



ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

OCTOBER 2020

Volume 16, Issue 9
October 2020



*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 CANON JOHN

Dear Friends in Christ,

While I know that September is the 'beginning of the church year', I always see October as a time to really meditate on how God is working in my life. You may ask why is this the case?

October is the time when I find myself at home working outside. Lisa and I busy ourselves with the raking of leaves onto a tarp which gets hauled over the fence onto the compost pile (unfortunately Lisa gets that job this year). A lot of work must go into the gardens, getting them ready for the long winter. Of course, I keep a fire going to burn sticks (and any wood I can find). Our dog Ralphie (named after the character in The Christmas Story) keeps us amused as she chases the squirrels, rabbits, and chipmunks. I enjoy the cool days, the smells of autumn, and sitting by the fire.

This was not so storybook last year as I had my knee surgery done on October 10th and found myself in the hospital in Toronto for the month of October and recuperating inside the house in November and December. I look forward to getting back outside even if my mobility is limited!

I just find that in this outside work it becomes a time to allow your mind to be opened to 'how God calls us to act'. I think about our parish of St. James': the work that is ongoing, our members who are in need, and its future in the community of Orillia. I think about our Church and how it will respond to the many of challenges ahead of it over the next months. I think about how God has been active in my own life, give thanks for Lisa, and I pray for my children as they face the challenges of new beginnings during this pandemic. Finally, I think about our community and world as we face greater and greater environmental challenges. That may be a lot to take in, but I still look ahead to what is coming with hope and huge gratitude.

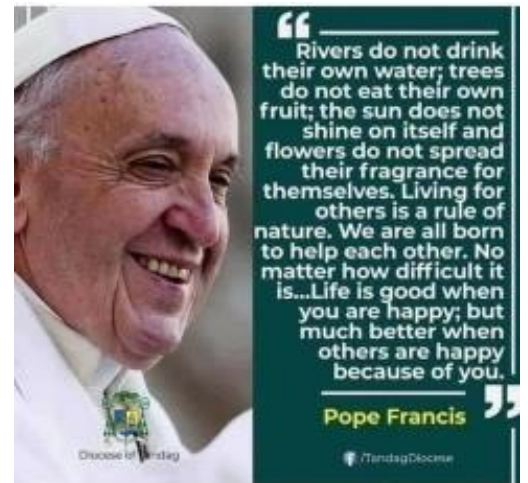
I have said in one of my sermons, and in discussions with some of you, that over the next few months we need to continue to nurse our parish and care for St. James'. It is like a patient in a hospital – it will be challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic and we all have a role to play as its caregiver.

There is already an expectation that it will be a long winter because of Covid lockdowns and protocols. Rather than brooding on long days and nights, perhaps this October, contemplation may become a way to frame my own, and our own, faith journey as we head into the cold winter months: to plant some seeds that will be nurtured through more prayer, study, and discernment; to keep inviting God back into the discussion and contemplation; and to find a way to give back to your own self, family, and church. Thanks be to God. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Canon John

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



THE WORK AT ST. JAMES'

Our property is at a very prominent corner of Downtown Orillia and is viewed by hundreds of people daily. Fortunately, our lawns and shrubs are always well taken care of. This does not happen without considerable care and effort. We are grateful that Jim Beamish has taken this work on for the last 20+ years and has kept the grounds looking pristine. More remarkable is the fact that although this is his business and he has paid the students who often work for him he has never charged St. James' for any of this work. Please let Jim know how much we appreciate his years of care for our property.



Christine Blair—Chair of Ministry Council



Below is a Facebook invitation and promotion material for the Bishop's Company Cabaret. The Bishop's Company is a fund to assist priests in special times of need such as sickness or disability for them or a family member; or special events such as the costs of education. This year it is a free virtual cabaret night. The highlight for me will be Gareth and Maggie performing three Broadway pieces!

Thanks, John.

Thank you for sharing your talent in support of the Bishop's Company! We would love your help to promote our Cabaret on October 16th. Please get the word out to your fans, whether it's your Facebook page, mailing list, parish, or your Grandma! Let everyone know that we are providing a free evening of music from across the Diocese and all are invited! It's hosted by Dean Stephen Vail and our noted-guest, the Most Rev. Linda Nicholls will be speaking about hope.

