

The Wardens' Wire

Issue # 30 APRIL 13 – 30

SAT. Apr 13th
All Saints Orthodox Church is using our church for the day.

Sun Apr 14th, 21st & 28th
10.30 am MORNING PRAYER

Mon. Apr 15, 22nd, 29th
9.30-12 noon Craft Circle
12.30-2.30 pm Friendship Circle
6.30 pm HSC choir practice

Tues. Apr 16th
1.30-3.00 pm Book Club – UNBROKEN*
by L. Hillenbrand

Wed. Apr 17, 24th, 30th
1.30-3.00 pm Bible Study

Thurs. Apr 18 & 25th
7. – 9 pm Bible Study

Fri. Apr 19 & 26th
10;30—12 noon Christian Women group **
6.30-8.30 pm Park AA group

Sat. Apr 20th
4 – 6 pm Movie & Pizza 'Wonka'+

• *BOOK CLUB – Tuesday April 16th 1.3-3pm*
Even if you haven't read the book come and enjoy the lively discussion that occurs at the St George's book club ... Unbroken is a story of Survival, Reliance and Redemption.

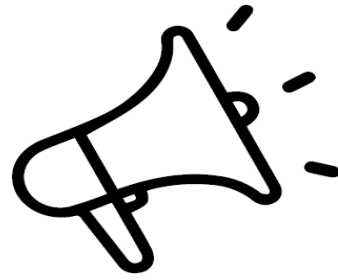
** Welcome to the Hamilton Christian Women's Connection who will be having a social gathering in St George's fellowship hall on Fri. April 19th. We are thrilled to have the ladies see our freshly painted walls and windows, and enjoy a gathering of fellowship. Talk to Arpine if you need more information.

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+ **Pizza and Movie: April 20th 4 – 6 pm: 'Wonka**
Sign up on the bulletin board for this musical fantasy, a new release from December 2023 - prequel to the well known Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'. This free 'Front Porch' event includes pizza and a drink ...bring a friend or neighbour to experience the fine hospitality of St George's and a fun afternoon.
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THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED BEAUTIFY THE CHURCH FOR THE EASTER SERVICES Your efforts and talents are so appreciated, and welcomed by all. Thanks to Sandra B., Melanie H and Louise P for your help. You make my role very satisfying!
Alison

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Last Sunday we had the pleasure of welcoming a choir of twenty-four lovely young men from Williamson College of Trades in Media, Pennsylvania. They sang the preludes for us in the form of Be Thou My Vision, Amazing Grace, Shine On Me, the latter of which was particularly moving with the soloists' beautiful voice.
They, along with their Assistant Chaplain, Sean Howat, who gave us a wonderful sermon, joined us for lunch. What promising young men they are.
It was their first trip to Canada and I overheard one of the boys say "I could stay here for a long time!"
Many thanks also to the very talented Sherre Gaertner, their choir leader and pianist.
We hope they'll come back again soon.-Judy



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Our Monday afternoon Friendship Circles have taken a fun turn of late.

This past week, in keeping with the stunning events in the sky, our theme was "the moon and the sun." It involved the reading in Genesis Chapter One about the Creation of those wonderful lights in the sky, the sun to show us the way in the daytime and the moon, a lesser light, to lead us into rest so we can start the following day refreshed.

It's always amazed me how the sun and the moon take shifts and spell one another off for eight hours so one can rest while the other goes on duty. It's the perfect marriage.

After the Genesis reading we had some fun in the form of Name That Tune along with the Spotify playlist especially made for the eclipse. There is lots to love about James Taylor singing Moon River, the Beatles with Mr. Moonlight and Here Comes The Sun, Frank Sinatra with Fly Me To The Moon, Moonshadow by Cat Stevens, Stevie Wonder and You Are The Sunshine of My Life, Creedence Clearwater and Bad Moon Rising, Anton Dvorak's Song To The Moon. On and on we went. No winner. No loser. Just fun.

And this coming Monday we can look forward to Linda's presentation along with her piano accompaniment about Madama Butterfly.

We are fortunate to have talented, caring people at St. George's, people who can share their creative ideas and who understand that when we look up at the heavens that it was not happenstance, but it was, like everything else, created.

