



# ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

## MARCH 2024

Volume 19, Issue 5  
March 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.*



## HURONIA REGIONALIZATION

As part of our visioning process for St. James', there has been a parallel process going on for the last two years with respect to regionalization of **The Huronia Parishes:**

- St. James', Orillia
- St. David, Orillia
- St. Athanasius, Orillia
- St Paul, Washago
- St Luke, Prices Corners
- Good Samaritan, Port Stanton
- St George, Fairvalley
- St John, Waverley

We have worked together as a deanery to reimagine how we allocate clerical, financial, volunteer, and programming resources to maintain a vital and life-bringing presence in each community. There are two models under consideration.

There will be a separate visioning session on Sunday, March 17th to answer your questions and to get your input with respect to these two models.

### 1. Creating the Huronia Ministry Area

## Huronia Regionalization – Hub Model



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In the **long term**, this would mean that one parish would act as the hub or regional administrator serving the multiple sites. The authority stays at the parish level as each parish maintains separate Vestries (two Wardens, Treasurer, annual Vestry). In addition:

- Maintain separate bank accounts and have signing authority.
- Maintain CRA status and investments.
- Advisory Board replaced with a management board.
- Bookkeeping could be supported in common.
- Staffing for property/administrative support could be common.
- A fair share agreement would have to be reached for common expenses and units are paid to the Regional Church for administration.

A '**Huronion Regionalization Board**' will be created, for both models, to take on specific and overall administrative, financial, property, and governance for common matters of the parishes. However, in the hub model a major focus will be the relationship between the regional church and other parishes.

**The Ministry Team** would be the rector of St. James' given it is the largest church in the area. In a similar model, the rector can call upon other incumbents, associates, assistant-curates, retired clergy, and lay readers as part of the ministry team. While we have great lay-readers and retired clergy, there are no other full or part-time clergy in Huronia. It would mean looking for other clergy personnel.

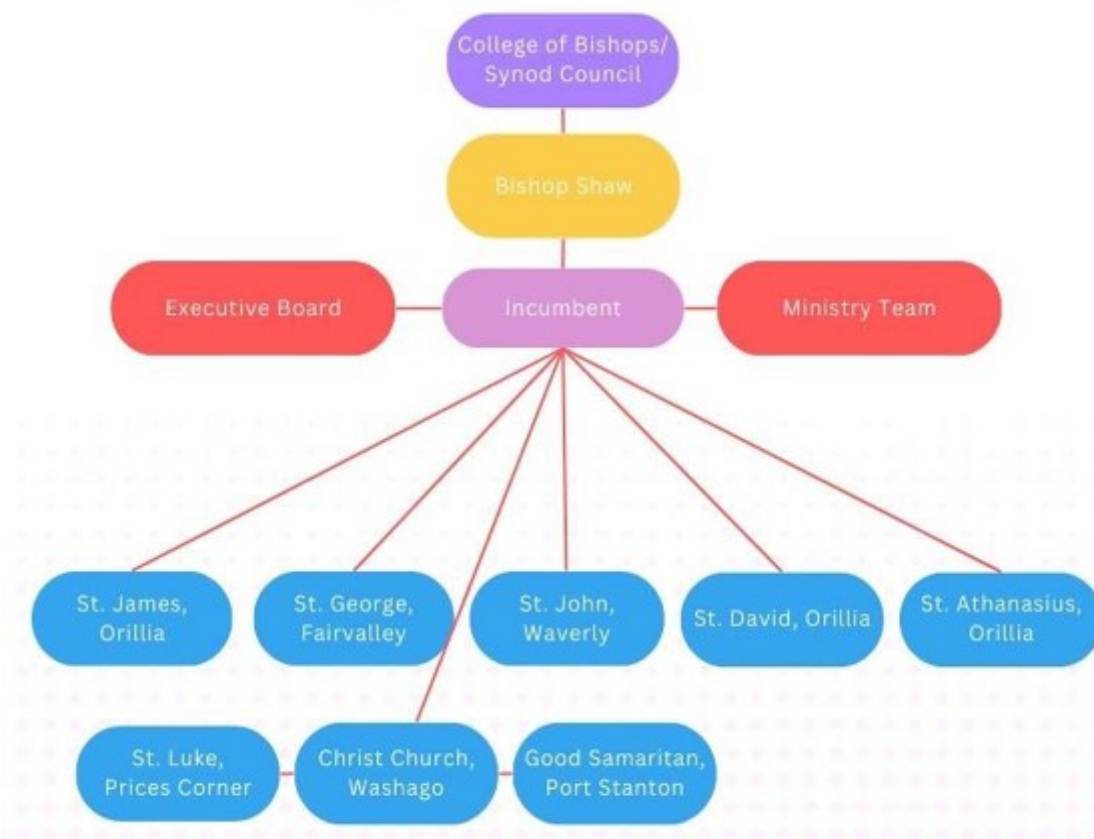
**Worship** would be led by the clergy and lay reader team set up by the administrative priest in the hub parish.

