



ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

APRIL 2024

Volume 19, Issue 6
April 2024



*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 THE DESK OF ARCHDEACON JOHN

The first St. James' Visioning Session happened on Saturday, March 2, 2024. We had a good turnout of people, and it was a very informative discussion with excellent input.

What we did:

Visioning process to identify 'Pillars of Purpose and Strength' through the lens of:

St. James' Mission – To serve and share Jesus Christ

St. James' Vision – A strong faith community reflecting God's love for those around us

St James' Values – Faith, compassion, integrity, respect

How we did it:

Considered three broad subjects, reflecting on their current state and a future vision:

- Building/Property
- Ministries/Leadership
- Stewardship

We talked about being 'David' (vs Goliath), focusing on an adaptive response on our own terms during this time of challenge and change for all churches. We discussed not dwelling on challenges but thinking about aspirations and opportunities around how to move forward, with the eventual outcome being a series of practical steps on which we can work further with the Diocese and other partners.

Future Vision: Building/Property

- How to open our space for believers and seekers – are physical changes needed?
- Continue to manage and expand the variety of activities/programs held in church spaces.
- How to feed the soul spiritually through our space ("spiritual renewal" as per Bishop Asbil) – engage with and grow diverse and innovative worship. Do we use the auditorium for a new service?
- While we have a family/community feeling, is it actually family/community friendly? Is it a safe/welcoming space for youth, for example?
- How to better connect with community groups – but recognizing challenges in balancing rental income vs meeting social justice needs. Also, given revenue generation is needed, focus should be on an anchor tenant. What are the limitations of our space to find an anchor tenant?
- Much interest in developing front green space (space for music, other gatherings?)
- Need for greater volunteer/staff base to support different uses of physical space
- Realization that much of our space is not accessible, has windows and is not suitable for leasing. Should a group be formed to undertake an accessibility audit? How do we make the worship space accessible for all of us?

Continue on next page

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



When Spring returns,
the earth becomes
a child who recites
poetry.
~Rainer Maria Rilke

Future Vision of Ministries/Leadership

- Working together regionally (i.e., regionalization models being considered)
- Manage a balanced number of ministries, scaled to volunteer capacity and resources to support leadership for a sustainable future.
- Need inventory of ministries – and if keeping, in what form and in what location
- Need for paid leadership positions given the complexities of certain outreach ministries.
- Focus on the next generation: Challenge of how to get from here to there when there's a gap in ages and presence of younger people.
- Using available resources; talking to other churches and looking online about relevant issues such as youth ministry (suggestion to connect with ministerial; suggestion to look at Alpha as a possible model)
- Considering what our target audience is vis a vis youth/family ministry.
- Reviewing the Ministry Council model in the context of regionalization.

Stewardship

In addition to the management and security of our properties, Stewardship in this context is defined as "fostering a climate of giving to help ensure the financial health and viability of the parish."

Future state:

- Goal of enjoying a steady state annual budget
- Building relationships, including stewardship that looks outside faith-based support within the church to community engagement.
- Develop a robust membership to support all levels of volunteerism.
- Importance of communication – regular updates
- Encourage budgeted, planned giving (pledging??)
- Challenge of possibly finding an anchor tenant in the space we have available.
- Challenge of constantly seeking grant monies

Next Steps

A second visioning session will be held with the same format to consider the topics of Worship, and Young People/Family Ministry. In addition, we will come back to our discussion about the building as it does relates to our worship space. We would ask that you mark your calendars for **Sunday, May 5th following the 10 a.m. service.**

REGIONALIZATION TOWN HALL

On Sunday, March 17th following the service, we had an excellent turnout to talk about the two models of regionalization which were circulated in the March newsletter. If you recall, the two models were the Hub Model and the New Parish Model. The New Parish Model received overwhelming approval should the Diocese move in this direction. However, some very legitimate concerns were raised:



- if the incumbent of St. James' becomes the incumbent for all the other parishes, this will mean that part of his time will be spent on administration to support these parishes. Therefore, these parishes will have to financially support part of the incumbent's clergy compensation.
- How can we work on a greater sharing of administration resources, particularly the type of work that Phyllis does and bookkeeping? It does not make sense that each parish should do this type of work and these costs can be shared and efficiencies found. We also need to encourage the sharing of resources of volunteers, studies, use of space, pastoral care, etc.
- The only way this model can work is if there is proper staffing. This does not necessarily mean more clergy as we do have a lot of retired clergy and lay-readers who can do services. Rather people with skill sets such as administration, young people ministry, or outreach should be considered.

