

# The Wardens' Wire

ISSUE # 17 SEPT. 24<sup>TH</sup> - OCT. 8 2023

## EVENTS

### Sun Sept 24

- 10.30 am Morning Prayer
- 2.00 pm Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service

### Mon Sept 25

- 9.30 am Coffee/craft social
- 12.30-2.30 Friendship Circle
- 7 pm Hamilton Schola Cantorum practice

### Wed Sept 27

- 1.30 pm Afternoon Bible Study
- 7.00 Evening Bible Study

### Fri Sept 29

- 6.30 AA meets

### Sun Oct 1

- Harvest Home service
- 2.00 pm Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service

### Mon Oct 2

- 9.30 am Coffee/craft social
- 12.30-2.30 Friendship Circle
- 7 pm Hamilton Schola Cantorum practice

### Wed Oct 4

- 1.30 am Afternoon Bible Study
- 7.00 pm Evening Bible Study

### Fri Oct 6

- 6.30 AA group meets

### Sat. Oct 7

- 4 pm – 6.30 Thanksgiving Pot Luck dinner

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**--- The evening bible study will be working through "The Faith of Anglicans", J. Rodgers a study of the 39 Articles; The book can be purchased (very nominally) for anyone interested in attending the Bible study, or personal study.**

**----October 7<sup>th</sup> Pot Luck dinner for Thanksgiving....all welcome, come along, alone or with a friend...bring a dish to be shared for a wonderful Thanksgiving get together.**

**----Food Drive - bring your orange bag with your food donation over the next week or two, so that it can be delivered to Crossfire for their Thanksgiving food giveaway.**

**-----William has offered to share his tremendous talent by attending Extencicare (Jane's home) once a month to sing hymns**

with the residents'. Please join us if you are able Thursday September 28th for the first trial of this wonderful outreach. We will meet at Extencicare around 9.30 and help get residents in place for 10 am hymn sing. Ask for directions. Thanks William

**---We are gathering knitted goods for the Streetlight donation in early December, and will be set them up in our hall and in the sanctuary closer to that date.**

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The Friendship Circle started off with good fun this past Monday afternoon which is how every group should start. We have an earlier time now , from 12:30-2:30 with light snacks and coffee/tea.

We used a few words from Samuel Johnson's 1775 dictionary and had fun guessing their meanings. "Close but no cigar" as the saying goes although Sandra was the one who knew that a Philomel referred to a nightingale. But what about pigwidgeon? Belly-timber? Spindleshanked?

See what you missed? Come! - Judy

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St.George's Book Club resumed this past Tuesday after our summer break. We helped Hercule Poirot solve a cracking good case!

In October author Jolie Phuong Hoang will join us to discuss her book about her escape from Vietnam.

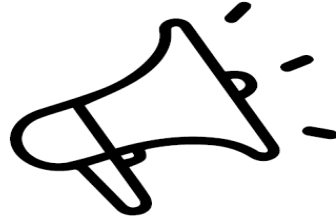
In November (Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>) we will discuss 'The Places In Between', Scottish writer Rory Stewart's 2004 book about his walk from west to east in Afghanistan, from Herat to Kabul. There will be discussion and slides about Afghanistan on Sunday Nov. 19 over Sunday lunch. Fahim Zafar will be the presenter.

Some of the book choices have changed. See the bulletin board.

We are surrounded by riches in our little corner of Hamilton. - Judy

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**As you will have heard, the Vestry has voted in favour of applying to sponsor Hakima's brother, who is in Afghanistan. As said before, this is a long journey – both for him and for us – and may be a couple of years before concluded. We are thankful that the people of St George's feel this is a challenge**



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that we can meet. Your suggestions as to appropriate fundraising opportunities are welcomed. The committee to pursue this (ad)venture is as follows:

Tom Power – lead, Lisa Richardson, Judy Smith, Geoff Atkas, Mary Atkas, Alison Buffett. The group will meet regularly, and will keep you updated as the process develops. AB

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**BIRTHDAYS ....** Does anyone celebrate more birthdays than us at St George's. Does anyone have any more people singing Happy Birthday to them than the members of St Georges? You are unusual if your birthday is not known amongst us! Sandra and James have it all in hand. On the last Sunday of each month a cake is provided (thank you Margaret B) and there is always enough for all those present! If we missed your birthday, let us know, and we will be sure to celebrate it next year!

