



ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

FEBRUARY 2023

Volume 19, Issue 4
February 2023



*Welcome to the Church of St. James', Orillia
Whether you are a follower of Christ, or on a spiritual
journey, all are welcome to this Holy and Sacred place.*



FROM ARCHDEACON JOHN

Dear Friends in Christ,

Come and See: Beginning the New Year, 2023

Some of you may have read the January edition of the Anglican Journal and found it distressing. It reported that statistics show membership dropping in our churches by about 10 per cent nationwide during 2020. Also, a similar decrease is expected to be reported for 2021. The rate of decline accelerated during the pandemic. As well, we know that several people who stayed at home during the pandemic have not returned to church. Not a great way to start a New Year's letter!

I might as well hit you with some other bad news up front. While we came through 2022 with our budget balanced, this was due to a number of factors: the hard work of your Wardens and Treasurer; you making your commitments to our offerings budgeted for 2022; all of us keeping our expenses down; the good news of finding grants and donations for the feeding programs, and Pennywise doing very well; and we did have the gracious benefit of a bequest. However, we will still face a large deficit for 2023. The reality is that because of the size of our congregation, we are finding it difficult to sustain our building, programs, administration, and even a full-time cleric.

I do believe we will find a framework of sustainability for 2023, which will allow us to get on with the important work of congregational development. However, before I speak to congregational development, there are some gems of wisdom cited in the Anglican Journal, which are important to our churches.

First, as stated in the article, "there's more to the church than the number of its members – and numeric decline is no reason for despair." The reality is that there will be fewer parishes, but they should also be healthier parishes.

Two, this is not your fault or mine. We are witnessing a reworking of the spiritual, religious, and moral framework in secular society. What is happening to the Anglican Church is happening not only to other denominations, but to service clubs, community groups, and schools.

Three, the Christian story is important to people; the good news of Jesus Christ is sought after. We must move out of our comfort zone and share this good news.

All of this, of course, raises important questions. What will 2023 bring us? How do we respond to these challenges in the new year? What is the role each of us has as a Christian at St. James' and in Orillia? There is no one answer and solution. However, let me make a few suggestions.

I will continue to regularly speak to financial issues and make you aware of our fiscal situation. It would be remiss of me not to do so.

I continue to believe in adaptive leadership and risk taking. Everything is on the table to be considered as we grow our church. "Traditional" and "contemporary" are just words. What is important is that when we say, "Come and See," we are inviting the person into a relationship with the triune God.

Continued on page 2



Our Vision - A strong faith community, reflecting God's Love to those around us.
Our Mission - To serve and share Jesus Christ
Our Values - Faith, Compassion, Integrity, Respect

Regionalization, hub ministry, shared ministry and resources, small group ministry, a community-centered approach and shared administrative expenses will be common words that you will hear and that will be talked about in the coming months. This is the path forward for our churches in the Diocese of Toronto, including Orillia. I know why we resist these trends: because we feel that it means we are only closing churches. However, this is not the case. It provides ways of coming together as a community to do the work of Christ. The reality is that our buildings and parish model (including how we have traditionally done outreach and ministry) were constructed for a different time, and all of us, St. James' included, must honestly assess if they make sense for our current time.

Going back to Christian basics or "Christianity 101" is in order. Our focus must be on worship and coming together as a community of faithful people. In worship we share our faith in Jesus Christ with other people. Perhaps a first step is inviting your own family to come back to church. The second step is that we know there are some St. James' members who have not returned after the pandemic: what about reaching out to them, too? The third step is to invite your neighbour, friend, or colleague to church. Please continue to make the gracious invitation to "Come and See"!

Finally, how do we make our worship space available to everyone seven days per week and not just on Sunday? Can we extend the invitation of "Come and See" in new and different ways? Perhaps it is in the form of a coffee hour during the week, more concerts or plays or play readings, or educational studies -- the possibilities are endless.

The new year is the time we make new resolutions for the year ahead. Sometimes they work and often they get shelved. However, it is not the outcome that is important but often it is the expectation of improving ourselves that makes us take on such resolutions. This gives us new hope and joy. Perhaps all of us can make a resolution just to be "present" at St. James' to "Come and See"!

Yours in Christ
Archdeacon John

A.C.W. UPDATE AND THANK YOU!



