

# EPISTLE

**February 2020**



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

**St. James United Church**

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

this issue is available on-line at above website

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

YOUR INVITATION TO  
ATTEND HOLY COMMUNION  
**ST. JAMES UNITED CHURCH**

Date: Sunday, April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday

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](mailto:stjames_uc@rogers.com)

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

Next Epistle Deadline: Sunday, April 19, 2020 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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It is hard to believe we are in February already. Time seems to be flying and I want to make the most of my last five precious months with you.

The St. James United Search Team has been formed, chaired by Brenda Beaton, and the Shining Waters Regional Council representative has met with them for orientation training. By the time you read this, thanks to Karen Forgrave, Mhairi Godley, Nancy Violo and all who participated in sharing what is special about St. James in print and in video, our story will be on the national United Church of Canada “Church Hub”. It’s a bit like a dating site in which communities of faith and ministers describe what is most important to them and the gifts and passions each one offers. I hope you will join me in praying that God leads us to discern the best person to minister with the people of St. James, inspire our love of God and lead us into the next decade full of hope, faith and love.

The June Sunday for our collective celebration and closing covenant has not been set. Yet I am well aware that inevitably some people will not be able to make that date for many good reasons, and that when there are so many people at once, I will have very little time to interact with each one of

you. Therefore I am setting aside four dates to “Meet with Your Minister” in the church lounge. These include:

Saturday, April 4 10:30 – 12:00

Friday, May 8 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, May 13 7:30- 9:00 pm

Sunday, June 7th 12 noon – 1:30 pm.

I am also planning time to meet with the Reiki channels and healers for a potluck lunch and Labyrinth walk.

Thank you to all who have shared your stories with me verbally, in this Epistle or in the next issue in mid April. I am looking forward to reading your memories of our time together and how God brought a ray of light or spark of joy and blessing through our connection. We never know our full legacy for, in truth, we are shaped by every person whom we meet, and you are one of God’s great gifts in my life.

In the meantime there are a few priorities I hope to fulfill over the next five months. As Christians and stewards of God’s gift of creation, I believe we must do what we can to both slow and avoid the looming climate crisis. We have the capacity to make a positive difference and be a light in the neighbourhood in this regard. I will continue to help establish our new Eco-justice speaker series.

Emily Thorn-Corthay did a great job of teaching 35 or more of us about how to reduce our carbon footprint and the top 4 causes of carbon emissions in Ontario: driving, home heating, flying and eating beef (cows release a lot of methane gas which traps far more heat than carbon dioxide). Interested in learning more? See the two-page fact sheet on page 10 from Dianne Saxe, Environmental Commissioner of Ontario, March 2019 and join us for our next Eco-justice session on Sunday, February 16 after worship for a presentation on Electric Vehicles and Self-Driving Cars by our special guest, Tim Burrows. If you have an idea for a future topic, know of a speaker or are willing to help set up the lounge or spread the word through posters and social media, please contact me. The more the merrier!

A new edition of “Cherished Lives” is in the works. I am looking for people willing to informally “interview” one of the people who have agreed to share their story: 3-5 pages that highlight sources of greatest joy and challenge, and how God and your faith has sustained and influenced who you are and how you live. If you want to be interviewed or are willing to interview someone else by the end of April, please speak with me.

During the season of Lent, Karen Forgrave and the Christian Development team will again host four Tuesday evenings to watch 15-20 minute inspiring YouTube segments

and TED Talks with spiritual themes, followed by an opportunity to reflect on the ideas presented and share your own experiences. Each topic is independent so you can join in one or more or all four sessions. Please see the Lenten Study page elsewhere in this Epistle.