The next step will be a meeting with the Wardens and clergy of the parishes which will be chaired by Canon Administrator Laura Walton.

'Inuvialuit Reflections on Shingle Point Residential School, The Diary & Photographs of Bessie Quirt', by Ethel-Jean Gruben, Val Marie Johnson, Lena Kotokak, and Lucy Kuptana, Inuvialuit Regional Corp., 2023, 102 pages.

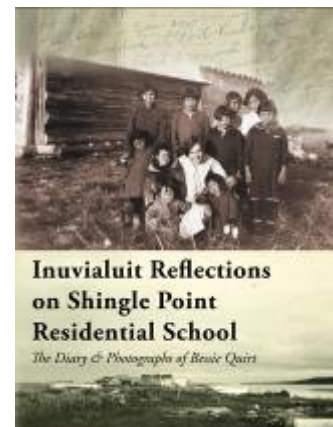
Many of you may remember the photo of Bessie that was in the church auditorium. Bessie was born in the Parry Sound District, arrived in Orillia before 1921, trained as a schoolteacher, and taught school for 4 years. This gave her the qualifications to train as a missionary in 1928 in Toronto. In the fall of 1929, she traveled to Shingle Point in the Yukon with 3 others to open the first Inuit residential school. She remained there until 1932.

The "Reflections" was written by members of that community and was described as "a collaborative and community reclaiming of residential school history and its archival evidence. We hope it allows a meaningful reckoning with colonialism, with a focus on the Inuit and their lands often ill-understood outside." The introduction is critical of the government and the role of the first missionaries.

The diary entries and photographs have been used by the present community to reconstruct Inuit family histories and notes have been made between diary entries about those connections. Bessie writes about her interaction with the environment, the other missionaries and visitors, and the Inuit. I would have liked to have read more about the Inuit families in the community.

There are reports that St. James' Church supported Bessie and the residential school. Bessie often waited anxiously for mail and parcels from family and friends and the Women's Association regularly sent bales of clothing and supplies for the children. After serving in a second residential school in Quebec, Bessie returned to Orillia and served St. James' as a deaconess, secretary, and president of ACW branches.

Fred Blair



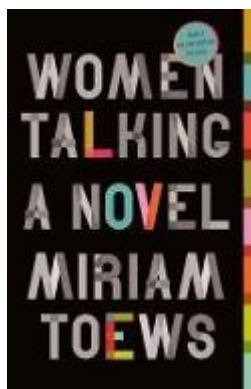
GERALD DEATH

How many remember Gerald Death who was the organist at St. James' from 1956 until his passing in 1981? This great photo of Gerald at the St. James' pipe organ was taken by another St. James' member, Fred Noakes, in the 1970's. The same 1949/1950 Casavant organ is still in use every week, although it has had many revisions and improvements over the years.

ST. JAMES' BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - APRIL 8

The St. James' Book Discussion Group will be meeting April 8th, at 10 a.m. to discuss 'Women Talking', a novel by Canadian author Mariam Toews. Based on real events in a Bolivian Mennonite community, Toews' fictional characters explore options in response to the arrests of some of the men before their release back to their community, evaluating the associated moral, ethical, and theological implications while remaining faithful to a system used to abuse them so brutally. All are welcome to join us for a lively discussion and the sharing of perspectives and insights.

Linda Davidson



UPDATE ON FOX LAKE, ALBERTA



Fox Lake is the far northern community that the Social Justice and Outreach Committee has provided support to over the past several years through funds directed to the school allowing additional needs of students to be met. Last May, the entire community was evacuated due to the Paskwa wildfire which had significant impacts immediately and that still continue today as the community rebuilds.

