provided us with a meal plan for the cafeteria. On average, I taught 5

classes a day (each 40 minutes). We also had the opportunity to take cultural classes for school credit throughout the week. Specifically, we took classes in Chinese, Martial Arts, Chinese Painting, Calligraphy, and Chinese Literature. My schedule for the week was fairly packed, but we thankfully had Friday to Sundays off work. During this time, I would often be preparing my lessons for the week, visiting tourist sites in Beijing, or travelling within China.

8) What was the most difficult challenge you faced when you were in China?

At the beginning, one of my biggest challenges was getting used to teaching and managing my classes of up to 40 students. However, through putting a lot of effort into getting to know my students, and with the help of some other Chinese teachers, I was able to learn how to properly manage my classes and had a lot of fun in the classroom. Another big challenge that I had to face was the feeling of alienation at times. While I did have the help and support of some other foreign teachers, there was not that many people around my age that could speak English and I lacked the community and family that I have here in Toronto. On the streets, many people would stare at me and my friends for being different, and it was difficult not living in an environment where I "fit in". However, we got used

to the stares and I think we got the most out of our experience overall.

9) Most memorable experience?

I would say that many of my travel experiences were very memorable: from visiting Disneyland in Shanghai to biking alongside the Yulong river in Guilin. I will also never forget my students who I grew so attached with over the course of the semester. I learnt so much from my students and having to say goodbye was very difficult! I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to live and travel in China, as it has definitely expanded my worldview and has confirmed my passion for teaching.



facilitating games and songs in classroom

GARDENING

Submitted By Lila Bowen

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

- > Pat and Clive Dunstan for the care of the memorial garden in memory of Pat's mom, Pauline Marks.
- > Norm da Costa for once again trimming the yews and also painting the yellow lines and signage in the parking lot.
- > Al Graham, Tony Gray, Brian Isard and Norm da Costa for their expertise.
- > Joanne Atkins, Susan Taylor and Conrad Aristodema for Saturday morning faithfulness.
- > Joanne for many weekday hours in the gardens.
- > Conrad for walking the property each Saturday morning and picking up a bag or two of garbage and then doing the heavy lifting.

Many thanks to all.

Please note:

St James gardens have many plants that can be split / 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.



Submitted By Marg Arscott

Camping dates are set for 2020:

Girls 'camp- ages 9-16

Camp 1- July 5-11

Camp 2- July 12-18

Camp 3- July 19-25

Camp 4- July 26- Aug 1

Family camping: August 7 -30

Please get your application in early as spots fill up quickly. There are numerous job opportunities like councillors and cooks etc.

I attended the Heart and Vision Gala affair on Mon Oct. 28 at the historic Enoch Turner Schoolhouse. The affair was held in aid of the camps in the Toronto Conference. It was a very impressive evening.

For more information, please go to www.rydelakecamp.com or call Marg Arscott at 416-622-5952.

Sunday School Happenings

Submitted by Karen Forgrave



This fall, we have been learning a lot about David – the shepherd boy who was chosen by God to be the King of Israel. We have talked about how God looks doesn't look at the OUTSIDE of us, but looks INSIDE at what is in our hearts. We have learned about David's musical skills, and how he wrote many of the psalms that are in our Bible. We have recently been studying Psalm 23 "The Lord is My Shepherd". Students have been having fun with hands-on learning activities in our workshops.

In the art workshop, student had the opportunity to create their own harp and test it out! (Check out a video of us playing @StJames_SS!).

Older students enjoyed creating a small tray garden (that will hopefully grown into a "green pasture"). The gardens feature handmade plasticine sheep and "still waters". In the science workshop, we explored the meaning of

"my cup overflows" by conducting experiments with – you guessed it – overflowing cups. How can we be a blessing to others by helping OUR cup of blessing overflow into theirs? There were some wet floors, but lots of smiles at this science workshop!



In the cooking workshop, students enjoyed creating some tasty sugar cookie "sheep" to remind us that we are all like sheep – Jesus is our "shepherd".



In the computer workshop, students of all ages worked together to create beautiful colour posters to illustrate Psalm 23 "The Lord is my Shepherd".

They are up on our bulletin board in the Sunday School room for all to enjoy!

What's next? We are ready for CHRISTMAS! We will be focussing on learning the Christmas story for the next month. On December 1st, there is the all-ages congregational, no-rehearsal Christmas Pageant. It is SO much fun for all ages! Basically, you come to church a few minutes early and receive a small prop or costume piece.

