

The Wardens' Wire

FEBRUARY 11 – 24TH ISSUE 26

<u>Sun Feb 11</u> 10.30 am	MORNING PRAYER
<u>Mon Feb 12</u> 9.30-12 pm 12.30-2.30pm 7.30 pm	Craft Circle Friendship Circle HSC choir practice
<u>Tues Feb 13</u> 3- 5.45 pm	Shrove Tuesday PANCAKES - come for the fun and the delicious food anytime between 3- 5.45 pm
<u>Wed. Feb 14</u> 10.30 am 1.30 pm	ASH WEDNESDAY Morning Prayer Service Bible Study
<u>Thurs Feb 15</u> 2 pm 7 pm	Vestry Meeting Bible Study
<u>Fri Feb 16</u> 6 -9 pm	AA group meets in the hall
<u>Sun Feb 18</u> 10.30 am	<i>FOOD SHARE BAGS RETURNED</i> MORNING PRAYER
<u>Mon Feb 19</u>	Family Day
<u>Tues. Feb. 20</u> 1.30-3 pm	Book Club - At Home in Mitford
<u>Wed Feb 21</u> 1.30 – 3 pm	Bible Study
<u>Thurs Feb 22</u> 2.00 5.30 7.00 pm	Vestry meeting # 2 Soup and socialize prior to Compline Service
<u>Fri. Feb 23</u> 6-9 pm	AA group meets

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Also on Sundays:
8.30 am St Mary's Church meets
2.00 pm Hoi Thanh TinLanh church meets

PANCAKES ...DON'T FORGET !! 3 PM – 5.45 PM

BRING YOUR NEIGHBOURS, FRIENDS, FOR THIS FUN AFTERNOON... CHATTER, LAUGHTER, MUSIC AND DELICIOUS PANCAKES AND SAUSAGES AND FRUIT ; Linda at the pianoNO NEED TO COOK SUPPER ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 13TH !

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FOOD DRIVE – THERE IS A QUICK TURNAROUND ON OUR SOUP FOR THE SOUL COLLECTION – PLEASE RETURN YOUR RED BAG ON FEBRUARY 18TH. THANK YOU FOR YOUR THOUGHTFUL GIVING.

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Ash Wednesday service of Morning Prayer at 10.30 –

Compline services will be held on Thursdays during Lent. This brief but beautiful evening service will give you a peaceful night – February 22, 29, March 7,14,21. Join your church friends for a light supper of soup & bread prior to the Compline.

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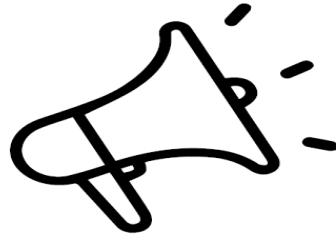
Thank you Michael & Pam for organizing the movie night ...another wonderful movie, enjoyed by 30 people...7 pizzas bought – 68 pieces eaten !! A fun way to spend a Saturday afternoon. Watch for the next movie late April-early May

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UPDATE ON SPONSORSHIP

You will notice the 'thermometer' in the hall is gradually moving upwards...We are half way there Fundraisers are planned and we hope to make a significant difference to the total in the next few weeks. Application for sponsorship funding is planned for the end of February at which time we will be required to 'guarantee' the amount necessary to proceed. As mentioned previously, the fund will not be accessed until our friend is in Canada, which we have no control over at this time.

We wait with patience and God's guidance for Hakima's brother to join us in 2024. In the meantime we pray for his safekeeping and with thanks for all of your generosity and love towards a young man who needs us just as we need him.



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Those who find themselves arriving as refugees have lots to teach us. This opportunity is a two-way street. *Judy*

Knowing our parishioners:

Charlene Robitaille

If you have been a long time attendee at '134 Emerson' you will know Charlene – until 3 years ago this lovely kind, generous, peace loving lady with the silver hair sat half way down the epistle side at the end of the pew – right under the memorial plaques. Charlene has a member of St Margaret's and then St George's ALL HER LIFE...baptized at St Margaret's in the mid-30s. She grew up on Royal Avenue, right alongside the church, and her best friend Margaret B. A life long West Hamilton resident until three years ago she lived as close to 'under the mountain' as you can get – the last house on Bowman. surrounded by trees, flowers, and as many birds as you can count. ..In her day she was one of the ladies who kept St Margaret's famous bazaars the best in the city, and was always available to help. She is now enjoying living with her daughter and family in Ancaster, and keeping in touch with her 'bestie' on the phone. Charlene is always interested in what is going on at her church, and although she cannot attend, Margaret keeps her up to date,

Love from us all to you, dear Charlene
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Book Chat -

Our next Book Chat will be on Tuesday, Feb. 20, 1:30-3:00. The book up for discussion is Jan Karon's *At Home In Mitford*.

