

SPRING 2024

THE ST JOHN'S JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of St John The Baptist, Lakefield



Dates for Your Diary

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March 28	Maundy Thursday service at 7pm*
March 29	Good Friday Walk of the Cross and service, 10am-12pm*
March 31	Easter Sunday Eucharist at 10am*
May 3	Irish Millie performs at Christ Church Community Museum, event begins at 7pm
May 23	CCCM AGM at 7pm, speaker Pam Hart of the Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Support Group

*[Visit the website](#) for further details of our Easter services

This issue:

Announcements
PAGE 02

Church News
PAGE 03

Minister's Message
PAGE 05

Wardens' Note
PAGE 07

PAGE 08

News From our
Ministries
PAGE 08

Christ Church
PAGE 10

ACW Update
PAGE 12

Bits & Pieces
PAGE 13



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✦ In January, we welcomed our interim Priest Rev. Gloria. If you need to reach her, she can be contacted at ***belrev15@gmail.com***
- ✦ We're delighted to share that Bishop Riscylla Shaw has appointed The Rev. John Runza to be our new Priest in Charge, effective September 1, 2024
- ✦ If you haven't heard from the church in a while, please check your spam folder and be sure to add ***stjohnslakefieldcomms@gmail.com*** to your contacts list so you never miss a message.
- ✦ Thank you to everyone who participated in the recent gift card order. It generated \$563.25 for outreach purposes! Woohoo!! – ***submitted by Marty Smith***

PAGE 03



CHURCH NEWS

World Day of Prayer at St John's

World Day of Prayer is truly a worldwide event. Every year, at 1 pm on the first Friday of March, in Christian churches all around the world, people gather to pray for the woman (and children) of one country chosen for that year. This year the local event was hosted at St John's and representatives from churches throughout the Selwyn area (including Curve Lake, Buckhorn and Burleigh Falls) joined with us to plan the prayer service with refreshments afterward.

The service program was written by women in the chosen country for 2024, Palestine, in 2017 and revised in October 2023. The Women's Interchurch Council of Canada (WICC) sent us planning information starting in August of 2023. The package included the service program, PowerPoints for the service and one for the history of Palestine, media and marketing ideas, offering envelopes and recipes for Middle Eastern refreshments to be served after the service. This made it easy to organize and plan. We met three times over the months beforehand, engaged a speaker, rehearsed, shopped, and cooked.

On 1st March, the doors of St. John's opened and people began to file in and take their places. They were greeted with programs and a piece of olive branch. The history of Palestine looped on the screen overhead. Janet Bolger and Janet Skrepnek (Lakefield Baptist) led the service, which also showed on the screen.

Interspersed within the prayers were the life stories written by three Palestinian women and read by Heather Dummitt (Lakefield United), Carol Brewer (St. Paul's) and Nancy Keith (Lakefield Baptist). Our guest speaker was Nader (Anthony) Kharouba who told of his family and life as a Palestinian refugee and their emigration to Canada.

Several appropriate hymns and songs were sung, accompanied on piano by Kay Nickel. The devotional message was given by Rev. Ann Blane (St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church), who compared finding a peaceful resolution to a conflict to untangling a ball of wool and knitting a community.

A Successful World Day of Prayer at St John's cont

The service, as written and presented, was emotional and made for thoughtful discussion and prayerful hope for peace in Palestine.

After the service, all trekked upstairs to a buffet of lentil soups, salad, and lentil piaffe, along with desserts featuring Palestinian ingredients. The tables were covered with bright Mediterranean themed cloths and samples of Middle Eastern snacks such as dates, almonds, Pita triangles and Baba Ghanoush.



Conversation was active and people were constantly moving about and greeting others. New friends were made and old ones revisited. A good time was had by all, as they say.

