



ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

MARCH 2021

Volume 17, Issue 2
March 2021



*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,

As I prepare for Vestry, the Corporation and I must review the various motions for appointments for Wardens, Lay Delegate to Synod, or confirmation of the appointments to Ministry Council. In doing so, I am always going back to the canons and Diocesan guidelines to refresh my memory about the rules that govern us. I know for many of you this is not exciting stuff and may be a tad boring. I find it kind of neat! In any event I think it is good to have a little refresher on the outcomes of Vestry.

Canon 14 pertains to Vestries. There must be an annual vestry each year and it can be no later than the end of February. To vote or be elected at Vestry you must be a member of the Anglican Church, have been a member of the congregation of St. James' at least three months prior to the Vestry and be on the Vestry list. Due to Covid this year there are members who have not been able to worship in person. An exemption was created by Diocesan Council that permitted participation at vestry if the person watched a virtual service.

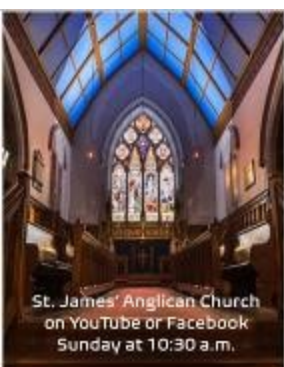
The vestry is essentially an annual meeting. It is intended to review the minutes from last year, present the audited financial statements of the preceding year and the budget for the current year, to have a report from the Advisory Board and Envelope Secretary, appoint and elect people, present any reports from ministries, and undertake general business such as the social justice motions. It is not intended to deal with special issues that may come up during the year. Those matters should be dealt with at the Advisory Board or Special meetings. As our recent CAO for the Diocese recently remarked at a Regional Dean's meeting, the annual Vestry should not be a contentious meeting.

I should note that it is the duty of the incumbent under Canon 9 to chair and report to Vestry. The Incumbent reports on the state of the parish and other matters he or she thinks are advisable. The Incumbent is seized with the responsibility for the spiritual care of the parish, Christian education, supervision of ministries, and authority over all matters relating to worship.

The relationship between the Incumbent and Wardens is unique. Under Canon 9.5 the Incumbent and the Churchwardens act jointly in matters concerning the use of the church grounds and buildings (property matters). However, it is well settled under canon law that we act on a consensus basis in all matters. Pursuant to Canon 15 the Churchwardens are the Corporation and are given specific duties over the property, employment, and financial matters of the parish. I note the Treasurer is not part of the Corporation and acts in an advisory capacity to it. As you know, the Vestry elects a People's Warden and the Incumbent appoints a Rector's Warden. The Incumbent assumes the day-to-day role of being the supervisor of staff and of overseeing administrative matters, but always reporting to the Corporation. At our parish, the Corporation presently meets every other week on Thursday, however, there are meetings, emails, and phone calls happening daily. It is important when electing a Warden or Deputy-Warden that the congregation believes the person can undertake these tasks.

I know that there are times when the congregation believes that it should be consulted on certain matters. It is important to note that the Anglican Church is not congregational in its structure. The Corporation and Incumbent are generally seized with making decisions as I have set out above. There are ways of calling special meetings which can be cumbersome.

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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

I think the best form of communication between the congregation and the Corporation can be done through a phone call or email to the Incumbent. If you are not comfortable talking to me about a matter you can speak to either the People's or Rector's Warden. You should be aware that monthly financial statements are always available to review. Prior to Covid they were posted on the bulletin board.

I want to address a criticism that has been made in the past. It is that the Corporation does not share enough information. I do not agree with that assertion because it is the role of the Ministry Council (Advisory Board) to be a conduit of communication.

At Vestry you will ratify a number of people to sit on the Ministry Council. These are representatives from all the ministries in the church. The Ministry Council meets on the second Tuesday of each month and its minutes are available to you. You should know that the Ministry Council cannot make motions/decisions that bind the Corporation as its role is an advisory one. However, it is the obligation of the Corporation and Incumbent to report to Ministry Council and it is the obligation of the members to ask questions of the Corporation. Most important of all it has the role of advising the Incumbent and the Corporation!