Here are some of the special events and upcoming worship services that we hope will delight or inspire you:

- “Forgiveness” – Hot Sermon topic, Sunday, February 16 at 10:30 a.m.
- Pancake Lunch – by donation in your choice of plain, chocolate chip, blueberry or gluten-free made by the Richards’ family Sunday, February 16 at 11:45 a.m.
- Electric Vehicles & Self-driving Cars Sunday, February 16 from 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. with special guest speaker, Tim Burrows,
- Learn Hands-On Reiki Level I to heal oneself and others Friday – Sunday, February 21-23.
- Chinese New Year Lunch, Sunday, February 23 after worship
- Family Games Night: Friday February 28 at 7:00 p.m.
- Ash Ritual on Sunday, March 1 10:30 a.m. to mark the start of Lent.
- Annual Congregational Meeting with sandwich lunch on Sunday, March 1 at 11:45 a.m.

- Lenten Study #1 “When God Talks Back”, Tuesday, March 3 at 6:45 p.m. with Karen Forgrave.
- Seniors’ Lunch, Thursday, March 5 at 12:30 p.m.
- World Day of Prayer, Friday March 6 created by people of Zimbabwe.
- Daylight Saving Time clocks spring ahead Saturday night March 7
- Family Games Night: Friday, March 27 at 7:00 p.m.
- Seniors’ Lunch, Thursday, April 2 at 12:30 p.m.
- Palm Sunday with Holy Communion on April 5 and Outreach offering to support the GO Project featuring fabulous Christian events for children, youth and young adults here in Etobicoke and across Canada.
- Good Friday joint worship April 10 at 10:30 a.m. at Bloordale United
- Easter Sunday – a joyous celebration April 12 at 10:30 a.m.
- Food Basket Appreciation Lunch Saturday April 18.
- Spring Fling, Saturday, April 25 Books, Baking and Attic Treasures

Thank you to everyone whose generosity makes these and all of the ministries of St. James possible. Our

church is a blessing every day of the week.

With love, joy and gratitude,

*Rev. Coral*



## Editor's Notes



Happy New Year everyone! It is the year of the Rat for those born in 1996, 1984, 1972, 1960, 1948, 1936. What does this mean for you? This is a good year for you to move or travel and cultivate friendships. Just like cultivating friends at St. James.

Since this issue is about sharing our memories about Rev Coral, I thought I'd take the opportunity to share mine.

When my family and I moved back to Toronto from Hong Kong in 2003, I heard about a Reiki course. Reiki was not main stream as it is now so it peaked my curiosity. I took the course that Rev Coral was teaching. I was so impressed by Rev Coral, the course and it's volunteers, that I decided to check out what other activities St. James had to offer. Personally, I was searching for my faith too. Fast forward to 17 years later - I've been one of the editors, a Sunday School teacher, and my kids have been in the choir and participated in numerous church events.

There is the theory of "Godwink" which describes an event or personal experience often seen as a coincidence or a wink from God that leads you to the right direction.

Well, I feel that taking the Reiki course did exactly this. Because of Rev Coral, she opened my life to the world of St. James and all the wonderful people who are caring and contribute so much. My spiritual journey, with the guidance of Rev Coral, has not only taught me but also my children on how to lead a more fulfilling life for which I am most grateful. I find that God is winking again at me. I've been wanting to take Reiki II for the longest time to continue on my path of well-being but I just did not find the right opportunity. With Rev Coral retiring, it forced me to finally commit to learning more about Reiki II. I began my journey with Rev Coral in Reiki I and I will end my journey learning about Reiki II with Rev Coral. Rev Coral, you are my Godwink, you have been such an inspiration to me and I thank you for your guidance. I wish you many blessings on all that you will accomplish and may you continue to inspire those throughout your retirement journey.

By Jennifer Ling

In this issue, you'll find more stories and memories about Rev Coral. We will continue with the stories about Rev Coral in the next issue of the Epistle.

The final deadline is on **April 19th**, however, please feel free to submit your stories on/before this deadline to [sjepistle@yahoo.com](mailto:sjepistle@yahoo.com)

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

All submissions can also be placed in the Epistle mailbox.

Don't forget, you can also access a 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.*

## OPTICAL ILLUSION

*(instead of blinking, you can close your eyes, what do you see?)*



Look at the four dots in the center of the image for 30 seconds. Then look at the ceiling and blink a few times. What do you see?