Over one hundred persons attended the celebration of World Day of Prayer St John's. The offering collected at the service came to over \$1700 and was forwarded to WICC to fund project grants which empower women and children in Canada and throughout the world. These small projects help restore hope to women and children touched by injustice. Next year our local World Day of Prayer will be hosted at the Causeway Christian Assembly in Ennismore. On that day we will pray for the women of the Cook Islands in the Pacific. I hope to see everyone there.

- Ann Jakins



An Easter Reflection

In a book of short reflections titled *'The Last Thing We Talk About'*, written by Joseph Bayly, I came across this short reflection. It is entitled *'Springtime.'*

One Saturday in January, I saw the mail truck stop at our mailbox up on the road. Without thinking, except that I wanted to get the mail, I ran out of the house and up the road in my shirt sleeves. It was bitterly cold – the temperature was well below zero – there was a brisk wind from the north, and the ground was covered with more than a foot of snow.

I opened the mailbox, pulled out the mail, and was about to make a mad dash for the house when I saw what was on the bottom of the pile. It was a seed catalogue. On the front were bright zinnias. I turned it over and on the back were huge tomatoes. For a few moments I was oblivious to the cold, delivered from it actually. I leafed through the catalogue tasting corn and cucumbers, smelling roses. I saw the freshly plowed earth, smelled it, let it run through my fingers. For those brief moments, I was living in springtime and summer. Winter was past.

Then the cold penetrated my bones and I ran back to the house. When the door was closed behind me, and I was getting warm again, I thought about how my moments at the mailbox were like our experience as Christians. We feel the cold along with those who do not share our hope. The biting wind penetrates us too. But in our cold times, we have a seed catalogue. We open it and smell the promised spring, one that is eternal. And the first fruit that settles our hope is Jesus Christ, who was raised from death and the cold earth to glory eternal.

If ever there was a winter when we have all shared that longing for a splash of colour and a reminder of the promise hidden beneath the snow, surely it was this one. Most years the movement from winter to spring seems far more dramatic than what we are experiencing this year as we emerge from the cold with a whole new vocabulary of weather words.



An Easter Reflection cont.

Spring immerses us in the imagery of new life with its visual symbols of hope. We are energized by the promise of starting afresh on all sorts of new projects and adventures. We sense God's presence everywhere in creation, perhaps now more than at any other time of the year. Yellows, reds and an abundance of green plant leaves offer the promise of life renewed.

The Church begins its new year in the short, cold days of Advent at a time when most of us have to be constantly reminded of the relevance of Christ's resurrection in our lives. Yet here we are watching the breath-taking beauty of God's creation unfold as we journey through Holy Week to the cross and through the darkness of Good Friday to the Day of Resurrection.

The season of Easter is an opportunity to recommit to a vision for our ministry in the world. It has been said that, from the time of the apostles down to the present day, Christianity seems always to be one generation away from extinction. That has been of deep concern to congregations and Christian denominations everywhere as we pray for our church home. Yet, here we are in the season of Easter –the Great 50 days! We need to bear in mind that God's promise of renewal to each of us is right in front of our eyes and its unfolding continues with the warming of the earth as each day arrives.

Holy Week relentlessly calls us to journey into kairos, God's time. We journey through the cross on Good Friday to eternity in the Resurrection. We travel from the commonplace to the extraordinary; from the boundaries imposed on our daily lives to limitless horizons beyond the clock and the calendar. Most of all we journey from despair to hope as God's kingdom transforms our finite world as only God's love and compassion can.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Happy Easter!

- *Reverend Gloria*



Restoration & Renovation: A Note From Our Wardens

A Happy Easter from the Wardens. We pray that you have a blessed Easter season. In the words of N. T. Wright, a noted Bible scholar. “We are an Easter people.”

As your wardens we continue to try and keep on top of the things which need to be done – which can be a bit like trying to swim through a tsunami at times; we’re trusting God here...