Then, in church that morning, we recreate the Christmas story – people come up the aisle to the front as their parts are read. We have angels, shepherds, wisemen, Mary and Joseph, animals in the stable, stars in the sky – everyone is there! It really is our own Christmas miracle when all of the pieces come together to tell the story of Jesus' birth! We hope you will be there – and invite friends or neighbours to join us!

Here are a few pictures from our "Spirit Sunday" (Dress Up Like a Character From the Bible Day)! Can you guess all of the Biblical characters? Rev. Coral Prebble and Rev. Linda Maw both did a great job at the front, guessing the costumes (and corresponding Bible stories) during Children's Time. One of my favourites was "Noah and friends"!



Auction Update

Submitted by Karen Forgrave

Thank you to all the volunteers who helped with the auction on November 15th. It was a big success! Exact numbers will be announced later, but we made more than \$13,000 for the church. We could not have done it without the many people who helped, in so many different ways! What a fun and successful evening! Thank you again to all who made it happen!



Linton, 93, has been playing music in hospitals for over 30 years

By Mickey Conlon

reprinted from: The Catholic Register,
June 13, 2019



George Linton understands the power of music and how much joy it can bring.

Take a walk with the spry 93-year-old through the halls of St. Joseph's Health Centre in the heart of Toronto's Parkdale neighbourhood and it's plain to see. An elderly man, hobbling along with his cane, sees Linton with guitar strung over his shoulder and asks him to play a tune.

"Italiano?" Linton asks, and the man replies, "Si." He plays a few bars of an Italian folk song and a smile spreads broadly across the man's face as he joins in and sings along. They part after this short musical interlude, with

the man offering Linton a blessing to go with his smile.

Linton has for the past 30-plus years been a musical troubadour in the halls of some of Toronto's largest hospitals, including St. Joseph's and St. Michael's in the downtown core, bringing smiles to the faces of people in places where the smiles are few.

"The music can kind of drive those (unpleasant) thoughts away for a while and you get to think about some of the good times you remember having through music," Linton says of his performances before appreciative, intimate audiences.

Susan Bertoldi sees it first hand whenever Linton brings his guitar into St. Joseph's. He's been known to strike up a tune while walking the hallways and always gets a warm reception, said Bertoldi, operations leader with volunteer services at the hospital. It continues pretty well anywhere in the hospital — in the halls, the cafeteria, when he visits patients' rooms.

"He'll be sort of the strolling minstrel, he'll walk down the hallway with his guitar and just start playing and it gets people's attention," said Bertoldi. "I've actually been in the elevator with George when he just starts playing and people, just the smile (that comes) to everybody's face."

Linton is amazed at the response, the joy the music brings.

“People say you’re in the right place when you’re here, please don’t stop what you’re doing, you made my day, you made my week, you made my stay in hospital very positive,” said Linton.

Music has long been an important part of Linton’s life. He’s been at it for more than 80 years, first picking up a guitar when he was around 10. He also played viola with different groups over the years. Now, well into his senior years, he still plays frequently and has used his talent to bring some joy to people who are confined to a place that is far from joyful.

He came to performing in hospitals in 1987, along with his late wife, Peggy, a year after retiring from the Globe and Mail following 31 years as a business reporter. An acquaintance suggested he play for a relative who was confined to a hospital bed. It was a hit, with patient and staff, and set the stage for Linton to return and perform for others. He’s been at it ever since.

“It’s always great fun, always fun trying to connect with what’s in people’s minds,” he said.

He’s built up a large repertoire of songs he can turn to in a city as multicultural as Toronto. Along with country standards by artists like Johnny Cash and Hank Williams, he’s also learned the songs of many cultures, and while he may not know the words, once he starts strumming the melody there are people who will

pick up on it and add the words in their first language.

“I try to play what people are going to like,” said Linton. “I never learned a song I don’t think is going to be enjoyable in one place or another.” By bringing some sunshine to the patients, Linton also helps ease the load of staff who are dealing with the everyday stress that comes from their work.

“George has a great personality and he just exudes warmth. He’s perfect for the role he plays,” said Bertoldi.

“Anything that brightens up something for the patients brightens it up for the staff as well.”

Linton may have slowed down in the past few years, limiting his performances to just over 90 minutes, one day a week. But it’s something he’s going to continue “for as long as I can.”

“As far as I know I’m in good health,” he said. “But there’s no reason I can’t and won’t continue.”

