

News & Views



Pentecost 2015

Well, spring has finally arrived, the countryside is in full green mode and I can finally ride the bike without my winter long-johns on. All is well.....almost.

I called for a special vestry after church on Sunday, May 24th to talk about two very important issues; our short term financial position and our long term financial position.

Let me start out by assuring you that we are not closing our doors anytime soon, but in their wisdom your Corporation, (your Wardens and me), decided we had better be proactive in drawing your attention to these issues.

Short Term Position. This past spring, we have had several repair and maintenance issues. They have required substantial expenditures far above our budgeted plan. Two fires, necessitating bringing our electrical systems up to code and the resulting demise of our commercial dishwasher have all contributed to this extra cost. Most

surprising to me, we had to add to this cost the payments of half the HST that our insurance company would not pay. Granted, this will be returned to us but not until spring 2016. We are also faced with repairing some concrete and retaining wall issues at the entrance of the Daycare. These repairs are long overdue and will need temporary funding as they must be done. Add to all this, the fact that we are moving into the summer period when our givings decline.

So we are in need of a temporary financial shot in the arm and therefore asked the vestry to approve an increase in our CIBC line of credit from \$15,000 to \$50,000. This was overwhelmingly approved and we thank you. This is the first step we need to take to set this in motion. The second is to get our proposal approved by Diocesan Council - as the Diocese ultimately secures parish lines of credit. This has been submitted and is on the agenda for their June 18th meeting.

Long Term Position. One of my major concerns when I came on board as your Rector was the large loan we have from the expansion to our beautiful facility. We have been diligently attending to this loan and presently, it stands at approximately \$200,000. We are paying \$2,790 per month to cover principle and interest.

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The issues as noted above and the fact that the Daycare (a large contributor to our monthly income) may need to renegotiate their lease with us, mainly due to the schools providing all-day kindergarten, have brought us to the time where we need to retire this loan to ensure our continued viability to both the Diocese and our community. In order to do this your Corporation proposed to the vestry that we sell the Walker Road residence. Again, this was overwhelmingly approved and we thank you. With the proceeds of the sale we will retire the loan and make the required upgrades and renovations to the original parish rectory, “Old St. James House.” Margaret and I will be moving there. As above, this is only the first step. We have submitted this proposal to Diocesan Council and it is on the agenda for their June 18th meeting.

We have the corporate solutions for our financial positions, both short and long-term and it is our hope that our proactive efforts will ensure all the things we presently need. But none of this, I repeat, none of this is going to work effectively unless all of us, as **individuals**, also become proactive.

That is my plea to each of you today. It is a reality that our major source of income is the weekly givings of our members. What I would like you to do is consciously and prayerfully sit down as an individual or family and re-evaluate how much you can financially give to your St. James family on a weekly basis. As you reconsider this, know that we do not want you to commit to a figure that will place a burden on you. We would rather have you determine an amount that, when you are unable to attend on any particular week, you can easily make up the next week, or when you return from holidays. This is perhaps the single, most important aspect of any program of giving; when you miss a week, you should make it up. This can mean the difference between the parish meeting its budget or having to borrow money to cover a deficit.

If you will all do this it will go a long way in securing our future.
Blessings,
Mark

Update on Volunteering in Laos

By Veronica Price-Jones



According to author William Arthur Ward, “a warm smile is the universal language of kindness.” This is one of the most important lessons I learned during the two weeks I spent in Laos. Before I left, I wrote an article about the universality of the English language, and I still believe that teaching English is an invaluable tool in breaking the future of poverty that many Lao children face. But I have now discovered that language is not the only component of communication and, in regions where comprehension of English is scarcer, communication is far from impossible.

Lao P.D.R. (People’s Democratic Republic or alternatively, “Please Don’t Rush”, which seems to be a national slogan) is divided into provinces, and each differs drastically in its customs and language preferences. With VESA, Volunteer Eco Students Abroad, I visited three towns: Sayaboury (Sainyabuli Province), Luang Prabang (Luang Prabang Province) and Vang Vieng (Vientiane Province) and so I was exposed to a variety of these cultures.

