



# St. James Church

*In the Heart of the Village*

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Fall 2022

## News & Views

And just like that - summer slips away and we slip on sweaters!

Summer at St. James was great - we enjoyed meeting at 10:00 with an average of 25 people in attendance. The outdoor ecumenical service at the Taylor farm was enjoyed by a a great turn out from St. James and Caledon East United / Knox United.

Fall has always been a time of new beginnings, and although you are likely not shopping for back-to-school supplies, why not consider making a commitment to something new at St. James?

Perhaps take a turn at coffee hour; join the Wednesday Communion group, or learn about Lectio Divina? Candles at Six continues to provide a peaceful oasis of prayer and contemplation mid week.

And if you'd like to do something with your hands and share some social time, join the 'Mat & Chat' ladies (pg. 4).

Lots of reasons to get involved at St. James, and maybe treat yourself to some new markers and a notebook anyway!

—Diane

## A word or two from Michelle

*“For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. Then when you call upon me and come and pray to me, I will hear you.”*

Jeremiah 29: 11-12

Truth be told... while most of my holiday week spent in Newfoundland this summer was extremely beautiful and joy-full, I also experienced moments of discomfort and suffering.

I travelled with my best friend who hails from St. John's. A poignant marker for our trip was a visit to the site of her granny's old homestead – where my friend had spent many summers of her youth playing and exploring the woods and the shoreline. Her granny's house burned down this spring. It was the first time my dear friend had visited the spot since the fire. I could sense her pain and sorrow as she stood staring at what was left of the little house (basically the foundation and the cellar) and as she walked along the shore, accompanied, no doubt, by memories of more carefree times.

Our final destination that day was to see puffins. It was top of my Newfoundland “must see” list. As we swerved around pothole after pothole (lots of them in Newfoundland!) I began to feel quite carsick. By the time we made it to the viewing site, I was extremely green around the gills. Adding to my misery...as we crested the hill towards the parking lot – didn't we see a dead puffin in the road! We stumbled against outrageously strong winds to the look-out as a huge black storm cloud grew over the ocean. We got to the rocky edge just as four of the six puffins in attendance that afternoon beat their tiny wings furiously and took off! As the two remaining puffins turned their backs to us, I could only echo their sentiment. “Great,” I said, “Ok – saw the puffins... let's go home.”

By the time we reached the main road I was quite glum. But then – all of a sudden - the biggest, fullest, sharpest rainbow any of us had ever seen appeared out of the clouds. It stretched from one end of the landscape to the other. A sign of hope -appearing in the midst of my friends' sadness; the driver's frustration; (a two hour journey he had taken us on); and my own disappointment and nausea!

In the midst of loss and bittersweet memories of bygone eras of our youth; in the face of illness and scarcity; in the pits we find ourselves in from time to time: either small potholes that jar us for a few

seconds – or great crevices where we linger with no end in sight... the God of hope is there. The God of hope travels with us – promising to never leave us nor forsake us.

This Fall you will be hearing a lot from myself and the wardens about the financial needs of St. James Caledon East. Our parish, like so many other parishes in this Diocese, has suffered greatly from the pandemic. As folk feel less and less connected with the life of the church; as followers of Jesus and seekers alike contend with busy lives and competing responsibilities and programmes; the local church is pushed further and further onto the margins of society. Parish budgets suffer as expenses begin to outweigh income.

I want us all to keep the picture of the rainbow and the concept of God's enormous promise ever before us. As we are drawn indoors on account of shorter days, longer nights, and cooler temps... let us be drawn to prayer. Please pray with me, asking God specifically:

“What does the future of St. James Church look like? God, what are your plans for us?”

“What is my individual part in the future of St. James? God, what is your plan for me?”

May you be filled with every spiritual blessing as you call upon the God of hope.



## Change in Service Time

**Effective Sunday September 18 and with the approval of the Leadership Team and Advisory Board, St. James will move to one worship service each Sunday at 10:00 am.**

Traditionally St. James offered an early service, with no music and traditional liturgy, followed by the later service with choir and organ and a variety of liturgies.

Mother Michelle shared her feelings about this situation with Advisory on Sept. 13. "When I came to St. James I was aware of the two services, but it has been on my heart since that time that we should come together as one family and worship together." Declining attendance since Covid furthered her conviction that one well-attended service would lift our spirits, engage the parish and help us remain attractive to seekers.