The Cabaret is on Friday, October 16th from 8-9:30 pm via Zoom.

Registration is required and you and your guests can do that here.

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/bishops-company-cabaret-tickets-118637314401>

We've also set up a Facebook page where I'll be posting about you in the days before the event. Follow us so that we can do some cross-promotion. <https://www.facebook.com/Bishops-Company-TO-100116965145599/>

We are making a big change to our fundraiser this year and having your support as we build up a new audience is crucial. Please tell everyone you know.

CONGRATULATIONS TO SEAN MEDORIN ST. JAMES' GOLFER OF THE YEAR!



Sean Medorin Is the top scorer of this year's GOLF TOURNAMENT! It was a great summer for golfing at Hawk Ridge Golf and Country Club, participants had fun with the "Do It Yourself" format.

Other prize winners are Sharon Knee, Bruce Stanton, Joyce Hird and Randy Hoover.

Thank you to everyone who participated and to our Hole Sponsors: A and G Roofing; JMB Property Maintenance and Management; Crate's Lake Country Boats; Roderick H. Young, Architect; Morris Shelswell and Sons Excavating and Grading; R H A Environmental; Karen and Dan Newman; Century 21 BJ Roth Ltd (Zac Hele), and Joan Tribbling.

Couch Caddies included Christine Blair, Sandra Mosher, Christine Hager and Sylvia Baker.

Prizes were donated by: The Orillia Italian Market and Gelato; and The Cheesy Pickup.

Special thanks to the Beamish family for filling fun Golf boxes, and to the Newmans for prizes.

And it is not over yet: St. James' golf vouchers may be redeemed for the 9- or 18-hole courses at Hawk Ridge to the end of the golf season. Enjoy the sunny fall days, enjoy Hawk Ridge's courses, and support St. James' community outreach programs.

OUTREACH DURING COVID-19 AT ST. JAMES'

Events, services and all activities ground to a sudden stop in March 2020 and most of us (except some essential workers) hunkered down in our houses at local motels and hoped and prayed for a quick end to all this isolation. As the weeks rolled by and the isolation scene did not change it occurred to us that some of the activities that the Outreach Ministry supported were escalating in urgency. Community needs like shelter, food, social interaction were definitely on the rise. So, the Outreach Ministry members began to do some things to help alleviate, on a small scale, the strains on our less advantaged community members.

Loonie Lunch crews began to make healthy bag lunches on Wednesdays to hand out to customers at the parish door, giving everyone an opportunity to connect briefly with regular lunch clients. That little window of chat was a chance to reassure, and bolster spirits for some in addition to the nice lunch provided.

We answered an appeal from the Lighthouse Shelter to cook Sunday dinners for shelter residents housed at local motels in town. Up to 45 people have been enjoying a freshly cooked meal delivered to them every week. This service was provided by a very small crew using our church kitchen. Those of us doing the cooking and delivering had a tiny opportunity to have "live" interaction with one another. So pleasant! Shelter residents "loved" the meals as well and regular staff had a day off cooking.

Vegetable gardens on our grounds were planted and cultivated providing some healthy vegetables for community use and a mini opportunity to the gardeners, the waterers and others to meet outdoors, work and chat. Many people off the street and local residents strolled the grounds and took pleasure in watching the garden progress. That can be very soothing to an anxious soul.

Plans are well advanced for a community Thanksgiving take-out dinner on Monday, October 12. Perhaps not as exciting as our usual hot turkey dinner, but delicious in a different way.

So, while some of our services may be helping people in the community, our activities have also provided some of us with a small opportunity to find a meaningful, satisfying experience. In addition many parishioners have contributed money, food, planning ideas, and completed grant applications to make these things happen.

Digging in a vegetable garden, watering, making sandwiches, and dinners, planning a holiday event in a period of isolation are just a few of the things that have provided great satisfaction and benefit all round.

