

The Wardens' Wire

May 18- 31 , 2025

ISSUE # 55

Sun May 18

8.30 am St Mary's the Virgin Independent service
10.30 am EASTER IV - LESSONS & HYMNS St George's
2.00 PM Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service

Mon. May 19

7 pm On line Prayer meeting
7.30-9 pm Hamilton Schola Cantorum practice

Tues May 20

12.30-2.30 BiblioMpower - pot luck lunch
7 pm Reformation History on zoom

Wed. May 21

1.30-3 pm Bible Study

Thurs May 22

10 am Extendicare service
7 pm Bible study - off site

Fri. May 23

6 pm Park Group AA

Sat., May 24 *church occupied all day*

Sun May 25

8.30 St Mary's the Virgin Independent service
10.30 MORNING PRAYER at St George's
2.00 PM Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service

Mon May 26

12.30 pm Friendship circle

Wed May 28

1.30-3 pm Bible study

Thur May 29

10.30 am St Mary's service ...**ALL WELCOME**
Mass for the Feast of the Ascension
7 - 8.30 pm Bible study - off site

Fri May 30

6 pm Park Group AA

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UPCOMING EVENTS:

Mon. June 9th 7.30 p m EVENSONG - join us for a beautiful service of Evensong ... - with the Schola Cantorum

Sat. June 13th 12 noon - 2 pm BBQ AND MUSIC IN THE GARDEN - DETAILS TO FOLLOW

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The Easter season is closing in now, and the decorations are back in the attic. Thanks to Sandra for all her help with decorating the church and the hall, and to Arpine, Melanie and Louise for their expertise and skill with altar, table and door decorations, bringing joy to all in this joyous season.

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BUNNY BAGS! - Filled to the brim with goods.....

Thank you to all for the very generous donations of food in bright yellow 'bunny bags'. Our friends at Crossfire were thrilled to receive this abundance of love, delivered by Alan & Louise. Thanks to Jo-Anne for again co-ordinating such as successful venture.

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NEW GARDEN LIBRARY

Our new garden library is now in place! It will be stocked with Christian materials for passers-by to take for free and read. Thanks to Judy Smith for giving us the plan of her own garden library to use, to Sandra Bentley for going to Aitchison Lumber and getting them to assemble the library, and to Alan Powell for doing a fine job painting the library in the strong red and blue colours of the Reformed Episcopal Church.

We are planning an official unveiling of the library at our garden music day on June 14. In the meantime, we ask your prayers for this new ministry. Pray that many will be drawn to select materials that will lead them to Christ.

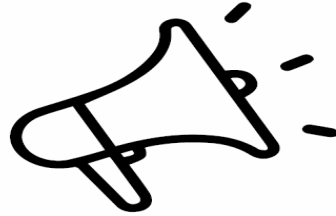
Tom Power

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After 38 years we moved

For those who have enquired, yes, we settled in just fine. I have to say though, to those to whom I grumbled about looking out of our new big bright windows and all I could see was concrete, brick, windows with blinds closed, and very unhealthy looking spindly, bare trees, I tell you now --- Spring has arrived. I have made an effort to walk every evening for the last two weeks in areas north, south, east and west of our new abode. There are blossoming, mature trees, green grass, roads that go nowhere, paths that go between houses to the next road, or to a little playground, and so many roads, with so many houses, and so many lovely gardens, Life on the West mountain is a flourishing, friendly, and interesting area, I have found cemeteries, memorial plaques, benches, little parkettes and trails within a short walk of our house.. Moral of the story ... don't move house in February

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The Friendship Circle spent some time this past Monday talking about our favourite Bible stories and what we learned from them. Our choices included Moses in the bullrushes, Jonah and the Whale, Lazarus, The Fiery Furnace, The Gold Coin, The Prodigal Son and many more.

Sandra mentioned how she can still see the illustration of Jesus with the children around him in her childhood Bible story book. Sometimes pictures really are worth a thousand words. Her memory speaks to the power of early childhood Bible lessons as others of us could also remember specific book illustrations.