Reality though, doesn’t escape him. He knows he can’t carry on forever, so he encourages others to help take up the slack.

“I’m always trying to encourage younger musicians to dip their toe in and find out how much patients enjoy it, that they’ll enjoy when they’re in

the right place at the right time when they're doing music for patients."

You see the reverence staff in the volunteer department have for him by the photos plastered of Linton playing for patients on the office walls. Rita Sarunas can't help but sing his praises.

"George is a great ambassador for the hospital," said the volunteer coordinator.

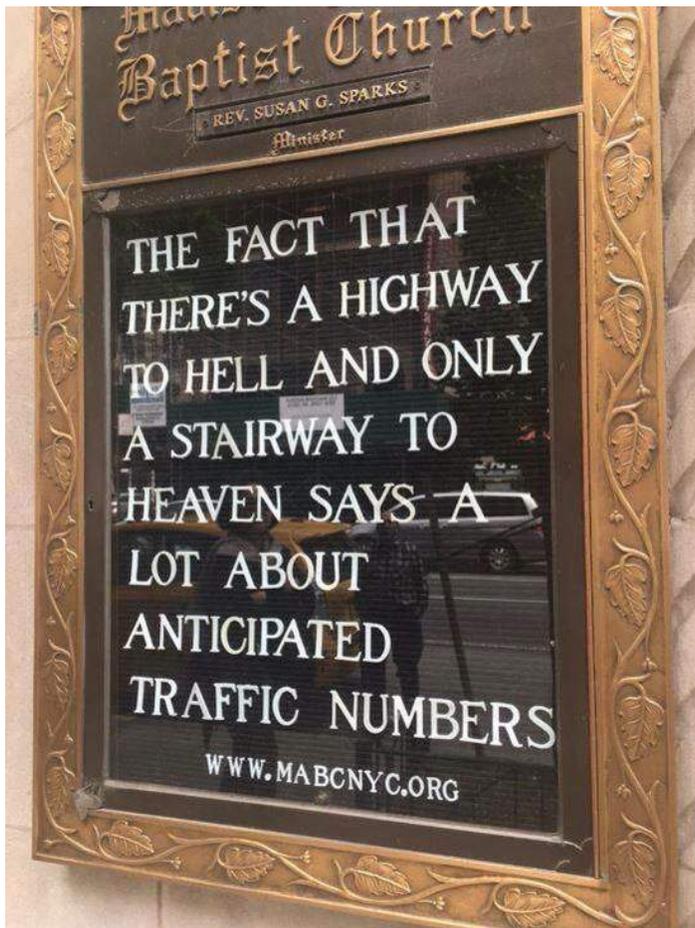
For Linton, he's just glad he's able to share. He only hopes that others will take up his ministry and continue to spread the joy.



logos.fandom.com

Submitted By Myrna Marchovich

St. James will once again be offering a hot meal at All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church on Friday February 7, 2020. More information to come in January, 2020.



Community Halloween Party a Success!



A big THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who “answered the call” and experienced the JOY of volunteering at our Community Halloween Party this year. It was an amazing event! 100 children attended with their families. Pumpkin carving, fortune tellers, a haunted house, crafts, games, face painting, a “touchy-feely table”, and cookie decorating rounded out the evening! There was pizza, samosas and snacks available for purchase – thanks to Patrick Ty for donating the samosas! A reporter from SNAP’D was there (thank you to Jennifer Ling for arranging this), and more photos can be seen online on their website: <http://snapd.at/eewc39t>

Family Games Night!

Mark your calendars for Friday, November 29th from 7-9pm. Free Friday night fun for ages 4 – 104! Bring your favourite card or board game, or come without and join a table! Learn a new game! Play an old favourite! Light snacks provided.

NOTE: Look for an all-ages piñata making class sometime in December...watch for it in your bulletins! The BIG piñatas will be used on our Christmas Eve service, December 24th – you won’t want to miss it!



Games Nights will continue in January, on the last Friday of the month – Friday, January 31st, February 28th, and March 27th, from 7-9pm.

IF YOU CAN SEE THE SUNSHINE

IF YOU CAN **SEE** THE SUNSHINE,
AND **HEAR** THE BIRDS AT DAWN.
IF YOU CAN **SMELL** THE FLOWERS,
AND **TOUCH** THE NEWLY-BORN.

IF YOU CAN **TASTE** LIFE'S PLEASURES
IN A PURE AND SIMPLE WAY,
THEN YOU HAVE FOUND THOSE TREASURES
THAT HELP YOU EVERY DAY.

