



News and Views

ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH

Caledon East, Ontario

Volume 2, Issue 1

Lent 2008

Easter

like Passover, is a movable feast. That is, the date of Easter is not fixed but is determined by a system based on a lunar calendar adapted from a formula decided by the Council of Nicaea in AD 325. In this system, Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday following the first full moon after the Spring equinox (the day when the sun's ecliptic or apparent path in the sky crosses the equator, thus making days and nights of equal length). This usually occurs on March 21, which means the date of Easter can range between March 22 and April 25 depending on the lunar cycle. Much of the calendar of the Church year is determined by the date of Easter.

Ascension Day are white and gold, the colours of sacred days throughout the Church year. For the Easter season, white symbolizes the hope of the resurrection, as well as the purity and newness that comes from victory over sin and death. The gold (or yellow) symbolizes the light of the world brought by the risen Christ that enlightens the world, as well as the exaltation of Jesus as Lord and King. The sanctuary colour for the other five Sundays of Easter is usually also white and gold, although some Churches use Red, the colour of the Church, for these Sundays as well as for Pentecost Sunday. During this time worshippers are called to celebrate God's ongoing work in the world through his people, and to acknowledge and reflect upon their purpose, mission, and calling as God's people.



The Colours of Easter

Colour used in worship is especially important during the season of Easter. The changing colours of the sanctuary from the purple of Lent to the black of Good Friday provide graphic visual symbols for the Lenten journey. The change of colours for Easter and the following Sundays helps communicate the movement of sacred time as well as personal faith journeys.

The Easter Vigil

There are a variety of ways to celebrate Easter and various emphases that can be placed on the season. But from the early days of the Church, the Easter Vigil was the primary means by which Easter was observed. This practice has evolved in modern observance into the Easter sunrise service that many Churches observe, but its history is much richer.

The Sanctuary colours for Easter Sunday and

The Vigil itself can begin at any time after sundown on Saturday, although there has been a tendency in Protestant Churches to begin just before sunrise on Sunday and conclude the service just after the Gospel readings while singing praises at sunrise. In more temperate climates, this is often an outdoor service.



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In the early Church, the Easter Vigil concluded with the baptism of new converts, celebrating not only Jesus' resurrection from death to life, but also the new life that God has brought through the death and resurrection of Jesus to individual believers. Those baptized changed into new white clothes to symbolize their new life in Christ, which is the origin of the tradition of buying new clothes at Easter. Although Easter baptism is rarely practiced today among Protestants, the Anglican practice of renewing baptismal vows during the Easter Vigil is becoming popular.

Probably the most traditional way of celebrating Easter among Protestant Churches is the Easter musical or cantata, or a series of special music and song. This has a revered history in the Western Church. Given the important place of music among most Churches that tend to shy away from liturgical worship, it is easy to understand why music emerged as a primary means of worship for Easter. But even with music at the heart of many Easter services, there are still other symbols and activities that can be equally important and creative in communicating the message of the resurrection.

Symbols of Easter

The origin of the English name "Easter" is not certain, but many think that it derived from the Teutonic or Anglo-Saxon goddess of Spring, Eostre or Eastre. This fact, and other aspects surrounding Easter observance such as eggs and bunnies, has generated considerable debate concerning the origin of some traditions used in Easter observance, mostly since the Reformation and especially among evangelicals and low Church traditions. Some argue that Easter is little more than an adaptation of a pagan fertility festival and has little to do with Christian tradition.

There is little question that many symbols of Easter have been adopted from various cultures. But this is true for almost all Christian symbols, including the cross (the sign of the fish is the most unique and original Christian symbol). But this has always



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been the case since the days of Abraham and Moses. That is, God's people have always used symbols with which they were familiar from the surrounding culture, and then infused them with new meaning to commemorate and worship God. In the process the symbols are radically transformed into a means to express faith in the only true God in spite of their "pagan" origins.

Easter should be the most openly joyful time of celebration of the Church year. Celebrated against the background of the shadows and darkness of Lent and Holy Week, this season truly becomes a living expression of the hope that God has brought into the world through the death and resurrection of Jesus. Since this hope of renewal and new life, both present and future, is at the heart of the Good News that the Church is commissioned to proclaim and live in the world, every possible avenue of proclaiming that Good News should be utilized. No doubt that is why many traditionally non-liturgical Churches are increasingly recovering the value of the various traditions of the Easter Season as a means of bearing witness to their Faith. Seen as Proclamation, the various aspects of worship during this season can become vehicles for God's grace and transforming work in the world, and among his people.