I would like our Ministry Council to become a more effective body at communication. To that end, if you have questions, concerns, or suggestions then they should be brought to a member who then raises the matter. (Preferably, speak to the ministry representative that is responsible for the ministry in question.) The ministry representative should then follow up with the person or possibly raise the matter at their own ministry committee. Another piece of this communication puzzle is to have a Warden on one of the committees or at least reviewing minutes etc. so that they can bring matters to the Corporation for review. I think that if we actively work on this communication structure, we will all benefit.

I hope this brief description of how governance works simply helps you to understand the important jobs that elected members take on. I am always thankful for their work and they make life at St. James' joyful and allow us to get on with the work of the Gospel.

Peace be with you,
Canon John



2021 SOCIAL JUSTICE VESTRY MOTION

Committing Ourselves to Anti-Racism:

The vision of God's Kingdom is one where all races, tribes and nations are welcomed and made one in Christ Jesus (Galatians 3:28), where barriers are broken down and all are full citizens of the household of God (Ephesians 2:17-21) and where all are invited to contribute the gifts and glory of their heritage (Revelation 21:26). Yet, as racialized members of our communities can attest, and as has been made painfully visible in the events of this past year, our society and even our Church fall far short of this goal.

Canadians, particularly those of European descent, may be tempted to look at racial tensions in the U.S. and congratulate ourselves that we live in a comparably diverse and tolerant society, but the experiences of racialized people in Canada do not bear out this assumption. A recent study by the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) has found that, although Black people make up less than 9% of the population of Toronto, they are "grossly overrepresented" in cases of discretionary arrests for low-level offences, as well as in police use of force, including fatal shootings. Another report from the OHRC found that between 2013 and 2017, a Black person was nearly 20 times more likely than a white person to be fatally shot by police in Toronto. Indigenous people make up only 5% of Canada's population, but more than 30% of incarcerated individuals in Canada. Several school boards in the GTA have faced inquiries into their systemic inequitable treatment of racialized students. These are all present realities within the most racially-diverse region of Canada.

Nor can we claim that our Church is free of racist attitudes and the systems that entrench and perpetuate them. Black clergy in our Diocese can attest not only to being racially profiled in shops but to encountering surprise and discomfort when people realize they are the senior cleric in charge. Nor does our leadership fully represent the ethnic and racial diversity of our Church. The first bishop of African descent in the Anglican Church of Canada, Bishop Peter Fenty, was only elected in 2013 – less than a decade ago. Nearly 30 years have elapsed since the Rev. Dr. Romney Moseley's report "No Longer Strangers" was presented to General Synod, and many of its recommendations have yet to be implemented. We have a long way to go before we fulfil God's vision of a people "from every language, tribe and nation" (Revelation 7:9) where all are fully welcome.

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However, there are signs of positive change. In our Diocese, ethnic and linguistic-based congregations are centres of growth and vitality. Our recent ordinands and postulants represent a wider range of ethnic and racial backgrounds. Indigenous Anglicans in Canada are taking steady steps toward self-determination, while this past year has seen the formation of the group Black Anglicans of Canada, whose mission is to improve the participation, representation, empowerment and inclusion of Black people in lay and ordained leadership roles within the Anglican Church of Canada. **Our Diocese will be implementing anti-racism and anti-bias training for Diocesan staff and clergy starting in early 2021. An Anti-Racism/Anti-Bias Pod will be created to carry this work forward among volunteers and lay leaders and over the long term.**

In his letter to the Diocese of July 17, 2020, Bishop Andrew wrote: “It is time to challenge and to question how structures shape our attitudes, beliefs, assumptions and bias. We must understand and confront white privilege, institutional and systemic racism that so many of us have been blind to for too long. And we must not be afraid to become agents of transformation. To dismantle racism in all of its forms takes commitment, community and faith in order to realize progress and change. It means becoming comfortable with being uncomfortable. It means taking a very long look in the mirror and understanding the part that we each play.”

<https://www.thestar.com/news/gta/2020/08/10/black-people-more-likely-to-be-arrested-charged-shot-and-killed-by-toronto-police-ontario-human-rights-commission-report-finds.html>

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-safety-canada/news/2020/01/indigenous-people-in-federal-custody-surpasses-30-correctional-investigator-issues-statement-and-challenge.html>

Some of this work has already begun.

