



The St. James

Parishioner

November 2011

St. James' Anglican Church 6 Hamilton Street Stratford N5A 7P4

www.stjamesstratford.ca

The Story of St. James

"Over 170 years ago, our forebears, in the midst of a harsh wilderness, gathered together in prayer to God - to give thanks for their blessings - and to ask for strength and courage as they carved out a new life in this region. Their faith and their fortitude was steadfast - and God's grace was upon them. Today we gather in this place to remember their stories..."



Let us remember their struggles. Let us remember their accomplishments. Let us remember their laughter and tears; their frustrations and joys; their pain and their healing. And then - then, let us remember that their story is ours; that we are the continuation of the story that they began..."

With those words we began a special Sunday service on November 13th. With the help of 15 readers, 5 musicians and 20 singers in the choir, we re-told the history of St. James Church Stratford.



Stories were told all the way from the first services held in the Shakespeare Hotel, to the building of the present church, to the building of the tower, to

the Queen's Coronation Carpet, to the recent work of restoring the roof of the Nave.

Among our readers that day were; Lori Colbeck, who grew up at St. James and went to Sunday school here; Austin Sebben whose Great great grandfather was involved in the building of the present church; Tom Patterson who was ordained deacon in this Church; James Westman who has sung opera in St. James; and Loreena McKennitt who, years ago used to practice her harp in the Upper Parish Hall. Every person present that day has their own personal relationship with St. James and we were there to celebrate that.



"Today, in 2011, St. James is a church that is rooted in it's tradition but constantly reaches out to what God is calling us to be now. Our food ministries reach out to the community. Our Bells reach out to the community. Our musical events create special moments for the community. Our prayers and our actions are a witness to the love of God that continues to unfold in this place."

Let us give thanks to God for all who have gone before us - for we stand on their shoulders.

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Lorne Mitchell+

Hospitality Report

There is a saying that "time flies when you are having fun". There is no doubt about how quickly time seems to be flying but I am also convinced that the parishioners of St. James' are having fun.

Our "Hospitality Committee" had the pleasure of helping to prepare for "Back To Church Sunday" in September. This was a Diocesan plan to encourage our welcoming people back to the church as well as inviting people who might be interested in St. James as a place of worship to join us for service.

It was determined that a "Finger Food Pot Luck" based on a suggestion from Lynn, would be the best plan and it proved to be just the ticket. We appreciate so very much all the contributions from parishioners. The plates of sandwiches, veggies, fruit and sweets allowed people to have a good lunch and it allowed for more visiting. It truly felt like family time. The members of the committee could not have managed if there had not been willing helpers to make the tea, carry the food to the upper hall, move furniture and assist with the clean-up. I particularly wish to thank Pam Ayres and Mary Lou Kingham for volunteering to sing the Grace before the meal.



Our next "adventure" is the Angel Party which follows the children's Pageant on December

4th. We will follow the same plan as in the past with a beautifully decorated upper hall and food of a "Celebratory Nature". The decorating and food preparation will be on Saturday afternoon December 3rd at 2 o'clock and anyone who would like to help decorate the hall and the Christmas trees or assist in the kitchen would be VERY welcome to join us.

Last year as I was helping with the tidying up after the party I overheard one of our youngest parishioners say to her mother, "Mommy, this is my favourite day of the whole year." If taking part in the Christmas Pageant and enjoying the pleasure of time with her church family is a favourite day for that young lady then I say "Amen". Let's get the Angel Party organized.

Blessings,
Lori Colbeck 519-271-1142 / Shirley Jeffrey 519-27
Co - chairs, St. James' Hospitality Committee



An Update from St. Stephen's, Constance Lake

Our sister parish, St. Stephen's, Constance Lake, and its Rector Deborah Lonegran-Freake have had a busy summer. Early in August the annual Memorial Service was held at the cemetery on the Reserve. Stanley Stephens, Rector's Warden and Harry Ferris, Lay Reader, organized it. The service was led by James Sutherland, Lay Reader. The new Chief, Roger Wesley, who is working hard for the people, attended and spoke. Recognizing the importance of spirituality to the community, he plans to re-instate school prayer, to commence in September. Since Constance Lake Reserve does not fall under the jurisdiction of the Province of Ontario, the Chief and Council of Elders have the authority to do this. Deborah Lonegran-Freake and Chief Wesley hope to establish a teen talking circle at St. Stephen's, partnered with the Community Health Clinic.

