



Tidings

*the newsletter of Christ Church, Meaford
& St. James', Fairmount*

February 2017



Dear Christ Church Parishioners,

I have always loved keeping the seasons of the Church year because they represent our lives and the seasons of our lives. Going through the church year is an invitation to think about our lives and what makes them meaningful and joyful. Lent is a season that represents hope. There will be times in our lives that seem dark and long and just require a tough slog. Lent represents the light at the end of the tunnel, when we know the hard work of living and doing what we need to do is coming to an end. Because we are lucky enough to live in the northern hemisphere, it coincides with the lengthening of days in our environment, when literally the days are getting longer and brighter.

Lent is a time to focus on ourselves. So much of the time, life is about paying attention to others; walking in the shoes of another to understand the bigger picture that is the world. Lent is the time to think about ourselves and our own spiritual growth; who are we as children of God? I encourage you my brothers and sisters to lead a holy Lent. There are the traditional activities of fasting, prayer, bible study, repentance and alms giving. None of these activities will lead to change if we do them just for the sake of doing them. Rather we are encouraged to these activities so that we come to know ourselves, the way we subvert ourselves and undermine the life we have been given.

Sin is not a very popular concept, I have discovered these days. However denying its presence in our lives will not make it go away. In fact it will likely give more power to lead us from the gift of life that is promised to us. Sin is all around us, it is the air we breathe and the light we see. It keeps us from other possibilities. It is anything that robs us, and those we share our lives with, of life. It is the self harm we do. We are not supposed to let it define us, which means recognizing the hold it has on us and freeing ourselves from that hold.

Aligning ourselves with the God of life, the God of Jesus Christ is the path to fullness of life and fullness of joy. It takes work, contemplation, reflection and prayer. It demands that we think carefully about our lives and the choices we make. Often times, our dreams and hopes are infinite but our time and resources are finite and these things must be reconciled. The way we resolve these things is the challenge of a meaningful life. The new awareness that we discover is the seed to resurrection that blooms and that we will then celebrate at Easter.

Cathy +

IN THIS ISSUE

- + Cathy's Message
- + Lent
- + Lenten Calendar
- + Coffee Hour Roster
- + Around the Church
- + Profile – Doug Armitage
- + Treasurer's Report
- + Spring Flowers
- + Humour



Website Submissions

Please leave items for the parish websites, <http://christchurchanglican.ca/> and <http://stjamesfairmount.org/> at the church office. Submissions for Tidings may be emailed to me at lbknana@yahoo.ca. If they are handwritten, please leave them at the church

LENT 2017

From the earliest days of the church Lent has been a time for intentional spiritual growth and development. Spiritual maturity does not come without the hard work of meditation, reflection and learning about ourselves and all the various aspects of our long and varied heritage. The end is always about finding a more meaningful and fulfilling life. Ash Wednesday begins with a sign of ashes reminding us of our mortality and the shortness and uncertainty of life. It is the essential first step, because if you take life for granted, if you think it will go on forever, you will never address some of the issues in your life that you need to come to terms with.

Our spiritual growth and development group is planning special opportunities this Lent.

1. We are planning on having dialogue sermons so you have a chance for input and we hope to also have an investment in our liturgy. If there are any areas about the liturgy or our scriptural heritage you would like addressed please don't hesitate to tell, Winn, Simy or Cathy.
2. We have been given a set of DVD's on the New and Old Testaments. They are an excellent resource to help us understand the context in which they were written. As we all now know, context determines meaning, and that is so important in understanding the intention of the writers. We will play these lectures in the chapel during coffee hour.
3. We have also been made aware of a lack of understanding about the sacramental nature of our worship and why it is important to gather weekly for the Eucharist. So we are offering a three session study on the meaning of the Eucharist to anyone in our congregation, as well as to people in the wider Meaford community. This will follow the Lent and Learn format we set up last year. We will begin at 5:30 pm with a bowl of soup, followed by a discussion and presentation from 6-7 pm.

LENT/EASTER CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 28th Shrove Tuesday - BAC Pancake Supper 5:00 - 7:00 pm

This year will be the 59th annual Pancake Supper provided by the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen for Christ Church & Meaford. Next year the BAC celebrates its "diamond anniversary". We invite suggestions for making it a memorable event. **Ticket prices: \$8 per person/\$25 for a family. Tickets available at the door.**

MARCH

Sunday	Wednesday	Friday
	1st Ash Wednesday 10:30 am Holy Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes	
5th Lent 1 10:30 am Dialogue Sermon Five marks of Love (Treasure)		
12th Lent 2 10:30 am Dialogue Sermon Five marks of Love (Transform)	15th 5:30 – 7:00 pm Lent Soup & Learn – the Holy Eucharist. The power of symbols	17th 6:00 - ? pm St. Patrick's Day Supper
19th Lent 3 10:30 am Dialogue Sermon Five Marks of Love (Tend)	22nd 5:30 – 7:00 pm Lent Soup & Learn – the Holy Eucharist Ritual Meals-finding the transcendent in the present	
26th Lent 4 10:30 am Dialogue sermon Five Marks of Love (Teach)	29th 5:30 – 7:00 pm Lent Soup & Learn – the Holy Eucharist and justice – healing in our relationships	

The Five Marks of Love are a Lenten resource, provided by our diocese, based on the baptismal promises we make each time we have a baptism.