As of January, the two schools reopened with about 2/3rds of the community returning to live in Fox Lake, either in professionally cleaned homes or in new housing. The Chief and Council saw the devastation of the fire as also being an opportunity to rebuild Fox Lake as it should be, not as it was. Housing is being significantly improved - there have been 32 homes built with another 31 to go. In addition, 100 tiny homes have been built with another 90 still to be built. The tiny homes are essentially bunkies and while they don't provide a full living space, they do expand sleeping space significantly for the many multigenerational households that were previously living in a 2-3 bedroom house, which often meant multiple people sharing a single room or turning common living spaces into sleeping quarters at night. The teachers are hopeful there will be a payoff as well with students being able to sleep better! Additional funding is being looked into for those who did not have their own home before but have been displaced due to the housing shortage. A 250-person tent camp is being brought in to house both workers and those still living in similar accommodation in John D'Or across the Peace River.



In addition to the two schools reopening, nursing services have returned to serve the community for basic and emergency medical care and to provide medications, though those with serious health conditions still have to be flown out via bush plane to major medical centres. The RCMP fly officers in for weekly rotations and 24/7 security is provided by a contracted security service. The Northern store is now open in a temporary building Monday to Friday, and mail delivery has returned. In addition, attention has been paid to support the community members by introducing several mental health-related resources and more stringent by-laws dealing with alcohol and drug use. The rebuilding and related work has also created new employment opportunities for community members as well as additional training opportunities.



Despite the optimism, the community may still be vulnerable to another fire given its setting combined with a continuation of extreme drought. Alberta Wildfire Services spent the month of January putting out hot spots surrounding the immediate community and debris removal is ongoing to remove potential fuel sources. That said many root fires and underground fires are still burning and will pose a significant threat to the community come the summer, especially if the drought continues. Still there is hope that the moves made to renew Fox Lake will continue unimpeded over the next year.

Linda Davidson

*"The church is not a museum for saints,
it is a hospital for sinners"*
Saint Augustine

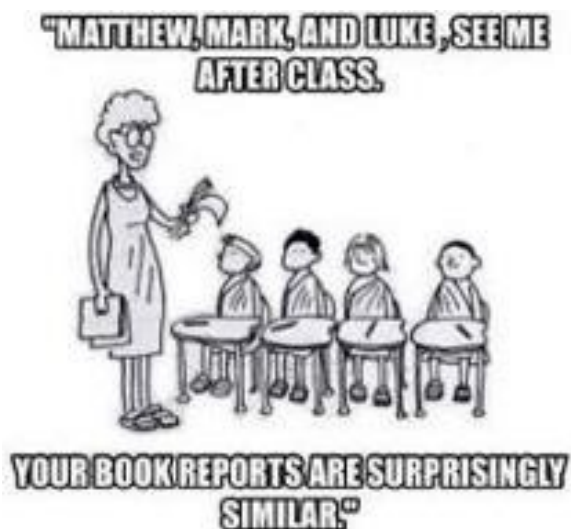
ST. JAMES' RECONCILIATION CIRCLE

The St. James' Reconciliation Circle is pleased to announce two upcoming events for your consideration.

Mary Lou Meiers, Curator of the Ojima Miskwaaki Gallery at St. Paul's Centre, will visit us at noon on Sunday, April 14th. She will bring one work of art from the second round of the art project (TRC Call to Action #83) and speak to us about the project and her own settler perspective. All are welcome to attend in the parlour. Light refreshments will be served.

Bishop Riscylla Shaw is a suffragan (or assisting) bishop in the Diocese of Toronto. She will visit us on Wednesday, April 24th from 1 to 4 p.m. She is actively involved in working with the National Indigenous Anglican Church in reconciliation with the colonial church. As such, she wants to hear about the work of St. James' toward reconciliation and will talk about her own experience and that of the Anglican Church of Canada. All are encouraged and welcome to attend. Call the church office at 707-325-2742 if you plan to attend this function.

Please put these dates in your calendar!
Marilyn Clark



Funeral Planning Workshop

Sunday April 21
Following the 10 a.m. Service

Hosted by Lay-Pastoral Committee with guests from Mundell Funeral Home.

An informal and important conversation about funeral planning.

Please sign up on the signup sheet in the hall or advise Phyllis



Are ALL your ducks in a row?



The "construction crew" of
Palm Crosses on
Thursday March 21
Thank You!

FündScrip

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.

Thank you!!