We truly thank Charles Murphy and Ann Turner Murphy, Mike Kollaard and Paul Malaguti for their help with the rectory renovation, which proceeds apace. The kitchen was gutted and is being rebuilt. The laundry room, front hall floor, upstairs hall, bedroom closet, stair carpeting, front porch, bathroom vanity, and some support joists are receiving necessary attention and will be renovated.

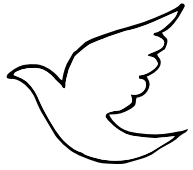
The church itself is also receiving attention. The back wall plaster work is to be repaired as soon as we’re sure the bell tower stonework is OK. Some front window plaster work also needs repairing and the church walls are sorely in need of repainting. The rector’s office needs repairs too, following a roof leak that was fixed.

All this requires work to be contracted out to suitably qualified people. We’re spending real money on all these things, even though our income is still not balancing routine expenses, meaning that we’re drawing down the savings we’re so blessed to have. We implore all of us to prayerfully ponder how to help...

- *Your Wardens,*

*Mike Dry
Ann Turner Murphy
Sheila Bishop*

Financial Update		
	<u>To Feb. 29</u>	<u>Budget</u>
Total offering:	\$11,397	\$12,681
Total revenue:	\$13,021	\$17,431
Total expenses	\$19,831	\$21,758
Net revenue	-\$6,810	-\$4,326



NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

Food Bank Receives Outpouring of Community Support

Food insecurity touches the lives of many Ontarians, including 1 in 5 children. Food insecurity can range from worrying about running out of food before getting money to buy more, to not eating for a whole day or more.

The Food Bank volunteers are privileged and happy to be able to offer food to people who are struggling in our community. We have a wonderful team of volunteers that offer their time and energy to provide this essential service. Our volunteers come from many denominations and walks of life, creating a uniquely diverse and representative community ministry. Thank you volunteers!

If you happen to be walking or driving along Regent Street on a Tuesday morning, you can witness the outside activity of our food distribution. Please know that we're also busy transporting food where it's needed and there is a hive of activity inside the building on Mondays and Tuesdays as we prepare the food for distribution.

We are amazed and blessed by the wonderful support from individuals, groups, and organizations within our community. Because of this generosity we are able to offer a wonderful selection of items to our recipients. The Lakefield Herald recently devoted a full page to supporting our food bank and below are a few more examples of community support.

As part of the Polarfest events, on Friday, February 2nd, our local Police Officers took on the Selwyn Firefighters in a friendly charity hockey game. Admission to the game was by non-perishable food donation or cash donation. Proceeds were split between our Food Bank and the Bridgenorth Food Cupboard.

Thank you Peterborough County Dairy Producers for donating 96 blocks of Ivanhoe cheese. What a special treat for us to offer our recipients on February 20th.



Food Bank Receives Outpouring of Community Support cont.



The Lakefield & District Lions held a Food Drive at Lakefield Foodland on March 16th. The food drive was a great success. Lots of food was collected and we brought in over \$2500 in monetary donations. Thank you Lakefield & District Lions!

We were delighted to offer our recipients a nice selection of Avon products after Jan Sutton donated several boxes filled with Avon personal care items. Thanks Jan!

Wynfield Shores are planning another neighbourhood food drive on Sunday, March 24th. We look forward to receiving an abundance of food.

We're busy planning a Community Easter Blessing on March 26th, during which we will offer recipients a wide variety of fresh fruits, vegetables, fresh bread, hot cross buns, desserts, cheese, crackers, milk, eggs, and a ham! We are preparing for 120 families. We want to celebrate the joyful Easter story of resurrection and spread the message of love and hope.

St. Paul the Apostle Church in Lakefield held another food drive during the season of Lent. They plan to bring the collected food to us on Wednesday, April 3rd at 9:30 am. And, as an added bonus, grade 8 students from St. Paul elementary school are scheduled to walk to our food bank and sort the food to get it ready for distribution. It is a blessing to have youth engaged in community service.

