



St. Peter's Anglican Church

Reaching out to St. Peter's Community

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Summer Edition

Welcome to the fourth edition of the St. Peter's Newsletter



A message from our Priest

There are two words that stand out to me when thinking about summer; holidays and recreation. Both of those words have roots in our faith life, in our spiritual journey. Holiday was originally understood as holy-day, and recreation as re-creation or imagining something in a new way and actually making changes. I am uncertain how much we embrace these concepts as fully as we ought as a people of God. Even if a person is retired and not working at paid employment, these words should still impact us.

The impact is meant not only in a personal way but also as the Body of Christ. Summer offers us holy days to leave space for God speaking to us anew. And in our discernment we are called to recreate, and maybe to change. As the people of God we do not change just to change. Discernment provides insight into our personal spiritual development and that of the Mission of St. Peter's.

To Know Christ and Make Him Known, is the mission statement we and others read every Sunday. Summer affords us the time and space to examine whether we are living into that or whether there are new ways God may be leading us. We might miss an important nudge from the Holy Spirit if we do not use holy days for recreation! God reminds us in scripture, "Behold, I make all things new."

In many ways St. Peter's is at a crossroads. I hope that together we might move beyond worry and fear and open ourselves to a renewed sense of mission. The neighbourhood and indeed our world is changing around us. St. Peter's has a critical role in discerning a recreated mission. The future can only be known if we all step out on the holy path that stretches before us. All are needed, none should be left behind.

May God continue to Bless our Holy Days and Recreation!
The Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft

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Around St. Peter's

As you enter the church from the parking lot you will have been struck by the lovely flower bed along the south side of the hall. Thank you to Madge Latchana for designing the planting and to Michael Barrow for the digging, planting, cultivation and watering. The planting truly beautifies God's house.

Michael has also been busy elsewhere: he has trimmed bushes at the front of the building to get rid of dead growth. He and Claude have also repaired the steps up to the west door of the hall from the parking lot to make them safer.

The flat roof over the offices and narthex has also been repaired to try to stop the leakage down the wall of the office and over the steps into the hall. Part of the roof has been re-laid

to slope away from the area where water had been pooling and we hope that this work will solve the problem of water dripping down the wall above the steps and in the office.

There is still another problem which will need to be addressed: the presence of asbestos insulation on pipes in the washrooms and in the furnace room. So long as the sealing of the insulation is intact, it is safe. There is also loose fiberglass insulation in the furnace room. After the routine maintenance and replacement of pumps on the furnaces, this work should be done and requires someone who is qualified to work with hazardous materials. The estimate two years ago for removal of the asbestos and replacement of insulation on the pipes was \$16,000 to \$18,000.

While the church bank account looks very healthy because of the bequest last year, there is still the problem that income will not match expenditures during the year and will not support a regular stipendiary priest. This is not news: this information has been given from the pulpit since the beginning of this year.

As we look forward to the autumn season, we may all pray for a renewed sense of mission to our community. The parish will not grow or flourish unless there is the sense that the real purpose of the church is to spread the good news of Christ and to bring people to him and that there have to be activities to the end.

Robert Saunders
Diocesan Administrator

The Importance of Christian Fellowship



Fellowship is an important part of our faith. The dictionary definition of fellowship is "companionship, a mutual sharing, a group of people with the same interests." Fellowship includes a conscious effort to get to know others and establish strong ties so that you can encourage them, have them encourage you, resulting in your growing together to the fullness of Christ. This results in your being able to pray effectively for one another, and to establish strong bonds of lasting friendship. Christian fellowship can be summarized through the discussion of five key points:

Fellowship gives us a picture of God - Each of us together shows all of God's graces to the world. No one is perfect. We all sin, but each of us has a purpose on Earth to show aspects of God to those around us. When we come together in fellowship, it's like us as a whole demonstrating God.

Fellowship makes us stronger - No matter where we are in our faith, fellowship provides us with strength. Being around other believers gives us the chance to learn and grow in our faith. It demonstrates to us why we believe and sometimes is the excellent food for our souls.

Fellowship provides encouragement - We all have bad moments. Whether it's the loss of a loved one, a failed exam, money problems, or even a crisis of faith, we can find ourselves down. If we go too low, it can lead to anger and a feeling of disappointment in God. Yet these low times fellowship is important. Spending time with other Christians can often lift us.