(An excerpt from an article by Dennis Bratcher, Copyright @ CRI/Voice, Institute)

ST.JAMES HISTORY Continued Building Project Phase #2 – 2002 to 2003 By Alan White

A previous article (Phase #1) covered the trials, tribulations and triumphs in building the parish hall and the daycare facility, which were connected to the old church buildings with a covered walkway. This walkway, though crude and open to the east, did provide shelter from the prevailing west winds for parishioners while walking from the new parish hall to the church. The walkway was very solidly built and would have survived as long as any building! It

did, however, connect a new structure to the original beautiful church sanctuary and a group of additions, some condemned (old Masonic hall), the others (kitchen, original Leon Reed room), entirely inadequate for the purpose they served.

Demolished Buildings



BUILDINGS TO BE DEMOLISHED



After Phase #1 completed in 1998 the old kitchen was converted into a Sunday School room and the Leon Reed room multitasked as a meeting room, the parish office and the Rector's office.

This state of inadequate facilities could have continued - in a couple of years the parish would have been debt free. But there would not have been a meaningful Sunday School, nor a modern

parish office, nor meeting rooms and no office for the priest - all of which are considered essential for a parish in the 21st century.

Also, it was necessary to maintain the business plan that was originally presented to the Diocese, who would not have accepted our plans unless they had covered a completed project.

Phase #1 was completed in 1998 and Phase #2 resumed the project in 2000, to finish the building design, to satisfy the Town, to complete all legal requirements (our land parcel comprised four separate lots which had to be consolidated into one), and to raise the money. It took two years of steady pressure to complete all these requirements.

Finally the Diocese was happy, the bank was satisfied and the building permit was issued. The fun could begin. The Project Managers for Phase #1, Hawkey Construction, were again engaged for Phase #2.

The first item of business was to dismantle the tracker organ in order to move it into storage in Guelph at the premises of the organ builder, Keates-

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Geisler, since the organ loft (at the side of the sanctuary) would need to be demolished.

While in storage the organ refurbishment was completed.

The first item to be demolished in August 2002 was the walkway. Reverend Cathy Miller was out at dawn with Keith Judge and his merry men, hoping to remove the walkway intact to reuse it as an animal shelter on Keith's farm. That walkway was very solid and it didn't want to leave, so Keith only managed to salvage it in a truly knocked down condition. Next a huge excavator began the work of serious demolition of the buildings - like a prehistoric monster it clawed down the old buildings with great finesse, very careful not to touch the sanctuary.

Then the excavation could start. A major concern was to protect the century old fieldstone footings of the sanctuary which had to be underpinned to be part of the footings of the new structure. This was delicate work, competently supervised by Hawkey's men. The construction process proceeded smoothly with no delays. As in Phase #1, the construction costs were far below industry standards, achieved in no small measure by the more than 2,000 hours of volunteer labour provided by parishioners.

Construction did start later in the year than was ideal so cold weather conditions prevailed for much of the work, however the shell was soon closed in, insulated and heated so the inside finishing work was completed in comfort. The building was occupied by the summer of 2003 with the site work completed before the winter. It is now enjoyed by all who use this wonderful space.

Editor's Corner

By Donna Davies

The name of our newsletter is News and Views, so it would seem appropriate to feature not only the Views from some of our members, but also some News of happenings in their lives in and outside of St. James. This issue has an interesting 'View' from John Heighton and an interesting bit of 'News' from Margot Young and Diane Allengame. I think it would be a nice addition to our newsletter to hear other News or Views from our members.

Thanks.

Body, Mind and Spirit

by John Heighton



We humans are composed of three distinct components, body, mind and spirit, and each requires nourishment. Our bodies need food, drink, air and exercise.

Our minds need the stimuli of learning from books, from other media, from interaction with our fellow humans, from experiencing the world about us. These things are obvious, but many of us neglect the third component, often failing to recognize how crucial it is to our health and well-being. Spirit is, indeed, a somewhat nebulous concept, but I would submit to you that it involves far more than religious observance. Our morale, our optimism, our sense of satisfaction and security and hope for the future - all are enhanced and sustained by our faith. You must surely, as I have, met any number of lost souls who have placed all their faith in the accumulation of power or status or stuff, and yet seem deeply dissatisfied. A belief in the sustaining love of a power infinitely superior to ourselves is the source of that peace of mind that all of us crave and need.