It is an honour to be part of this ministry to serve God's people. You are invited to visit our ["Lakefield Community Food Bank" Facebook page.](#)

- Respectfully submitted by Sandy Peacock



CHRIST CHURCH UPDATE

Christ Church Gears Up For Summer

Behind the scenes at Christ Church Community Museum, our committee is hard at work gearing up for the 2024 summer opening.

This will be a memorable season, as heritage stone mason John Laundry and his team undertake the stone restoration of the 1853 bell tower. We have been fundraising for this project for the last three years and one of our most popular musical events to raise money has been 'Irish Millie'. Millie returns on Friday, May 3rd at 7 p.m. for another concert. If you haven't seen this young fiddling sensation and entertainer, now is your chance! Tickets are available at Happenstance Books and Yarns in Lakefield for \$20 and seating is limited.

The CCCM Committee is excited to welcome back our friends and volunteers to our Annual General Meeting on Thursday, May 23rd at 7 p.m. Learn about the accomplishments of Christ Church and the museum over the last year and its future plans for exhibits and ongoing maintenance. Pam Hart, a representative of the Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Support Group, is our guest speaker for the evening. She will talk about a very special and unique quilt that commemorates the legacy of residential schools in Canada. I am sure that her heartfelt presentation on 'quilt stories of reconciliation' will foster healing, education and conversation.

We also celebrate over 30 volunteers and committee members who keep our village's 'little gem' open and operating with their generous support of time and gifts. Refreshments will be served and there will be time for volunteers to sign up for guiding at the museum this summer.

This year CCCM will be open daily, Monday, July 1st to Monday, September 2nd from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Please plan to join us and bring friends and family who may be interested in learning more about CCCM, volunteering as a guide or joining our committee, and listening to Pam's extraordinary quilt talk.

Christ Church Gears Up For Summer cont.

We are very pleased that Reverend Master will carry on the summer tradition of supporting three services at Christ Church on the Sundays of the long weekends – June 30th, August 4th and September 1st at 8:30 a.m. Please accept our warmest invitation to attend.

Christ Church Community Museum is available for weddings, baptisms, life celebrations and other special events. For further information contact Patti at pattimcallister4@yahoo.ca

*Respectfully submitted,
Patti McAllister
Chair, CCCM*



ACW UPDATE

St John's ACW: A Small Group With a Big Impact

Throughout winter and into spring, the ACW continued to meet on the second Tuesday of every month although our numbers have been dwindling – if you can join us in the upstairs hall at 10am please do so! We take a break for summer but will resume meeting in the fall.

Meetings consist of planning for future events/projects and deciding where to allocate our funds so that they benefit St John's Outreach programs and other community partners such as Lakefield Youth Unlimited. The ACW raises funds through our seasonal craft fairs, sales of baked goods, and thrift stalls. Last fall we held a very successful PumpkinFest, with pumpkins donated by the Leahy family.

More recently, we held our annual Lenten Lunches. Everyone worked hard to make this year's event a success – and it showed. The upstairs hall came alive every Thursday, packed with attendees enjoying good food, good conversation, and interesting discussions.

We were blessed to welcome members of other congregations and speakers representing the different churches in Lakefield. Thanks to everyone who attended, and thanks to those who worked so hard behind the scenes.

- Joan Davies on behalf of the ACW





BITS & PIECES

A Special Thank You

I'd like to share a special thank you to Robyn McKinley and Kay Nickel for their support during my recent illness. They kept checking in and supplying fluids to keep me hydrated. You are my guardian angels.

And thanks to all who contacted me through email, phone calls, and other means. I'd also like to especially thank Bev. A., Lynda M., and Jacqueline T. for covering Chancel duties for me and my partner.

Blessings to each of you!

- Joan Davies

Stained Glass: The Art of Remembering

The original purpose of church stained glass windows was to tell the Christian story to those who could not read it for themselves. Visual ‘bibles of the illiterate’, the narrative scenes depicted were to teach the viewers the biblical stories and truths basic to their faith and to provide examples of moral behaviour.