We've marched our way though some heavy topics in the last while, including refugee issues, slavery and racism. They were all wonderful worthy books but the one up for our February discussion provides a bit of relief.

People have been telling me for ages that I should read Jan Karon's novels. About twenty years ago this genre was referred to as "kitchen sink novels", in Britain at least, because of their homey, gingerbread-baking-in-the-oven cosy factor. There are other definitions of "kitchen sink novels" that list them as either fantasy or the daily struggles of working class people but I like my own definition better.

I must say I'm infatuated with the wonderful list of quirky characters, kind characters, hard- workers, church ladies and Father Tim who is the local Rector.

But there are two characters who have grabbed my heartstrings. I don't want to ruin the story but I just have to say that the fellow who was baptized in prison as he asked forgiveness and was assured of it had me dabbing my eyes for joy with him. And there's a precious small boy, Dooley, whose middle name was "trouble". Because of a job I once had I've met lots of wee Dooleys and they are special little folks indeed. So when I wasn't teary over the prisoner (who reminded me of some of the folks in the Bible who were greatly loved by Jesus), I was wiping my eyes over Dooley, the little darlin'. You might as well give up on me folks.

I'm trying to get my copy read quickly so I can pass it around.

This lovely little novel underlines all the things we know to be true: that Jesus loves each one of us with a love that knows no boundaries, that He wants us to come back to Him, and that we all belong to His family.

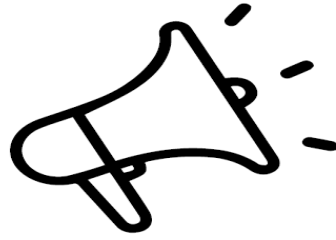
Come to the book chat. Is there a friend you could invite? Just come and listen if you haven't read the book and have a cuppa ---- Judy

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"We recently heard from Dr. Jonathan Riches that the Sayenko family from Ukraine whom we were trying to help get to Canada have decided to stay in Poland where they have been staying for the past year due to their mother's illness. Any monies sent to Go Fund Me have been forwarded by

Dr. Riches to the family in Poland. We wish them very well in their new lives there."

Judy



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Thank you Marlene for this submission

[A reflection on Psalm 23 and it's taken from a book called *Daily Strength for Daily Needs*, by Mary Tileston \(Boston: Little, Brown, 1901\).](#)

In "pastures green"? Not always; sometimes
He Who knoweth best, in kindness leadeth me
In weary ways, where heavy shadows be.
So, whether on the hill-tops high and fair
I dwell, or in the sunless valleys, where
The shadows lie, what matter? He is there.
(Henry H. Barry)

The Shepherd knows what pastures are best for his sheep, and they must not question nor doubt, but trustingly follow Him. Perhaps He sees that the best pastures for some of us are to be found in the midst of opposition or of earthly trials. If He leads you there, you may be sure they are green for you, and you will grow and be made strong by feeding there. Perhaps He sees that the best waters for you to walk beside will be raging waves of trouble and sorrow. If this should be the case, He will make them still waters for you, and you must go and lie down beside them, and let them have all their blessed influences upon you.

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A SIGNIFICANT MILESTONE June 4, 2004 St George's church members had their first service at 134 Emerson ... Welcomed by at least 30 members of the dis-established St Margaret's Church, we all came togetherSt Margaret's people were invited to keep their original seating and the newcomers filled in the available pews. Such a wonderful service that was. Everything we needed was at hand and it didn't take long for the after-service traditions of St George's to be introduced and the hundreds of plates, cutlery, and kitchen equipment were put to full use again.
Over the next few months I will be compiling memories of both churches, and will need help ... start thinking of those special moments at St Margaret's and St Georges ... so that we can share our history on the 20th anniversary. *Alison*

NOTICE: THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING WILL BE HELD AFTER THE SERVICE ON SUNDAY MARCH 3RD. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND ...LUNCH WILL BE SERVED (of course !) AND THE MEETING USUALLY LASTS LESS THAN AN HOUR. THE AGM PACKAGE WILL BE DISTRIBUTED THE SUNDAY BEFORE THE MEETING SO YOU HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO READ IT AND BE PREPARED WITH ANY QUESTIONS AT THE MEETING.

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I walk by this wonderfully worded plaque, situated in the 'Childrens Garden' of the RBG at Marion & Dromore – commissioned by the City of Hamilton, several times a week: so thought-provoking. *Alison*

BE:LONGINGS (2022)

What Do we Carry?

What is it to leave a home? To find a new home? To belong? This installation considers what it means to escape, find refuge, seek safety or new opportunity, and to pursue freedom from oppression, persecution and privation.