By Rosemarie Freeman



LIGHTHOUSE
SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS



Miss Alice Elizabeth Stewart

HERITAGE PROJECT



With church and archive closures, it has been difficult to find new stories about St. James' and it has not been possible to publish new material regularly for the newsletter. This photo was recently found in the Hale Collection at the Orillia Museum of Art and History and was published on OMAH's Facebook page.

Alice's two photos were taken 50 years apart. The 1862 photo is the oldest known photo of a church parishioner! It is also one of two known photos of founders of the Women's Auxiliary.

Alice was born on April 28, 1848 in St. John, New Brunswick to the Rev. Alexander Stewart and Sarah Maria Jarvis. In 1862, the Rev. Stewart became the 4th incumbent at St. James'. In 1888, the Rev. Stewart retired but was allowed to remain in the church rectory where Alice and two of his other daughters took care of him. In 1896, the reverend died and was buried in St. Andrew's and St. James' Cemetery. Alice continued her church work until near her death in 1920. She had taught Sunday School for over 50 years.

By Fred Blair



Sunday October 4 Feast of St. Francis

On St. Francis' Feast Day, we ask you to bring in photos of your pets (both past and present) A blessing will be given at both services.

Due to COVID we cannot have pets present as it would be too difficult to physical distance.



EVENING PRAYER

Compline (/kəmˈplɪn/ KŌM-plin), also known as *Complin*, *Night Prayer*, or the *Prayers at the End of the Day*, is the final church service (or office) of the day in the Christian tradition of canonical hours. *Compline* tends to be a contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace.

We invite you to our meditative Evening Prayer for spiritual peace.

<http://stjamesorillia.com/>

Monday October 12

Thanksgiving Dinner

FREE TAKE OUT ONLY

NO HOT SIT-DOWN MEAL DUE TO COVID-19

12 noon to 1:30 p.m.

200 FREE DINNER TICKETS
YOU MUST PRESENT A TICKET
available at church office 705-325-2742

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

ZOOM TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY

Please join Rev. Colin Bowler for Tuesday Bible Study 11 a.m.

Contact Church office
office@stjamesorillia.com
to arrange an invite to Zoom

TEA AT THREE ON THURSDAYS



Tea at Three on Thursdays at 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. This will be a Zoom meeting with no agenda other than to connect with Church friends face to face for a casual time. Anyone wishing to join should contact Christine Blair at: office@stjamesorillia.com for an invitation.

PENNYWISE REOPENS

On September 29, the Pennywise Shop will reopen for business following approved COVID 19 precautions. The shop will operate Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 12 noon to 3 p.m. with 3 staff volunteers each day. Donations to the shop will be welcomed AFTER Thanksgiving weekend. Many thanks are extended to all who have participated in Pennywise operations and patiently waited through the complications created by our current pandemic. All services may continue to be affected by a changeable pandemic scene.

By Manager Joyce Hird.





MAE AND WAYNE COX

Chatting with Mae and Wayne Cox about their amazing lives is rather like trying to keep up with Alice's White Rabbit - "I'm late! I'm late for a very important date!" Talking of our long-eared friends, the story of the Montreal Playboy Club Interview is vintage Mae and Wayne... but more of that later.

Mae, as most of us know, was born and raised in a large family in St. Lambert, Quebec, the eldest of six children, while Wayne, an only child, had firm roots here in Orillia. In fact, Wayne's father Jack was a carpenter and made many renovations to the interior of St. James'. He became as much involved in the life at St. James' and in Orillia itself as his son Wayne was, being a Chairman of the St. James' Court Apartment Corporation, a Church warden, and a Lay member of Synod. Jack and his wife, Violette, supported Wayne's love of music by providing lessons for piano, flute and organ all through high school; Wayne had already joined St. James' choir at age 11. Both Mae's parents were musical, singing tenor and soprano respectively, and their special love was Gilbert and Sullivan. As a girl, Mae remembers many a time falling asleep to songs from the famous operettas. Wayne's and Mae's love of music led to their long-standing membership in St. James' choir, Cellar Singers and most recently Orillia Vocal Ensemble.



