



# ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

## MARCH 2026

Volume 22, Issue 4  
March 2026



*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

Dear Friends in Christ,

#### Supporting FaithWorks

Opening my email this morning, and before I knew I had to write my monthly article, I was very pleased to learn that St. James' will once again be a FaithWorks recipient of \$15,000.00 to support our two feeding programs: Community Breakfast and Loonie Lunch.

These feeding programs are important local outreach ministries, helping those who are hungry, cold, or perhaps just in need of a friendly conversation. Both programs are supported through grants and donations and not from the operational budget of St. James'. In the past, we have received grants from CFOA, the Eastern Synod of the Lutheran Church, Area Council, and, most recently, from our new partnership with FaithWorks.

Starting in about October of each year, our treasurer, Dave Simpson, and I begin the process of making a financial case for the FaithWorks grant. This takes some time because FaithWorks must ensure the viability of a program even with its parish partners. Thank you, Dave, for taking the time to provide the financial information. Also, thank you to Rosemary and Maryan, who provide the important information about volunteers, customers, and program details.

I want to stress the point that making a FaithWorks application for a grant each year should not be seen as a 'given'. The ability of FaithWorks to provide these needed grants to us and the many other recipients is only possible if we give to FaithWorks.

As a reminder, you should know that FaithWorks is a charitable program of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto. It offers support to ministry partners, like St. James', as they serve the needs of particular populations, including those who are homeless, hungry, at-risk women, children or youth, immigrants or refugees, Indigenous peoples, or those struggling with HIV/AIDS. It is about helping the marginalized and the vulnerable in local communities like Orillia.

FaithWorks has provided more than \$35 million to Anglican-affiliated ministries over the last 25 years.

Since becoming the incumbent of St. James', I have noticed that our FaithWorks support has declined. As I have become the incumbent for the regionalized parishes, I have also learned that support of FaithWorks as a local outreach project may not be a priority.

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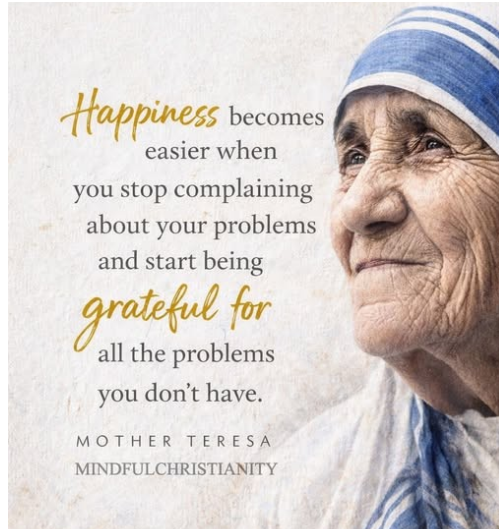
Our Vision - A strong faith community, reflecting God's Love to those around us  
Our Mission - To serve and share Jesus Christ  
Our Values - Faith, Compassion, Integrity, Respect

Firstly, I find this a bit mystifying as giving to FaithWorks means we can deliver important feeding programs in our community right here at St. James'. Secondly, each parish is able to retain 15% of the amount it raises through its FaithWorks parish appeal to support its own ministries. It should be noted that in the Diocese of Toronto, our Diocesan parishes contribute over 60% of all the funds raised annually on behalf of FaithWorks Ministry Partners. I think that all of our parishes have a responsibility to see FaithWorks as a signature ministry that we must support.

In May 2026, we will begin our FaithWorks campaign. This will be happening at St. James', but I will also be encouraging our Community of Churches to participate. This campaign is about raising money to support this important Diocesan ministry, but it is also an opportunity to become aware of the needs of our local community and to respond to Jesus' call to follow him and help those most in need. However, you do not have to wait until May. There are envelopes and materials available in the Narthex so that you can make a monthly contribution to FaithWorks as part of your regular offerings, or directly to Faithworks.

We give thanks for the important work of FaithWorks in the Diocese of Toronto. We give thanks that we have been chosen as a ministry partner and are receiving a grant. At this time of Lent, give prayerful consideration how you may support this ministry.

Peace,  
John



*"If you must look back, do so forgivingly. If you must look forward, do so lovingly. However the wisest thing you can do is be in the present...gratefully."*

*Maya Angelou*



**THANK YOU!!**

When I pin on the ODT lapel pin on Sundays, I am humbled. While you give me credit, none of what I do at St. James' could be done without so many of you helping. You do not hesitate when I request a loaf of sandwiches, a few hours of your time or help planning an event. So, thank you for this honour, but it is one I share with you.

Christine Blair





Greetings from your Wardens!

At first glance, the winter season after Christmas appears to be a slower period in the church. However much we might want to hibernate during the cold and snowy season, life at St. James' has continued on. The Upper Room has been transformed into a worship space for our St David's family. They have settled in and it is a pleasure to meet and talk with them during coffee hour after church on Sunday. Our choir has provided us with uplifting songs each Sunday, while faithfully coming out to practice on cold, dark Thursday nights. Our outdoor nighttime lighting has been increased, offering more security to our choir and other evening church users as they make their way to their cars. Speaking of security, please remember to lock your vehicle, day and night, as we have experienced a number of car break-ins over the past few weeks.