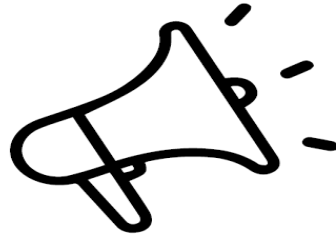
What do we bring?

These forms of migration are complex, they require bravery ad sacrifice. They require forging a relationship with the land and sharing space with those who have arrived before and with those who have been here from the beginning. Often it is difficult and fraught. Like any home.

What can we grow?

The tree is a universal symbol in nearly all human cultures, representing growth, resilience, hope, strength, regeneration, knowledge, family and ultimately, life itself. Despite the weight and gravity of history and experience – humanity and its ideals are ultimately hopeful, inextinguishable, and irrepressible.

Gary Barwin, Simon Frank, Tor Lukasik-Foss



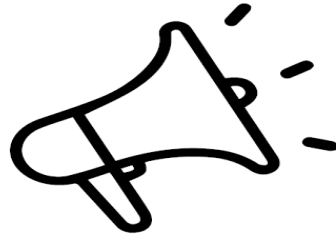
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The Joy of Interruption

Many people in ministry and others could sympathize with the declaration of John Newton (1725-1807), author of the famous hymn, Amazing Grace, that he had: "Seldom one hour free from interruption, letters that must be answered, visitants that must be received, business that must be attended to. I have a good many sheep and lambs to look after, sick and afflicted souls dear to the Lord: and therefore, whatever stands still these must not be neglected." Yet despite this busy and largely self-directed schedule, Newton also recognized the claim God had on his time in an unpredictable way. Thus elsewhere he wrote: "When I hear a knock at my study door, I hear a message from God. It may be a lesson of instruction: perhaps a lesson of patience: but, since it is his message, it must be interesting." We can all, perhaps, readily identify with this delineation of busyness, whether of the scheduled or unexpected kind. In my former job as a theology librarian, for instance, interruption was an expected and normative occurrence in servicing the information needs of patrons. Simply put I was there to be interrupted! Yet on a wider canvas, how are we to regard interruptions and how might we view them in the context of a godly perspective on time? If we accept Christ as lord of our lives, this also means that he is lord of our time and its allocation and disposition. In the words of the psalmist, "My times are in your hands" (Psalm 31: 5a). All too often, however, we conduct our affairs and speak of the stewardship of our time as if we have, or aspire to, a rigid, total control of it. I would suggest that we need to view our use of time in two ways each reflective of an attribute of God's nature. On the one hand, because our God is a God of order, reflected in the orderly way in which the world was created (as recorded in Genesis 1), we need to reflect that divine sense of order in the way we carry on our lives, our work schedules, our family times, and our recreation. On the other hand, our God is a God of surprises and a purveyor of the unexpected. Because of this divine attribute we should expect the unexpected in our lives, even in the midst of our orderly existence! In such circumstances, we have to patiently relinquish our hold on order, predictability, and control, and allow the Lord to break in and interrupt. Here the

situation of Zechariah (Luke 1: 1-20) is instructive. He and his wife Elizabeth were members of a religious élite with service to God at the centre of their lives. Yet they had their burdens to bear in terms of childlessness, unanswered prayer, and advancing years, Zechariah followed a rigid and predictable routine as a priest in the temple. This routine was interrupted when the lot fell to him to enter the sanctuary to offer incense to the Lord (vv.8-9). This would have been a time of keen awareness when God's presence would have felt closer than usual. But this high point in the religious routine is shattered by the announcement from the angel that Zechariah and his wife are to have a son. Amid the familiarity, ritual and predictability of his religious duties, Zechariah was surprised by God's intervention and given a life-changing experience, hope, and transformation. Another manifestation is prayer, the central activity of the Christian. In our private devotional times we naturally aspire to an atmosphere of silence and stillness and the dispelling of distractions, in order to facilitate our prayer. However, if we get overly anxious about eliminating all noise and distractions, such anxiety can in itself become a barrier between ourselves and God. In such circumstances, it is important to be mindful of the fact that given the Incarnation, the Word did become flesh and as a consequence God can speak to us even in the activity and noise around us. Thus a prayerful stance or disposition can involve taking account of such circumstances around us. A nineteenth century author advanced a definition of life as "the permanent possibility of sensation." Christians might legitimately substitute "sensation" with "interruption". We live with a disposition of waiting, of living in hope, faith, and perseverance. At the end of time we await the return of Christ, and while we don't know when that will be, we do know that it will be the greatest "interruption" of all. In anticipation we say: "Come Lord Jesus. Come." –

Tom Power



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