COX, Wayne & Mae

Fittingly enough, Wayne and Mae met at the McGill Choral Society while they were students at McGill. After their marriage at St. Lambert, they returned to Orillia to establish their professional and family lives. Wayne began his career in Pharmacy and Mae her teaching career and in due course adopted two children: Stephen who still lives near his family home and remains a great support for Wayne and Mae, while Jodi now lives and works in B.C. We at St. James' know Jodi well for her long association with the choir and her lovely high clear soprano.

Their St. James' and Orillia lives flourished as Wayne became the Church Archivist, a Lay Member of Synod, Diocesan Volunteer, founding member of Hospice Orillia and of the Palliative Care Committee at RVH. Indeed, if you want to know anything about the history of St. James' or about Anglican tradition and the glories of church music, just ask Wayne.

As well as her teaching career, in due time Mae also became a Lay Reader, a Church Warden, a Lay Member of Synod, a founding member of Couchiching Jubilee House, co-ordinator of the St. James' Christmas Hampers and remains much involved in Pastoral Care at OSMH and at St. James'. For their tremendous philanthropic efforts over the years, Wayne and Mae were named to the Order of the Diocese of Toronto (ODT) in December 2016.

In the midst of such full lives, it was a matter of consternation a few years back when Mae's knee joints began to wear out and her mobility was severely curtailed. In due course, the offending joints were surgically replaced, and her activities were curtailed no more.

It may be said that in many ways, Wayne and Mae's hobbies are inextricably woven into the fabric of their shared lives and, if anything, the musical accompaniments to their efforts have been choral music in general and Anglican church music in particular as well as an abiding love of classical music.

We began with references to bunnies and so we shall end: the story goes that Mae and Wayne had been asked to attend a performance at the Montreal Playboy Club on, of all days, Easter Saturday - yes, you are reading correctly - by one, Dave Broadfoot, to interview him as a possible entertainer at the Leacock Award Weekend in Orillia. Many of us remember this performer fondly from his days in 'The Royal Canadian Airforce' on CBC radio where he played a series of satirical characters, chief among them being Sergeant Renfrew of the RCMP and his dog 'Cuddles'. Needless to say, Dave passed muster.

How Wayne and Mae escaped the confines of the 'Bunny Club' unscathed is not on record. However, they did attend the Easter Sunday Service at St. Barnabas Church in St. Lambert the next day!

By Beth Morum

"Be a lamp...a lifeboat...a ladder. Help someone's soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd."

~~J. M. Rumi~~

Committees and Processing Matters

Every day there are a multitude of permissions, questions and church matters that are referred to Canon John. Many of these should be sent to the appropriate ministries first. To help everyone understand the process, guidelines are currently being drafted and should be available soon. The Communications Committee

Your Ministry Council

Anyone interested in reading the current Ministry Council minutes may contact the Church office for a copy

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 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.

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. Some go to parishioners who have moved away or their families who still want to feel a part of St James'. The past two months, we had NO sponsor. If you could consider taking a month on, please contact Phyllis in the office 325-2742. Also if your group has upcoming events or you want to let folks know about your past events - please email to Nancy Noakes-Morrison at nancynoakesmorrison@gmail.com

Fundscrip

Well, it is definitely fall now, and a perfect time to start to put away an extra gift card for your grandson in school or your daughter for a dinner out. The Fundscrip order date is **October 4th**. You could order a Sport Check, or Kelsey's, a gas card or even Amazon to get in the mode for Christmas shopping. We have just asked for our second refund cheque for this year. Every little bit helps. Please deposit your order form (and cheque payable to St James') in the plastic bin on our deck. If you need directions, please call Phyllis in the office 325-2742. The order will go in the first Sunday in October(4th) pickup (again in the bin) will be **Friday October 9**. Thank you for your continued support of this very worthwhile project.

October Calendar

We are not able to provide a calendar of meeting times, events, or programs, due to COVID-19.

Please join us IN Church or by watching the Sunday webcast service on our website or Facebook



October Birthdays

Andy Ayers, Brian Crate, Tim Gillett,
Bill Kellas, Stephen McClelland,
Mary McEvoy, Wendy Slattery

October Anniversaries

Lorne & Sandra Holmes,
Vic & Martha Howarth,
Bill & Cheryl Kellas,
Bill Manley & Deb Woodman

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