This fall has been a very busy time for the ACW executive and their faithful workers. As others have reported, a very successful Fashion Show and High Tea was put on in mid-November by the Pennywise Shop and the ACW in partnership. Then the annual St Nick's Shopping Day was in the Stubleby auditorium, on Sat 3 Dec, while crafts, baking, knitting, sewing and artwork were for sale in the parlour. And amidst all of these goings-on, we were hard at work on the Christmas Wish Gift project under Mae Cox's leadership. With the fantastic support of the parish, 68 children and their parents had a Christmas with gifts under the tree and food on their table (100 individuals in total).

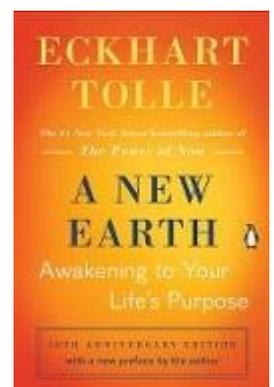
We wish to send out a BIG thank you to all who donated their time, their talents, and their financial support to support our work during late 2022. May you all have a blessed and restful winter season. Until next time.....

Julia Nicholls

ST. JAMES' BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

The St. James' Book Discussion Group will be meeting February 13th, 2023. Come join us in the Upper Room at 10 a.m. to discuss the first four chapters of 'A New Earth, Awakening to Your Life's Purpose' by Eckhart Tolle. Tolle is a popular self-help author who has also generated controversy and criticism within Christian circles as to what he writes. Come and join us for what is likely to be a lively discussion with the sharing of different perspectives and thoughts based on the first four chapters.

Linda Davidson



WHAT DO WE CALL YOU NOW?



Thank you for your prayers and support as I assume my new roles as a Territorial Archdeacon.

As indicated in Bishop Andrew's recent letter, I will be responsible for the archdeaconry of the East (Durham-Northumberland, Oshawa and Peterborough). The suffragan bishop for the East will be Bishop Riscylla Shaw. Bishop Riscylla will also be the Bishop for the archdeaconry of the North which includes Orillia or Huronia Deanery. In the next few months, I will transition out of my roles as Canon Pastor for the Diocese of Toronto and Regional Dean for Huronia. As three of the new archdeacons are priests of large parishes, it was decided that we would be assigned different territories from our parishes so there could be no real or apparent conflict of interest.

Without getting too technical, the archdeaconry is a division of the diocese for administrative purposes and reporting to a Bishop. The work involved is about one day per week which is like my other duties as Regional Dean and Canon Pastor. In a sense the Archdeacon represents the will of the bishop. Putting it another way, we are their eyes and ears and will help clergy with property matters, grants, policies, liturgical standards, etc.

A number of you have asked what to call me (and please no mumbling under your breath)? In any formal listing, an Archdeacon is referred to as 'the Venerable'. A letter or email may start, 'Dear Archdeacon'. In conversation, an Archdeacon is usually referred to as 'Archdeacon'. However, that is a mouthful, and I am most happy with 'John'!

Peace and God's Grace be with you.
John

FundScrip
Where Shopping is Fundraising!

A Great Way to Support St. James' While Giving to Others!

What: Gift card program that gives a percentage to our Church

Who: Most major retailers and more! (gas, groceries, entertainment, etc.)

Where: Across Canada

When: Right now! Great way to budget for household shopping

Why: To support St. James' Church

How: Pick up Order Forms by calling the church office;
Place order the first Sunday of each month,
Pick up gift cards the following Sunday

FOOD BANK SUNDAY

First Sunday of every month

Our Green Bags are located in the narthex for your use. Fill them with any item listed here. They will be delivered to The Sharing Place Food Bank. Cash Donations are welcomed and can be at the church office.

Thank you!!

Food Donations: Most Needed Items

- Fresh Produce from your garden (or seaweed)
- Canned vegetables or Fruit
- Meat in a Can (CORN, Beans), Chicken Soup, Soups, etc.)
- Soup (Canned or Dry (MI, Noodles, etc.))
- Canned Tomato Products
- Pork and Beans
- Canned Meat (tuna, ham, etc.)
- Tuna or Salmon
- Pastries (bagged or canned)
- Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter (smooth or crunchy)
- Powdered Milk
- Rice
- Salt (iodine)
- Instant Cereal (hot or cold)
- Crackers
- Juice
- Baby Products (diapers, wipes, foot formula, biscuits, etc.)
- Toiletries

*Please check expiry dates before donating food items.
*Sorry, but Health Regulations prevent our accepting homemade preserves.