Change of  
Address

Nancy Low, with the passing of her brother Garry Carl on Saturday, December 7, 2019.

The family of Rev. Kenneth Howlett with his passing on Thursday, December 19, 2019.

The family of Marie Gleadhill, with her passing on Saturday January 19, 2020.

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



## UPDATE FROM ST. JAMES FOOD BASKET

Thank you! We appreciate everyone's donation to our gift cards. We gave out \$10 Wal-Mart gift cards to 336 children whose families attended on the last Wednesday we were open in December. We were overwhelmed by donations of cash and food that month and we are very grateful.

What is in store for 2020? We assume our numbers will increase slightly, as they did from 2018 to 2019, and average over 200 families per week. High rent costs will continue to be the leading factor bringing new people to us. In our service area, 17% of children are living in poverty, according to the 2018 Toronto Child & Family Poverty Report published by Social Planning Toronto. The highest rates of poverty are from racialized people and newcomer families.

The people we serve each week, and the volunteers we work with are not just numbers to us; they are valued colleagues and participants. We work to lessen the effects of poverty and to support people in concrete ways. When people trust us enough to open up about their situation, we try our best to earn their trust by our actions. We are creating a caring community where neighbours help each other. We all need people to whom we can go in times of need.

Marie Truelove, Chair



*Submitted by Marty Linton*

*OUR OUTREACH OFFERING received on January 26, 2020 will be donated to ECOJUSTICE. Donations will be happily accepted throughout February, too!*

At Ecojustice we go to court to tackle Canada's toughest environmental challenges. Just as labour laws regulate working conditions and wages, environmental laws can be used to limit the use of dangerous chemicals, protect trees from being cut down, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Since 1990, our lawyers have represented community groups, non-profits, First Nations, and individual Canadians on the frontlines of the fight for environmental justice. In partnership with our clients, we launch ground-breaking lawsuits that level the playing field so industry interests can't trump those of people and the planet. We achieve legal precedents that keep harmful substances out of the environment, protect wilderness and wildlife and take aim at climate change.

When our lawyers have done everything they can do with the legal

tools they have, we go further, leveraging our expertise to push for stronger laws. Together, we are leading the fight for a brighter environmental future.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

In courtrooms and at public hearings, we work with our clients to challenge the short-term thinking that will lock us into a fossil fuel economy for another generation.

Climate change is a serious humanitarian threat, and we go to court to keep fossil fuels in the ground and to accelerate the shift to clean energy options. We push for strong, enforceable emission reduction targets and put pressure on our governments to ensure that their actions live up to their words. And, we don't shy away from going to court to slow fossil fuel projects, like pipelines and coal transfer stations.

We know that a sustainable economy relies on a healthy environment – and vice versa. The time is ripe to shift from fossil fuels to renewable resources. Through our groundbreaking lawsuits, we are tipping the balance towards clean energy sources for generations to come.

Together, we will make meaningful action on climate change a reality.

*The average Ontarian causes more than twice as much carbon pollution as the global average*

**Dianne Saxe**  
Environmental Commissioner of Ontario  
March 2019

### CLIMATE POLLUTION: REDUCING MY FOOTPRINT

Ontarians have large carbon footprints. The average Ontarian personally causes about 11 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions.\* More than half of the average Ontarian's carbon footprint comes from just four activities: driving, heating our homes, flying, and eating beef. For most people, the opportunities to reduce the most emissions are in those same four activities.

Individual actions are not enough to protect our global climate, but they are a great place to start.