APRIL

Sunday	Thursday	Friday
2nd Lent 6 9:00 am to 1:00 pm Workshop with guest leader Rev. Canon Bill Harrison Five Marks of Love (Tell). Pot luck lunch following.		
9th Palm Sunday 10:30 am Liturgy of the Palms & Holy Eucharist	13th 6:00 pm Agape pot luck supper	14th 10:00 am Joint Good Friday Service with Meaford United & Knox Presbyterian
16th Day of the Resurrection 8:30 am Holy Eucharist 10:30 am Holy Eucharist & Baptism		

2017 MARCH, APRIL & MAY COFFEE HOUR ROSTER

If you are unable to do the date for which you are scheduled, please call one of the others on the schedule and arrange a trade. *Linda Emptage has kindly offered to look after set-up.*

Mar	Name	Apr	Name	May	Name
5	Janet & Stan	2	Muriel & Doug	7	Lesley Kenyon
12	Betty & Harold	9	Truda & John	14	Linda Emptage
19	Donna Thompson	16	Rita & John	21	Janet & Stan
26	Gail & Gene	23	Marg & Charlie	28	Betty & Harold
		30	Sue Parent		

Each Sunday during Coffee Hour, there will be a DVD series on the bible available in the chapel. If there are things you always wanted to know about the bible, come on out! This is a very in-depth series. Also during Lenten Coffee Hours, Simy Wilton will have a spiritual book table.

AROUND THE CHURCH

Knitting News – Sue Parent

Prayer Shawls - A big thank you to the ladies who lovingly made nine absolutely beautiful shawls. Each one is different- knitted, crocheted, wrap-arounds, and lap blankets. In spite of the physical differences, they were all created with caring and compassion in the hope that they will bring comfort, hope and healing to the recipients in their particular time of stress and need. The shawls will be stored for Cathy to distribute where she sees a need.

For the most part we are finished with this project, although there is still at least one more "work in progress". You are welcome to continue if you wish. For our knitters: I have information on another worthwhile effort that you may wish to try. It involves knitting tiny sacs for premie and miscarried babies. It is a new undertaking by the ladies auxiliary of Credit Valley Hospital. If you are interested in more information, give me a call - Susan Parent 538-0844

St. Patrick's Day Supper

The St. Patrick's Irish Supper will be on March 17th at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$15.00 - available soon.

Robbie Burns Supper – Trudy Howard

Back by popular demand after two years, the Robbie Burns Dinner was a great success. This could not have happened without all the help and support I received from everyone especially: Susan Parent, Donna Thompson, Carol Norton, Gene and Gail Latour, Joyce Warfe, Francis Richardson, Sarah, Gord and Greg Howard and of course Charlie Strimas and John Howard. A huge thank you to all the dishwashers and cleaner uppers following the dinner!

(Robbie Burns cont'd)

The menu was roast beef and gravy, tatties (potatoes), mashed neeps (turnips), peas, coleslaw, trifle for dessert, tea and coffee. This year we even served wine, a lovely touch.

Guests were checked in by Carol Norton. After a look and bid with Linda's Silent Auction, guests were escorted to their decorated tables by Francis Richardson. Everyone seemed to be in high spirits, as they greeted friends and dinner partners. At 6:30 the sound of bag pipes filled the hall as piper Scott Buchanan led the customary parade of the Haggis. Haggis bearer Brad Johnson, all in "full figg", was truly a sight to behold!

John gave a fine address to the haggis and Reverend Cathy gave the Selkirk Grace. The requisite toasts were made, dinner was ready to be served to an appreciative crowd and things became pretty quiet. This crowd was hungry! As dessert was finishing, there were more toasts, and then singing, stories and jokes.

I am happy to say we were sold out, our new hall was full, and we raised more than \$1,500.00 for the church. This was truly a great event!

PS: There is a magic purple binder, prepared by Susan Richardson for past dinners, that provided answers to every question - thank you Sue.

I missed Lois Ormsby and her advice.



In this Tidings, we get to learn a little bit about Doug Armitage

PROFILE - Doug Armitage

I was born in Kitchener in 1934, the only boy in a family of four girls; but having four sisters didn't get me out of doing the dishes!

When I was five years old, my Dad went off to fight in the war. During his time in Sicily, he was shot in the neck by a sniper and spent many years recovering. The injury left his voice barely above a whisper.

I was baptized in St. John's Anglican church in Kitchener. During my childhood, my family often went to the Kitchener Farmer's Market. It was there that we met some folks who owned a farm just outside Breslau. They were kind enough to invite me to spend my summer holidays on their farm. I did my schooling in the Kitchener-Waterloo area. I did not do well in Geography and when I got to high school, it was decided that I should go to summer school.