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## NEW LIFE ...

There was something unusual on the gardening supply shelf! A splash of lilac colour was peeping through the empty pots. I reached in and pulled out a dry bulb. Its brown withered roots gave no sign of life, but from its other end sprouted a beautiful lilac flower! It was one of the Fall Crocus bulbs which had been uprooted months ago and left, forgotten on the shelf, neglected and away from its nurturing soil. This brought to mind folk we see around us who have been uprooted from their homes, but somehow preserve the bloom of life from their inner source. Arpine

**Thank you Arpine for this hope filled story.**

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**Get in!**

*"The white hot centre of the Gospel is among the most vulnerable."*

*(Rev'd Benjamin Wall. The Matthew 25 Initiative, the Anglican Church in North America.)*

During Lent 2023 I started reading a newsletter that the Matthew 25 initiative of the Anglican Church of North America publishes. It is ongoing so I get it daily. It has impacted me deeply. I have written the above quote down this week in order to keep it. It is appropriate and potent, considering that as a congregation you have given Vestry the

go-ahead to sponsor a young man from Afghanistan to relocate to Hamilton to be near his sister and his tiny niece, both of whom are known to those of us who attended the Friendship Circle. This decision puts us near that white hot centre of the Gospel.

As time goes on and as we do the necessary paperwork, we will share with you his name and further details so you can picture him more closely. Once The United Nations High Commission for Refugees has his name on a list for Canada he will be in a safer position than he is at the moment. But that is a while off and the process could take from 2-4 years.

The Matthew 25 initiative has made me go back and back again to that wonderful Chapter in Matthew's Gospel. It is a direct command.

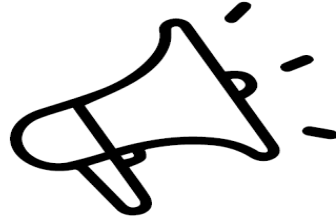
My King James Version says it this way in verses 35-40.. "For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and you took me in. Naked and ye clothed me: I was in prison and ye came unto me."

When Jesus' followers asked him when was He ever hungry, or thirsty or in jail Jesus answered "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Verse 40.)

This past Thursday evening, Amal, the Syrian journalist for whom you have prayed every Sunday for a year, arrived at Pearson airport. It was a joyous occasion indeed. She has been delivered from living under threat and in great fear for her life. She said over and over to the group who was there to greet her, "You have saved my life." This is the power that we in North America hold. It is possible for a small community group to join together and sponsor a person towards a new future, a future of the kind of freedom that we take for granted. We all have a story, not only newcomers. This most recent sponsorship venture has reminded me that as people of all backgrounds we can bind our own stories together in one big human story and with God's guidance can make wonderful things happen for somebody else.

When Jesus said "Love your neighbour as yourself" He was talking about the entire world. If you had seen the crowd getting off the incoming flights at Pearson on Thursday evening you would know that there is a new Canada on the way. We have been directed to be the salt of the world. We are meant to use that message to add flavour to the brokenness of a world that necessitates people fleeing their homeland in fear of their lives.