\*carbon dioxide equivalents

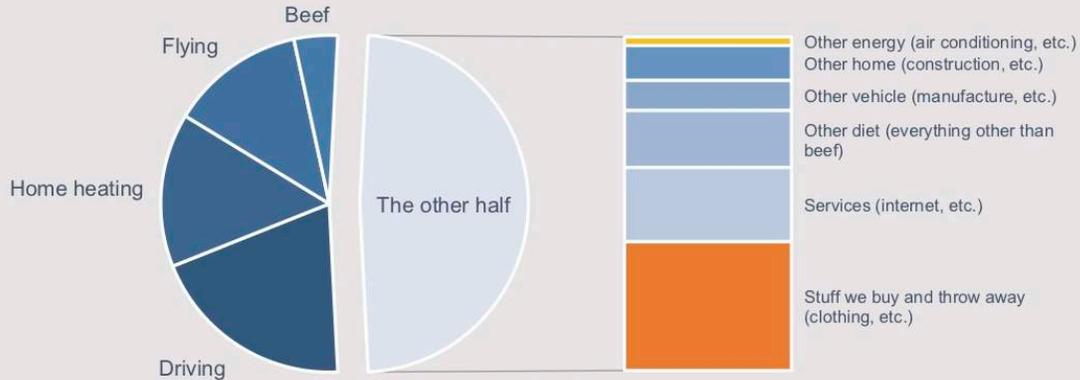


### HOW DO YOU COMPARE?



## WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER HALF?

### THE AVERAGE ONTARIAN'S CARBON FOOTPRINT



#### STUFF WE BUY AND THROW AWAY

The other half of the average Ontarian's personal carbon footprint is mostly from stuff and services we buy. Especially stuff. Many of us have too much of it. Buying fewer goods, making them last and throwing less away would really help. Recycling helps a little, but much less than we think.

#### OTHER ENERGY USE

Anything that burns fossil fuels is doing climate damage, including diesel generators, gasoline recreational vehicles, propane barbeques and natural gas power plants. Over 90% of Ontario's electricity is carbon free, but we often use natural gas to generate the extra electricity needed when demand is very high.



## THIS ISN'T THE WHOLE STORY



#### I'M NOT AVERAGE...

Everyone's life is unique and so is their carbon footprint. Whether you live in the city or the country, you can reduce some of your carbon footprint through individual actions. But other reductions depend on collective action and good government policy. See the backgrounder for ideas and work with your neighbours for opportunities.

#### SPEAK UP FOR COLLECTIVE ACTION

Climate change is everyone's problem. We all share the same planet, and we have to work together to solve this problem. That requires good government policies, like making polluters pay for the damage caused.

Individual action is a great place to start, but it would be a terrible place to stop. Will you speak up?



Download the backgrounder:  
[eco.on.ca/reports/reducing-my-footprint](http://eco.on.ca/reports/reducing-my-footprint)



Environmental  
Commissioner  
of Ontario

## A POEM

*Submitted by Marg Arscott*

Since we acknowledge we are on  
sacred Indian grounds - I memorized a  
poem by Annette Wynne in public  
school.

Where we walk to school each day,  
Indian children used to play,  
All about our native land,  
Where the shops and houses stand.  
And the trees were very tall,  
There were no streets at all,  
Not a church and not a steeple,  
Only woods and Indian people.  
Only wigwams on the ground,  
And at night bears prowling round,  
What a different place today,  
Where we live and work and play.



[whsjohnnygreen.org](http://whsjohnnygreen.org)

*Submitted by Linda Maw*

Spring Fling is on Saturday  
April 25, 2020.

Beginning February 23<sup>rd</sup> we  
welcome donations of  
**Paperback BOOKS**, (please,  
no hard cover fiction books,  
hard cover NON-fiction is  
okay), **CDs, DVDs and  
Puzzles**. Collection boxes will  
again be in the corner of the  
Lounge to receive your  
donation.

Re: CDs and DVDs: Please  
check that the disk is in the case  
before donating. Any questions  
concerning donation of Books,  
CDs or DVDs contact Linda  
Maw, Book Sale co-ordinator.

(416-620-9508)

## Lenten Study Group– 4 Tuesdays in March

Come watch and discuss your choice of one, two, three or all four of these inspiring videos with Karen Forgrave at the home of Karen, Steve and Laura at 56 Oxenden Crescent (near Renforth and Rathburn) in Etobicoke on Tuesdays, March 3, 10, 24 and 31 from 6:45 – 8:15 p.m.