**Pastoral Care** will be offered as each parish will have a designated priest or deacon as their first call for pastoral care and emergencies.

This model works when there is a strong and well-resourced regional church. The impediment that St. James' faces is there is a lack of clergy, we have structural decline in congregational growth and revenue, and we have building issues that require ongoing attention and monies.

## 2. Forming a New Parish

### Huronion Regionalization – Parish Model



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As above the parishes retain their canonical vestries under the new Parish Model and we continue to work with an Executive Board. There is no hub parish. The ministry team focuses on the skills and gifts of each person with the incumbent of the new parish leading that team.

There will be need for an Associate and/or Assistant Curate and this will be done through both available funds from parishes and grants. The incumbent will be for all of the parishes and not just St. James'. This would mean a sharing of the incumbent's time and thus likely lead in a cost savings to the parish. Modelled on the Parish of the Valley in the Diocese of Ottawa, the ministry team would use their gifts to support the larger group as opposed to one parish.

### **Worship**

There would be services of either Morning Prayer or Eucharist at each church on Sunday. There would be a weekly meeting of the Ministry Team to work on services that would be the same in the parishes thus having uniformity. Training would be provided to lay-readers to take services in different parts of the parish boundaries.

### **Governance**

The Ministry Team would meet with the Executive Board and a church warden would take a turn on the Board. They would meet once per month. The important part of this parish model is that every parish would be canonical as there would be an incumbent who works in conjunction with the vestry for each parish.

### **Finance**

Each parish pays their allotment and their portion of clergy costs to the diocese and not the hub church. Each parish controls its financials and investments. However, as parishes begin to work with one another and share resources, it is common for them to also share financial resources.

### **Pastoral Care and Ministry**

There are opportunities for ministry partnerships between the congregations. Sharing of communications, outreach resources, and admin as needed can create strong ties between the group.



**PALM SUNDAY - March 24 - 8 a.m. & 10 a.m.**

At St. James' - Holy Eucharist  
Archdeacon John Anderson and Rev. Carol Hardie

**MAUNDY THURSDAY - March 28 - 7 p.m.**

At St. David's Anglican/Lutheran  
Solemn Liturgy of the Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar  
Archdeacon John Anderson and Rev. Carol Hardie



**GOOD FRIDAY - March 29 - 10 a.m.**

At St. James' - Archdeacon John Anderson and Rev. Carol Hardie  
Alex Andrews, violinist and St. James' Choir

**HOLY SATURDAY - March 30 - 6 p.m.**

At St. Athanasius with Bishop Riscylla and Rev. David Hardie



**EASTER SUNDAY - March 31 - 10 a.m. (one Service only)**

At St. James' - Archdeacon John Anderson and Rev. Carol Hardie  
Jeff Campbell, Pipe Organ; Robin Watson, Trumpet; Ryan Lamb, Drummer;  
Laura Christie, Trombone with Alexandra Teske, Lead Soprano;  
Christina Bosco, Lead Alto & the St. James' Choir & Guests

## A FOLLOW UP ON VISIONING SESSION



On March 2, 30 people attended our first visioning session to consider the theme 'The Pillars of Purpose and Strength'. The focus was on adaptive response to change, with the goal of being aspirational and considering practical steps forward on which we can work further with the Diocese. We discussed three broad categories:

### 1 – Building/Property

*Current State:* While the church is large, it allows for outreach, fellowship, and dynamic worship, and it has a holy and sacred feeling.