Regular attenders at the early service were contacted by Mother Michelle and given a chance to express their thoughts and feelings. All understood the reason for the change.

The service time of 10:00 am was chosen as a compromise between 9:00 and 10:30 and, with coffee hour when it is scheduled, will allow people to be home for lunch and whatever else their day of rest holds.

This is a great time to recommit yourself to coming to church regularly. In addition, there are many opportunities to serve with groups such as the Altar Guild, the Choir, Sidespersons, Readers and Intercessors. Rather than thinking of this as 'work', it is an opportunity to get to know how your church works, to make new friends, and to make a real contribution to the life of the parish. Your gift of time and talent will be appreciated by all.

### Continuing:

Tuesdays at Muriel's house: **Mat making** workshops - see page 4.

Fridays at 10:00 am via Zoom: **Lectio Divina**, a contemplative look at scripture, only half an hour and no need to turn your mike on. Contact the office to get added to the zoom list.

Wednesdays at 6 pm: **Candles at 6** with Mother Michelle, at St. James (schedule will change with Michelle's holidays)

Thursdays at 9 pm - **Prayers at the end of the Day** with Diane on Facebook

### Mark your calendar:

**Sun. Oct. 2 - 2 pm Pet Blessing** - details on the website and on Facebook

**Sat. Nov. 5 - Women's Retreat Day.** Our popular 'retreat' day for women returns after Covid. The theme this year is 'A cup of hope for troubled times'. Guest speaker will be Wendy Passmore, author of *Finding God in the Story of our Lives*.

Check the website for up to date information:

[www.stjamescaledoneast.com](http://www.stjamescaledoneast.com)

# Caring for others - Valerie Jones

## ***Caring For Others, Here, Near and Far***

*Following the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, we will endeavour to help those in need **Here** in our Parish family and in our community, those **Near** our community and those who live in Canada or in other parts of the world **Far** away.*

*We will also advocate for an equitable distribution of resources among members of our society.*



### **54 Mats and Counting!**

The ground is a hard and unforgiving place on which to try to sleep. Using plastic which would otherwise go to waste, a group of dedicated women have been making waterproof and cushiony mats for distribution where there is need.

The mat group is meeting for 'Mat & Chat' on Tuesday afternoons, from 1:30 - 4:30 at Muriel's house, 17390 Mount Pleasant Road. No craft skills are required, but if you would like to know more, please contact Muriel through the church office.

Supervisor Rosie the Lab will be happy to add you to the team!

### **Looking ahead**

**Donation campaign** launching October 2 to aid recovery efforts in Pakistan.

**Thanksgiving Food Drive** - please bring in your excess veggies and fruit in a nice container on *Sat. Oct 8 between 9 and 11 am*. Your gift will decorate the sanctuary for Thanksgiving Sunday and afterwards be delivered to local food banks. If you didn't grow anything - please consider purchasing some produce at a local farm market.

**Advent Tree** will be set up mid November with more information to follow.

Don't forget - if you are clearing out your closets please donate gently worn fall and winter clothing to the collection bin in our parking lot.



Trudy Messer, Mary Jane Stephenson, Muriel Jackson, Elizabeth Morton and Barb Graham finishing mat number 54. The output of these women has exceeded what the White Room can hold, and they are now working in Muriel's (and Rosie's) basement.

## What's going on at St. James?

## Can-Am Trio at St. James

### St. James Anniversary

Next year we will be celebrating 175 years as a community of faith in this area, and 121 years as a church building in the village. David Finch is heading up a committee which will plan how we commemorate this anniversary. Send him your ideas, better yet, volunteer to be part of the team!

**Pass it along!** - we mail the newsletter so you can read it at your leisure and share it with a neighbour or friend. Please help us promote St. James to the community.

On Sunday, August 21 we enjoyed a lively performance of chamber music from the Can-Am Trio. These talented women played a selection of contemporary and traditional pieces written for English horn and oboe. About 45 people attended and donated generously to St. James in lieu of admission



THE PETS OF ST. JAMES INVITE YOU ...