Fellowship reminds us that we're not alone - Coming together with other Christians in worship and conversation helps to remind us that we are not alone in this world. There are Christians everywhere. It's amazing that no matter where you are in the world when you meet another Christian, it's like you suddenly feel at home.

Fellowship helps us to grow - Coming together is a great way for each of us to grow in our faith. Reading our Bibles and praying are great ways to get closer to God, but each of us has important lessons to impart to each other. When we come together in fellowship, we teach each other things.

Therefore, I would encourage us at St. Peter's as a people of Christ to continue to come together during activities such as Sunday Services, Coffee Hour, The Peace, and The Benediction to name a few, and support one another as it is an ability to learn, gain strength, and show the world exactly who God is in our lives.

Jaime Barrow

Here's why some churches are growing

First, the good news: 28 per cent of the parishes in the diocese are experiencing growth in attendance, number of givers or both. That means 54 parishes among 194 are doing something that is setting them apart from the others.

The inconvenient truth about congregational health, however, is that nearly 70 per cent of our parishes are experiencing decline. For some, the decline is gentle and hardly noticeable. For others, the decline has been severe – losing 40 per cent or more of their Sunday worshippers since 2012. As the decline intensifies, it leads to low morale among existing congregants and may eventually signal the closure of a church and disestablishment of the parish. About 20 per cent of our parishes are in, or perilously close to, this reality.

Our Church is in decline in terms of attendance and participation; it cannot be avoided. Across the mainline Protestant denominations in Canada and the global West – including Anglican, Evangelical Lutheran, Presbyterian and United churches – the decline has been happening since the 1970s. It is only recently, however, with the aging and passing of the first-born of the boomer generation, that the pace has accelerated.

There are glimmers of hope. Diaspora congregations – whose homelands include China, the Middle East, Africa and the Philippines – are growing at an unprecedented rate in the diocese. There are at least 14 of these congregations in our churches, representing a Sunday worship population of close to 1,000. These congregations are not factored into the data noted earlier. Another sign of hope is the emergence of worship centres in locations that have lain dormant for some time. These are commonly referred to as “reboots” in church language, and we currently have two.

The reasons for decline are countless. At the top of the list is societal change. When going to church stopped being obligatory, and when we abandoned the notion of a common pause day, it was only a matter of time before church worship itself became just another choice.

It is very hard to grow a church – let alone start one from scratch, as we are doing at St. Stephen in Maple. It takes special leadership, commitment and a knack for thinking outside the box. If we assume that people have spiritual needs beyond a nice walk down a country footpath, then we need to find a mechanism that captures their attention and engages their participation. It might mean holding services at times other than Sunday morning, or framing worship around a meal or other community gathering.

To this end, I have identified seven indicators that lead to church vitality in our diocese. Not every parish that is growing is doing every one of these things, though most are.

1) Giving to church ministry is exceptional. In our diocese, the average gift per year through envelope giving or pre-authorized giving is \$1,509. In our healthiest parishes, the average gift is \$1,900. Our top-giving parish has an average of over \$4,000 per giver. Exactly 10 of our parishes have average giving over \$3,000 per giver.

2) There is a breadth of engagement in outreach. Our top parishes often give more than 10 per cent of their total offertory to outreach initiatives: food banks, hot lunches, Out of the Cold, after-school clubs, FaithWorks, mission trips to the developing world, etc. Some, like St. Stephen in-the-Fields, Toronto, take outreach so seriously that it defines who they are, and they dedicate well over 20 per cent of their giving to this purpose. Churches need to look beyond their own walls and seek to involve as many parishioners as possible.

3) Newcomers are welcomed and invited to become involved in the ministry of the parish. The role of the greeter should be more than simply handing out the order of service. We need to present our very best to newcomers: welcome them at the door, interact with them at the Peace and during coffee hour, and then invite them to become involved in some ministry.

4) Clergy are active in promoting discipleship and Christian formation. The Rev. Canon Harold Percy notes in his book *Your Church Can Thrive* that “the failure to make disciple-making a priority is the basic cause of our current malaise and stagnation.” He contends that churches need to teach the gospel, teach people how to pray, read scripture, forgive, worship, give generously, model Christ in their lives and give witness to the work of the Holy Spirit.

5) The church makes connecting with young people a priority. Parish leaders often lament the absence of young people in their pews. Connecting with adolescents needs to be part of our core witness. How do we involve young people? Are they serving at the altar? Do they participate in reading the word of God, singing, playing an instrument, welcoming newcomers and organizing events?