TOP NEEDED ITEMS

- Canned Soup
 - Veg / Chicken Noodle / Mushroom / Tomato
- Canned Vegetables
 - Corn / Peas / Beans / Tomatoes
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Meat and Fish
- Pull Tab Canned Goods
- Rice
- Sugar
- Flour
- Tea Bags
- Instant and Ground Coffee
- Whole Grain, Low-Sugar Cereal
- Cooking Oils
- Broth / Bouillon Cubes
- Toilet Paper



FREE SUNDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST



**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

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

*A joint venture with St. David Anglican-Lutheran, St. Athanasius Anglican,
St. James' Anglican & Community Members.
Our goal is to provide food and fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*



Once again, we are requesting good used books to sell at the ACW Spring Sale on May 18. Thanks to everyone who has contributed in the past, we have been able to add new books to our library. Books may be dropped off at the church office.

We appreciate your support. Thank you
Sue Glowa

CENTERING PRAYER AND MEDITATION

TUESDAY AT 12 NOON in person in Choir 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

WEDNESDAY BIBLE IN-PERSON STUDY



**Please join
Archdeacon John Anderson at 10 a.m.**

COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR 2024

Well, we were successful again this year! The St. James' Walkers and independent participants from St. James' raised \$3,330 for the Coldest Night of the Year on February 24, 2024. We want to extend our congratulations and thanks to Joyce, Kevin, Irene, Joan, Michael and Mr. Bill for their efforts. Next year the walk will be on February 22, 2025. You can still donate to the programme that supports our Orillia Lighthouse until March 31, 2024.



ADVENT CONSPIRACY 2023 OUTCOME



Our Advent Conspiracy 2023 has contributed to the success of finally getting a new water truck into the community of Kingfisher Lake. The ice roads held out long enough to allow the delivery of the truck which is predicted to last 10-12 years on roads that are extremely tough on vehicles. Funding came not only from parishes but from PWRDF and some government monies. The total cost of the truck was \$236K. What a collective effort! Many thanks to St. James' support of this project.
Social Justice and Mission Committee

EASTER ISN'T OVER!

*Easter is the high point of our Gospel. Come share in the Church's fifty days of feasting, the most joyous season of the liturgical year, stretching from Easter to Pentecost - from the Resurrection through Jesus' Ascension to the Giving of the Holy Spirit.
Join us in praising God - Alleluia!*

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and SPECIAL EVENTS

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES and WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday April 7, 14, 21, 28

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Community Breakfast

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Tuesday April 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

12 noon Centering Prayer

12 p.m. Pennywise Shop

Wednesday April 3, 10, 17, 24

10 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. to 12 noon Loonie Lunch

11:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

Thursday April 4, 11, 18, 25

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

Friday April 5, 12, 19, 26

11:30 - 1 p.m. Knit/Crochet Group

Tuesday April 2

2 p.m. ACW Executive Mtg

Sunday April 7

Food Bank Sunday

FundScrip Sunday

Monday April 8

10 a.m. Book Discussion.

Saturday April 14

12 noon The Reconciliation Mtg

Tuesday April 16

2 p.m. Pastoral Care Mtg

Sunday April 21

Funeral Planning following 10 a.m. service

Wednesday April 24

1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Reconciliation Circle with Bishop Riscylla Shaw

Friday April 26

4 p.m. John Bell Memorial Service

Saturday April 27

10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Pennywise Shop

Saturday April 27

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Repair Cafe

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 the Bulletin Board in the 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 at 705-325-2742 if you would like to sponsor a month.

FundScrip

The Fundscrip deadline is **Sunday April 7**. Orders and cheques (payable to St James' church) can be dropped off at the Church office. Pick up will be **Sunday April 14**. Thank you for your continued support of this beneficial project.



FUNNY CHURCH BULLETINS

Kids were asked questions about old and new testaments. The following statements about the Bible were written by children. Incorrect spelling left in.

- The first commandment was when Eve told Adam to eat the apple.
- The seventh commandment is thou shall not admit adultery.
- The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.
- Lots wife was a pillar of salt during the day, but a ball of fire during the night.



April Birthdays

Sylvia Baker, John Fortune, Andrew Hill,
Leigh McCann, John Smith



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