It was in Sayaboury that we spent our volunteering week. In Sayaboury, most signs are written in Lao and in French. This is not surprising, as Laos was once part of the French Colonial Empire, which also explains the silent “s” in the country’s name.

Yet, the only French I heard was spoken by the French Canadians in my volunteer group.

English is not very prevalent here either, which is perhaps why we began our work at a school in this province. Having only a few common Laos expressions in my vocabulary, like *Khop chai* (written phonetically, meaning “Thank you”), I collided forcefully with the language barrier. On my first day as part of the “Education” crew, I found that four years teaching gymnastics to young children had not prepared me in the least, and I faltered in my interactions with the students. I was saved by a number of factors: Cat, our tour leader, was experienced in teaching English; Mr. Ken, a member of staff of the Elephant Conservation Centre (ECC), accompanied us as our translator; and the children were very, very eager to learn. A typical day in the classroom would usually involve teaching one English expression like “My name is _____” or “I am ____ years old.” Cat would have the children repeat new words and expressions at least three times, the volume of the response constantly heightening. We brought in craft materials and cards, and played games like “What time is it Mr. Wolf?” The children loved it, and learned quickly.

Likewise, I learned a great deal over that short time period; I discovered that words are only a small part of communication, and just as often found myself using hand gestures, or adding Lao words to my vocabulary. (Lao is rather simpler than English, as verbs are not conjugated and objects are given very descriptive names.) Creativity was



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essential – as a treat for our last day volunteering, we did face-painting. This was very challenging to begin with, because the children could not tell us what they wanted. I ended up painting a number of simple designs on my arm, which became my “menu”.

The most significant lesson I learned, however, was the universality of a smile. Some volunteers had brought gifts to the school, including skipping ropes. I don’t know if skipping ropes are particularly rare in Laos, but some of the students wanted to do nothing else but skip. I therefore spent a lot of time turning jump ropes in the blazing sun (better than doing the jumping myself!), and the grins and laughter were heart-warming. The children were so sweet and I already miss them dearly.

In Luang Prabang and Vang Vieng, the environment is exceedingly different. Luang Prabang has more tourists than Sayaboury and Vang Vieng is a backpacker’s town; the two of them are far less conservative in nature and English is much more prevalent here. In Luang Prabang, tour guides are fluent in English, and market vendors are familiar with several English phrases, like “How much” and “Please buy something.” Western influence is even more obvious in Vang Vieng, where there are pizza parlours, Irish bars, and many European and North American workers.

In conclusion, although a language barrier exists, it is not impossible to overcome. Teaching children the English language (or simply showing them that it is beneficial to learn by presenting role models) may be the best way for Laos to move forward from being “Thailand 10 years ago.” I am not trying to advocate the elimination of the Lao language; it is a key element of Lao culture, and its loss would be undeniably tragic. In fact, I would recommend that any travellers to Laos take the time to try to learn some of the language. It is easy for those fluent in English to want everyone else to conform, but effort is needed on both sides.

There is so much more I could write, but I must end somewhere, so thank you for taking the time to read my article.

Torch Bearer at Pan Am Games

By Heather Wittier

I have been chosen as a Torch Bearer at the Pan Am Games. Yes, I am very excited and honoured to have been chosen. Reserve Saturday June 13 and come cheer me on and enjoy the celebration afterwards. All are welcome so bring your kids too.

This takes place at the Caledon Centre for Recreation and Wellness (14110 Hwy 50) on the east side of Hwy 50 just north of Bolton, Ontario. I am running as number 015 and will run last to end at 7 Rotarian Way, Bolton, where there will be a community celebration. There is plenty of parking at the Centre and I believe the run starts from the south end of the Centre's parking lot, up and around the corner to 7 Rotarian Way. There is parking there as well.