Young people are pining for opportunities to be active in the Church. We need to find ways to capture their energy and engage with them.

6) The church has a well-maintained website and uses various communication with church members and seekers alike. They post sermons, weekly bulletins, ministry opportunities and lots of photos of church members doing stuff.

7) Healthy churches experiment with new liturgies, music, missional engagement, giving vehicles and roles for volunteers. If we believe we have already tried that, or that a certain idea won't work, then we have no chance of being successful. I know of several churches that have grown their congregations by adding a third service targeted at a specific demographic or modifying the format of existing ones.

Our Church is going to experience unbelievable change over the next decade. We will become a lot leaner, and there will be fewer of us worshipping on Sundays in a traditional format. That doesn't mean the remaining churches can't be full of energy, vigour and hope. Perhaps worship will be held in the form of a sit-down meal or informal coffee hour. Perhaps our youth will be engaged in more hands-on ministry or mentored by lifelong members of the congregation. Perhaps our missional engagement will take place in a pub or with community service providers.

We have seen that while there is a place for traditional ways of doing church, those that are thriving are doing things differently – they must. It means that stewardship education, too, will need to adapt, becoming more closely aligned with discipleship and faith formation.

Change is unavoidable, but decline can be reversed. Many churches will close or amalgamate. Others will reconfigure their ministry to better respond to their demographic or geographic reality. Can we, collectively, realign the Church to arrest decline and set our churches on the path to health and growth? Will you take up the challenge to do church differently in your own worship community and help lay the foundation for a healthy, vital Anglican presence in the years to come? Are you open to being creative in the way you connect with the community, newcomers and young people?

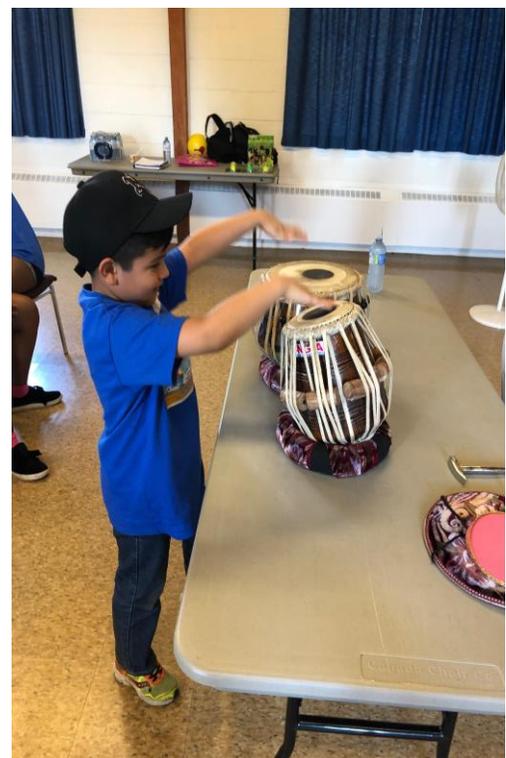
Thinking that says “we've tried that before” or “it didn't work” needs to be reconsidered. Just because an idea didn't work at one time isn't reason enough to not try again. A hallmark for any church of the future will be change and adaptability.

**The Steward
Peter Misiaszek**

SUMMER BIBLE

Greetings to all and wishing everyone God's richest blessings! On behalf of the 'St. Peter's Vacation Bible Camp' team we would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all those who helped to make this camp a success! We had a fun-filled week complete with arts and crafts, music and awesome performers and performances! We could not have done it all without the awesome contribution of the entire church.

A special note of thanks to Gloria Ramsay-Hall for her assistance throughout the week and working with the crafts, Gail for her wonderful sandwiches, Doreen for her snacks/water and treats, and to Shirley French, Shirley Elliot, Madge Latchana, and many others for their kind financial donations and support. Also, a big word of thanks to Michael Barrow for his assistance throughout the week and being a key presence on the church grounds.



VACATION CAMP

Thanks to Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft and Bob Saunders for their prayers and support throughout the week.

We would like to thank Elma (young lady from Christ Church) for her hard work and who worked so well with our young people!

Also, we would like to recognize the hard work of our performers (Sandeep, Neil and Sara) who entertained all of our young people throughout the week. Last but not least, we want to recognize the young people who attended our camp and especially those who joined us on the following Sunday.

Thank you so much and we uphold you all in prayer!