### March 3 “When God Talks Back” – Tanya Marie Luhrmann

Tanya Luhrmann is an anthropologist who spent two years studying the remarkable Evangelical relationship with God in which people do not simply talk to God, but experience God talking back. Professor Luhrmann wanted to find out how God became real to them.



### March 10 “Maya Angelou full interview with George Stroumboulopoulos”

A reflection on her life and what gives her joy and meaning.

### Maya Angelou, “I Am Human”

Dr. Maya Angelou speaks about what it means to be human and a Child of God.

### March 24 “Live, Love, Matter”

The three questions Brendon Bruchard asks himself each morning and every night, and how he intentionally sustains living his priorities.



### March 31 Karen Armstrong TED Prize Wish: “Charter for Compassion”

She talks about the Golden Rule and the role of religion in the world.

# SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATES

*Submitted by Karen Forgrave*

We have many things in our lives to be thankful for, and that it is important to be able to show our gratitude for these gifts – a “THANK YOU!” goes a long way!

We are learning about the healing miracle of Jesus healing the 10 people with leprosy, and how only 1 man (a Samaritan!) came back to say thank you and to praise God.

Our workshops for this rotation include:

**DRAMA:** Students are creating simple puppets to represent the 10 lepers, and then use them in a short musical to tell the story!

**SCIENCE STATION:** Now you see it, now you don't! Jesus healed 10 people of their leprosy, and made it disappear! Students experiment in this workshop to focus on the fact that looking at the outside of something does not tell us what the inside is like.

We are reminded of our rotation on the anointing of King David, where God told Samuel, “Mortals look at the outside appearance, but God looks at the heart.” (1 Samuel 16:7). In our story in this rotation, Jesus was not scared away by the lesions on the ten lepers – he showed them mercy instead.



**COMPUTER/ART:** Students are creating unique “thinking of you” and “get well soon” cards that are being given to members of our congregation who are currently needing some tender loving care!

**COOKING:** Ask someone to tell you about the cooking workshop for this

rotation – it is something they won't soon forget!

Students in Grade 6-8 also helped to prepare the meal kits for the Out of the Cold Program on February 2, 2020. These meal kits were handed to people in the congregation to prepare meatloaves or apple crisps to be served on Friday, Feb. 7th. Thanks for your help!



Pictured above is an image posted on our Twitter Feed (@StJames\_SS) from this rotation:

Jesus made the leprosy disappear...and we can make our red-spotted leprosy cookies disappear! We are showing gratitude for them, too!

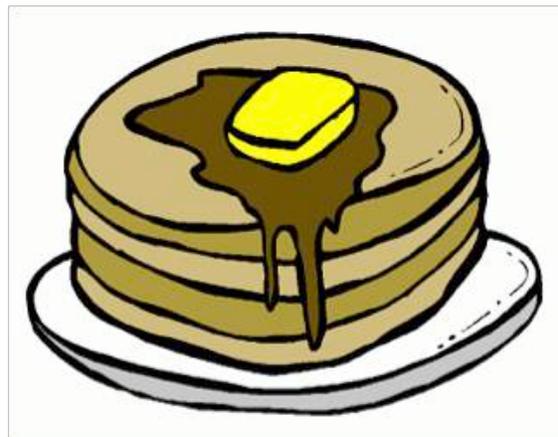
## PANCAKE LUNCH!

*Sunday, February 16th, right after church!*

Come and enjoy a steaming stack of freshly-made pancakes, created by our famous pancake chef family – Liz, Peter, Carly and Holly Richards!

Blueberry, chocolate chip, plain, and even gluten-free varieties will be available. All served with 100% pure Canadian Maple Syrup! Yummmmy!

Free-will donations will be accepted to help cover the costs.



# Join us for... GAMES NIGHTS!



Fun for Adults!  
Fun for Youth!  
Fun for Families!