**CALEDON'S COMMUNITY
TORCHBEARER CONTEST**
CELEBRATE AND SHARE
THE PAN AM SPIRIT!



I get to finish the run! I must be there for 11:15 am, but don't run until 12:10 pm. I have been training with my coach Carl and hope to do a quick walk as I am not certain my spinal issues will allow me to run with a torch and stay upright.

Then we all celebrate with the Town of Caledon. There should be food and drink but I don't have those details as it is hosted by the Town of Caledon.

Please come and join in the fun if you are able to. I hope to see you there.

How Much Do We Notice?

Lisa Beamer on Good Morning America - If you remember, she's the wife of Todd Beamer who said 'Let's Roll!' and helped take down the plane over Pennsylvania that was heading for

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Washington, DC back on 9/11. She said it's the little things that she misses most about Todd, such as hearing the garage door open as he came home, and her children running to meet him.

Lisa recalled this story: "I had a very special teacher in high school many years ago whose husband died suddenly of a heart attack. About a week after his death, she shared some of her Insight with a classroom of students. As the late afternoon sunlight came streaming in through the classroom windows and the class was nearly over, she moved a few things aside on the edge of her desk and sat down there. With a gentle look of reflection on her face, she paused and said, 'Class is over, I would like to share with all of you, a thought that is unrelated to class, but which I feel is very important. Each of us is put here on earth to learn, share, love, appreciate and give of ourselves. None of us knows when this fantastic experience will end.

It can be taken away at any moment. Perhaps this is God's way of telling us that we must make the most out of every single day.

Her eyes, beginning to water, she went on, 'So I would like you all to make me a promise. From now on, on your way to school, or on your way home, find something beautiful to notice. It doesn't have to be something you see, it could be a scent, perhaps of freshly baked bread wafting out of someone's house, or it could be the sound of the breeze slightly rustling the leaves in the trees, or the way the morning light catches one autumn leaf as it falls gently to the ground. Please look for these things, and cherish them for, although it may sound trite to some, these things are the "stuff" of life. The little things we are put here on earth to enjoy. The things we often take for granted.

The class was completely quiet. We all picked up our books and filed out of the room silently. That afternoon, I noticed more things on my way home from school than I had that whole semester. Every once in a while, I think of that teacher and

remember what an impression she made on all of us, and I appreciate all of those things that sometimes we all overlook.

Take notice of something special you see today. Go barefoot. Or walk on the beach at sunset. Stop off on the way home tonight to get a double dip ice cream cone. For as we get older, it is not the things we did that we often regret, but the things we didn't do.

Editor's Note

By Donna Davies

We extend a big vote of 'Thanks' to June Laver. She has kindly supplied wonderful spring flowers to grace the tables at our weekly coffee hours. This is most generous of June and it has certainly helped to make our time together after church even more enjoyable.



Also, you will enjoy reading an update of Veronica's adventures while volunteering in Laos. Veronica has so much to share with us that we will be running another update in our next issue of News & Views.

MILESTONES

Death: Richard Whitehead

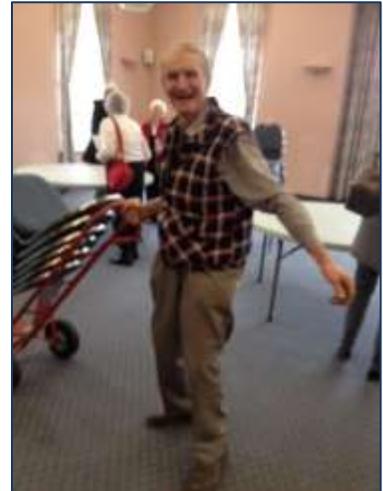
Baptism: Tahlia Davidson
Brad Teeter

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George Judge receives the 'Spirit of St. James Award'

George doing one of the many jobs he handles around St. James.



Thank you, George!

Computer Skills for Seniors

Customer: Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says 'can't find printer'. I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it.

Customer: I can't get on the Internet.
Tech support: Are you sure you used the right password?

Customer: Yes, I'm sure. I saw my colleague do it.