Ian Physick, Youvi Youvarajah, and Jaime Barrow



Hunger doesn't take a Holiday

Recently, you may have seen media reports about the empty shelves at a local food bank. Located in the Kennedy/Ellesmere area, the featured food bank is representative of many others this time of year as donations typically drop off during the summer. Sadly, hunger doesn't take a holiday.

I remember being in line at a check out with a shopping cart full of juice. A lady behind me commented that I must have a very large family. Laughing, I explained that I was buying for the food bank, to which she responded that she didn't know Scarborough had food banks. She truly had no idea. Imagine her surprise to learn that Scarborough, at that time, had over fifteen food banks.

The need is real. On average, 130 families are served each week at St. Ninian's Food Bank. That is over twice the number from when I began volunteering 8 years ago. Those families, from all walks of life, make up a total of approximately 350 people aged newborn to 80 years of age. Yes, 80 years old.

Now, one might think that must be a lot of food to feed all those people and they'd be right. Some weeks, especially over the summer, the 2-3 day supply of food we hope to provide to clients becomes just enough for 1 day. All this food comes from donations from numerous area churches (ours included!), schools, community partners, and the weekly delivery of 3 to 5 skids from the Daily Bread Food Bank. Additionally, volunteers shop on behalf of the food bank making purchases with donated funds.

It was on another one of these shopping trips that I was approached by a gentleman who recognized me as a volunteer from the food bank. He hadn't been at the food bank for several months so I was happy to hear that he was employed once again. He insisted that I take the money he was offering to help others and show his appreciation. He exuded gratitude for the help he received and the kindness shown to him when he was in a very different place. Sometimes a little bit of a hand up and some compassion goes a long way.

Yes, absolutely we have food banks in Scarborough and no, definitely not, hunger doesn't take a holiday.

Gail Thompson

St. Peter's Church Announcements

Please note of the change in office hours:

Tuesdays: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wednesdays: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fridays: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Scarborough Steeplechase Scavenger Hunt: slated for Saturday, September 21 from 10am to 6pm. Any questions and/or inquiries please speak with Ian Physick.

Fundraising & Planning Committee meeting: There is a Fundraising & Planning Committee meeting on Sunday, September 15, following the 10:30 a.m. service.

Toronto Diocese Announcements

Diocesan email addresses rolled out: The Diocese has given each congregation three diocesan email addresses: one for the incumbent or priest-in-charge, one for the churchwardens and one for the parish administrator. Depending on your congregation's needs, you may choose to use only the churchwarden and priest addresses. As of Oct. 1, all property and finance information will be sent only to the churchwarden.

Tickets on sale for Bishop's Company Dinner: The Bishop's Company 58th Annual Dinner will take place on Oct. 18 from 5:30-9 p.m. at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre Hotel. This year's speaker is Bishop Andrew Asbil. Tickets are available on the Bishop's Company website. The early bird rate is \$175 until Sept. 19, after which the cost will be \$200. Staff will do their best to accommodate guests' requests to sit with particular parishes or friends. If you have any questions, contact Melissa Doidge at 416-363-6021 (1-800-668-8932) ext. 243 or mdoidge@toronto.anglican.ca.

Outreach Conference explores resilience and hope: The Outreach & Advocacy Conference will be held on Oct. 19 at Havergal College, with the theme "Grounded and Growing in Christ: Church as a centre of resistance and hope." Participants will explore how the Church can counter injustice with strategies of resilience and hope. The cost is \$30, or \$15 for students or the unemployed. Learn more and register on the Outreach Conference page

Nominations sought for Provincial Synod: The Nominating Committee is calling for nominations for Provincial Synod 2021. Voting members of Diocesan Synod can nominate any other voting member of Synod. The election will take place at the 159th Regular Session of Synod on Nov. 8-9. The deadline for nominations is Sept. 24 at noon. For more details on how to submit a nomination, see the Provincial Synod page.