LEO

BAILEY & SPIKE

# Pet Blessing at St. James Caledon East

**BRING YOUR PET TO CHURCH**

- dogs on a leash
- cats in a carrier
- other pets in enclosures
- horses and large animals will be blessed outside

**SUNDAY,**  
**OCTOBER 2**  
**2:00 PM**

 **905-584-9635**

[www.stjamescaledoneast.ca](http://www.stjamescaledoneast.ca)

Many of you have met Mother Michelle's lovely Leo; and Lori's energetic Bailey. Shane and Sharon take care of an interesting creature too - Spike, who watched us during Covid. Please bring your special animal to church on October 2 at 2 pm for a special service of thanksgiving for pets, and invite friends and family.

And, if you don't have a pet, please come anyway. It is always a fun service.

## Love Goes All the Way Down: Discovering the Old Testament God

a fall zoom course by

Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat



*Navajo Girl with Sheep, Photo by P.T. Reilly*

Pay what you can.

Suggested amounts: \$150 (full fee)  
\$100 (reduced fee)  
\$ 50 (discounted fee)

It is also possible to have your course fees covered by our scholarship fund.

For further information or to register:  
[www.bibleremixed.ca](http://www.bibleremixed.ca)

When you think of God,  
do you think of judgement?

Do you struggle with stories  
that seem to reinforce  
racism, patriarchy, homophobia,  
legalism, violence, and genocide?

Do you wonder  
how the God of the Hebrew Bible  
aligns with Jesus' message  
of grace and forgiveness?

What if these tensions  
are rooted in a tragic misreading  
of the story of the Creator God?

In this course we will explore how  
love, commitment, and compassion  
are found in the very heart of God  
throughout the Biblical story,  
and throughout the history of creation.

Sundays

7:00 - 9:00 pm EST

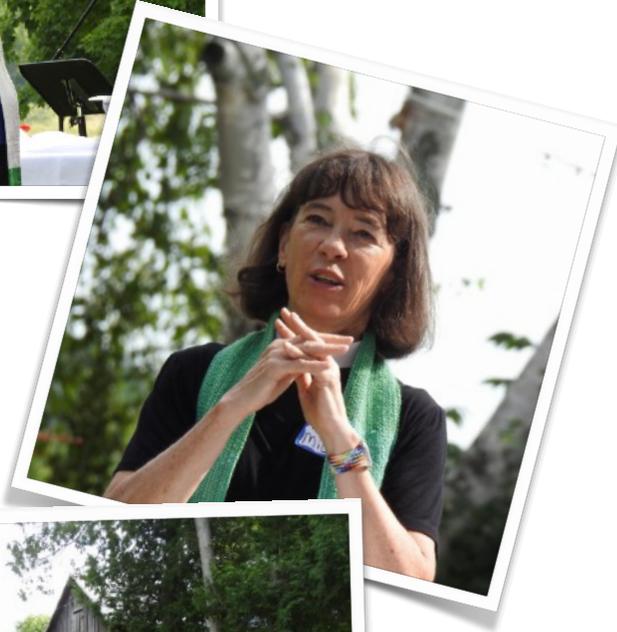
September 25

October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2022

via Zoom

***BIBLE REMIXED: Where biblical depth meets radical discipleship***

Wonderful 'back to school' idea for us this fall - learn to love the Old Testament from the comfort of your home



**Ecumenical service at the Taylor Farm - August 7**

Led by the Rev. Heather Stevenson and the Rev. Michelle Jones, the congregations of Caledon East United Church, Knox United and St. James came together for a lovely morning service in the rolling hills of Albion.

# Stay in touch

**Office Phone:**

905-584-9635

**Visit:**

Tue. - Thur.: 9 - 1 pm

**Rev. Michelle's email:**

Priest-stjames  
[caledoneast@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:caledoneast@toronto.anglican.ca)

**Facebook:**

*St. James Anglican Church, Caledon East*  
(you don't need a Facebook account to see the page)

**Web:**

[stjamescaledoneast.ca](http://stjamescaledoneast.ca)

The website has current information on: Upcoming services and how to access them, how to donate to the church and links to special events.

**Instagram:**

@stjamescaledoneast

**Mail:**

6025 Old Church Road,  
Caledon East ON  
L7C 1H8