**TIME:** 7:00 – 9:00p.m



**LAST Friday of each month:**  
**Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 7-9pm**  
**Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm**  
**Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 7-9pm**



**MORE INFO?** Family-friendly, all ages welcome  
- bring your favourite board game, or come without  
- there will be lots at the church. Apples to Apples, Sushi Go, Dominoes, Cranium, etc. Come and join in a group around a game that appeals to you!  
Friends are welcome! Still have questions??  
Contact Karen at [karen\\_forgrave@hotmail.com](mailto:karen_forgrave@hotmail.com)

## **Fun for EVERYONE!**



*Submitted By Marty Linton*

Mission & Service Committee 2019  
Year End Report

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU you who have made this a banner M&S giving year. Through your donations to M&S you support the work of the United Church and its partners, not just in Canada, but throughout the World!

In 2019 our congregational M&S covenant made with the wider Church was \$35,000. We reduced our commitment from the years past by \$3,000, based on pledges received for 2019.

It is a joy to report that we surpassed our 2019 goal AND our past goals of \$38,000!

Our M&S total donation as of December 31, 2019 is \$38,623.50. That is 110% of our 2019 goal of \$35,000!!

We have certainly answered God's call to Love Our Neighbours.

## CANDLELIGHT REVIEW

*Submitted by Ben Skopiwsky*

It has been almost three weeks since we celebrated the amazing Christmas Candlelight Service. I have heard nothing but wonderful praise and admiration for this exceptional service.

So many dedicated and devoted people contributed greatly to the success of this remarkable endeavour. They gave generously of their talents and time. We must thank the energetic contributions of the ushers and counters, the outstanding readers, the immeasurable contributions of Matti De Carolis for the programs and the impressive and remarkable organizational skills of Rev. Coral Prebble, Rev. Linda Maw, Wendy Simone and J.C. Coolen. You all worked tirelessly and relentlessly. Your boundless energy, commitment and dedication was and is truly appreciated. Without you this successful undertaking would not have occurred.

It was pure magic with the enchanting entrance and departure of the choir as they were in darkness, holding their candles and singing "Silent Night". It was very moving and emotional. Their voices rang out and echoed to the rafters. I loved it as did all of the attendees.

I believe everyone was impressed with J.C. It was touching to see a former parishioner from, I believe, Vaughn United in tears as she spoke with J.C. after the marvellous performance.

With his impressive, creative, passionate and masterful playing of the piano and organ, J.C. was inspiring and engaging as he led both the Senior and Chancel choirs. J.C., along with Wendy, the talented members of the choirs, and all the other people involved, captured the glorious spirit of that extraordinary night. "Love Came Down..."

Blessings for a great new year,  
LOTSALUVNHUGS ♥



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



*Submitted by Marg Arscott*

Here it is mid January and already the registrations are up to 60% capacity. You may wish to get your applications in for Girls camp, Family camping or Jobs as quickly as possible. Information flyers will be on the front hall table soon.

Annual meeting:  
Saturday March 7, 2020 at 10:00am-  
Parkwood United Church

Camp Dates;  
I July 5-11  
II July 12-18  
III July 19-25  
IV July 26-Aug.1

Family camping:  
Aug. 7—August 30

# CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR

IT'S THE YEAR OF THE RAT!

AFTER CHURCH, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23



SEE BULLETIN AND SIGN-UP SHEET FOR DETAILS

# KITCHEN CLEAN UP AND REORGANIZATION

*Submitted By Marty Linton*

We are dealing with **A BUG PROBLEM** in the kitchen.

The kitchen is checked daily for bugs and spraying done on a weekly basis (if not more often), especially around the sinks and cupboards along the south wall. The spray is Home Defence Max – a non-toxic spray to humans.

**DO NOT LEAVE ANY OPEN FOOD** - cookies, chips, candy, sugar, creamer, etc.- **IN THE CUPBOARDS OR ON THE COUNTERS.** The bugs love them!!