With sunlight passing through the coloured glass and filling the interior of the church with ever-changing gem-like hues, it was believed that the viewer’s thoughts would also be elevated to a meditation on divine perfection and beauty. In addition, stained glass in the early days of Canada was a tangible link to a continuing tradition and history – a tie to the homeland. Memorial windows proliferated and became an outlet for a family’s grief and a means to honour their loved ones.

When you step into St. John’s church, you are immediately struck by the collection of stained glass windows. The majority were designed and made by Robert McCausland Limited in Toronto. Founded in 1856 by Joseph McCausland, it is the oldest surviving stained glass studio in North America. His son Robert was the artist who made the firm’s reputation in stained glass. Trained in England, he brought a stream of skilled English artisans to Toronto and became the preferred Canadian stained glass maker for Anglican churches in Ontario. He was known for producing windows ‘in the English style’, a term given to windows radiantly light in colour and harmonized with the architecture of their setting.

For over 75 years the figure of the patron saint of St. John’s, John the Baptist, was the central panel in the three stained glass windows of the chancel behind the altar. Erected during the early 1880’s, this imposing window was a memorial to two infant children – Kathleen Strickland and Thomas Bowker.

Kathleen Irene Sylvia Strickland was born in 1874, the daughter of Alicia Madelena Clementi Smith and George William Ross Strickland. A granddaughter of Samuel Strickland, Kathleen passed away at age 3 months from congestion of the brain (cerebral hemorrhage or stroke) and is buried in Christ Church cemetery. Thomas William Bowker was the son of Francis Bowker and Margaret Ellen Peed. He was born on January 31, 1879 and died on August 23, 1879 from dysentery (diarrhea). Thomas is also buried in Christ Church cemetery beneath one of the four small white marble crosses that stand side by side on the south side of the church. Sadly, in the span of just seven years, from 1874 to 1881, the Bowker family buried four of their infant children.

This stained glass window that commemorates the two infants was never popular with many of the members of the congregation. In 1899, an article written about the parish contains this description of the John the Baptist window - “the effect of which is rather spoiled by the figure of John the Baptist in the middle of it. The execution cannot be complained of; it is rather the conception which fails to meet approval, owing to the lack of dignity in the figure, and power in the face.”

In 1903, a carved oak reredos (an ornamental screen covering the wall at the back of an altar) was installed in memory of Henry J. LeFevre and his wife Agnes Strickland Tully. This concealed the legs of John the Baptist, but apparently this was not enough and for several years a curtain hung behind the reredos completely concealing the figure in the window. In the 1940's a parishioner wrote, “Between you and me, I don't think they showed very good taste. St. John the Baptist is very ugly - he has long, boney, crooked legs.” Finally, in 1964, St. John the Baptist was moved with the unanimous approval of the congregation to a less conspicuous window at the rear of the church.

That same year, the figure of Christ as the Good Shepherd was installed as the focal point in the chancel windows. It was given in memory of the Rev. Walter J. Creighton (incumbent from 1906-09 and 1927-1938) and his wife Helen by their daughter and son-in-law, Margery and George Gosling.

The beautiful old stained glass in the side sections of the chancel window trilogy are believed to have been donated by the Nicholls family of Peterborough who gave money to several area churches for this purpose. They too were removed and placed in the two windows on either side of the sanctuary as they were not thought to be complimentary to the new Creighton window. This made room for two new memorial windows.