So, at the age of 16, I quit school and went to work in construction with my brother-in-law. My Dad and uncles were in the automotive business, but that did not appeal to me. I served and achieved my Carpentry Apprenticeship and went on to be a Site Supervisor.

In September 1954, Ruth Gamble and I were married in St. John's Anglican Church – the same one in which I was baptized. We subsequently had three children – Rick in 1955, Kevin in 1956 and Perri-anne in 1960.

In 1968 I, along with two partners, started a business called Con-Dign Limited which was a design and build construction company. Con-Dign Limited later became Con-Ex General Contractors. We were involved in the construction of arenas, nursing homes, curling rinks and professional buildings around South Western Ontario. We had 40-50 employees working for us. My responsibilities were: "buying, building and collecting". In the early 1970's, we opened an office in Owen Sound and then another in Meaford.

In 1976, my wife Ruth and I moved to Meaford into the cottage that we had built on Aiken St. in 1967 – Ruth had family ties in Meaford.

My present wife, Muriel (whose husband passed away in 1992), says that she baked cookies and left them on my doorknob and that is how we got together. Muriel and I have been married for 20 years. Because we both lost our first spouses, we call ourselves "leftovers". I now have one stepson, Mark, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

We appreciate being a part of our Christ Church family.

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR TIDINGS – Lent 2017

Christ Church held its annual Vestry meeting on Sunday, January 29th, 2017. Mother Nature did not cooperate resulting in a number parishioners not being able to attend. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about what we were able to do over 2016 and look forward to doing in 2017. For a printed copy of the Vestry Report - Viv Baker in the Church Office – 519-538-1330; for an electronic copy – frichardson@outlook.com

The major capital projects were completing the renovations in Memorial Hall, beginning upgrading the kitchen connected to Memorial Hall and installing solar panels on the church roof. The work inside the church was supported by all parishioners aided by the groups that use the hall and kitchen. This work will be completed in 2017. The installation of the solar panels was paid by the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen (BAC). A chart is put on the church bulletin board each month showing the amount of electricity generated each day. It will take a year to see how this is working given the varying amount of sunlight we get throughout the year.

Significant outreach is being done through our church as well. Christ Church was the sponsoring organization for the Syrian family that arrived in Meaford last February. Many of you will have sampled the Syrian food they produced for the Farmers' Markets in Meaford and Owen Sound. We are in the process of sponsoring a second family this year. Locally, we are hosting a Children's Choir is available to all children in the area, at no cost to the family. They have been practising weekly and have put on small productions at the church and elsewhere.

Christ Church is truly grateful for the support you give it regularly. You have made Christ Church financially stable and given it the ability and opportunity to help our extended community. If there are any questions I can answer, I would be only too pleased to do that. Please do not hesitate to contact me.



SPRING FLOWERS – John Howard

It may be a little early to be thinking spring flowers, depending on which of the groundhog prognostications you may have wished to accept, but the thought of crocus, Narcissus (Daffodils) Hyacinth and Tulips blooming can bring a smile to us on these grey and cloudy winter days. Tulips are favourites of many I have heard and the number of visitors to the Annual Tulip Festival in our nation's capital each spring is proof of this.

In Holland in the 1600's Tulips were so popular that the craze was called "tulip mania", or "tulipomania." This obsession apparently caused the crash of the Dutch economy, because tulips became so valuable in Holland that their bulbs were worth more than gold. Some might argue that the cost per bulb in today's market is nearing the price of gold.

Cut Tulips are in demand before they bloom in our gardens and parks, and brighten any room in which they are displayed. You may find they tend to stretch, but Tulips can continue to grow as much as an inch per day after being cut.

Although Crocus do not make great cut flowers, a pot of forced Crocus or a mixed pan of crocus and other spring flowering bulbs can also bring some early spring colour into our homes. Then when they finish blooming, we can plant the bulbs into our garden for continuing spring displays for the years to come. Did you know there are crocus that bloom in the fall? Saffron, used as a flavouring in Mediterranean cooking, is harvested from the stigmas of one type of fall-blooming crocus, *Crocus sativus*, Saffron Crocus.

The daffodil is, for some, the 'golden trumpet flower' that heralds the arrival of spring. The Latin name for daffodil, *Narcissus pseudonarcissus*, is thought to have been inspired by Narcissus, the figure in Greek mythology said to have fallen in love with his reflection in a pool of water. The nodding head of the daffodil is said to represent Narcissus bending down and gazing at his reflection.

I hope the readers of this article have not thought it too trivial.

AND ... A BIT OF HUMOUR

For those of you who missed Cathy's February 12 homily – here is her closing humour ...

The lord is my programmer I shall not crash
He installed his software on the hard disk of my heart
All of his commandments are user friendly
His directory guides me to the right choices
For his name's sake
Even though I scroll through the problems of life
I will fear no bugs, for he is my back up
His password protects me
He prepares a menu for me in the presence of my enemies
His help is only a key stroke away
Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life
And my file will be merged with his and saved forever.