The church building is in use every day of the week and almost all of our rooms have an activity going on at some point during the day or evening. Thanks Jen and Jeri for keeping our building clean and presentable.

The Wardens wish to thank Pennywise, the ladies of the choir and the ACW for the room changes that have occurred over this winter season. This has allowed the Montessori school some room to breathe. They are not so tightly jammed in now.

The office has been hard at work preparing the Income Tax receipts, collecting all info for the auditors, and preparing for the Vestry. Job well done Dave, Nynka, Phyllis and Nancy. Vestry was held on the 22 Feb. Watch for a full report to follow later.

The snow and cold did not stop the work of the Loonie Lunch and the Sunday Community Breakfast continuing weekly. Thanks to all the dedicated teams for this Outreach to our wider community. The 1st Orillia Scouting group served up a traditional Pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday, physically signalling the beginning of Lent. Two Ash Wednesday services enabled us to prepare our hearts and minds for the season approaching Easter.

Yes, the "busy-ness" of the Advent season is behind us. The spring season of gardening (think ACW plant sale), house cleaning, and vacation preparing is still a few months away. We hope you will take some quiet time now to reflect on our journey towards Christ's death and resurrection at Easter, while continuing to support the ongoing life at St. James'. It is an honour to serve as your wardens. Blessings to all!

Your wardens, Leslie, Julia and Sue



**VESTRY  
SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 22**







ACW Apologizes to St. A's

Mae Cox, who heads up the Family Christmas Project for the ACW and St. James', apologizes that in the February Newsletter thanking everyone at St. James' who helped so generously this past Christmas, we forgot to thank St. Athanasius' for their kind donation of several FundScrip grocery store gift cards toward the cause as well. Please forgive us and accept a big thank-you for your support!

## LENTEN CHALLENGE 2026



The Lenten period is a time of some personal sacrifice. Consider donating, however large or small, to the Kenya Medical Mission in Kibera, Nairobi, as one of your offerings. Visit the display in the narthex, and envelopes for making your contribution. Three people from this parish are going to work on the mission this spring, but funds are needed for supplies and services. If you wish detailed information about this mission, visit the parish bulletin board for a full report.

*"Do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased." Hebrews 13:16*

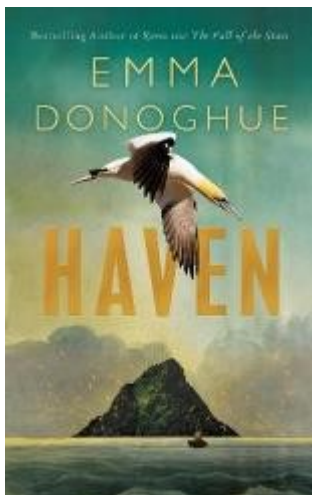


The library has recently been gifted two new books written by local author Sherry Lawson. These insightful books entitled, "Don't Stand Too Close, You Might Get Some on You", and "He Looks Kind of Rough", cast a glimpse of life as experienced by some of our Indigenous neighbours. These books join, "I've Been Shot At, What's Your Excuse?" also written by Sherry Lawson.

Thank you Mae for enriching our collection with these interesting books. They can be found on the SOCIAL JUSTICE shelf in our library.

Sue Glowa

## ST. JAMES' BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - ADVANCE NOTICE



The April St. James' Book Discussion group will see 'Haven', a Canadian and Irish bestseller by Emma Donoghue discussed. Set at the beginning of the 6th century, the novel tells the story of three Irishmen who leave their monastery to found a new monastery on an island their leader has seen in a dream. Drifting into the Atlantic, they end up settling on an impossibly steep, bare rock inhabited only by tens of thousands of birds. Come and join us on April 13th at 10:00 a.m. in the Church Parlour as we discuss this novel. The proverbial door is open to anyone who wishes to join us for a coffee, discussion, hearing different points of view and fellowship.

And a quick reminder that we will be discussing 'In the Company of Cheerful Ladies' by Alexander McCall Smith on March 9th at 10:00 a.m. We gladly welcome all who wish to join us.

Linda Davidson



Saturday  
March 21st

Church Members  
Potluck Dinner @ 6 pm  
Doors open @ 5 pm

Please bring a first course and Fellowship  
will provide the desserts.

Wear something green!

Join friends for a great meal and fellowship!