*"Love bears all things; believes all things; hopes all things; endures all things.
1 Corinthians 13:7*





A GREAT ROUND OF APPLAUSE...

...for the folks who volunteered for The Salvation Army Christmas Kettles

On behalf of the Parish, I would like to thank the following folks for volunteering to support the Salvation Army Christmas Kettles. St James' Anglican Church provided the man and lady power to cover two days and locations of bell ringing and fund raising.

Wendy Slattery, Betty Hodgkinson, Kate Allen, Maryan Vincent, David Freeman, Doug and Julia Nicholls, Joyce Hird, Len Glowa, Jen Hill and Jeri Stone helped support the tremendous work that The Salvation Army does among the poor and less fortunate.

Again, thank you for your support of this worthwhile project.

Mr. Bill Manley



ADVENT CONSPIRACY OUTCOME

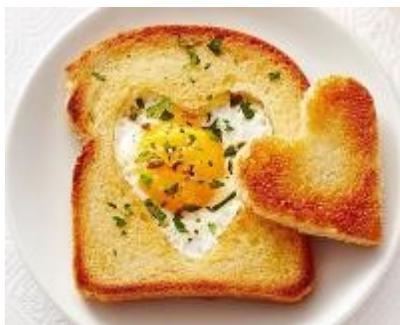
Kenya Mission Trip

May 18 - June 3

The St. James' Kenyan Mission team is so grateful to the parishioners of St. James' for fantastic support of our Advent Conspiracy campaign. You donated \$2490 to the purchase of essential food elements to be given to Kibera slum dwellers in urgent need of assistance with food for their families. The food staples will be managed by the clergy of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in the Kibera slum of Nairobi, Kenya. The Holy Trinity compound also houses the medical/dental clinics from which we provide our free medical/lab services, and an elementary school as well as the church. It is a great way to distribute food to those most needy in the immediate area. Thank you for your generous assistance.

Rosemarie Freeman

HOW IS IT GOING WITH SUNDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST?

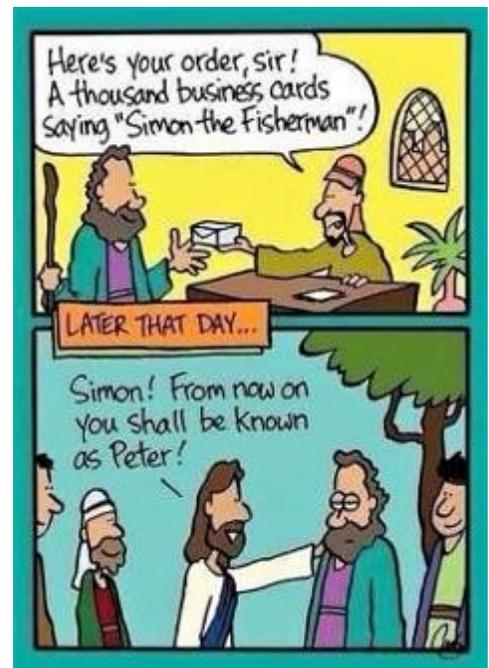


For six months now St. James' has been offering a Free Community Breakfast every Sunday morning in the auditorium. There are 5 different teams (St. James', St. David's x 2, community x 2), each taking one Sunday a month to cook and serve a lovely hot meal. Some of the menus include pancakes and sausages, bacon and eggs, toast, fried potatoes, burritos as well as fresh fruit and cold cereals if desired. Attendance varies but generally 50-60 people attend. It is an ecumenical venture with St. David's and St. Athanasius participating in the teams and with some funding from the Lutheran Church as well and members of the Orillia community too. Anyone is welcome to breakfast including all parishioners, so feel free to come in for breakfast between 8.30 and 9.30 a.m. every Sunday. Food donations are received weekly from Giant Tiger, occasionally from The Sharing Place as well as from some of our very generous parishioners. This is so much appreciated.

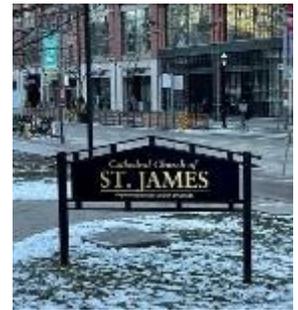
Rosemarie Freeman



Loonies having fun!



