

News & Views

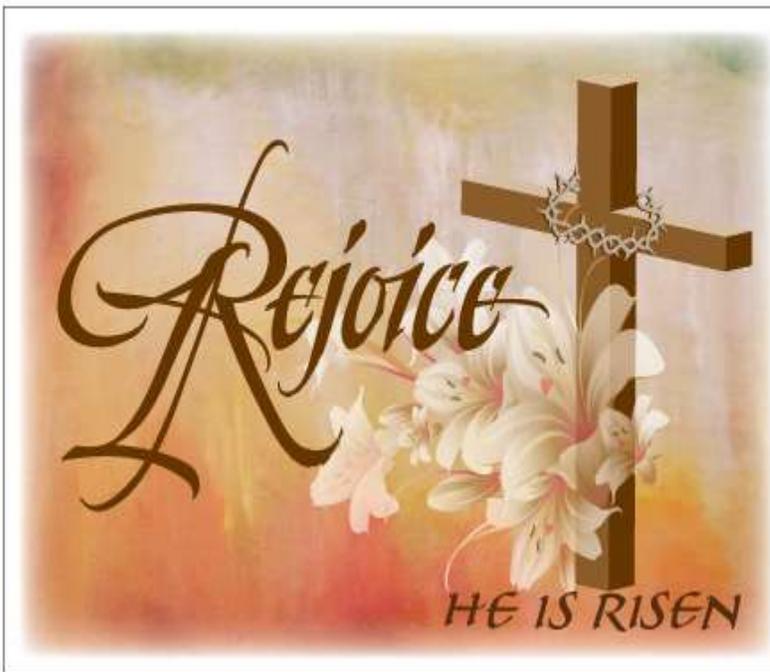


St. James Church



In the Heart of the Village

Lent 2014



From the Rector's Desk

It may be hard to believe now, but spring will be here soon. For me, spring has always been a time to refocus my thoughts and energy and try to get myself prepared for what lies ahead. I consider it a kind of new beginning. In fact, I probably make more resolutions at the beginning of Lent than in January. It is always nice to be able to start anew; re-evaluate the past and begin with a clean slate.

Throughout the years of my ministry I have always remembered a verse from scripture that has both challenged and reassured me. It tells me that God would bless and develop my ministry as long as I was willing to enter new areas of personal and spiritual growth.

The verse is taken from St. Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy (1:6 JB);

"...fan into the flame the gift that God gave you..."

As you heard during my initial sermon, I am a firm believer that God has a ministry and a spiritual gift for everybody. God also expects us to work at "fanning" that gift into a bright and glowing flame of ministry and spiritual growth.

Many Christians expect this ministry to suddenly appear, yet St. Paul says that our learning more about the Christian faith and identifying a specific area of ministry is hard work. Have you ever watched a blacksmith use a bellows to increase the heat of his fire? It IS hard work and like the work of a blacksmith our work as Christians needs commitment and co-operation.

In our faith and ministry, as in all aspects of our lives, whether in work or in art or in a sport at which we are good, if we do not use our talents and gifts we soon lose them and our interest wanes. There are

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hundreds of ways in which God's Spirit works through, and in, each of us. We need each other if we are to be the Church.

St. James has many areas of ministry in which we would be glad to see you participate. I hope and pray that this Lent you decide to get more involved in the educational, social and spiritual dimensions of our Christian Family.

Don't be shy! Let us know you can help. Remember the words of St. Paul and keep on fanning!!

Ten Reasons to Be an Anglican

Comedian Robin Williams (who is Episcopalian) listed these in a skit on an HBO special:

10. No snake handling.
9. You can believe in dinosaurs.
8. Male and female God created them; male and female we ordain them.
7. You don't have to check your brains at the door.
6. Pew aerobics.
5. Church year is color-coded.
4. Free wine on Sunday.
3. All of the pageantry - none of the guilt.
2. You don't have to know how to swim to get baptized.