There are, however, other, lesser but still significant sources of spiritual nourishment. Surely, God's greatest gift to us, the gift of love, is foremost amongst these. Nature, in all its phases, induces in us an awe which enables us, however briefly, to transcend our petty concerns. The arts are still other means by which we seek to touch the sublime. There are, for instance, works of literature which serve to make us reflect, yearn and strive towards something nobler or greater. The Greek philosopher, Plato, maintained that mankind's purpose was "to seek the Good." Obviously, to understand that we need to be able to define 'the Good', and there may be as many definitions as there are people, but I think most of us would agree that 'good' would include peace amongst peoples and individuals and benevolence towards each other. And today, we would probably add concern and care of our home, this planet which we are rapidly destroying.

In this, briefly, and (Donna willing) in future newsletters, I hope to introduce you to, and recommend, several works of literature which have

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inspired me, and provided me with the spiritual nourishment I require.

Christmas Shopping Contest Results

Cobina Price-Jones

Thanks to everyone who supported St. James with their Christmas shopping. In the month prior to Christmas, you helped us raise \$200 for St. James! Everyone who placed an order or purchased cards between November 25 and December 25 was automatically entered into a draw for a lovely plant. Congratulations to our winner, Marina Turner!

Remember that certificates are available every Sunday during Coffee Hour. We still have Sobey's (IGA) and Loblaws (Zehrs) certificates available, plus a limited number of Canadian Tire, Mark's Work Warehouse, Wal-Mart and Winners certificates.

Taize Prayer and Worship

On February 3rd and on subsequent first Sundays of the month, we will be offering a time of Taize Prayer and Worship at the 9:30 service. This service will be held in the church.

Taize is a quiet, gentle form of worship. The worship service itself is a combination of scripture, prayer and taize music which is composed of easy, repetitive refrains.

Taize Worship originated in a Catholic religious community in France. Its founder was Brother Roger of Taize. Brother Roger writes, "Nothing is more conducive to a communion with the living God than a meditative common prayer with, as its high point, singing that never ends and that continues in the silence of one's heart when one is alone again. When the mystery of God becomes tangible through the simple beauty of symbols, when it is not smothered by too many words, then a common prayer awakens us to Heaven's joy on earth."

Since Feb 3rd will be our first time to offer **Taize** we will be very much in embryonic stages with it, but then what a blessing it is to learn and grow together in Christ.

Book Review

By John Heighton

The novel "A Soldier of the Great War", by Mark Helprin, was published in 1991, receiving dozens of rave reviews. The protagonist, Alessandro Guilliani, on the last day of his long life, recounts his remarkable life and loves to his companion, a factory laborer, as they walk towards a distant town.

Alessandro has been, for many years, a professor at the University of Rome, teaching aesthetics, the study of beauty. Much of the story, however, deals with the great loves of his life, his wife and son, and with his harrowing experiences in the First World War in which Italy fought with the allies against Austria. His war was fought, not in the muddy trenches of Flanders, but in the mountain regions along the Italian/Austrian border. All the horror, senselessness and injustice of war are here in detail, yet the story is neither revolting nor demoralizing. The hero, Alessandro, inspires us by the depth of his love for his family and his deep, unwavering faith. He rises above the horror and the stupidity to find meaning and beauty everywhere. Even his rapidly approaching death fails to demoralize him. When his young, fellow traveller worries about his own death and the deaths of those he loves, Alessandro replies: "You keep them alive not by skill, not by art, not by memory, but by love. When you understand that, you won't be afraid to die. My granddaughter will know where to put me next to my wife. And she and I have a bond strong enough that it hardly matters where we are put, for we have never really parted."

This is a long, rich, inspiring novel, full of exciting events and remarkable insights. We read it first for the brilliant descriptions, the exotic locales, the exhilarating events, the stimulating insights, but then we become aware that the heart and soul of the novel is really the character of the hero, himself - a truly profound and courageous son, husband, father, and soldier of the Great War.

This novel is available from Amazon.ca



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Breaking News...