The Reformation History group has just finished reading and discussing the late Henri Nouwen's book, *The Return of The Prodigal Son*. (Doubleday, 1994). The book is based on the painting of the same by Rembrandt which is held in The Hermitage in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

In 1986 Henri Nouwen found himself in the unique position of being allowed to sit in front of this painting and take it in, all of it, over the course of a week. It was a week that both fine-tuned his understanding of the message within the story and deepened his relationship with God and with his own father as he presented the published book to him on his 90th birthday.

In the painting we see the father, so willing to receive the son he thought was lost forever. The son has returned home after spending his inheritance on all the wrong things. In his sorrowful state and with broken spirit he is asking his father for forgiveness. We all know where this story goes. The father, in imitation of our Heavenly Father, holds his son in his arms and immediately upon hearing his son beg for forgiveness gives it wholeheartedly. There is no holding-back, no scolding, no "why did you?" but there is love and acceptance and most importantly non-judgemental, immediate and total forgiveness.

And then we see to the right of the painting the older son, the one who has stayed home, helped his father, has not been careless with money or morality. What we notice most is his stern face, unflinching, staring at the kneeling, sorrowful brother locked in their father's arms. But it is that son, the older one, who cannot find it within himself to forgive either his younger brother for making trouble over the years or even his father for not celebrating him as the good, careful son he himself has been.

The question as you know is "Who else needs forgiveness?" Human pride can get in the way.

The background of the painting is dark, frightening, because the viewer cannot see who or what is lurking there, but a beam of Heaven's light magnifies the father's embrace, the repentant one's sorrowful condition and the immovable sternness of the older son's facial features.

It reminds us to check our own status with the Heavenly Father, the one who forgives without conditions. And it reminds us not to be the unmoveable force when it comes to forgiving others. - Judy

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Updates from Alison

Wishing our friend Velma F. a full recovery after her time in hospital. Always so full of adventure, celebrating with family, volunteering, and crafting, we are hoping Velma will be back to her usual self in a short while and sitting in her regular place in church. Sending hugs and good wishes to you, dear friend.

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Charlene Robitaille

For those of you who know and remember Charlene R, who sat in the same pew for decades at St Georges, you will be pleased to know that she is now settled in St Peters at Chedoke, with a lovely window looking out (believe it or not) at the street where I now live!. Charlene is happy in her bright, sunny room, where she can see and hear the birds and watch the trees rustle their leaves in the wind. She is interested to hear about St George's and the people there from her weekly phone calls with Margaret B and has a wonderful memory of days gone by, where she and her best friend Margaret played together on Royal Avenue 80 years ago and attended Sunday School at St Margaret's church. Both have been life members of St Margaret's and St George's Church.

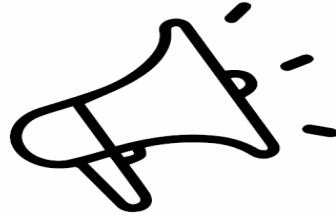
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Connie Stitt

Connie Fatalin-Stitt continues in her most lovely nursing care home in Dunnville. She is always happy to see us when we get down that way (about once a month) and always wants to see a photo of the altar at St George's where the cross she purchased in memory of her husband, and the altar cloths sewn by her, grace that special place.

Connie is heading for her 99th birthday this October. You'll find her walking the halls at Edgewater Gardens, fit as a fiddle!

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The Wardens' Wire

Dean Bob & Mel Harrold 60 YEARS & 45+

Few are able to share 60 years together and be able to enjoy the memories. I asked Melanie for some history about their life journey together....

Bob and I married young 19 and 21 years old

Bob was working while completing the courses required for seminary studies while I was working as a hairdresser and looking after our two children. We were very active in our parish church. I was in the choir and Bob was a lay reader and Julia and Tim would choose someone different to sit with each Sunday before going downstairs for Sunday school. We had a visit from the Bishop of Athabasca to run a lenten program and he encouraged us, along with our parish priest, to go to Saskatoon so Bob could attend The Seminary of Emmanuel and St. Chad. So we packed up our belongings and with Julia and Tim who were 3 and 5 years old, headed west. Bob drove a U Haul with one child and I was in our car following him with the other child.

Our four day journey was an adventure in itself, but moving into a new city with no family but ourselves was even more adventurous. We got to know other families who had arrived to do the same thing and learned to budget and how to make apple pie without apples, which were very expensive on the Prairies and making 150 perogies with a new friend who with her husband and two children had arrived and on the same journey of faith that we were. We became members of St John's Cathedral, and attended chapel at the seminary as well as attending St James Church while Bob did an Interimm there. So we had an extended church family that made us feel like we belonged.