Elsewhere in the region, Deborah's husband, Frank, has constructed a seven-circuit prayer labyrinth in the Memorial Gardens at St. Matthew/St. Paul's in Hearst. An article about the labyrinth has appeared in the French language newspaper there explaining how it works and inviting people to use it. Several people have spoken to Deborah and Frank about the labyrinth, so it appears to have made an impact. The Rector and her husband also attend the Saturday morning street sales in Hearst and Hornpayne, giving away prayer cards, book marks, and so on. They offer a draw for a solar light, which brings people to their table. "If nothing else, they know we exist."

A Vacation Bible School, called God's Great Adventure, began at St. Stephen's in August. Crafts, songs and stories were to be featured. The camera presented by St. James' was used to take pictures of some of the children who attended.



Many great changes are taking place in the Diocese of Moosonee. St. Chad's Church in Schumacker, which served as the Diocesan office for Moosonee, has been sold. The Synod Office is now in the former Cathedral Rectory in Timmins. The sale of Bishopstow, the former home of the Bishop of Moosonee, was to have been closed 19 August. The Bishop now lives in an apartment in Timmins. Other churches and rectories in the Diocese are to be sold as well. But, so far, the Anglican Linked Parishes of Eastern Kemagami, including Deborah's three, are managing.

We ask God's blessing on the parish of St. Stephen's, Constance Lake, its Rector and its people.

Joyce Banks
Northern Partnership Committee

Strategic Plan Report

September 18, 2011, the Strategic Planning Committee was back at work after a summer break. Our first task was to review what has been accomplished to date and to set our priorities for the coming year. The group strongly feels that the priorities we have chosen follow our powerful Mission. "Exploring, Sharing and Celebrating God's love in the community in word and deed." Our priorities are as follows:

1. The Capital Campaign (*Sharing*)
2. Pastoral Visiting: we now have a process in place to ensure the viability of this very valuable Ministry. (*Sharing*)
3. Education : Tuesday Evening Study Group, reading The Prodigal God
Wednesday Meditation Group
Brown Bag with Benedict
Saturdays Muffins and Meditation
Monthly Contemplative Eucharist (*Exploring*)
4. Picture Board, "who is who to go to"
This Board is now in place on the north wall near the Warden's Desk (*Sharing*)
5. Activity Board: to be placed in the Narthex, this will be a tool used to inform Parishioners what is taking place in the coming weeks at St. James. (*Sharing*)
6. Greeters and Sidespeople Review.

On October 22, 2011 a Workshop was held for Greeters and Sidespeople. The event was well attended. The group was very interactive, with lots of examples of concerns and suggestions, as well as sharing of personal experiences leading to many resolutions to improving on the "initial" impression of St. James.

7. Restart Family Ministry Committee.

The purpose of this committee is to help meet the needs of our younger families in our Parish. (*Sharing*)

8. Following Financial Procedures (*Sharing*)

The summer months saw our Church doors opened wide to the entire community as events presented by Stratford Summer Music were overwhelmingly received. September and October saw a successful Back to Church Sunday, a celebration with our Bishop Bennett, and noted community dignitaries to officially start our Capital Campaign Project, the resumption of Evensong, Blessing of the Animals, the Thanksgiving service held for our seniors who are unable to attend our regular service, and the resumption of Community Meals just to name a few examples of how we at St. James are living our Mission. (Celebrating, Exploring, Sharing)

The major priority of this past winter and spring was the updating of the Parish Map. This was a major undertaking as we tried to produce a document that was visibly clear, easy to follow and understand, and inclusive of our entire parish life at St. James. The document is now ready for presentation to Parish Council and our goal is for it to be presented at our next Vestry Meeting. The group continues to be very committed to the Strategic Plan to keep it a "living document."