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And the Number One reason to be an Anglican:

1. No matter what you believe, there's bound to be at least one other Anglican who agrees with you.

Food for Thought

1. God won't ask what kind of car you drove. He'll ask how many people you drove who didn't have transportation.
2. God won't ask the square footage of your house. He'll ask how many people you welcomed into your home.
3. God won't ask about the clothes you have in your closet. He'll ask how many you helped to clothe.
4. God won't ask what your highest salary was. He'll ask if you compromised your character to get it.
5. God won't ask what your job was. He'll ask if you performed your job to the best of your ability.
6. God won't ask how many friends you had. He'll ask how many people to whom you were a friend.
7. God won't ask what neighbourhood you lived in. He'll ask how you treated your neighbours.
8. God won't ask about the colour of your skin. He'll ask about the content of your character.
9. God won't ask why it took you so long to seek Salvation. He'll lovingly take you to your mansion in heaven and not to the gates of Hell.

Thanks to Elizabeth Morton

Did You Know?

By Diane Allengame

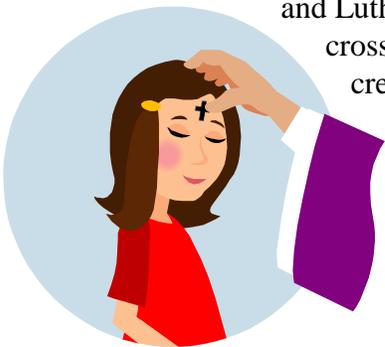
Anglicans are known for their love of words and terms that resound with history, and the period of Lent and Easter gives us many interesting examples.

The word **Easter** comes from the Old English *eostre*, a word generally held to be the name of an Anglo-Saxon goddess. This connection tied the celebration of Easter to earlier pagan celebrations of spring.

Just before his crucifixion, Jesus presided at a special meal celebrating *Passover*. The remembrance of Passover occurs during the full moon after the spring equinox, which is why the date of Easter moves from year to year. Easter is established by determining the first Sunday after the full moon after the spring equinox. Sunrise services, decorating Easter eggs and making egg bread are all religious-based customs across the Christian world. In many Orthodox churches, baskets of bread are blessed by the priest during the Easter service.

The period of 40 days before Easter is known as **Lent**. In the Latin of the early church, it was called *Quadragesima*. Lent is an English word, derived from the Germanic word for 'long,' referring to the fact that at this time of year days visibly lengthen.

The first day of Lent is **Ash Wednesday**. Many Christians, particularly Roman Catholics, Anglicans and Lutherans mark the sign of the cross on their foreheads using ash, created from burning the previous year's palm crosses. The day before Ash Wednesday is **Shrove Tuesday**. This word comes from the Latin "*shrive*" which means confession and forgiveness.



Another term used in conjunction with Lent is **Mardi Gras**, which is French for 'Fat Tuesday,' referring to the traditional last night of eating rich, fatty foods before the ritual fasting of Lent began the following day. In the UK, Australia, New Zealand and Canada,

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Shrove Tuesday is commonly known as **Pancake Tuesday**. The lowly pancake became associated this way because pancakes use up sugar, dairy and fat, some of the food items shunned by Christians during Lent. In the UK, races have taken place since around 1445, supposedly commemorating a housewife so busy preparing a meal that she was late for church, and took her frypan with her, constantly flipping her pancakes.

DID NOAH FISH?



A Sunday school teacher asked, "Johnny, do you think Noah did a lot of fishing when he was on the Ark?"

"No," replied Johnny.

"How could he, with just two worms."

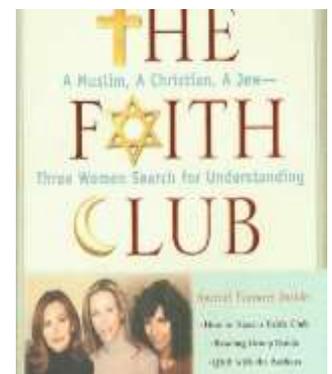
EDITOR'S NOTE

By Donna Davies

The following is a book review which was recommended by Elizabeth Morton. I believe you will find it interesting

The Faith Club

By Ranya Idilby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner, is a book I'd heard about for a while and was anxious to read. It's the story of three women — one Muslim, one Jewish, one Christian — who began meeting together to talk about their faiths, to explore differences and find common ground. Ranya, Suzanne and Priscilla didn't know each other when they first began their project, which started after the 9/11 attacks as a plan by



Ranya Idilby to write a children's book about Islam, Judaism and Christianity.

The project soon became a friendship — but not one without challenges and arguments as the three women got to know each other and talked honestly about what they believed.