Just as many Anglicans in our Diocese and beyond have committed themselves to education and action as part of the process of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples, Anglicans in our Diocese have started to examine their own attitudes, beliefs, assumptions, and bias. Virtual study groups have sprung up around books such as Robin di Angelo's *White Fragility*, Desmond Cole's *The Skin We're In*, or the late Rev. Dr. James Cone's *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*. Many signed up for the Black Anglicans of Canada's summer roundtable series (still available on YouTube) and workshops on anti-racism at the Diocesan Outreach Conference.

In the September 2020 issue of *The Anglican*, the Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Fields wrote: “The compassionate Church cannot be an observer on the sidelines, reluctant to judge the values by which racism is allowed to take root. It must be disposed to listening, open to being transformed by reality, and accountable for being contributory to the situation, where that is the case.” In the second part of his column, published in October 2020, Canon Fields discussed the parts we must all play – from the institutional to the individual level - to grapple with systemic racism and make our Church and our society a place of mutual healing. Let each member of our Church take up this work with intention and goodwill.

The Social Justice Vestry Motion for 2021 is offered by the Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministry with the full support of the Social Justice & Advocacy Committee:

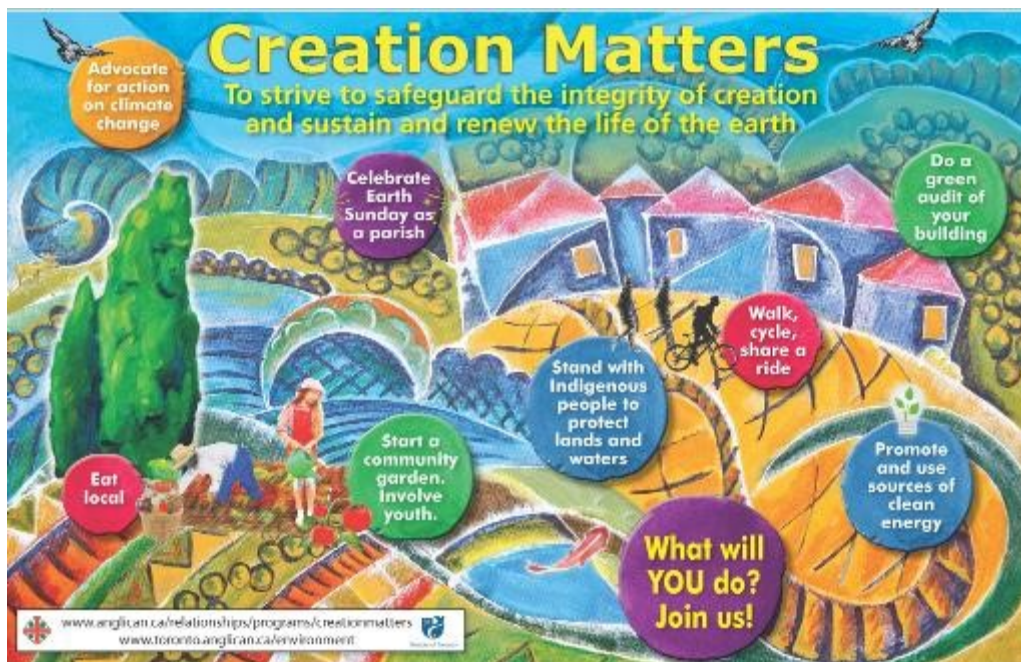
“The parish of St. James' Orillia acknowledges that Anti-Black racism exists in our society and in our Church, and that it and all forms of racism against Black, Indigenous and other racialized people are a sin against God and against our neighbour. We commit ourselves to the recognition, dismantling, and elimination of Anti-Black and other forms of racism in our secular institutions, in our Church, and in ourselves, and to work for the full inclusion, participation and belongingness of Black, Indigenous and other racialized people in all sectors of our common life.

In light of this acknowledgment, and in keeping with this commitment, our parish undertakes to do the following: start an anti-racism study series in our parish to begin in the spring of 2021.