For you and for me.- **Judy**

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UPDATE ON CUBA.

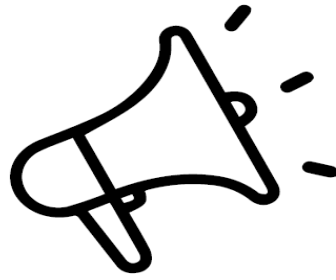
If you have read the Cuban Chronicles of a couple of months ago you will have possibly been concerned about the need for changes in leadership.... A recent meeting of the REC-ANiC Cuba Mission Society reassured us all that these changes have already made a significant difference in the lives of our Cuban brothers and sisters. With a country in disarray through poverty, ill health, corruption and strict governance control, one wonders how they cope. Those who are on facebook can see Archdeacon Alexei Gonzalez Rodriguez's posts with wonderful reports and photos.. These people have such deep faith, they want to learn, and want to lead. The Holy Spirit is among them. Our newly consecrated Bishop in the REC , Bishop John

Boonzaaijer has been assigned Episcopal oversight the Cuba diocese , *Iglesia Episcopal Reformada du Cuba*, which bodes well for us with his role as President of The Board of Foreign Missions. We are glad to report that the BFM now has Cuba as one of their responsibilities and is supporting Cuba with 50% of the operating annual budget for Cuba (previously supported solely by the Cuba Mission donations.) Another hallelujah moment is that the Government of Cuba has now recognized the Reformed Episcopal Church, which means the people are able to meet, pray, and praise God without fear of punishment. There have been two very important trips to Cuba by Bishops and Canons, which have, although put a dent in the funds , have been important so that a better understanding of the people, their circumstances, their resilience and their faith. With the change in leadership their pastors, deacons, and lay people have returned with confidence to lead their people. There will be an ordination of several well prepared candidates in the near future. Watch for the next Cuban Chronicles, and please keep these wonderful, spiritual people in your prayers. Monetary donations from across Canada come directly to Nelson Buffett, the treasurer for the group, US donations now go to the Board of Foreign Mission, earmarked for Cuba. Thank you to all who have donated to this most worthwhile mission.

Canon Barclay Mayo, the Mission advocate for the REC ANiC Cuba Mission Society writes:

The Cuba Mission 2024 is now divided into three Convocations covering much of the island. It comprises 10 parishes, including 1 new one as of March 2024 and two who had left that have returned and are being reintegrated, thanks be to God! There are 4 preaching stations and one new work beginning in Pinar del Rio. We are supporting 14 clergy, 6 missionaries, 1 deaconess with a couple possible in training, one seminarian, as well as diocesan support staff in each of the three areas. The total budget for May 2024- April 2025 is 110,000 USD. Your prayers and financial support are much needed and greatly appreciated.

Alison



The Wardens' Wire

MEDITATION OF A PAINTING Lisa Richmond



One of the most remarkable paintings of Resurrection ever made does not depict Jesus himself. It was made in 1898 by Eugène Burnand, a Swiss-French Protestant painter, and titled "The Disciples Peter and John Running to the Tomb on the Morning of the Resurrection." (To see the painting in colour, enter "burn and disciples" in a web browser.)

From Scripture we know the context in which this scene occurs. The women have just returned from the tomb with news that scarcely can be comprehended. The tomb was empty! An angel met them, saying, "Fear not; for I know that you seek Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen."

Can you sense the movement in this scene? The men are running, straining forward, the wind lifting their hair from their heads as they speed along. Even the sky appears to be in motion.

Based on indications in the New Testament, artists through the ages have depicted the disciple John as a young man and Peter as an older man (usually with a beard). In this painting, then, the disciple on the left is John and the one on the right is Peter.

See how the artist has so skillfully painted John's features to convey his anxiety. John's forehead and mouth are tense. His hands are clasped at his breast, in hope or prayer. If I were to guess what John is thinking, it would be, "Oh, please, please, let it be true. Let it be true." The beloved disciple, bereft of Jesus,

who wanted to stay so close to him, wants to be close to him again.