**OPEN**  
Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday  
12 noon to 3 p.m.  
Open Every Saturday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A little Thrift Shop promoting big rewards. Donations greatly accepted.  
CASH only. Phone 705-325-2750

*Proceeds go to support Community Programs*

**CENTERING PRAYER AND MEDITATION**

TUESDAY AT 12 NOON in person in Choir Room



George Sanders leads the group. For more info contact  
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

**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

**ST. JAMES' LOONIE LUNCH**

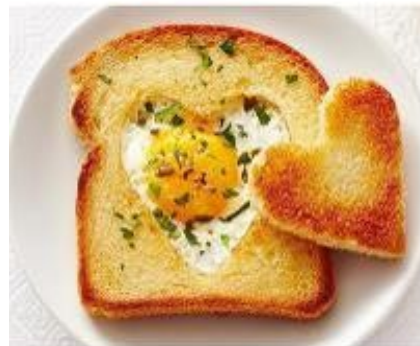
Every Wednesday  
10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Hot Soup,  
Donuts or Muffins,  
Fresh Rolls,  
A Frozen Dinner To Go.

A Free will donation of a  
Loonie or more  
is greatly appreciated



**FREE SUNDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**



**ALL ARE  
WELCOME**

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

**WEEKLY ACTIVITIES and WORSHIP SERVICES**

**Sunday March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29**

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

**Tuesday March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

12 noon Centering Prayer  
12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

**Wednesday March 4, 11, 18, 25**

10: 30 a.m. to 12 noon Loonie Lunch  
11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

**Thursday March 5, 12, 19, 26**

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop  
7 p.m. Choir Practice

**Saturday March 7, 14, 21, 28**

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Pennywise

**Sunday March 1**

Food Bank Sunday  
FundScrip Sunday

**Tuesday March 3**

6:30 p.m. A.C.W. meeting

**Sunday March 8**

3 p.m. Cellar Singers Concert

**Monday March 9**

10 a.m. - Book Discussion

**Tuesday March 10**

Advisory Board Mtg. via zoom @ 7 pm

**Thursday March 12**

6 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg.

**Tuesday March 17**

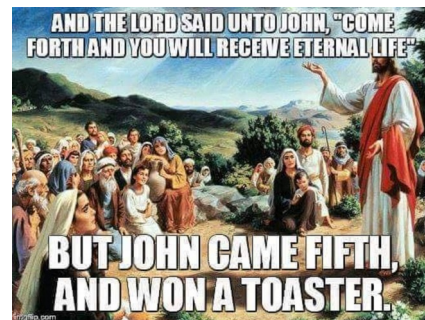
2 p.m. Pastoral Care Mtg.

**Saturday March 21**

St. Patrick's Pot Luck Dinner 6 p.m.

**Sunday March 29**

Palm Sunday



**PENNYWISE THRIFT SHOP**

St. James' Church Pennywise Thrift Shop has repurposed the free room into a very warm and welcoming sales room for larger shop articles. Customers have already commented on how it makes a pleasant entrance to the shop.

**CHURCH FUNNIES**



Kids were asked questions about the Old and New Testaments

- Adam and Eve were created from an apple tree, Noak's wife was Joan of Ark. Noak built an ark and the animals came on in pairs.
- The Jews were a proud people and throughout history they had trouble with unsympathetic gentiles.
- David was a Hebrew King who was skilled at playing the Liar. He fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
- St. Paul cavorted to Christianity. He preached holy acrimony which is another name for marriage.

**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**

Beth Morum is a Pastoral Care Visitor for OSMH now as well as Mae Cox. If you know anyone from our Parish Family who is in Soldiers, please notify the Church Office so a visit can be arranged.

**Greeting Cards for Parishioners**

Lay-Pastoral Team and ACW have had an important ministry of sending out greeting cards for birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy, or get-well cards. If there is a parishioner that you wish a greeting card to be sent to, please let us know! Contact the Church office to connect with Christine Blair for Birthday or Anniversary Cards or Lynda Harris for Thinking of You, Sympathy, Get Well or Congratulations.

**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 the office at 705-325-2742 if you would like to sponsor a month. (November & December are unsponsored.)

**The Next Newsletter**

If you wish to place a submission, announcement, prayer, pictures etc. into any future newsletter, please contact Nancy at [nancynoakesmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:nancynoakesmorrison@gmail.com). Please provide any submissions for the **April Newsletter** by **Wednesday March 18, 2026.**

**FundScrip**

The FundScrip deadline is **Sunday March 1**. Orders and cheques (payable to St James' Anglican Church) can be dropped off at the Church office. Pick up will be **Sunday March 8**. Thank you for your continued support of this beneficial project.



**March Birthdays**

Barb Debassige, Kate Allen  
 Dave Freeman, Sue Leslie,  
 Jacquelyn Schmidt, Kai Schmidt  
 Susan Chartres

**March Anniversaries**

Ed and Marilyn Kalbfleisch

**IMPORTANT**  
 Any cheques made out to the church must read as follows: **“St. James’ Anglican Church”**

*ST. JAMES’ ANGLICAN CHURCH*  
 58 Peter St. North, Box 272, Orillia, Ontario  
 L3V 6J6 705 - 325-2742  
[office@stjamesorillia.com](mailto:office@stjamesorillia.com)  
<http://www.stjamesorillia.com>  
 Rector: Archdeacon John Anderson  
 Editors: The Communications Committee