*Future Vision:* We discussed using the front green space as a community meeting place. We need to find an anchor tenant and perhaps undertake different services. The useability of some of our building is challenging. We need to further revisit this subject to address big questions, including the size of our space (is it too big for us?), using the space (sanctuary) during the week (do we take out pews?), balancing outreach and income streams, and the importance of ensuring complete accessibility.

### 2 – Ministries/Leadership

*Current State:* We have strong ministry programs, a passion for outreach, and a leadership team that supports the work of St. James' ministries.

*Future Vision:* We need to manage a balanced number of ministries scaled to volunteer capacity and ensure there are resources to support leadership for a sustainable future. This could involve seeking more volunteers outside the church. We need to develop new ministry leaders, particularly in Communication and Stewardship, and plan for succession of current leaders. Regionalization (in whatever model) could contribute to sharing resources and programs, including paid staffing for growth, particularly around ministry for children and youth.

### 3 – Stewardship

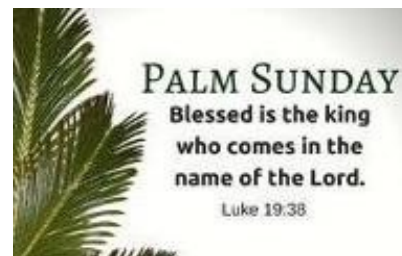
*In addition to the management and security of our properties, Stewardship in this context is defined as "fostering a climate of giving to help ensure the financial health and viability of the parish."*

*Current State:* St. James' experiences a stable level of giving through offerings and external grant funding (both community and diocesan). We have a small but strong group of volunteers.

*Future State:* We discussed the importance of communication and regular updates, planned giving, looking to community engagement beyond faith-based support, and the ongoing work of seeking grants.

Yours in Christ, Archdeacon John

## THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE



The Social Justice Committee is an important outreach ministry to St. James'. It has supported outreach to Honduras, Fox Lake, Water in the North, Couchiching House, the Coldest Night Walk, or the Kenya Mission. It also serves as an advocate on social justice issues that are relevant to our communities such as housing, the environment, and a living wage. Given the reality of tight budgets and declining volunteerism, we are currently reviewing our 2024 organization allocations to maximize our influence and are considering some changes to our committee. Perhaps with regionalization we may work with other parishes who share our passion for outreach and social justice. More information will be forthcoming and we will be asking for your input.

Rosemarie Freeman





St. James' Walkers at Coldest Night of the Year



Annual Vestry Sunday - Feb. 25th  
Thanking Kristie for being Rector's Warden



## 2024 LENTEN CHALLENGE

Lent is a period of reflection (prayer), and almsgiving. We take this opportunity to recall the gifts received in our own lives, remember the sacrifices our Lord made for our salvation and then make some sacrifice of our own.

This year we suggest that you make a monetary donation to St. James' Outreach Food Programmes –  
Loonie Lunch &  
Sunday Community Breakfast





## ST. JAMES' BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - MARCH 11

The St. James' Book Discussion Group will be meeting March 11th at 10 a.m. to discuss 'To Heaven and Back: A Doctor's Extraordinary Account of Her Death, Heaven, Angels, and Life Again. A True Story', an autobiographical account of the life of Dr. Mary Neal. She recounts her life, faith and beliefs and the transformative influence of her 'near death' experience on her spiritual journey and growth. Come join us to discuss this book or to simply listen to our comments and thoughts about this book.

Linda Davidson



*"The Function of Prayer is not to influence God,  
but rather to change the nature of the one who prays.  
Soren Kierkegaard*

### 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 relationship with Christ to communion with Christ.

George Sanders leads the group. For more info contact  
[office@stjamesorillia.com](mailto:office@stjamesorillia.com) or 705-325-2742