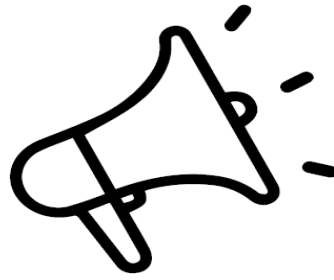
And what about Peter? He is an older man, and his situation is more complicated. His eyes are wide open, but the object of his thought is not the road before him but something within himself. Something he is remembering. Is he remembering how he denied Jesus, and not once but three times? Is he thinking, "How can I ever come into Jesus's presence again, worm that I am; how could I ever be received?" Yet he goes to Jesus anyway, and not just goes but runs. Here is a lesson we all need. No matter what we've done, no matter how we've failed him, the thing to do is to run to Jesus.

Perhaps Peter is remembering something else. Perhaps, as dawn continues to spread in the sky around him, what Peter is seeing in his mind's eye is the first glimmer of the meaning of it all. It is breaking in on his mind now, like a great wave crashing on a shore or like the sun bursting over the horizon. "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." "He who has seen me has seen the Father." "Today the Scriptures are fulfilled in your hearing." His thoughts racing, he goes back over all that Jesus said and did. His eyes are wide in recognition and amazement.

Lesslie Newbigin, a British theologian and missionary, was once asked whether he was an optimist or a pessimist. Newbigin replied, "I am neither an optimist nor a pessimist. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead." Optimism and pessimism, that is, all human expectations about the future, are just that: human mindsets, human categories. Jesus is not constrained by human categories. Jesus Christ has risen from the dead. All human bets are off.

Lisa

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The Wardens' Wire

"Thank you Craig for your compassion towards the complex issues of homelessness right here in Hamilton. It is a good reminder of Jesus' instructions in Matthew 25: 35-36 about feeding those who are hungry, giving drink to those who thirst, clothing those who need it and caring for the stranger."

The term "Hamiltent" sheds light on a distressing reality faced by many individuals in cities around the world, where homelessness persists despite efforts to address it. The story of "Rob" and others like him highlights the struggles faced by those who are economically disadvantaged and marginalized, fighting to secure affordable housing in the face of rising rent prices and gentrification.

Rob's experience with "reno-victions" underscores a broader issue of landlords prioritizing profit over the well-being of their tenants, exploiting legal loopholes to evict residents and hike up rental prices. The inadequacy of support from bodies like the Landlord Tenant Board exacerbates the problem, leaving tenants like Rob without recourse and at risk of homelessness.

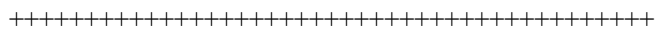
The actions taken by city officials and law enforcement, such as issuing notices to vacate public spaces, further compound the challenges faced by individuals like Rob, who have nowhere else to turn. The overcrowding of shelters and the lack of affordable housing options only serve to perpetuate the cycle of homelessness, leaving many without a stable place to call home.

It's crucial to recognize that homelessness is not solely a result of personal failures or individual choices but often stems from systemic issues such as income inequality, lack of affordable housing, and insufficient support systems for those in need. As such, addressing homelessness requires comprehensive and compassionate solutions that

address the root causes of the issue and provide support and resources to those affected.

Rob's story serves as a poignant reminder of the human cost of homelessness and the urgent need for action to ensure that everyone has access to safe and affordable housing. It's imperative that communities come together to advocate for policies and initiatives that prioritize housing as a fundamental human right and work towards creating a more just and equitable society for all. "It's going to take a lot more than a ticket to make me move along"

CRAIG



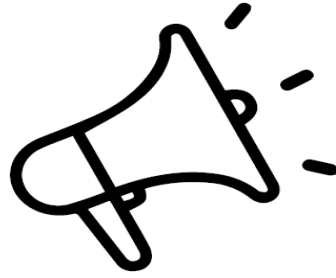
This plaque is placed in the medical building of McMaster at Main & Bay – the former site of the Board of Education for Hamilton. Dr. Harry Paikin was a trustee for the Board, and penned this beautiful work many years ago
Alison

Not to the sword, but to the pen
Not to the bomb, but to the microscope
Not to the treasures of earth and sea
But to the treasure of mind and spirit
Do we dedicate this building.