Tech support: Can you tell me what the password was?

Customer: Five dots.



Our Café Caledon sessions have been well received and enjoyed. All the evenings are now produced 'in-house.' We've heard about and discussed Gluten-free Diets, the Alberta Oil Sands, the British Home Children, Eco Caledon, Social Media, What makes a relationship a Marriage and other interesting topics.

We will be continuing the sessions in September after a summer hiatus but we need your help. Can you spare an hour and a half once a month? We need people to take care of setting up tea, coffee and goodies for our sessions. It is not a difficult task and, as mentioned, once a month is all it would take.

Please prayerfully consider that, and consider also joining us. Lots of interesting topics are coming up.

If you have one you'd like to hear about, please let Mark know.

The Bathtub Test

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

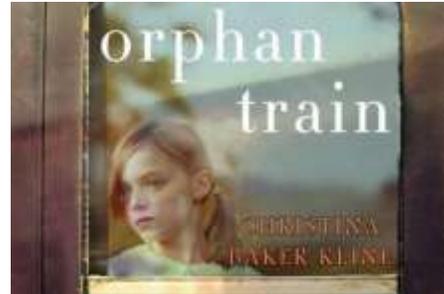
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"No," he said. "A normal person would pull the plug."

Do you want a bed near the window?"

BOOK REVIEW

By Donna Davies



**ORPHAN
TRAIN**
By Christina
Baker Kline

Note: *This is one of those books that I count in my 'enjoyable reading' category. I also learned something I did not know. I am very familiar with the 'Home Children' venture where homeless children were sent to Canada from England, but was not aware of this similar program in the U.S.*

The Orphan Train Movement was a supervised welfare program that transported orphaned and homeless children from crowded Eastern cities of the United States to foster homes located largely in rural areas of the Midwest. The orphan trains operated between 1853 and 1929, relocating about 250,000 orphaned, abandoned, or homeless children. Two charitable institutions, the Children's Aid Society (established by Charles Loring Brace) and later, the Catholic New York Foundling Hospital, endeavored to help these children.

About the book:

Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by pure luck. Would they be adopted by a kind and loving family, or would they face a

childhood and adolescence of hard labor and servitude?

As a young Irish immigrant, Vivian Daly was one such child, sent by rail from New York City to an uncertain future a world away. Returning east later in life, Vivian leads a quiet, peaceful existence on the coast of Maine; the memories of her upbringing rendered a hazy blur. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are vestiges of a turbulent past.

Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer knows that a community-service position helping an elderly widow clean out her attic is the only thing keeping her out of juvenile hall. But as Molly helps Vivian sort through her keepsakes and possessions, she discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they appear. A Penobscot Indian who has spent her youth in and out of foster homes, Molly is also an outsider being raised by strangers, and she, too, has unanswered questions about the past.

Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota, *Orphan Train* is a powerful tale of upheaval and resilience, second chances, and unexpected friendship.



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And, on a lighter note...

One Sunday morning, Father Dick noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it.

The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the priest walked up, stood beside the little boy and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning Father," he replied, still focused on the plaque. "Father Dick, what is this?" The priest said, "Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "WHICH service, the 8 am or the 11 am?"

News and Views is a newsletter for the people of St. James Church. 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 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.

Donna Davies, Editor

Next Newsletter: Fall 2015

Deadline: September 20, 2015

Publication: October 4, 2015

Summer at St. James

ALERT! ALERT!

SUMMER SERVICES SCHEDULE
TIME CHANGE

Please take note of the following:

Starting June 28 through to September 6, 2015, the Sunday worship services will switch to **10 am**. The Parish Picnic will take place at the Rectory after the June 28 service. The Reverend Bill Craven will be with us on July 26, August 2 and 9.

Café Caledon will be on hiatus for the months of July and August.

On September 13 we will revert back to the **9 am** and **11 am** services, and this will be our **Welcome Back Corn Roast** with burgers and hot dogs.

Have a happy and safe summer!

JOIN US



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