

# News & Views



St. James Church



*In the Heart of the Village*



## Lent 2015

### From the Rector's Desk

On Ash Wednesday we began the Church Season of Lent. As stated in the Book of Alternative Services, Lent is traditionally a time to prepare for the celebration of our redemption through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we begin this holy season by remembering our need for repentance and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We are asked to observe Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, alms-giving and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

You'll notice we will change church colours; from the green of new life and growth from Epiphany to the colour purple - the season of penitence, forgiveness and solemnity.

Throughout this Lenten season consideration is given to one particular item. It is an item that calls to mind many things. The one thing I am referring to is the cross. No other single object has come to mean so much to the

Christian community. It symbolizes many things.

First and foremost, it has come to be the mark of Christianity. Even those outside our tradition recognize that. It adorns our churches; we wear it around our necks; we stylize it to meet our own needs. The Holy Roman Empire was built and ruled, encompassing the principles of Christianity because one man, a general named Constantine, saw the cross in a vision. As a result, in the early Christian centuries and in the middle ages, during the Crusades, it became something to fight for. Many Saints have their own particular style of cross as does the Pope and Archbishop of Canterbury.

How do we view the cross? Certainly during Holy Week, when we hear the passion narratives, we get a good impression of how it is viewed. We know that Jesus was ordered to carry his own cross through the streets. It was, to him, a burden, a burden so great that it eventually overcame him completely and someone else, Simon of Cyrene, had to carry it for him. The cross has come to signify burden throughout the centuries. Who has never heard that we are all required to carry our own crosses; live with our own burdens. Luckily, most of us never become completely overcome by them.

Secondly, the cross is where Jesus eventually hung. It was a place of great suffering and pain. I can only imagine what it must be like to have nails driven

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through my hands and feet and to be left suspended above the ground, the force of my own weight tearing at my wounds. The cross was also a place of great humiliation. We are told that those standing around Jesus mocked him because he could not save himself. Even the robbers who were crucified with him taunted him in his final hours.

Finally, we have a view of the cross as the Roman Empire standard vehicle of execution. It was how all criminals were put to death at this time and was the place where Jesus gave a loud cry and breathed his last.

The Cross:

- the symbol of Christianity
- a great burden that follows many through life
- a place of pain
- a place of agony
- a place of suffering
- a place of humiliation
- an instrument of death
- and specifically the place where Jesus dies.

The cross certainly holds some terrible and frightening connotations for us: pain, suffering, humiliation, death. Yet, why have so many people in so many different parts of the world, used the cross to distinguish themselves from others? Why has the Christian community itself used it to set us apart from the rest of God's creation? Is it because of all the burden, pain, suffering, humiliation and death it represents? What kind of people are we Christians anyway!?

This is the view of the cross that we see during this solemn Lenten season. This is the view of the cross that sticks with many people. Yet, I suggest, this is only one half of the story of the cross. It is an important part, for it literally sets the foundation for the second half of what is the total reality of the cross. It is the reality that we remember and celebrate on Easter Sunday, the grandest celebration of the church year. On that day, the cross represents a pivotal point in history; the history of not only humankind, but the world. Through this same cross

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n event took place. On this same cross a man died most cruelly, but that event was not an end. It was a new beginning - the beginning of our new relationship with God, our Creator. As a result of that event the cross, more than anything else, has come to symbolize this new relationship; a relationship that contains many promises.

When we look at the cross in light of what happens on Easter - Jesus' resurrection – we can now understand its reality in a whole new way. Through the cross of Jesus, God has promised to take away all the burdens of our life. Through the cross of Jesus, God has promised to relieve us of the pain and suffering of this life. Through the cross of Jesus, God has promised to alleviate the humiliation that is a human condition. Through the cross of Jesus, God has promised to take away the fear, anxiety and uncertainty of even death.

Therefore, all that that the cross stands for in the weeks leading up to the great Easter Celebration is precisely the things that are taken away by it. And THAT is why Christianity around the world has chosen to use the cross as its symbol.

Now, because of what happened so many years ago on a barren hillside called the 'place of the skull,' we can look at the cross, in all its styles, and find reassurance of the promises God makes to us.

They are promises made not just then, or now, but forever.