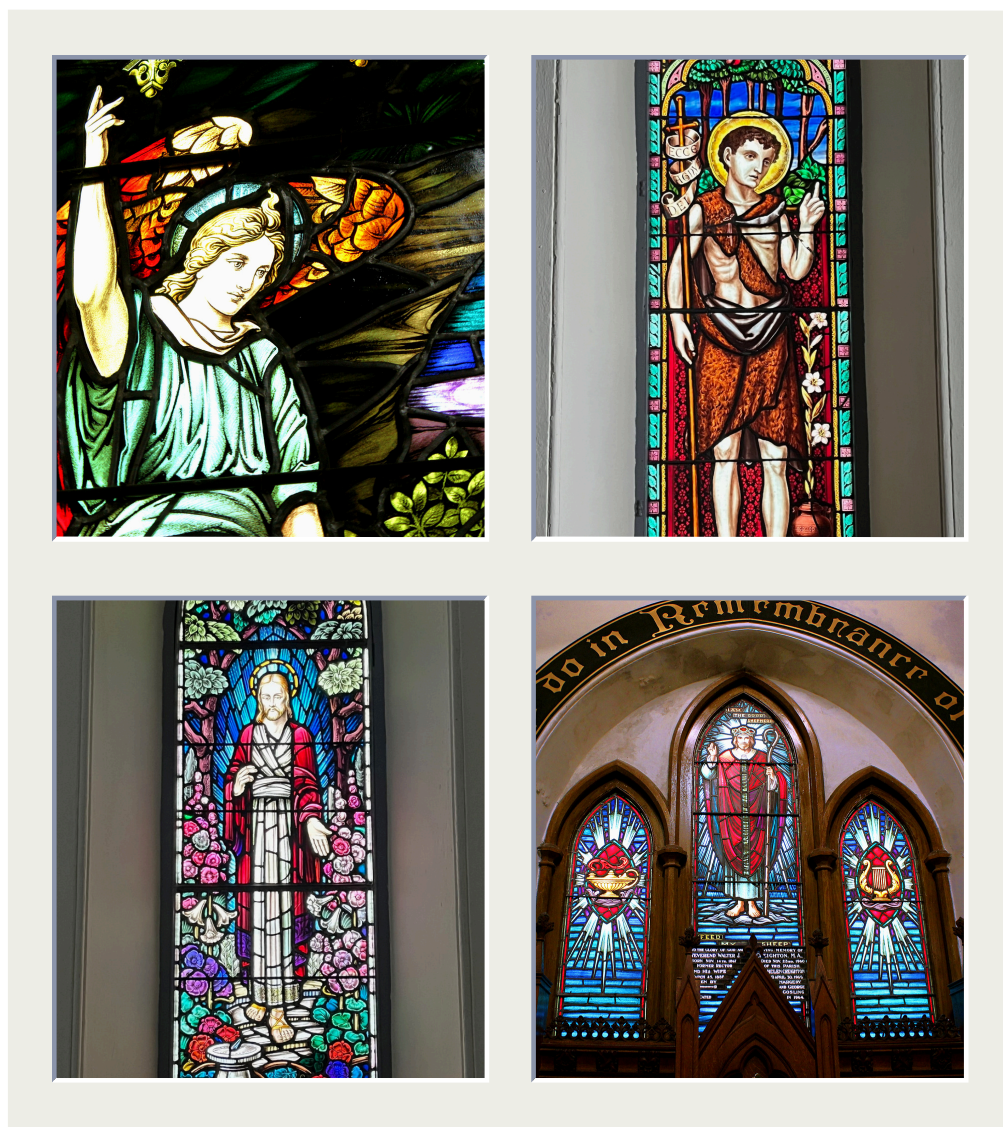
In September 1973, new stained glass memorial windows designed by McCausland's were dedicated in the church. One window, incorporating a lamp of learning is in memory of Gordon Winder Smith, former rector's warden and headmaster of Lakefield College School. The second window with a music symbol, the lyre commemorates my grandmother, Mrs. Wilhelmina Twist, a former organist for thirty years and active church member for over fifty years.

Two earlier McCausland stained glass windows facing Regent Street were commissioned by Edith Daubuz. Installed in 1932 in memory of her parents, Henry James Daubuz and Mary Isabella Daubuz, the first window is a colourful depiction of 'the resurrection angel'. Henry was a student at Samuel Strickland's farming school who would later become his business associate. The other window beside it, called 'the light of the world', honours Edith's sister, Magdaline Louisa Wilmot Daubuz, and was set in place in 1933.