I have recently read a book called The Road To Dawn: Josiah Henson and the Story that Sparked the Civil War by Jared Brock. It was about the runaway slave Josiah Henson. Desperate to get away from his owners he fled with his wife and four children in tow. He got as far as the Ohio River, the slave hunters in pursuit. When he looked across the river he knew that on the other side lay freedom. He noticed a small boat at the bottom of the hill. If he asked the boat captain to



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help them get across the river the chances were twofold: the Captain might report him to the slave hunters or he might agree to take them across. Henson approached him. The Captain said "Get in." Those two words changed many lives. Henson became a Baptist Minister and built the house in Dresden, Ontario which became a home for escaped slaves. Refugee sponsorship is a remarkable experience, a satisfaction that grows from knowing that we are not just talking about the world news but are doing something to ameliorate it. And it is a great deal more wonderful at the airport arrivals gate when you can share one of those huge, embracing 'Welcome to Canada' hugs.

Thank you for saying "GET IN" Judy

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**BOOK DONATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN SALVAGE MISSION (CSM)**

CSM Canada ships donated evangelical Christian and educational materials world-wide.

Headquartered in Hamilton, CSM's purpose is to provide these important materials to organizations and peoples who would otherwise have no access to them. The materials are shipped at no cost to the receivers. CSM collects gently used Bibles and Christian books from all over Canada. The materials go to evangelists throughout the world to complete the Great Commission.

Do you have surplus materials you could donate? See the following list of materials CSM accepts. If you have a book donation, please bring it to St. George's where a box is available in the fellowship hall for you to place it in.

- Bibles -all versions (in good condition).
- Books
  - Concordances, Theology, Bible dictionaries, counseling books, church growth, discipleship, Christian biographies, Bible handbooks, sermon helps, Bible study books, medical books, school books, commentaries, Christian novels
  - Teaching Helps
  - Flannel-graph, children's books, VBS materials, Sunday School material, Teaching slides, Bible film strips
  - Music & Recordings
  - hymn books, chorus books, Christian CDs, DVDs, sheet music, well-known sermons
  - Magazines
  - Confident Living, Daily Bread, Decision, Discipleship Journal, Focus on the Family, Friends of Israel, Good News Broadcaster, Gospel Light, In Touch, Insight for Living, Israel My Glory, Leadership, Scripture Press, Today, Turning Point.

Spanish language versions of all of the above materials are also accepted.

Unacceptable Material

Denominational books, gardening books, recipe books, secular novels, records.

If you have any questions talk to Tom Power or e-mail him: [thomppower@gmail.com](mailto:thomppower@gmail.com)

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**WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE BIBLE VERSE? AND WHY? WHAT DOES IT SAY TO YOU PERSONALLY? Be part of the contributing editors team of the Wardens Wire !!**

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Church life has its perks and noon hour today was one of them. Alison and I had lunch with Fahim and Anis and their two precious little guys, Ferdaus and Soroush in their mid-city apartment.

Those of you who came to the Friendship Circle last session remember welcoming the Zadfar family when they were newly arrived from Afghanistan. They were so cold they couldn't believe it. Fast forward a few months and now they're so hot they can't believe it. (And all that after I'd told them how much they'd love Canadian summers.)

And those of you who learned a few words in Dari week by week at the Friendship Club also embraced the little boys. Ferdaus is full of energy and tells us he wants "six new friends" at kindergarten. He thinks you can order anything, siblings included, by searching for them on google.

Soroush is still as charmingly roly-poly as they make them. He knows how to run, how to pull out plugs, how to work the converter, in which drawer to find his socks so he can show them to us, how to eat yogurt by sticking his tongue into the container to finish it off, and all that at 18 months. We had several demonstrations of fights between the plastic Spiderman and the plastic Ironman and the fighting ended when the plastic dinosaur entered into the fray. Such a noise you've never experienced unless you've had little boys of your own.

We thanked God for each other and for our food before lunch.

We all had fun learning Dari words this past spring so I'm sending some new ones out into the atmosphere.

Here goes. We ate delicious things, among them Qabili Palau (rice with raisins and lamb), bamyra (okra) and salat (lettuce and cucumbers with dressing).