Blessings

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## Volunteering in Laos

By Veronica Price-Jones

Can you understand this sentence? If the answer is yes, that is mostly likely because you have a functional understanding of the wonderfully complicated English language and that is a very fortunate state of affairs. With approximately 350 million native speakers worldwide (and approximately 1.5 to 2 billion individuals with

some comprehension), the English language, the *lingua franca*, confers upon its speakers a distinct advantage in life (The History of English). An uncountable number of daily business transactions, for example, are completed in English every day. Outside of the business realm, according to The History of English, 90% of airlines use English for all functions; an Italian pilot landing an Italian plane at an Italian airport will communicate with ground control in English. Many would argue that English rose to dominance after the bilingually written Treaty of Versailles of WWI, displacing French as the universal world language (Life123). I feel very lucky to have been raised to speak and understand English (many thanks to my parents for imparting their lexical and grammatical wisdom), because I know that I can travel around the world, and there is a good chance that I will be able to communicate with those whom I meet. Now it is my turn to share this advantage with others. This May, I have been given the opportunity to do just that, as I will be volunteering in Laos with VESA (Volunteer Eco Students Abroad).



Laos (which rhymes, I'm told, with "how"), is a country in South-East Asia, located between Thailand and Vietnam. Laos is one of four countries to which VESA sends volunteers.

The other three are Ecuador, Fiji, and South Africa. VESA's goals are simple, and although its projects are local, their impacts are much more far-reaching. One of VESA's goals, in all of its destinations, is to teach English in local schools, thereby allowing an escape from poverty and a secure future. The organization also strives to provide fresh water, maintain infrastructure (such as schools), install farming units, and renovate and revitalize. Ultimately, VESA hopes to give orphans a new outlook on life, provide single mothers with the ability to start their own microbusinesses, and deliver basic hygienic facilities and knowledge to isolated communities.

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Yet what I have described only comprises half of VESA's work. The organization also places emphasis on ecological work (hence the name, Volunteer *Eco* Students Abroad), maintaining biodiversity and encouraging sustainable agricultural techniques. The tasks that face volunteers are as diverse as the locations. Personally, as a volunteer in the program "South East Asia Encountered," I will be spending time at the Sayaboury Elephant Conservation Centre preparing meals, planting banana and sugar cane, and maintaining infrastructure such as the elephant nursery.

All of this fills the first of a very busy two weeks. The second will be a "cultural and adventure experience" with swimming, kayaking, and exploring local markets.

When I first learned of this opportunity, I decided immediately that I could not think of a more exciting and rewarding experience. I love to travel, in general, and Laos is a wonderful destination. The work VESA does there is inarguably valuable, and I am very glad to be a part of it. For more information, I encourage you to check out VESA's website, [www.vesabroad.com](http://www.vesabroad.com).

If you are interested in supporting my work, please consider giving a small donation at [http://www.volunteerforever.com/volunteer\\_profile/veronica-pj](http://www.volunteerforever.com/volunteer_profile/veronica-pj). I hope to have much to share with you when I return, mid-May (although I may need some recovery time from that 15-hour flight), and I will provide an update of my experiences. Thank you for your time!

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## THE TRAIN

At birth we boarded the train and met our parents, and we believe they will always travel on our side. However, at some station our parents will step down from the train, leaving us on this journey alone. As time goes by, other people will board the train; and they will be significant i.e. our siblings, friends, children, and even the love of our life. Many will step down and leave a permanent vacuum. Others will go so unnoticed that we don't realize they vacated their seats. This train ride will

be full of joy, sorrow, fantasy, expectations, hellos, goodbyes and farewells. Success consists of having a good relationship with all passengers requiring that we give the best of ourselves.



The mystery to everyone is: We do not know at which station we ourselves will step down. So, we must live in the best way, love, forgive, and offer the best of who we are. It is important to do this because when the time comes for us to step down and leave our seat empty we should leave behind beautiful memories for those who will continue to travel on the train of life.

*Thank You, Irma Proctor*



**By Donna Davies**

Café Caledon is a new, exciting venture which has grown from our experience with Lifetree Café. We have been trying various formats for our cafés and have concluded that one that encourages group conversations in a less-structured, relaxed atmosphere is the one that works best. People from our community have indicated a preference for this type of café where the focus is on conversation and the subjects are of current interest.

Café Caledon takes place in the usual casual coffeehouse setting with free admission and snacks and beverages available. It meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month from 7:30 pm to 9 pm.

We have had some very interesting, informative and lively conversations so far. Topics have included: **Atheism, Gluten Free Diets** and **The Alberta Oil Sands**. Upcoming subjects will include **The Meaning of Marriage** and **Dying with Dignity** and others that are currently being prepared. We

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would also welcome suggestions of subjects which you would like to have discussed.

If you have any questions, or would like to help with this program, please contact Mark Tiller at 905-584-8506 or [mark.cafecaledon@gmail.com](mailto:mark.cafecaledon@gmail.com).