I grew up in St. John's in the 1960's and the stained glass window that held a particular fascination for me was the window facing Queen Street at the end of our regular pew.

Dedicated to Hannah Simpson (1846-1934) and entitled 'Christ in the garden,' it is an explosion of colourful, and to me as a young girl, magical flowers. The Simpson family settled here in the 1830's and two succeeding generations worshipped in St. John's. A writer for the Mail and Empire at the turn of the 20th century sang the praises of this particular stained glass window in St. John's. "Through the window whose central light bears the figure of the young preacher in the wilderness, touching the blueness of the blossoms into living azure and gilding the tablets put up to the glory of God and the memory of those who have passed away."

All nine of these wonderful stained glass windows are a marvel to behold and a testament to those who have gone before us. These windows are always changing with the light, providing a discovery of some new detail never before noted. They serve as a lasting tribute to beloved members of our community and to the artists who designed them.



This article originally appeared in the February 2024 edition of the Lakefield Herald and is gratefully republished here with the permission of author Patti McAllister, Chair of Christ Church Community Museum.

The Life Group Drops In On Kawartha Food Share

St John's Life Group - consisting of seven women and one baby - had the opportunity to tour and volunteer at Kawartha Food Share on December 12th.

We sorted bagged non-perishable food items into large warehouse bins. All the bags we sorted came from various grocery stores that are bagged specifically for this purpose and then purchased by customers to donate. Kawartha Food Share makes regular pick-ups to the various grocery stores as donations fill up. We enjoyed our time of fellowship and volunteering so much that we returned again on February 27th!

- *Margaret Henning*



Margaret, Rene, Velta, Susan, Darlene,
Cordelia, Anne



Cordelia and Noa

FaithWorks 2024

This year's FaithWorks campaign began in January with your envelope donations to FaithWorks. By now you have seen the posters and received the promotional envelopes for FaithWorks, featuring Cliff and Amber and the theme "*When I was hungry (thirsty and a stranger), you gave to me....*".

You may not know that Cliff and Amber live in Peterborough and work with, as well as, receive from One Roof/City Peterborough. They represent this year's Faces of FaithWorks.

For the last three years, in the first quarter of the year, we have supported people in need of shelter through our donations to One Roof/One City Peterborough and A Place Called Home, Lindsay, with additional percentages of our regular enveloped donations as well as our designated ones.

At the end of 2023, One Roof Peterborough closed its doors at the Anglican Centre on Brock Street and the next day reopened them at the Trinity Community Centre. Here, because of no commercial kitchen, the meal program had to be reduced to reheated food.

One Roof Peterborough has now become One Roof Community Centre and now has an overnight shelter component within its walls. This program is run cooperatively by One City Peterborough and funded by the City of Peterborough. Both One Roof Peterborough and One Roof Community Centre, Peterborough are funded separately by donations to FaithWorks. One City Peterborough strives to create permanent solutions to shelter, while One Roof operates as a day time drop-in with some food and an overnight emergency shelter.

In the second quarter of the 2024, we will concentrate our outreach on those who are immigrants, refugees and those who face discrimination. Our designated givings will help support Anglican United Refugee Alliance (AURA), the Durham Region Migrant Workers Ministry and Flemingdon Park Ministry – FPM Drop-In Centre – in the multicultural Flemingdon area.

Food Insecurity will be the focus for the third quarter. Dedicated donations will be solicited from July through September for Flemington Park Ministry – The Common Table Farm program, which distributes free, healthy, organic produce to neighbourhood families and seniors; One Roof Community Centre, Peterborough – Commercial Kitchen and the Toronto Urban Native Ministry, which provides meals and cultural programs to its clientele.