**DO NOT LEAVE ANYTHING ON THE COUNTERS** – bugs hide under them!!

## **Clean up**

**STORE** all hospitality-type supplies - sugar, tea, coffee, stir sticks, straws etc. in plastic containers or plastic bags.

**CLEAN** sinks, counters and trolleys with the spray marked "Bleach and Water".

**DRY** sinks, counters and trolleys before leaving.

**COVER** sink drains – with screen or plug before leaving.

## **The dishwasher**

1) Ensure drain filters are properly

installed before the kitchen washer is used. Check filters periodically to keep drains clean.

2) Once washing is finished turn off machine.

3) Carefully remove and clean the 3 filters inside the washer unit. See diagram on wall to find out where screens are located in the dishwasher.

Dishwasher sinks and drain boards

\*Clean and dry dishwasher drain board surfaces after use.

\*Make sure the "well" in the drain board is cleared of food, cleaned and dried.

\*Clean and dry large sinks replace screens over drains.

## **Reorganization**

\* **Green china** in island SE side. There are 50 dinner plates, 50 supper plates, all the side/dessert plates and small pitchers. We have moved the balance of the green china dinner and supper plates UP onto the top three shelves of the cupboards on the EAST wall.

\* **Glass creamers and sugar bowls** on top shelf, in the island SE side. This makes them more accessible to us all.

\* **Glass serving dishes** in the island, NE side, 2nd cupboard: plates, salad bowls, small serving bowls, relish trays and 3 punch bowls (as of Jan. 10 - 4pm), punch glasses and 4 plastic ladles.

\* There are now covered, plastic containers in the front of the three cutlery drawers containing the bulk of the cutlery stored there, to keep any bugs off.

- \* The knife drawer and utensil drawers have been culled, same with the large bucket of utensils.
- \* Plastic serving trays of various sizes are in one cupboard, east wall.
- \* Mixing bowls of various sizes and strainers are in middle cupboard, east wall.
- \* The coffee and tea pots are together with the cutting boards, east wall.

**PLEASE** return all items you use to the drawers and cupboards as labeled. There are over 10 different groups using the kitchen! We have to work together to keep our kitchen clean and tidy so our programs can continue to run smoothly.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!



[pinterest.com](https://www.pinterest.com)



“...and not on that TV show Daddy’s watchin’ or Billy jumpin’ on the bed or whatever Jeffy is mumbling or ...”



“Sorry, but tonight looks like it’s just gonna be a rerun of last night’s prayers.”

# MEMORIES OF CORAL

*Submitted By Karen Forgrave*

I was a student in Sunday School, and fairly new to St. James when Rev. Coral arrived one Sunday morning. I still remember how she presented her name to us in Children's Time at the front of the church.

She had a piece of coral from the ocean, and asked if we knew what it was. We discussed coral briefly - how it is amazing that it is actually thousands of tiny animals who work together, but it is like a plant, because it permanently attaches itself to the ocean floor and stays rooted in one place.

Rev. Coral then held up a small stone and we identified it (with some prompting) as a "pebble". Rev. Coral then explained that her last name was kind of like this pebble that was rolling down a hill, because you had to get that "r" sound (or a "rolling r sound"! in it..."pebble" became "Prebble"!

After this clever introduction, we would never forget that the new minister's name was "Coral Prebble"! In hindsight, Rev. Coral has a very appropriate name. She has stayed rooted in one place (at St. James church), and is an important part of the foundation, or superstructure, taking care of the many people at St. James United Church, letting us build upon

her strenghts to create our special community - just like coral in the ocean. Just as coral does not appear to sleep, anyone who has received emails from Rev. Coral at all hours of the night would also argue that she does not appear to sleep, but appears to be constantly in motion, just like the tiny coral polyps.

Her "fingers" are constantly moving...typing emails and sermons, dialing and answering phone calls, helping people by laying on of hands in Reiki, driving to visit people in the hospital. etc. She never stops! Thank you for giving us such a great foundation on the ocean floor, Coral!