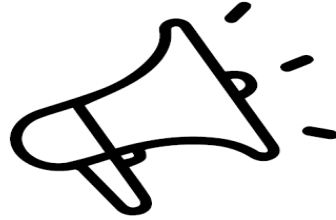
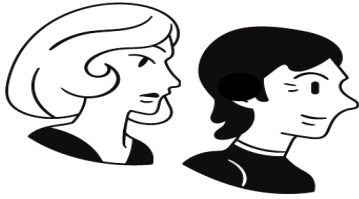
Churches, of all institutions, need to be global. We need the world and the world needs us. - **Judy**

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**DATES TO REMEMBER ...more information to come**

**Oct 21<sup>st</sup> Movie**

**Oct 28<sup>th</sup> Quiet Day - The Lord's Prayer**



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- Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> HSC All Souls service
- Nov 5<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Sunday
- Nov 6<sup>th</sup> HSC EvenSong
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Pot Luck supper to welcome Bishops Gillin & Jenkins
- Nov 12<sup>th</sup> Confirmation and Induction Service with Bishops
- Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Slide show during lunch after service
- Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Advent (Stir up Sunday)
- Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent

Fahim has shared this famous Persian poem with us. It, too, reminds us of the story of the Good Samaritan and of Jesus asking us to love our neighbours.

### The Children of Adam by the poet Saadi

All human beings  
 Are members of one frame,  
 Since all, at first, from  
 the same essence came.  
 When time afflicts  
 a limb with pain  
 The other limbs  
 At rest cannot remain.  
 If thou feel not  
 For other's misery  
 A human being is  
 no name for thee.

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THE HYMN THIS WEEK.....

### **HERE I AM LORD, Is It I**

**Dan Schutte 1947 -**

Another favourite, but a contemporary hymn ... written in 1981 and became popular immediately, ... being voted the 5<sup>th</sup> Most Favourite Hymn in Songs of Praise. Dan Schutte a Jesuit studying in Berkeley was asked by a friend to write a hymn for an upcoming diaconate ordination – the ordination was to be in two days ! He was instructed to include in his hymn imagery of the word of God, the light of Christ, and bread and wine. His response was 'gosh, I don't know that I can do this'. He was suffering from the flu, and sat with his guitar in hand, knowing not what to write nor even

where to begin.. He prayed to God . God if I am to do this for my friend, you have to help me. He asked for the opinion of a group of St Louis Jesuits, who suggested he change the chorus, Here I am Lord, here I stand, to Here I am Lord, it is I. He completed the hymn in two days, and presented it to his friend, editing along the way; it has become a loved hymn over the last thirty years, and he says 'I had no idea it would be so popular, I was so nervous ' He says he 'hardly remembers the ordination, but remembers everyone praising his hymn and said 'If only they knew how the last two day had been for me trying to make this work'. The inspiration was Isaiah 6:8 and 1 Samuel 3, Answering God's call.

*Adapted from Internet sources*

### Here I am Lord, Is it I, Lord 1981

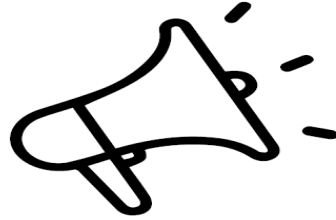
I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
 I have heard my people cry.  
 All who dwell in dark and sin,  
 My hand will save.  
 Here am I, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
 I have heard you calling in the night.  
 I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
 I will hold your people in my heart.

I, who made the stars of night,  
 I will make their darkness bright.  
 Who will bear my light to them?  
 Whom shall I send? **Chorus**

I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
 I have borne my people's pain.  
 I have wept for love of them.  
 They turn away. **Chorus**

I will break their hearts of stone,  
 Give them hearts for love alone.  
 I will speak my words to them.  
 Whom shall I send? **Chorus**

I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
 I will send the poor and lame.



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I will set a feast for them.  
My hand will save.            Chorus

Finest bread I will provide,  
'Til their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

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JPS/AB 17