Respectfully submitted,
Dianne McCabe



Adult Education Tuesdays

2012 @ St. James

For 6 weeks, beginning
Tuesday January 10th 7pm

ISLAM

Did you know that Islam, Judaism and Christianity share a common ancestor in Abraham?

Using a Teaching Company DVD series, this is an opportunity to learn about an often-misrepresented world religion. Our weekly "guest lecturer" will be Professor John Esposito, Professor of Religion and International Affairs, and Islamic Studies at Georgetown University.

Cost of the course guidebook is \$10.00, and a pre-paid order will be placed mid-December. Sign up at the back of the church, or call Rev. Lynn @ 519.271.3572 x. 207

35th Anniversary of the Ordination of Women to the Priesthood in the Anglican Church of Canada November 30th 2011

To mark this important occasion there will be a special celebration of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am on

Wednesday the 30th

The Rev. Lynn Mitchell and the Rev. Glenda Meakin will be presiding.

All are welcome.

BAPTISMS

You are seeking Baptism for your child or yourself.

Congratulations!

Please contact the Rev. Lynn Mitchell or the Rev. Canon Lorne Mitchell and we will begin the preparation process with you and your family.

The White Ribbon Campaign

to end violence against women & girls everywhere.

A woman in Canada is killed every six days by her intimate partner. A conservative statistic is that 1 in 4 Canadian women have been victims of abuse at some point in their lives.

Please see the articles in the October issues of the [Anglican Journal](#) and [Huron Church News](#).

The White Ribbon Campaign was launched 20 years ago – not by women, but by a group of men in response to the massacre of 14 women at Montreal's École Polytechnique in 1989.

Our Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz would like every Anglican in Canada to join him in wearing a white ribbon from November 25 to December 6.

White ribbons will be available at St. James beginning Sunday November 20th.

The Christmas Pageant! Sunday December 4th

Don't forget the St. James' annual Christmas Pageant at the 10:30 service. It's a wonderful pageant - lots of excited children, great costumes, and unforgettable moments! Who could ever forget the dancing heifer? And of course, there's the **Angel Party** following!

All children are welcome to participate.

Just be at the church at 9:45am on December 4th for the costume fitting. See you there!

The Holly Wreath Shoppe 2011



*As of Nov. 13th
over \$6000 made and counting.*

Congratulations!!!

Capital Campaign News

On Sunday Nov. 13th we celebrated the Story of St. James and remembered all that previous generations have done. More special events are being planned for the new year! David Rose, chair of our Capital Campaign would like to thank all volunteers and all donors who have gotten our campaign off to a great start. The work of restoration has already begun: The roof over Chapel and Sacristy have been repaired and replaced. Plans for accessibility are going to be presented to the congregation in January.



Upcoming Events Calendar

- Nov. 22 ACW Luncheon, 12 noon, Lower Hall
- Nov. 27 First Sunday of Advent
 - 8:30am – Advent Lessons and Carols
 - 10:30am – Advent Lessons and Carols
- Dec. 3 Men's Breakfast, 8am, Lower Hall
- Pageant Rehearsal, 10am, Church
- Dec. 4 Christmas Pageant and Angel Party
- Dec. 10 Stratford Symphony Orchestra,
 - 7:30pm
- Dec. 11 Celebrity Reading of Dickens a Christmas Carol, 4:00pm
- Dec. 18 Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas, 7:00pm
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
 - 4:00pm – Gathering at the Creche
 - 7:00pm – Christmas Holy Eucharist with Carols and Candlelight
 - 10:30pm - Christmas Holy Eucharist with Carols and Candlelight
- Dec. 25 Christmas Day
 - 10:30am - Holy Communion

And Finally... Check out the 9 videos of St. James on the Rector's YouTube Channel: On YouTube go to [lornemitchell1](#)