(Cartoon by "Inherit the Mirth")



CONGRATULATIONS to our very own Archdeacon John Anderson!! What a wonderful afternoon at St. James Cathedral in Toronto at the installation service! (Sunday January 15)

Three ways you can celebrate with us:
In-person Sundays at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m.
Livestream at 10 a.m. on YouTube

Sunday 10 a.m. recordings can be viewed any time from our Past-Virtual Services

CENTERING PRAYER AND MEDITATION TUESDAY AT 12 NOON in person in Upper Room



Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of the experience of God's presence within us. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, it adds depth to all prayer and facilitates the movement into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.

George Sanders leads the group. For more info contact office@stjamesorillia.com or 705-325-2742



FAMILY HAM DINNER SUNDAY FEBRUARY 12 at 5 P.M. Doors open at 4 p.m.

Sign up in the narthex, auditorium or phone office by Feb. 5.

All members of St. James' Family are welcome.

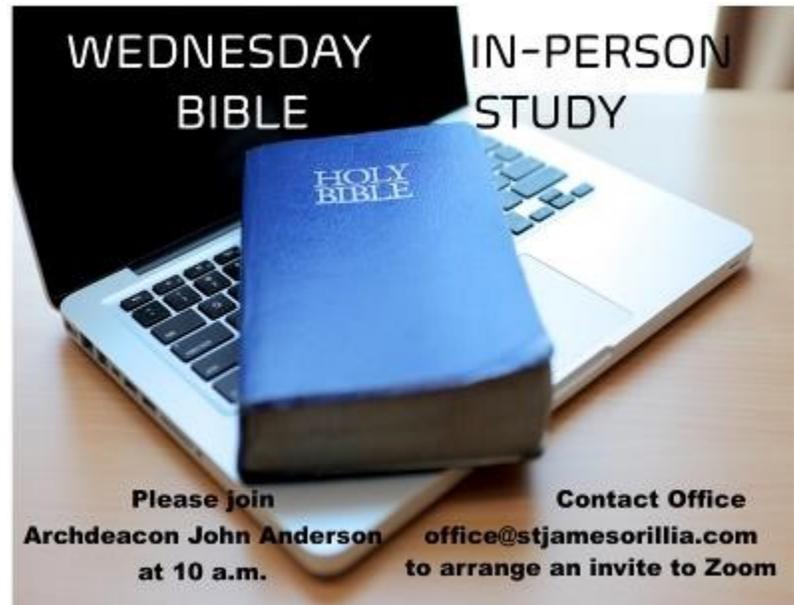
TEA AT THREE



Thursdays at 3:00 from 3:30 p.m.
A Zoom meeting with no agenda other to connect with other Church friends face to face for a casual time. Anyone wishing to join contact Christine Blair church office email at office@stjamesorillia.com for an invitation.



WE WOULD LOVE TO SEE YOU!



WEDNESDAY BIBLE IN-PERSON STUDY

Please join Archdeacon John Anderson at 10 a.m. Contact Office office@stjamesorillia.com to arrange an invite to Zoom



ST. JAMES' CHURCH WALKERS and THE COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

The Lighthouse in Orillia has completed an awesome new facility which includes an emergency shelter (40 emergency beds for men, women, youth, and families), the Soup Kitchen Cafe, a separate wing with 5 separate bedroom spaces for youth experiencing homelessness - named by the James A. Burton Family Foundation and wraparound supports such as addictions counselling, mental health counselling, life skills training, spiritual support. That's where your money will go.

If you click on the link below after you copy it into your browser, it will connect you to my personal fundraising page where you can donate securely. Or join the Team like Rosemarie and Joyce!! Thanks! Bill

<https://secure.e2rm.com/registrant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=990745&langPref=en-CA>

PS. Please visit the CNOY website (Coldest Night of the Year 2023 - Home (cnoy.org) and The Lighthouse website The Lighthouse (orillialighthouse.ca)

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES and WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday February 5, 12, 19, 26

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist
8:30—9:30 Community Breakfast
10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday February 7, 14, 21, 28

12 noon Centering Prayer
12 p.m. Pennywise Shop

Wednesday February 1, 8, 15, 22

10 a.m. Bible Study
10: a.m. to 12 noon Loonie Lunch
12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

Wednesday February 22

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Thursday February 2, 9, 16, 23

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday February 5

Food Bank & Fundscrip Sunday

Tuesday February 7

A.C.W. meeting 2 p.m.

Sunday February 12

Family Ham Dinner 5 p.m.

Monday February 13

Book Discussion 10 a.m.
Ministry Council via zoom 7 p.m.