Emergency Preparedness

The Labour Day Weekend always signals the transition from summer to fall even though the official start to fall does not arrive for three more weeks. Nevertheless, the start of September is an excellent time to begin long-term planning for potential winter emergencies. Do you remember the Christmas Ice Storm of 2013? A similar storm could hit our city again this winter. Do you have sufficient supplies on hand to help you to withstand a storm of that ferocity? Could you withstand a thunderstorm that knocks out power to the city for a few days? It is always a good idea to be prepared against these possibilities, moreover, local, provincial and federal governments in Canada expect Canadians to be able to fend for themselves for at least 72 hours in the event of an emergency, in case it takes that long for help to arrive, or for repairs to the electricity infrastructure to be made. What should you have on hand in order to stay safe in your home for 72 hours (assuming that your house is safe to stay in)? The following items are starting points and cover the bare minimum that you should have on hand, and the items on this list come from the Government of Canada website: <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/kts/bsc-kt-en.aspx>

A word about your telephone. If you have a traditional Bell telephone, also known as a land line, your phone will likely function normally during a storm, unless phone wires are broken by ice. If you have a cell phone you should be aware that your phone might not work if there is a power failure. Most cell phone service providers have backup generators, but they only work for about eight hours during a power failure. If this is the case, you might find yourself in a position where you do not have phone contact with family members who do not live near you. If your cell phone's battery dies during the eight hours when the cell phone provider has back up power, you still will not be able to use the phone. You should consider purchasing a back-up power pack for your cell phone. These units are not terribly expensive and will let you charge your phone when the power is off. These units will also allow you to charge your iPad. Or you could use a large power pack that was listed earlier in this article.

Special information for people who live in condos or apartment buildings. If you live on the fourth floor or higher, you should be aware that in the event of a power failure, there is every likelihood that there will not be enough city water pressure to get water up to your unit. This means you will not be able to get water from your taps, and more critically, you will not be able to flush your toilets.

This is a very serious situation. At the first hint of an ice storm or a potential violent thunderstorm, you should immediately put a plug in your bathtub and fill it to the brim. If you have two bathtubs in your condo or apartment, fill both of them. This way you will be able to take buckets of water from the tub to flush your toilet. This can be accomplished by either filling the toilet tank and flushing, or just by pouring a bucket into the toilet bowl. Both methods work. An unflushed toilet can rapidly become a serious health hazard. Should you fill your tub, and no blackout happens, you can simply drain the tub. The potential seriousness of the situation means that worrying about wasting a tub full of water should be the least of your concerns.

Have a buddy list with the other people in your neighbourhood or in your condo or apartment building. If there is a serious storm, check up on your neighbours, or call a neighbour to let them know you are ok or if you need help. Share this emergency preparedness list with your neighbours so that everyone is prepared for at least 72 hours and preferably longer. The power of the community to support its members is very important, but individual members of the community also have a role to play in supporting each other and preparing their own homes for emergencies.

This list is by no means exhaustive, and individual needs will vary from what has been presented here. You can make your own emergency kit, which could be fun, or you can purchase one from any number of places including the Red Cross Canada, the Salvation Army. The important thing to remember is to be prepared ahead of time so that you can survive a storm.

Lisa Turner

Birthday Greetings

We wished a Happy Birthday to all of those who had a birthday over the summer. Those persons include Marian Low, Caroline Hartley, Gloria Briggs, Doreen Cheong, Nancy Wilson, Joannie Barrow, Peggy Ring, Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft, and Audrey Boyd!



Audrey Boyd celebrating her 85th birthday

Happy Wedding Anniversary

We wished a Happy Wedding Anniversary to Marjorie and Charles Sargeant, who celebrated 30 years of marriage on Saturday, August 17th!
May they live to see many more years of love.



Interested in becoming a member of our Parish?
Please see below for a list of our ministries or visit stpetersscarborough.ca for more information.

Altar Guild
Choir
Sunday School
Fundraising/Planning Committee
Sunshine Group

Readers
Chalice Bearers
Servers
Sidespersons
Outreach



St. Peter's Anglican Church provides numerous opportunities for parishioners and members of the community to worship.

We have two Sunday services:

8:00 a.m. Said BCP Eucharist Service

10:30 a.m. Choral Service (alternating between Holy Communion and Morning Prayer)

The Book of Alternative Services (BAS) and The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) are both used at the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Services, alternating week by week.

Please note that the Bendale Acres service, Rockcliffe service, Wednesday Service, and Bible Study are all cancelled until further notice.

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Fri: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

To Know Christ and Make Him Known

Editor's Note

I would like to thank everyone for their contributions towards this Summer Edition Newsletter. Our next edition will be for Thanksgiving 2019. I would like to especially acknowledge the Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft, Bob Saunders, Lisa Turner, and Gail Thompson for their contributions. I would like to express a hearty thanks to all of the members of St. Peter's Church and our surrounding community for their support as we seek to Know Christ and Make Him Known.

Jaime Barrow