### FOOD BANK SUNDAY

First Sunday of every month



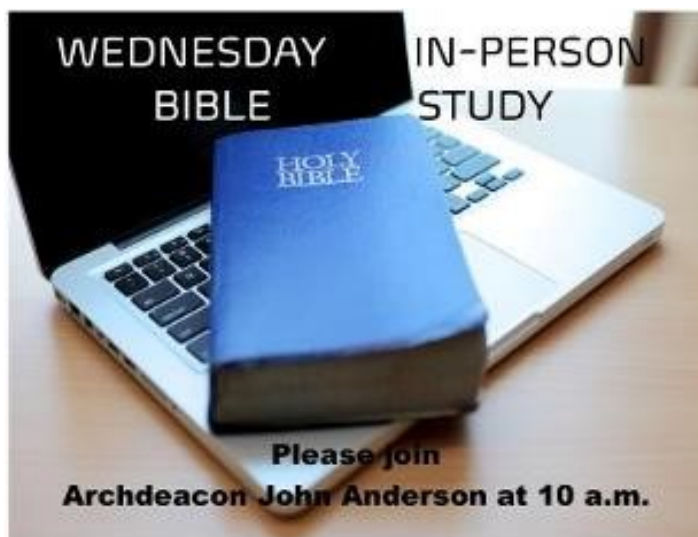
Our Green Bags  
are located in  
the narthex for your use.  
Fill them with any item  
listed here. They will be  
delivered to  
The Sharing Place Food  
Bank.

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**

### WEDNESDAY BIBLE IN-PERSON STUDY



Please join  
Archdeacon John Anderson at 10 a.m.

### 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.

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

FundScrip is a program that earns money for the church when you order gift cards for items that you buy every day! You pay face value for the card (a \$25 card costs you \$25) and the church receives a commission of between 2% and 10%. You can then use your gift card as cash at the store. You will still receive your customer loyalty points such as Airmiles, Aeroplan and PC Optimum!



These cards also make great gifts and are available for over two hundred retailers including grocery store, gas retailers, Amazon, shopping malls and hotels!

It is so easy to participate! Order forms are available at the back of the church, on the church website, or from the office. Orders with payment must be received at the church by 11 a.m. on the first Sunday of the month (the second Sunday if Monday is a bank holiday). Payment is by cheque payable to St. James' or by cash. Your gift cards may be picked up at church on the following Sunday. Any cards not picked up will then be available for pick up at the office. Invite your family and friends to take part. Perhaps you have or know of a small business that gives out gift cards. Invite them as well.

We must place a minimum order of \$5000 to avoid the cost of shipping. To do this, we run the program jointly with St. Athanasius. St. James' has a loyal group of about 9 supporters. St. James' commission for orders placed from July to December 2023 was just over \$1300! Just imagine how much more we could earn if more people joined us!

Our 2024 FundScrip order dates are March 3<sup>rd</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>, May 5<sup>th</sup>, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup>, August 11<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday), September 8<sup>th</sup> (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday), October 6<sup>th</sup>, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, and December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Thank you for considering this fundraising opportunity! Please speak with Sylvia Baker or Leslie Fortune if you have any questions.

*"Even the darkest night will end  
and the sun will rise."  
Victor Hugo*

## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES and WORSHIP SERVICES

### **Sunday March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist

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

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### **Tuesday March 5, 12, 19, 26**

12 noon Centering Prayer

12 p.m. Pennywise Shop

### **Wednesday March 6, 13, 21, 27**

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 March 7, 14, 21, 28**

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

### **Friday March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

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

## MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and SPECIAL EVENTS

### **Sunday March 3**

Food Bank Sunday

FundScrip Sunday

### **Monday March 11**

10 a.m. Book Discussion

### **Tuesday March 12**

7 p.m. Ministry Council Mtg. via zoom

### **Tuesday March 19**

2 p.m. Pastoral Care Mtg.

### **Saturday March 23**

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

### **Sunday March 24**

8 a.m. & 10 a.m. Palm Sunday

### **Friday March 29**

10 a.m. Good Friday

### **Sunday March 31**

10 a.m. Easter Sunday (one service only)

### 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 March 3**. Orders and cheques (payable to St James' church) can be dropped off at the Church office. Pick up will be **Sunday March 10**. Thank you for your continued support of this beneficial project.



## **FUNNY CHURCH BULLETINS**

- What do Rabbits say before they eat? - "Lettuce pray"
- What do you call ducklings who go to Easter Church service?  
"Birds of Pray"
- What holiday does an Easter egg hate the most?  
"Good Fry-day"
- I'm hunted, but never killed. I'm painted, but never on canvas.  
I can be real or fake. What am I? - "An Easter Egg"



### March Birthdays

Kate Allen, Sue Charters, Dave Freeman,  
Dean Jobin-Bevans, Sue Leslie,  
Jacquelyn Schmidt, Kai Schmidt

### March Anniversaries

Ed & Marilyn Kalbfleisch

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