"I am opening a Decorating Design Gallery at 83 Broadway, Orangeville to open beginning of February. It is called Genesis Decorating and Design Gallery and there will be several showroom partners. More details later..."
- Margo Young

Ed. Note: We wish her well. Always nice to hear about a new enterprise.

5th Annual MURDER MYSTERY DINNER - FEBRUARY 16, 2008

Tickets are almost all gone (in fact by the time you read this there may not be any left to sell). Call Ruth at the church office.

Single tickets \$40.00, Couples \$75.00, cash bar.

Enjoy a sumptuous dinner while trying to solve the murder mystery.
- Carl Kinzinger

+++++

A St. James Style:

In the course of a year, St. James produces a variety of promotional and informational items such as the weekly bulletin, newsletters, posters, flyers, vestry reports, note-cards and letterhead.

The look of our material has changed substantially from the time of typewriter stencils to today's interactive website! With graphic capability now at our fingertips, it's easy (perhaps too easy) to create a different style for everything we do. In today's world of 'brand identification, this is a mistake!

Rev. Wendy and a small team have been meeting to discuss designing a new logo. Still in the design stage, the logo will be clear, easily identified and unique to St. James. It will reproduce well in black and white as well as colour. Once the logo is developed it will be presented to the church for approval. After that, we will begin to systematically order business cards, letterhead etc. with the new logo. Following that, a set of standards will be developed to guide the development of all print

material so there begins to emerge a St. James 'style'. This is important as we reach out to the community with material to be read by people who don't know who we are.

We hope to have the new logo available for comment by Easter. - Diane Allengame

Adopt a Road

By David Finch

The Adopt a Road organisation is a non-profit organisation that is completely separate from St James Church, although the members happen to also be members of the Church. We have an agreement from the Town



of Caledon to coordinate the placement of roadside signs and to seek firms, people, or

organisations that are interested in keeping Caledon a clean and beautiful place, and who would like to use the roadside signs to advertise their services.

The signs are set up by the Town Works Department and Adopt a Road works with supporters to choose sites that are visible but safe, and agreeable to the Town. There is a small fee for these advertising signs, and for this fee Adopt a Road agrees to organise a twice annual clean up of these roads.

Each year Adopt a Road collects the fees and then disburses them to charities in the Town of Caledon. Our two organisations that we support currently are *The Friends of Caledon Library*, and *St. James* – this is to help pay for the mortgage that St. James took on to set up the daycare in our new hall.

This is where the Adopt a Road needs the help of church members. We need volunteers to help us in these annual clean ups. The next clean up is May 10, when the Town is organising a town-wide day for organisations and citizens to clean up the winter debris. We would love to hear from you to let us know which of the many roads where we have signs you can clean as a family or group. It's hard work but

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satisfying. Just remember – time cleaning up the roads counts as community service for your school-age children! Please contact David Finch or Marjorie Wilkinson to volunteer

MILESTONES

Baptism:

William Roy, son of Melanie and Doug Hansen.

Skye, daughter of Nancy Sullivan and Chris Knight

A WORD FROM WENDY

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

A big thank you to all of you for a wonderful Christmas at St. James, for all of your willing hearts and hands and your presence.

Thank you too for your time and thoughts at the Hospitality Workshop. A task force is coming together, and I hope to be able to find bulletin board space to keep all of us up to date with ideas and process as we move ahead from here.

St. James is a wonderful place to be because it is made up of truly very, very, good people which is



an awesome gift and blessing. I continue to ask your prayers and to pray for the Holy Spirit to bless us with the gift of discernment as we look ahead. Although, I am not happy hearing it, I know that we are moving into a time of increasing secularization, what some call the Post Christian Era. That places us as counter cultural in our society today. It is vitally important that we

discern our role in God's Kingdom work and his call to us.

Musicians:

Calling all of you, old or young, beginning or expert, vocal or instrumental, Come and join us on Thursday, January 31 as we begin to put together a worship team, which will help out sometimes at 9:30, some Taize, some Praise music, and also at other times and for special occasions like Christmas, Easter and other St. James Services.

Lenten Bible Study:

Wednesdays at 11:00 am we will look at what is meant by a "Rule of Life" and other things.

Two or Three:

If there are two or three of you who would like to have a bible study, discussion, prayer group, Lenten study... or what ever else has come to mind, I will be delighted to arrange this with you. Please let me know your interest, that there are two or three of you, and preferred time.