The plan is for St. James' to focus on racism as it impacts on indigenous peoples because that is the more obvious population in our geographic area “

“Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy”
Pope Francis

A FAST FOR THE EARTH: LENT 2021



A Fast for the Earth: Lent 2021

a resource created by

The Bishop's Committee on Creation Care
Diocese of Toronto



The Bishop's Committee on Creation Care has produced a resource for Anglicans who want to undertake a fast during Lent that focuses on creation and issues related to the climate crisis. A Fast for the Earth: Lent 2021 provides a fast for each week of Lent, which begins on Feb. 17 and ends on April 3. It begins with a meat fast followed by a consumption fast, a food waste fast, a water fast, an injustice fast, an electricity fast and an ignorance fast. It concludes with a resurrection feast for Easter on Apr. 4.

To learn more about the each weekly fast click on the link:
<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/news/fasts-focus-on-creation/>

LENTEN BOOK STUDY
THE UNIVERSAL CHRIST
HOW A FORGOTTEN REALITY CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING WE SEE, HOPE FOR, AND BELIEVE
A New Book by Richard Rohr

Six Online Sessions led by the Rev. Phil Gearing
Monday's at 10 a.m. through Lent
February 22 to March 29
To register: office@stjamesorillia.com

WEDNESDAY BIBLE ZOOM STUDY

Please join Canon John Anderson at 10 a.m.

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



TEA AT THREE ON THURSDAYS

Tea at Three on Thursdays at 3:00 to 4:00 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.



Our Ladies Evening—[as described by our St. James' Young Men's Union in February 1906]

“The Union started on an entirely new tack on the 4th of December, when we held our first Ladies' Evening. Bound so long by the vows of celibacy some members of the Union began to look upon that club room downstairs as a sort of hermitage, where a dim religious light encircled long and sober faces. As a matter of fact, the faces were anything but long, and tho' by no means bleary were certainly not sober. However, the old text, “it is not good for man to be alone” was so ably preached upon by some of the benedict's who had come to take a leading part in the affairs of the Union and by some of the Young Ladies' men that it was decided to hold two ladies' evenings during the year. To say that the first was a success is putting it in the mildest possible terms, for the members of the Union once having the sunlight let into our meetings with one accord voted that the Ladies be asked to the sleigh drive, and they were.

“The Ladies' evening took the form of a social for all the young people of the congregation. As each person entered the school, he received a blank sheet of paper and a pencil, and was told to see how many of the 45 enigmas around the wall he could guess. They were all geographical puzzles representing towns and cities in the neighborhood and names of the world renown.”

Can you name these 3 examples?

An old shoe torn on the toe.

The mother of all the Sippis.

An organ that had not been played for 2 weeks.

Fred Blair
(Answers on page 6)

Here are some photos from the morning's recording session for the Feb 21st service - lots of work!



THE WORK AT ST. JAMES'

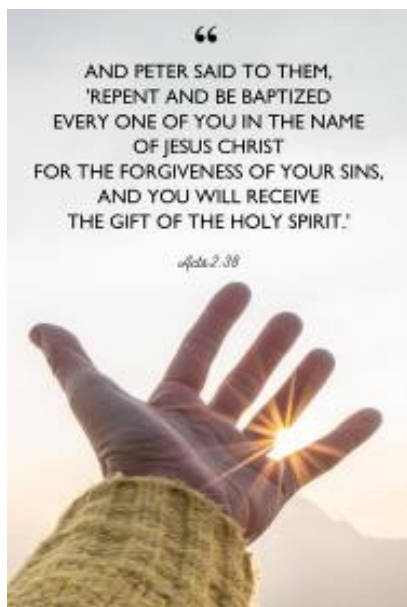


On recent Wednesdays there has been a familiar face missing at St. James'. For about fifteen years Helen Perry has arrived well before 9:00 a.m. to prepare soups for the day. She moved swiftly defrosting soups and often adding extras to improve them, heating up pots cooked the day before and creating some from scratch. As other volunteers arrived, she would organize them to ensure everything ran smoothly. Unfortunately, her recent health has prevented her from continuing with her work. Thankfully due to Helen's protocols and organization everything still runs like clockwork and those in need still receive a hot lunch.