I found the process these women went through, both as a group and individually, to be absolutely fascinating. The group process is interesting because we are so trained to avoid discussing controversial subjects in social settings — and, as women particularly, trained to avoid conflict altogether. My closest group of women friends doesn't include a Muslim and a Jew but it does include a wide diversity of religious beliefs and unbeliefs, and while we have had a few frank conversations about religion we have also tiptoed around possibly controversial subjects.

There's no tiptoeing here. Suzanne, Ranya and Priscilla honestly confronted and thrashed out questions like: Does Christianity portray Jews as Christ-killers? Is Islam a repressive religion for women? and many, many others. At the end, they found common ground they could stand on and an appreciation for their differences.

Each woman also went on an individual faith journey as she explored her own beliefs in the context of the other two — as well as in the context of her own life. Ranya, the Muslim, became more comfortable identifying herself as an American Muslim and looking for a faith community she could feel at home in. Priscilla, the Jewish woman, became more deeply committed to her faith. And Suzanne, the Christian, found herself questioning and doubting beliefs she had taken for granted.

One thing that struck me was that all three of these women, though observant to some degree and deeply spiritual, came from more liberal branches of their religions. Their explorations led all three of them to a kind of pluralism and universalism in which each could accept the other's religion as equally valid to her own — and, in fact, that was not far from the point where each of them had started. I was left wondering whether this kind of dialogue and friendship would be possible between three conservative or even fundamentalist Muslim, Christian and Jewish women. Is pluralism necessary

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for real dialogue and openness, or can those who are convinced that their religion is objectively true still have meaningful conversations with those of other faiths?

As far as the actual writing of the book went, the narration alternates among the three, with each woman taking turns telling her own story, punctuated by some passages of dialogue transcribed from tapes of their conversations over a period of a couple of years. None of the three voices comes through as particularly compelling or strong in a literary sense — there is no budding Anne Lamott or Nora Gallagher among these three. But the story they tell is so compelling that I wasn't worried about literary quality — I was pulled along by the desire to find out what they talked about, how they resolved their differences, and where each woman ended up in her spiritual journey. *The Faith Club* was an intriguing and satisfying read, and offers a much-needed perspective on interfaith dialogue in today's world. You can also check out the three authors' website for much more interesting material about them.

This book review is by Trudy Morgan-Cole and appeared in the October 13, 2008 issue of *Spectrum* magazine. The book is available at Amazon.

Lines from the Library

By **Kenneth Jones**

Accessions

1) *Family Holy Bible*

Reference

In addition to the Old and New Testaments in the King James Version this volume contains 10 chapters concerning the Bible and Christian living, a section titled *Illustrated Story of the Bible*, and a *Scriptural Directory*. There are also pages provided on which the family immediate history and family genealogy may be recorded.

2) *Prayers from the Ark*. Author, Bernos de Gasztold.

Translator, Rumer Godden

Prayer

An illustrated book of short prayers from Noah ("Lord, what a menagerie...") and one from each of 26 of the

Ark's passengers, ranging from the giraffe to the ant. The giraffe likes to think of himself as being "close to your Heaven". The ant admits, "certainly I hoard."

3) ***Being Christian in a Multi-Faith Context.*** Author, Patrick T. Yu.

Theology

This book was originally written in 1997 as the author's thesis for his Doctor of Ministry examination. It describes an investigation into the Anglican parishioners' approach to people of other faiths in a parish where only 3% of the population were Anglican. Other faiths included Jewish, Roman Catholic, Buddhism, Muslim and Hinduism. A volunteer group of Anglicans attended seminars and meetings dealing with ways of interfacing with people of other faiths, and the change in their way of thinking about such people is recorded.



One Year into the Program

Our Lifetree outreach program is continuing with some interesting sessions. Admission to the 60-minute Wednesday events is free. Snacks and beverages are available. Lifetree Café is located in our gathering space and is where people gather for conversation about life and faith in a casual setting.

I urge you to consider checking out the program. There is something for everyone!

If you have any questions about the Lifetree sessions or the Lifetree program itself, please talk to Mark after church, or mark.lifetree@gmail.com.