IF **FAITH** DETERMINES HOW YOU LIVE,
AND **HOPE** LIES IN YOUR HEART.
IF **LOVE** IS ALL YOU HAVE TO GIVE,
TO OTHERS TO IMPART.

IF LAUGHTER FILLS YOUR EVERYDAY,
AND YOU CAN CHEER THE SICK;
AND SORROW COMES, BUT GOES AWAY,
THEN YOU HAVE LEARNED LIFE'S TRICK.

IF **RACE**, AND **CREED**, AND **SEX**, AND **AGE**,
ARE TREATED WITH RESPECT;
AND **CHILDREN** PLAY UPON YOUR STAGE
OF LIFE, GOD'S GRACE EXPECT.

FOR WE ARE ALL SO TRULY BLESSED
WITH JOYS, LOVE AND GOOD HEALTH,
THAT ILLNESS SOON MAKES US ATTEST
THAT LIFE IS MORE THAN WEALTH.

LET'S NEVER CEASE TO CHERISH LIFE,
TO CARE FOR ALL IN NEED.
TO STIFLE **FEAR**, AND BANISH **STRIFE**,
AND ERADICATE **GREED**.

NO NEED TO FRET, NO NEED TO WHINE,
WHEN LIFE THROWS US A CURVE.
GOD MAKES US SEE THE SUNSHINE.....
IT'S GOD WE'RE HERE TO SERVE.

Tony Gray (Feb. 2, 2006)



Mission & Service

Submitted by Marty Linton

THANK YOU for giving to Mission & Service. As of the end of October St. James has given 87% of our 2019 pledge of \$35,000!

We believe that as a church our purpose is to live out God's mission in the world. In the United Church of Canada the way we live this out is through our gifts for Mission & Service. Your generosity is a tangible example of God's love in the world. If you are giving to M&S, a big THANK YOU!

If you are not yet giving, please consider doing so; each and every day you will save lives; you are offering the world an outward expression of your faith in a loving God who calls us to care for creation.



Submitted by Linda Maw

If a Worship Service needs to be canceled due to extreme weather conditions or power outages the congregation will be notified as follows:

The decision to cancel will be made hopefully by Saturday and the telephone and email network will be activated as well as a message put on St James' website.

If the decision is not made until Sunday morning the telephone and email network will be started no later than 8:00 a.m. Notices will be put on St James' website by 8:30 a.m. Please ensure that you are on either the telephone or email network lists by calling the church office.

Thank you.

Mission Accomplished

*Submitted by Christine Thompson
Pickios*

In 2003 I shared the story on Remembrance Sunday with St James of my parents, Arthur and Etta Thompson, and their experiences in Singapore during the Second World War. I told the story of their arrival in Singapore as newlyweds in 1938, the Japanese attack in 1941, my mother's evacuation to Australia and the US (where she joined the WAC), and my father's capture and imprisonment (first in Changi jail, then in various camps in Thailand and Burma where he was forced POW labour on the Japanese railroad for 3 ½ years.) He literally went "from desk (at the FORD plant) to ditch" (digging slit trenches for the British army.)

Last month I presented my father's POW diary (written at the risk of his life) and newspaper articles about my parents, family pictures, cables and other supporting documents to the Canadian War Museum in Ottawa. This donation has been a long time coming. The War Museum receives hundreds of submissions each year.... 800 last year alone.... and they have to examine every one carefully before making a decision to include in their collection. In addition to the museum's time line, I had to prepare myself mentally and emotionally to be able to

part with items that have been with me since birth. Like other war veterans, my father seldom discussed his experiences so I had no parental guidance on what he would want me to do with such a precious legacy. As an only child, I felt a huge responsibility to "get it right" and I believe that he would be pleased with my decision. Both Singapore and Australia expressed interest in his diary but my father was a proud Canadian and I feel that Ottawa is where his story should be.

Travelling with me to Ottawa was Blake Heathcote. Blake is the founder of "Testaments of Honour", which has recorded the stories of war veterans across Canada. Blake has published 3 books and is currently working on my father's story. He took pictures/videos during our meeting with Dr. Jeff Noakes, Second World War Historian, Alain Simard, Archives Specialist and Erin Monette, Acquisitions and Documentation Officer. I was very impressed with their knowledge and their sensitivity and also proud of myself for breaking down only once!