This was not Helen's only contribution to the life of St. James'. Among her other commitments she was the Ministry Rep. for Stewardship, an enthusiastic member of the fundraising committee, the driving force behind the September Showcase and the inspiration and organizer of the Christmas Market held in 2019.

We send our sincere thanks and heartfelt prayers to Helen. She is greatly missed.

Christine Blair



“
AND PETER SAID TO THEM,
'REPENT AND BE BAPTIZED
EVERY ONE OF YOU IN THE NAME
OF JESUS CHRIST
FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF YOUR SINS,
AND YOU WILL RECEIVE
THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.'

Acts 2:38

For those who are missing the beautiful windows of St. James' Church, here are some pictures of the sun shining through them on a February afternoon.

Heritage Project Answers:

Toronto
Mississippi
Owen Sound



KENYA UPDATE

We are pleased to send this update on our Kenya Mission Projects. It is almost 10 years since our initial visit to the Holy Trinity site in Kibera. Difficult to believe. As you know, the Kibera slum is the second largest slum in the world and is situated in Nairobi, Kenya. Our mission to supply equipment, medication and laboratory supplies has been even more successful than we ever imagined.

Covid-19 has not been as much of a problem in Nairobi as it has been in North America. However, accurate reporting may not be possible, particularly for Kibera, whose population fluctuates and is upward of one million persons. Nairobi is near to the equator, and therefore they have not had an extreme winter season as in Canada where we spend more time indoors. They do still suffer crowding and lack of hygiene in the slum.

In 2012, we were able to provide the clinic with a donated ultrasound system which has been an integral piece of equipment, particularly in the new Mother and Child Dept set up last summer. Unfortunately, the ultrasound is now not functional, and after an extensive search, we discovered that this machine is too old to be supported for new parts. The good news is that our fundraising efforts in the fall, which included a mailout and submissions to the church bulletin and newsletter, were quite successful. We are now able to put a down payment on a new ultrasound system through a company in Nairobi and pay the balance in installments. We are pleased to be using a local Kenyan company as the source of the equipment. We did explore purchasing from Canada, however the tariffs and transport to Kenya were far too complicated.

As you may recall from a previous newsletter, the Holy Trinity Clinic had its first delivery in October 2020. This has been a dream of the medical team there for many years. The new ultrasound equipment will be invaluable for pre-natal care and for many other diagnostic purposes. Dr. Stanley has a technician who attends the clinic for accurate interpretation of the ultrasound images.

We are requesting additional financial help, at this time, to assist with the financing of the new ultrasound equipment. Your response to our request would be greatly appreciated. Please drop your donation at the church office or mail to:

**St. James' Anglican Church - Kenya Mission Projects
58 Peter Street North, Box 272
Orillia, Ontario L3V 6J6**

**Remember to designate on the lower left of your cheque:
for Kenya Mission Projects**

Fran McCordic

But Palm Sunday tells us that...it is the cross that is the true tree of life.

Pope Benedict XVI

A CALL TO ALL WOULD BE GARDENERS

Just as you are all staying home and minding your own business (for the most part) we are issuing you a challenge that you might participate in at home. We need a crop of vegetable plants for our spring garden planting.

Would you consider starting some vegetable plants in the comfort of your home that might be transplanted in the spring? We need plants such as tomatoes, cucumber, beans, eggplant, squash etc. All you need are some plant seed pods and good quality seeds and an area in your home which gets enough sunshine and water to encourage plant growth. All supplies can be ordered from Home Hardware and other seed or garden sources. Some of you are good at this. The rest of us could rise to the challenge! Thanks for thinking of this endeavour.

Social Justice Committee



March Calendar

We are not able to provide a calendar of meeting times, events, or programs, due to COVID-19. Please join us by watching the Sunday webcast service on our website ,Facebook or YouTube.

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 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.

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 325-2742 if you would like to sponsor a month.

Fundscrip

The Fundscrip order date is **Sunday March 7th**. 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 March. Pickup (again in the bin) will be **Friday March 12th**. Thank you for your continued support of this very worthwhile project. Joan Gardy.



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