### BUDGET TIME AT ST. JAMES

On Feb. 22 we will be asked to approve St. James' 2015 budget, a tool that guides spending and sets targets for income, including givings. We all must manage our finances. The decision to support St. James has to be part of our overall personal budget. We need to view it with the same commitment as we have to our vacation funds, rainy day savings or bill payments. In scripture, we are asked to put this commitment FIRST, trusting that God will enable us to deal with the other requirements of our lives after we say 'thank you' for the innumerable blessings and riches we enjoy.

#### How many of us do that?

While you're thinking about that, consider the following. It costs about \$4270 per week to keep St. James operating. We are able to generate some revenue from leasing space, from special events, and through fundraising. In addition, the 2015 budget requires about 103 K in offerings, plus the need to fund 26K for the mortgage. This is the amount all of us are committing to when we approve the budget.

If we have 75 active contributors, and all give the same amount, it will need to be around \$35 per person, per week to cover expenses. What people give at St. James is confidential, but we know that some people are already giving at what is a *sacrificial* level for them -- they give something up in order to make a gift every week. If you are one of those blessed people, **we thank you from the bottom of our hearts**. If, however, St. James gets your loose change, so to speak, will you consider changing that and making it a higher priority?

The bottom line is that if St. James is to remain a viable community of faith, we ALL need to find a way to increase our giving. Even a small increase

will help. For example an additional \$5 per week from one member would give us another \$260 per year – that would pay for our Employment Insurance Expense.

Jim and I give through pre-authorized giving, set up with our bank, so we never miss a Sunday of support, and will increase our giving for 2015. We appreciate the amazing blessings we enjoy as a Christian member of this family. May we respectfully ask you to examine your own resources in the same light?

Some of the tools you can use to help support St. James include:

- Increase your budget for giving.
- Move from envelopes to pre-authorized giving (a more stable source of income for the church). You can set this up by bringing a cancelled cheque and talking to the Envelope Secretary (Margaret Brady).
- Add a legacy gift to the church to your will.
- Make a one-time gift to help reduce the mortgage.
- Make a gift of annuities (stocks, bonds, etc.).
- Support our fundraising efforts.

Lent is a time for deep reflection on how we live our lives and on what our faith really means in 2015. As we prepare for spring and the blessed gift of Easter, please think and act in a way that revitalizes St. James and allows us to not just pay the bills, but to continue to make a contribution to the community and those in need.

Diane Allengame & Jim Farmer

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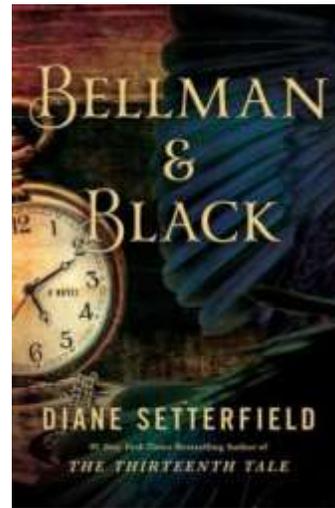
## MILESTONES

**Deaths:** June Alice Pooley  
George Frederick Bilton  
Peter Minhinnick

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### BOOK REVIEW

By Susan Thomas



#### Bellman and Black by Diane Setterfield

From the instant when, in a moment of childish excitement, ten year old William Bellman shoots his slingshot and kills a black rook, his life becomes inescapably entwined with death. The symbolic appearances of rooks throughout the book serve as a sad

reminder that actions, especially careless ones, can have significant consequences. In a sense, this is a rather elegant and thought-provoking ghost story that keeps you in a constant state of wonder about what is real and what is imagined. It explores what is truly important in life.

*“Scene after scene, moment after moment, joys and sorrow and pleasure and loves and losses of all sorts streamed out of the place where he had entombed them, a flow of days, hours and seconds that seemed as if it would never end.”* p. 296

From a nearly perfect existence, blessed with a happy family, the esteem of his church community and excelling in business, William begins to suffer misfortune. He gradually becomes aware of the stranger in black, who appears at the funeral of each friend or acquaintance he loses. These deaths begin with distant relatives but eventually claim his beloved family. At a loss to understand the stranger’s presence, but certain that the man needs something from him, William pursues this elusive character.

As his adversity continues, William deals with his grief by immersing himself in his work and entering into a business partnership with the enigmatic stranger, whom he now refers to as Mr. Black. This mysterious entity is never seen by anyone in the story except William.

Although this eloquently crafted tale includes a focus on death and its accoutrements, it also

addresses family, church, ambition and human relationships. It certainly presents more questions than solutions.

Diane Setterfield is also the author of *The Thirteenth Tale* and the recipient of the Quill Award for debut author of the year.