*picture by Carol Jones*

## MEMORIES OF CORAL

*Submitted By Myrna and Mike Markovich*

My mother-in-law was of Greek Orthodox tradition in her native country of Ukraine, before she immigrated to Canada as a young woman of 22. She was subsequently unchurched but when she died in 1995, my husband and I asked Rev. Coral Prebble to officiate at her funeral service and she accepted without hesitation. We were very pleased with Rev. Coral's time and gentle attention to the service, while my mother-in-law's traditional family and friends in attendance were thrilled with the Life Story approach to a service of remembrance.

In 2016 my own mother died. She was a member of another United Church in Etobicoke and I asked her minister to officiate. That minister asked me to look after the music. I was stuck. One very early morning I emailed Rev. Coral in some state of panic and requested assistance. Seeing the 4 a.m. time of the email, Coral responded by mid morning and came to my rescue. She was also influential in describing my mother's core essence which in turn supported the officiating minister's words. Rev. Coral also attended the funeral service. I was surprised and very appreciative of her attendance at this rather small service of remembrance.

## MORE MEMORIES OF CORAL

*Submitted By Judy Jones*

All through the years Coral has been a treasured gift to our St. James congregation. She has brought us her deep spirituality, her wisdom, her seeming boundless energy, her passion for justice, her deep pastoral caring, her good humour, and always her search for new and fresh ideas.

The gift I am especially grateful for is Coral's constant search and exploration of new ideas, new concepts and new approaches to respond to God's love and celebrate God's creation of life.

I am so grateful for Coral's willingness and desire to share her discoveries with our congregation. Some of these ideas may have rested uncomfortably with us but Coral loved us and trusted us enough to share her new discoveries. And take us along, if we chose, with her.

I feel so blessed by Coral's willingness to expose and share her journey with us. Thank you Coral.

Many blessings, much love in your retirement. Exciting days still ahead!

## MORE MEMORIES OF CORAL

*Submitted By Pam Lowry*

Have you had the misfortune to be sick or in hospital? Then you will have had the good fortune to be visited by Coral, as I have. She is cheery, optimistic, comforting, and warm. She prays with and for you, and lifts your spirits. She administers Reiki should you wish it, and I do believe this contributed to my healing. None of us wishes to be ill, but should that occur, Coral will be there for us. Thank you Coral. “I was sick and you visited me” Matthew ch 25, v. 36



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## MORE MEMORIES OF CORAL

*Submitted by Olga Marie Thompson*

I joined St. James UC only recently, yet I wish I had joined a lot earlier in view of Rev. Coral's retirement. When I met her for the first time I instinctively knew, beyond the shadow of a doubt, that her church was the church I wanted to belong to. I especially enjoy how she calls the children to the front for story time. I like how she sits on the stairs communicating with them, at eye level, about a particular Bible topic or event. This scenario evoked such strong childhood memories in me, as my mom would read to me from an illustrated children's Bible. I clearly remember a special picture showing Jesus sitting on the grass surrounded by little children with sheep and lambs peacefully grazing in the background. Her amazing sermons always come interwoven with modern-day relevance that shake the listeners to the core instilling compassion, sympathy and willingness to act upon threats to our environment and help alleviate evil. She even manages to follow up with workshops and speakers who are experts on the various subjects telling us how we can contribute to a better world. I also stand in awe of her amazing honesty about herself and when I commented on it she humbly replied, "well yes, of course, how could I possibly expect my

parishioners to be totally honest with me if I am not 100% trustworthy myself". All I could offer in return was " I wish I had joined your church so much earlier. God bless and all the best always."

P.S. May you never lose your contagious smile that evokes comfort and happiness.

## MORE MEMORIES OF CORAL

*Submitted by Marg Arscott*

There aren't enough wonderful superlatives to describe Rev Coral. She has dedicated her time and talents to St. James and its members. She is always willing to listen to the woes of others. She has done so much for this church. She will be "terribly" missed, however we wish her all the best in her future endeavours. Hopefully we will see one of her plays as she travels across Canada with the acting group. Keep in touch.