One of the reasons my father kept a diary was to tabulate POW deaths by nationality and disease and there is a newspaper article that talks about his diary being used as evidence in Japanese war trials. He also expressed his agony over missing my mother and not knowing for almost 2 years whether she had made it out safely or not. The shock of a diary written in

wartime is watching someone with a family, friends, and a job come to the inescapable awareness of the violence that will soon engulf them. The last page of his diary reads “No one can know these things who has not been force-marched through a jungle with enemies behind him, immensity before him and a cupful of rice between him and starvation. I have to keep going. I simply have to do it. I have so much to live for.”

Daddy, you’re “home.”



An Invitation

Submitted by Linda Maw

The Worship and Music Committee invites anyone who is interested in leading our worship services on a rotational basis throughout the year.

As the presider with Rev Coral, you will be welcoming the congregation, inviting them to greet their neighbour, introduce the hymns, lead the written Call to Worship and Prayers of Approach and Grace, briefly present the announcements in your own words, announce the offering and offer a benediction at the end of the service. A helpful outline as well as coaching are available. To volunteer or for further information, please contact Linda Maw or Rev Coral. Thank you.





123rf.com

Submitted by Linda Maw

To the St James Family:

Last February you surprised and overwhelmed me with a very generous gift in appreciation of the role I played at St James while Rev Coral was convalescing from her accident. During the presentation Myrna Markovich shared that you hoped I would use this gift “for whatever gives me the greatest joy.” I thought that you might like to know that I did find a way to use your wonderful gift that gave me much joy. At the end of Sept, I traveled to Copenhagen with a dear friend to take a nine day Baltic Cruise!

Although the weather was crisper than usual for early October the cities we visited were fascinating, full of history, amazing art and architecture, delicious food and interesting cultures – distinct but also so interwoven: Berlin, Germany; Tallinn, Estonia; St Petersburg, Russia; Helsinki, Finland and Stockholm, Sweden. So thank you for giving me the opportunity to see another part of our world that I had never visited, a chance to holiday away from all my responsibilities (although I wouldn’t say the trip was relaxing with

all these wonderful ports of call to tour) and, the chance to check off something on my Bucket Wish List that I never expected to do – to visit St Petersburg and tour its Hermitage Museum!

(photo below: Linda in Copenhagen and with Rev Anja Guignon about to embark on Norwegian Getway)



Your Wisdom is Needed!

Submitted by Mhairi Godley

(Please detach from the Epistle for to submit your reply if you don't have e-mail. Thank you)

As you know, the sad but not unexpected time has arrived for us to begin looking for a new Minister.

As part of the new Shining Waters district of the wider United Church of Canada, we are required to submit our Faith Story/Profile of who we are and what is important to us as a Community of Faith. This becomes a very important Marketing Tool to attract the right minister to our Congregation; one whose priorities match our priorities.

There are 8 categories where both Faith Communities and Ministers determine their priorities, and the search team uses this information to find a minister whose priorities best fit ours. At the Coordinating Meeting on November 6, we worked through an exercise to come up with a list to reflect what WE think are the priorities. Now it's your turn. It was a very difficult job, since we thought that many things fell into 2 or more categories, and that the categories are somewhat repetitious. However, these are what we are mandated to use, so we need to do our best!

Please look at the List below, and if you do not agree with those priorities, please put your ranking next to each category. Your ideas are very important, and if you don't express them, we may end up with someone who does not share the majority's list!

Categories Your ranking?

1. Worship
2. Pastoral Care and Spiritual Care
3. Justice, Outreach, Evangelism
4. Leadership
5. Discipleship
6. Stewardship
7. Spirituality and Spiritual Care
8. Ministry Partnerships

If you agree with the Coordinating Committee, please just write "I agree" Now, if you could let us know how you feel about the following questions that would be great. Please feel free to add anything else that you think should be included in the St. James.

Questions are the the following page.

U.C. Profile.

WHY do you (and your family) participate in our church?

WHAT gets our congregation excited?

WHAT best-kept secrets do we need to share?

Once you are finished, please put your completed ideas in the STEWARDSHIP MAIL SLOT no later than Sunday December 8th. More information regarding the categories can be found on the Shining Waters website.

WHY does God want St. James to remain here?

You may also e-mail mhairi.godley@yahoo.com with your responses and ideas,

OR phone Nancy Violo at: 416-622-0894, or Mhairi (“Varry”) Godley at 416 912 4764, and if you would like to be on the Team!

HOW are our Dreams moving us towards the future?

THANK YOU for your time for this very important process.