## Chancel Guild

I wish to thank George Judge, Joe Campbell and John Heighton for erecting the Christmas tree; no

easy task as it took about three hours to do it. Also, a big ‘thank you,’ to the ladies who helped to decorate the tree which looked particularly beautiful this year.

I thank the Chancel Guild members for their support, dedication and friendship and for another year of making my part relatively easy.

Christina



## A Tribute to Fred Bilton

Fred Bilton passed away on January 16, 2015 after a brief illness. Fred was a long-time member of St. James and was known to many of us as a humorous man of many facets. Here are some fitting tributes to a man who was loved for his variety of talents, but mostly as a caring human being with a wonderful sense of humour.



*“Fred was a thoughtful gentleman with a keen appreciation for reading. He had a wonderful deep sense of humour.”*

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*“He had a wonderful presence and it was instantly felt whenever he was near. We are blessed to have known him and will fondly remember his great sense of humor and his Indiana Jones Hat.”*

*“Fred was a wonderful, generous, funny guy who was a fabulous neighbor. We were fortunate to know him, to work with him at the church and to always have a laugh with him.”*

*“He was a great parent volunteer at Caledon East Public School.”*

*“He was always supportive of anyone who needed it. He was an amazing announcer at the horse shows, his smile and sense of humor were infectious.”*

*“I know that today the world is a little darker.”*

*“He always added his own brand of humour to the day. He was a special soul who made this world a better place just by having passed through it.”*

*“I thought of Fred as a special friend, one with whom I had many chats about life, the universe and everything! I will miss him dearly”*

*“Fred had a wonderful stage presence in theatre, but more so had a wonderful presence amongst his family and friends.”*

*“Fred was a witty, kind and caring man, and an animal lover. He was a devoted and loyal husband and a caring and loving father.”*

## OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JAMES

There are three amazing opportunities to grow and serve God in this community.

If you don't like volunteering without knowing what's being asked of you, you're not alone. To help, we've drafted position descriptions for the following:

- Seniors' visitor – home visits with parish members who don't get out as much as they would like
- Outreach coordinator – help the parish raise funds for outreach, coordinate delivery of items collected at Christmas, and more

- User Liaison – a very important position helping us to maximize income from use of our space

The position descriptions will be posted on the bulletin board in the Gathering Space. Please let Mark know if you are interested or have questions. Thank you.

## A LENTEN CHALLENGE

I asked for suggestions for something we could all do throughout the Lenten Season. I got an email from Stan Cameron. He has a challenge for us all.

For the season of Lent and the following Holy Week (46 Days), Stan is going to forgo his daily trip to Tim Horton's, give up his large tea and donate what he would have spent which is \$1.90 X 46 = \$87.40 to St. James. Stan gives several reasons why this will be good for St. James;

- No one is out any money that they would not have otherwise have been spending.
- They recognize Lent by giving something up.
- St. James gets an infusion of \$ needed for projects.
- People can feel good about their contributions - to Lent and to their church.

So, I am passing the challenge on to you. **What can you give up for Lent?** There will be special "From my Lenten Challenge" envelopes in your bulletins this week. Please use them! A little from us all will mean a lot.

Blessings, Mark

P.S. I've accepted Stan's challenge and will give up my daily dark roast from the Caledon Coffee Shop.

**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](mailto: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 2015

Deadline: May 17, 2015

Publication: May 31, 2015



## LENTEN CALENDAR

**Sunday March 1 - 11 am - Sabbath Rest  
Service at 11 am**

**Wednesday, March 4 - 7:30 – 9 pm – Please join us for Café Caledon – subject TBA**

**Friday, March 6 – 2 p.m. – World Day of Prayer at St. James**

**Sunday, March 8 – 9 am and 11 am - Services with Communion**

**Sunday, March 15 – 9 am and 11 am – Morning Prayer**

**Wednesday, March 18 – 7:30 to 9 pm – Please join us for Café Caledon – subject TBA**

**Sunday, March 22 – 9 am and 11 am – Services with Communion**

**Sunday, March 29 – 11 am - Palm Sunday Service**

**Thursday, April 2 - 6 pm - Maundy Thursday Seder Supper – Stripping of the altar**

**Friday, April 3 – 11 a.m. - Good Friday Service**

**Sunday, April 5 – 9 am and 11 am - Easter Sunday Services**

**Wednesday, April 8 – 7:30 pm - 9 pm – Please join us for Café Caledon – subject TBA**

**Wednesday, April 22 – 7:30 – 9 pm – Please join us for Café Caledon – subject TBA**

**Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25 - Catering at Bridge Tournament**

*We look forward to seeing you  
at our Easter Services*

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