Tuesday February 21

Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Supper
hosted by Venturers - Time (TBA)

Sunday February 26

Vestry at the 10:30 a.m. service

Tuesday February 28

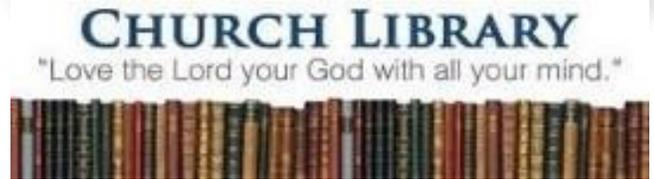
Pastoral Care Meeting 2 p.m.

FREE SUNDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST



**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

**Every Sunday
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.
in St. James'
Auditorium**



**HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO GET TO THE LIBRARY?
LET THE LIBRARY COME TO YOU!**

At Coffee Hour beginning February 26, there will be a selection of library books available for you to borrow. Come to the auditorium and while you are enjoying coffee or tea, you will be able to browse the available books. We will try to continue doing this on the last Sunday of each month. If you are aware that you already have a church library book that is overdue, would you kindly drop it off, either at the office or the library? Many thanks.

Sue Glowa



It's a New Year! THINK BIG.
Even if you think it's all a pipe dream.
Meg Casebow

*"For I know the plans I have for you." declares the LORD,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future."
Jeremiah 29: 11*

Your Ministry Council

Anyone interested in reading the current Ministry Council minutes may contact the Church office for a copy. A copy is also posted on Bulletin Board in Hall.

Are you ill? In the Hospital? Now in a nursing home?

If you or someone you know from our congregation is ill, in the hospital or has moved to a nursing home, please let us know by calling the church office. **We have no other way of knowing**, as the hospital and nursing homes are no longer permitted to give this information out due to the Privacy Act.

Hospital Pastoral Care

Having met the required hospital protocols, Mae Cox, our Pastoral Care Visitor for OSMH, is now able to actually visit patients in person. If you know anyone from our Parish Family who is in Soldiers, please notify the Church Office so a visit can be arranged.

Newsletter Sponsorship

Each month we ask for a sponsor to support the publication of our parish newsletter. Many of our family receive it via the internet but many still enjoy receiving the paper copy and/or they might not have access to a computer. The donation of \$100.00 each month pays to produce our internet copies, the paper copies and their mailing. Please contact Phyllis in the office 705-325-2742 if you would like to sponsor a month.

Fundscrip

The Fundscrip deadline is **Sunday February 5**. Orders and cheques (payable to St James' church) can be dropped off in the bin at the Gardys'. If you need directions, please call Phyllis in the office 325-2742. Pick up will be **Friday February 10**. Thank you for your continued support of this beneficial project.

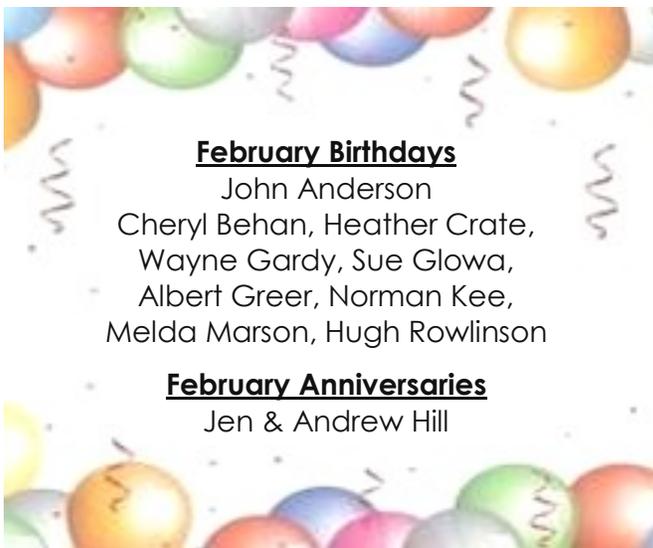


FUNNY CHURCH SIGNS

Inventor of the wind chill factor died recently. He was 82, but felt like he was 64.

Sundays carbs don't count. Those are the Lords carbs and He wants you to be happy.

Less hate, more pancakes.



February Birthdays

John Anderson
 Cheryl Behan, Heather Crate,
 Wayne Gardy, Sue Glowa,
 Albert Greer, Norman Kee,
 Melda Marson, Hugh Rowlinson

February Anniversaries

Jen & Andrew Hill

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