What are the great words of human thought
Born of the struggles and sufferings of humanity
Through\ the ages
If they be not God and love
Understanding and compassion
Brotherhood and equality
Progress and education?

Let these be the heritage of our future generations
Passed by us to younger hands and stouter health
That they may make of them
Proud flying banners blazing to the sun,
And clear, clarion class to a happy life.
Wherein wisdom ad peace
Freedom and equality
Science and love
Shall guide the steps of man.

H Paikin,MD



The Wardens' Wire

UPDATE ON REFUGEE MISSION...

Here we wait ! The application has been accepted by the ROC-O (Resettlement Operations Canada) the next step is that our friend will be interviewed by the IOM (International Organization for Migrants) will have medicals, fill out more forms, get a visa and then wait for his place with the IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) . Little Helen thinks he will be here for Christmas – wouldn't that be wonderful.

Meanwhile, Pat W has completed the "Signature Quilt" thank you for your amazing work, Pat.

Alison

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HONING IN ON HYMNS

The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended

Rev. J Ellerton 1826-93

*The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended
The darkness falls at Thy behest
To thee our morning hymns ascended
Thy praise shall sanctify our rest*

*We thank thee that thy church, unsleeping
While Earth rolls onward into light
Through all the world, her watch is keeping
And rests not now by day or night*

*As o'er each continent and island
The dawn leads on another day
The voice of prayer is never silent
Nor dies the strain of praise away*

*The sun that bids us rest is waking
Our brethren 'neath the western sky
And hour by hour fresh lips are making
Thy wondrous doings heard on high*

*So be it, Lord, thy throne shall never
Like earth's proud empires, pass away
Thy kingdom stands, and grows forever
'Til all thy creatures own thy sway*

A Christian hymn written by the Anglican hymnodist the Rev [John Ellerton](#) (1826–1893) in 1870 for its inclusion in *A Liturgy for Missionary Meetings*. It is often sung to the tune of [St Clement](#) and its theme focusses on the worldwide

fellowship of the church and its continual offering of prayer and praise to God.☪

The hymn was selected to be sung as part of the celebrations for the [Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria](#) in 1897 and was also sung at the [Hong Kong handover ceremony](#) a century later. It was also sung at the [funeral of Queen Elizabeth II](#) on 19 September 2022.

The hymn has an enduring popularity, coming in third place in a BBC [Songs of Praise](#) poll of favourite hymns in 2005.

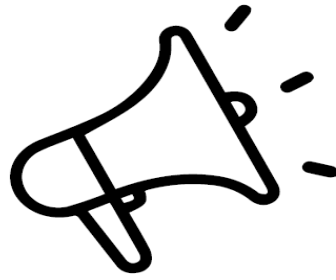
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Sometimes what seem to be small happenstances in my life tie themselves together without me even trying and leave me with new clarity.

My friend Marlies sent me a video of a sermon from St. Bene't's Church in Cambridge, England given by Malcolm Guite, the British Poet-Priest who is Chaplain of Girton College, Cambridge. It was sent to her by a family member who had been at the service. Marlies and I had read and discussed his Lenten book, 'Words in the Wilderness.'

It was a stunning sermon, stunning in the sense of the power in Rev'd Guite's wording about the Resurrection. He explained it as a "cosmic" event. Considering that cosmic refers to the entire universe rather than just the earth we walk upon, those are mighty words to describe a mighty, earth shaking event.

He explained that sometimes people refer to Bible events as metaphors, including the Resurrection, but that is the wrong way around. Everything else is a metaphor *because* of the Resurrection!

And when I watched that other cosmic event from my back porch yesterday as the deeply orange sun became shadowed by the darkness of the moon I could see his point even more clearly. There are things we can understand and other things that are cosmic and take us many steps beyond our own imaginings, things that cover us in awe and give us splendour, things that tie all of mankind back into the Creation of the world by the God who loves us and knows our names.



The Wardens' Wire

The Resurrection was the cosmic event that offered
us forgiveness, freedom, new life and Heaven itself. -
Judy

JPS/AB/30
JPS.AB 30