The Faces of FaithWorks Campaign for the fall (October through December) will focus on the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) and the many partners under their umbrella, including the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, which supplies wheat, rice, and other grains to countries overseas where there is a food crisis (as in Gaza or the Sudan) or as part of their implementation of sustainable agricultural education programs with seed and tool resources.

This is a summary, of this year's FaithWorks Hopes for the St. John's community. Given time I hope to come up with a special event to enlarge our donations. This could be a dinner, a concert, a games night, an art night, card tournament or whatever we wish to do to raise additional funds for FaithWorks. Please let me know if you have ideas, wish to volunteer, or can organize such an event. Thank you for the past year's support as well as this year's contributions toward helping our neighbours in need. Through FaithWorks you are not just donating money to be given to people, you are working with local projects and with people of lived experience who are helping themselves to change their lives.

– Respectfully submitted by Ann Jakins, FaithWorks Coordinator

Have You Checked Out RightNow Media?

RightNow Media gives St John's members access to an extensive range of biblical resources – all for free! Simply use the link:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/stjohnslakefield> to take you to the RightNow Media webpage.

From there, you can browse through the many, many video options, or click on St. John the Baptist Anglican Church Lakefield at the top of the page to view our custom library. There you'll find some recommendations from other St. John's members. As mentioned before, you can use this resource for your own study, or with others.

Here's a couple of recommendations:

The Prodigal God by Timothy Keller

The parable of the prodigal son is well known but this 37-minute video (Session 1) will take you beyond the traditional understanding of the parable to expand your understanding of God's extravagant love and the cost of that love.

Authored by Timothy Keller, founding pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, it is both thought-provoking and challenging. Jump into the story and learn more about being gospel-transformed people. Click the link to view:

<https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/content/details/226>

The Servant and the Chicken Dragon

If you have kids, or have kids visiting for Easter, or if you'd like to see kids telling the Easter story in a unique fun way, check out "The Servant and the Chicken Dragon" on RightNow Media.

This 21-minute video stars kids from the ages of 9 to 13, who like creating movies. They talk about a fairy tale as something that might be fun to do. Then, after a fire devastates their local foodbank, they realize that they could help restock the shelves, by creating a movie and showing it in their back yard with neighbourhood visitors bringing food donations as the price of admission.

The kids get together and excitedly talk about possibilities for their movie: a princess, a fairy god-mother, spells, a dragon, a handsome prince, a treasure map, and even lasers. They manage to incorporate all these features but the main plot line involves a poor lost girl (who is really a princess) imprisoned and threatened by an evil dragon who wants to eat her.

She desperately pleads with the self-preoccupied kings of the nation to save her, but they are too busy. Bound and in prison, a mysterious beggar appears before her, takes off his ragged cloak and stands before her dressed as King Ransom. *“I did not come to be served, but to serve, to give my life as a ransom for many.”* When he offers to take her place (as a meal for the dragon) she accepts, and he then asks: *“Do you want to become a citizen in my kingdom?”* She says: *“yes.”* And he frees her from the ropes and takes them upon himself.

A while later, the freed girl hears the roar of the dragon in the distance, but follows a treasure map to ‘Eden’, where much to her surprise, she meets the handsome King Ransom, alive, and greeting her with the words, *“Welcome home.”* The kids making the movie recognize that this pattern is the same as Jesus (who is really God) rescuing us from death, by undergoing death in our place, and thereby restoring us back to being ‘princes’ and ‘princesses’. This movie is quirky and fun, all the while bringing to life the truth about Jesus’ death and resurrection and its implications for each of us. A clever story within a story, within another story.

Find this video in RightNow Media by clicking Browse from the homepage and entering ‘The Creators’ into the Search function. Click on the picture labelled ‘The Creators 6 sessions’. Then scroll down until you see: ‘The Servant and the Chicken Dragon’. The video is also included in the St. John’s custom library and directly linked below. <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/en/player/video/591062?session=720647>

-Anne Mansell

If you need any help accessing RightNow Media, please contact Rene Jackman at rene.jackman@gmail.com