A Lenten Note:

The Ash Wednesday Service, in our book of Alternative Services, contains a profound and thought provoking invitation for all of us. It says, "I invite you in the name of the Lord to observe a Holy Lent by self examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and almsgiving and by reading and meditating on the word of God"

For our Lenten Journey of 2008, we will each have an opportunity to respond to this invitation. My hope is that each week on our Web Site we will have questions for reflection as follows:

Wednesday Feb 6 - Self Examination

Wednesday Feb 13 - Penitence

Wednesday Feb 20 - Prayer

Wednesday Feb 27 - Fasting

March 5 - Alms Giving,

March 12 Reading & Meditating on the Word of God

My prayer is that this Lenten Discipline will help each of us to journey more deeply into our faith and into our personal relationship with God.

May you have a blessed and peace filled Lent.



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PS. For those who are not on line, paper copies will be available in the church.

May God bless you and keep you and, when you pray, please pray for St. James and our role in God's Kingdom.

Wendy+

Word from the Wardens

By Diane Allengame

The time between Advent and Lent seems unusually short this year! It's been a busy time. Bruce Neville, Robin Holder and I meet monthly with Rev. Wendy, and we also attend other meetings such as Finance. During December and early January the focus of the Finance Committee has been to set the budget for 2008. This budget will be available for you to review in a few weeks, and will be voted upon at the Vestry meeting in February. The Finance Committee of St. James, chaired by David Finch, is an amazingly talented group of people. I have been totally awed by their financial acumen and intelligent thinking. We are blessed to have them working on our behalf.

As you will see, due to good management and some lucky breaks, we ended the year in the black despite a dramatic drop in our offerings compared to budget. Please take a moment to think about your financial commitment to St. James for 2008. If you approve the budget, are you personally prepared to increase your own giving accordingly? Remember, there is no magic 'they' as in 'they will need to give more' – there's only Bruce, Robin, Diane, Ruth, Bob, and so on. We are a family, and if we as a family agree on the budget, we all need to take on the responsibility for making it work.

On January 19 many of us attended Wendy's workshop on the Hospitality of the Kingdom of God, and I think we all left feeling empowered and excited about working together as we make St. James a more welcoming place.

Thank you to everyone who is taking such an active interest in this next phase of growth at St. James – building the family.



EASTER AT ST.JAMES

Friday, February 1 – **Friday Night at the Movies** – “The Gospel According to Matthew”

Sunday February 3 - 9 – 11 a.m. – **Pancake Breakfast in the Hall**

Wednesday, February 6 – **Ash Wednesday** – Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 p.m. in the church

Saturday, February 9 – **Chamber Music**

Sunday, February 10 – **Pre-Vestry Meeting** after 11 a.m. service. Deadline to submit Vestry reports.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, 20, 27 March 5, 12 at 11 a.m.
Lenten Series: The Rule of Life and Other Things

Saturday, February 16 – **Mystery Dinner** – This is a wonderful evening of fun, fellowship and dining. Tickets from Carl or the office (\$40 or \$75/couple)

Saturday, February 23 – **Theatre Night at the Caledon Town Hall**, preceded by a Pot Luck dinner at the McEnaney’s. Please let Dee know if you plan to attend.

Sunday February 24 – **Annual Vestry Meeting** After the 11:00 service. Bring your own lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

Friday, February 29 – **Friday Night at the Movies** – Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth”

Friday, March 7 – **World Day of Prayer - 2 p.m.**
Salem United Church

Sunday, March 16 – **Palm Sunday**

Thursday, March 20 – **Maundy Thursday** – 6 p.m.
In the Hall

Friday, March 21 – **Good Friday** – 11 a.m.

Sunday, March 23 - **Easter**

ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH

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News and Views is a newsletter for the people of ST. JAMES ANGLICAN CHURCH, Caledon East. It is published four times per year - Advent, Lent, Pentecost and Fall.

For submissions in the newsletter:

Any member of the Parish of St. James Caledon East may submit an article for the newsletter.

To do so, email newsletter@stjamescaledoneast.ca or leave your articles in writing or on a CD in the newsletter box at the church office. Articles are considered based on space availability and relevance. Thank you for your submission.

Donna Davies, Editor

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