I got my Saskatchewan hairdressers license so worked to support the family while Bob got a part time delivering flowers on holidays. We made it work!

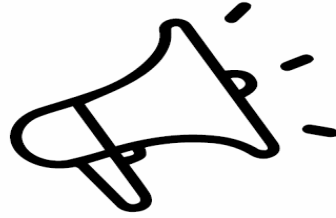
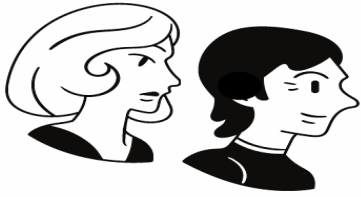
In due time, Bob graduated and was ordained in St. John's Cathedral ; we were so happy to have his parents come from Ont. for their first visit.

We were offered a four point charge in Saskatchewan, 210 miles round trip to all four churches each Sunday.... The kids were ready for bed by the time we all got home every Sunday ! We found the people so friendly. From there we were asked to consider moving to B.C. and after flying out to meet them we moved to a three point charge, living in Ashcroft , and doing services in Logan Lake, a copper mining town, Bonapart reserve at Cashe Creek, and Desert Hills Ranch.

We again made many friends and all of us are still friends , many of them on Facebook . After about three years we found out Bob's father's health was failing and we needed to come home.

When we arrived back in Ontario Bob did Interim work in the Diocese and went back to work in the hospitality industry, while I changed careers and went to Flowers Canada at Guelph University to become a florist..

We began attending St George's Church when they were meeting in the basement of the Baptist Church and Bishop Fedechko accepted us into the Reformed Episcopal Diocese. We have been active members of St Georges for over 20 years, Bob just celebrated 45th anniversary of his ordination and we celebrated our 60 th wedding anniversary.,and we were happy to share them with our church family. We have lots of stories that would make you laugh or cry.... but that's for another day!



The Wardens' Wire



Jacquie DR and her friend Bess

Jacquie sent us this lovely photo of her friend Bess, we hope to see Bess and her family at St George's again one Sunday

Jacquie tells us she met Bess over six years ago at the Vacation Bible School when her son Andy was a participant. Jacquie was taking photos for the St George's album. Shortly afterwards Bess returned to China and Jacquie thought she would never see her again. Two years ago Bess and her family returned to Canada as her husband Adam received employment on his Ph.D at McMaster University. Since then they have had two more lovely boys in their family.

Here is a beautiful photo of Bess and her young family, presumably taken by now teenager Andy. What a beautiful celebration of joy

Honing in on hymns

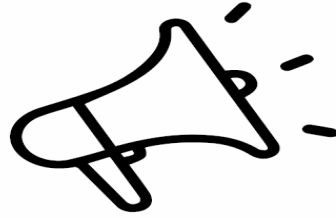
IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST

*In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no south or north
But one great fellowship of love thru-out the whole wide earth*

*In Him shall true hearts ev'rywhere, their high communion find
His service is the golden cord , close-binding all mankind*

*Join hands then, brothers of the faith, whate'er your race may be
Who serves my Father as a son is surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west,, in Him meet south and north,
All Christly souls are one in Him, thru-out the whole wide earth*



The Wardens' Wire

This hymn was written by John Oxenham, (1852-1941) in 1908 for a giant missionary exhibit in London, UK titled The Orient . Over a quarter of a million people viewed this work. Interestingly John Oxenham was a pseudonym borrowed from Western Ho, a book given him by his Sunday School teacher. Born in Manchester England William Arthur Dunkerley ran a successful grocery company with branches in Europe and the US, As John Oxenham he published more than 40 novels and 20 volumes of verse and prose. During the first World War his volume Hymns for the Men at the Front sold 8 million copies. It is said that an incident occurred during World War II where two ships were anchored together, one containing Japanese aliens and the other American aliens, waiting to be repatriated with men glaring at each other over the rails, Suddenly someone began to sing "In Christ There is No East or West, then another on the opposite ship joined in and then an extraordinary chorus of former enemies praising God together.

From 101 Hymn Stories, KW Osbeck