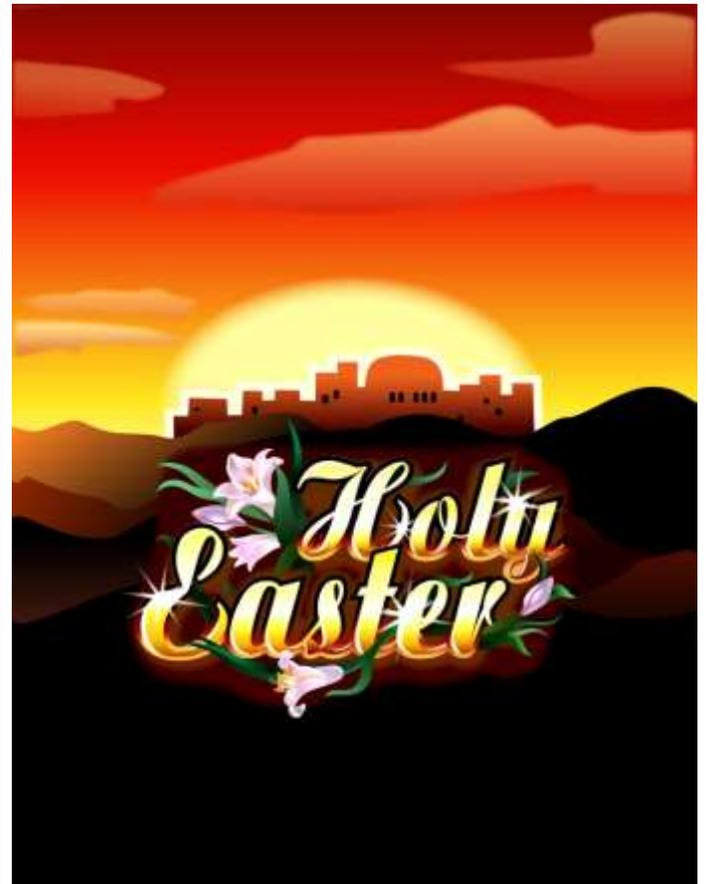
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A Request

Considering the price of stamps went up mid-January and another much larger increase is due later in the year, we would like as many people as possible to receive this newsletter by email. If you have email we would like to have your address. In some cases folks have email but apparently don't want the newsletter emailed. We would ask you to kindly remove that restriction.

Please send your updated information to Ruth at the church office.

Thanks.



Chancel Guild

By Christina Heighton



I wish to thank the women of the Chancel Guild for another year of working together to prepare the altar for worship. We really have a wonderful group.

We owe a big Thank You to John, Joe and George for their work in getting and erecting the Christmas tree; and also to the women who helped decorate it. It was a lot of work but I think the end result was quite spectacular.



It may seem as if we are all alike, but each one is different. It must keep God busy with the nuances!



LENTEN SERIES

The four-week Lenten Series on the First Corinthians will take place from 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Tuesdays, March 11, 18, 25 and April 1.



On Tuesday, April 8 at 7:30 Rev. Mark Tiller will perform his presentation of Paul's complete first letter to the Corinthians.





LENTEN CALENDAR

Sunday, March 2 - 10 am - Breakfast is served followed by our **Sabbath Rest Service at 11 am**

Tuesday, March 4- Pancake Supper – 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. - \$5.00 each – max. for family \$20

Wednesday, March 5 – Ash Wednesday Service 7 p.m. – Eucharist with imposition of ashes

Friday, March 7 – World Day of Prayer – 2 p.m. Caledon East United Church – Theme is “Streams in the Desert”

Tuesdays, March 11, 18, 15 and April 1 – 7:30 – 9 p.m. - Lenten Series - “A study of Paul’s First Letter to the Corinthians”

Tuesday, April 8 – 7:30 p.m. – Canon Mark Tiller’s dramatic presentation of Paul’s complete letter to the Corinthians.

Wednesdays – March, April May from 7 to 8 pm – Please join us for Lifetree Café

Sunday, April 6 – 10 a.m. Breakfast is served Followed by our **Sabbath Rest Service at 11 am**

Sunday, April 13 – Palm Sunday Services – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Thursday, April 17 - 6 pm - Maundy Thursday Seder Supper – Stripping of the altar

Friday, April 18 – 11 a.m. Good Friday Service

Sunday, April 20 – Easter Sunday Service – 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27 – Catering at Bridge Tournament

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News and Views is a newsletter for the people of St. James Church. It is published four times per year - Lent, Pentecost, Fall and Advent.

For submissions in the newsletter:

Any member of the Parish of St. James Church

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

Next Newsletter: Pentecost 2014

Deadline: May 18, 2014

Publication: June 1, 2014



We look forward to seeing you
at our Easter Services

Rejoice

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HE IS RISEN