



St. Peter's Anglican Church

Reaching out to St. Peter's Community

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The Season of Pentecost - The Holy Spirit

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



A Pentecost Message

As our Easter journey continues with the Feast of Pentecost, we are also witnessing the lifting of more COVID-19 sanctions. As a result we are hearing a cacophony of voices telling us one thing and another. Somehow the world is never at a loss for opinions and social media is rife with conflicting speculation. As we consider what returning to church and continuing with amalgamation might look like in our future, we too will feel the onslaught of many opinions, voices and suggestions.

The gift that comes with the Spirit at Pentecost, is despite many languages speaking at the same time, there is clarity and discernment. The only way we can be attentive to God's mission is through listening to many voices and especially those who differ. I have discovered through years of ministry, that it is often the small, single voice that resonates more with the spirit than the majority. I actually stopped using majority rules at parish council and vestry. By listening to each other, decisions were made by consensus and when we moved the church, no one was left behind.



The Tree of Hope

We can have hope and courage, as only last Sunday Jesus has enlisted God to pray for us who are of the world. Pentecost like a rushing wind and mighty blaze will not miss reaching us with the strength of the Holy Spirit. Each year the Feast of Pentecost offers us a new beginning for being the Church. God's Mission is now ours to embrace; all of ours; no voice is expendable and all voices are needed. COVID-19 is not the end of the world but a new beginning to be a more attentive humanity. Pentecost is not the end of St. Peter's but an embracing of a new hope and future. Blessed be the World, Blessed be the Whole People of God!

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft

Diocesan Administrator's Message

The diocesan administration for St. Peter's ends on May 31, the Feast of Pentecost. Pentecost is one of the great forward looking days in the life of the church. The day of Pentecost, Whitsunday as it is often known, is celebrated as the beginning of the Christian church community.

The story of Pentecost is told in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. Peter had gathered the Jerusalem community of followers of Jesus, about 120 people Acts reports, on the Jewish festival of the spring harvest. Their task was to choose a new Apostle to replace Judas and they chose Matthias. No sooner had they made this decision then there occurred a violent storm with high winds and, as the account says, lightning like tongues of fire. The noise was frightening. The Holy Spirit had come down with a great roar to empower the followers of Jesus. As soon as the storm had passed, people from the city gathered around what seemed to have been the centre of the cyclone. Suddenly among the 120 there appeared the gift being able to speak in all the languages of the known world. It was the sign that the Christian community was to reach out to people around them to proclaim the Good News of risen Christ. This was the mission of the newly born church.

As the people of St. Peter's looks forward to joining and working with those from St. Ninian's and St. John the Divine, you are not only going to reach out to each other but will also be proclaiming to the centre Scarborough community that the new parish will be a vital focus of life and of faith. Pentecost may signal the coming of "ordinary times" in the church year, but ordinary times are times of caring for others in the community and sharing the gospel. This is the mission of the new parish and the church.

The three years of administration have come to an end and it is time for us all to look to the future. I can look back to times of difficulty and times of joy. Certainly I will treasure the friendships I have enjoyed among the people of St. Peter's. If I try to name everyone who has worked to strengthen the parish during these years, I am certain to miss someone. It has been a pleasure to work with the Rev. Helena, a creative and caring pastor. Michael Barrow and, before him, Clyde Tucker, have cared lovingly for the church property. Jaime Barrow, your organist/choirmaster and now the acting office administrator, is creative and brings needed skills to his work.



Caroline Hartley, the treasurer, is careful and conscientious and excellent to work with as we straightened out parish finances. Thank you to all of you, the people of St. Peter's, for making my task at St. Peter's more fulfilling than I expected.

Vale. Farewell,

Robert Saunders

A Message from our new churchwarden

My name is Jane Lawrence. I was baptized as an Anglican at the age of six months. I took over my baptismal vows in 1967. I was very active in the Church Youth Group and taught Sunday school during my teen years. Just because I grew up in a Christian home and church didn't mean I was living the life God had planned for me. After attending several AWARE (Anglican Women

Alive, Refreshed, Enriched) weekends, Cursillo April 1993, and Alpha, I began to truly accept God was leading me.

What experience am I bringing to St. Peter's? I worked in the daycare field, after graduating with my Early Childhood Education, for thirteen years. While I was a stay at home mother with my two daughters, I ran my own Avon business. This allowed me to meet so many wonderful neighbours and train new representatives. When the role of early childhood educator was taking its toll physically, I did a complete career change. I became a chiropractic health assistant. This gave me the opportunity to serve people. For twelve years, I was the office manager for a very busy chiropractor before retiring.

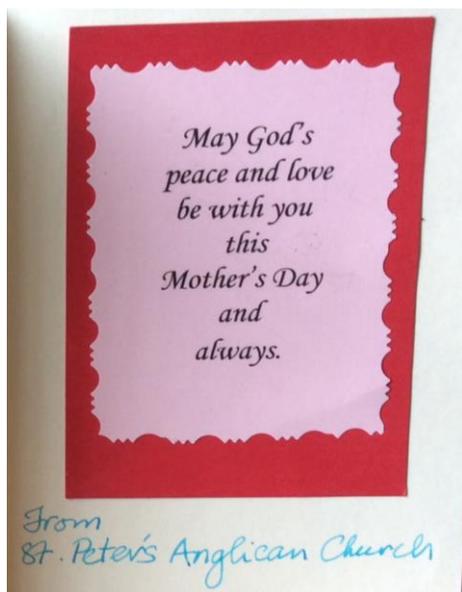
What do I see in the future for St. Peter's? I look forward to working with clergy and the people of the community to serve one another. I grew up in Scarborough. I have seen so many changes as this area became more diversified in population and skills. We have a moral responsibility to work and serve one another. Through clear communication, we will be able to serve and accept one another. By sharing of skills as a stronger community, we will be serving God's people as shown in our strong Outreach programs. "More hands make light work." During this pandemic time, it has been a time of spiritual reflection for many. I am proud of how our church has reached out to parishioners and the community. I look forward to our continued growth.

In closing, I wish to remind everyone, that **WE** are the church, **NOT** the building. We are commissioned to be Disciples of Christ. As in Act 1:8 "But when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will be filled with power, and you will be witnesses for me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the Earth." Blessings to All!

Jane Lawrence

Emergency Food Pantry

Our Emergency Food Pantry will be open on **Fridays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** starting June 1st. Please reach out to us by phone or email if you or anyone you know would benefit from this ministry. Many thanks to all of the volunteers who support this very important outreach ministry. All donations are graciously appreciated.



A Mother's Day Like No Other

Mother's Day this year for most, was like no other. And didn't we all miss the St. Peter's Mother's Day Luncheon! Well, I always miss it as I work at the flower shop on that day. As COVID-19 would have it, I missed that too.

Speaking of flowers, for the past few years, our church has donated carnations to the mothers at Rockcliffe Care Community. Unfortunately, they were not able to accept flowers this year as they had the potential to become a point of infection. The Program Director was thrilled to accept an offer of cards instead as she knew the cards would boost spirits.

With the helping hands of Louise Reid, Audrey Boyd and Lisa Turner, separately, in our respective homes, we created 96 cards in assembly-line fashion.

I was happy to front-door drop those 96 cards to the Program Director who was ever-so-thankful to receive them. It warms my heart that we are able to continue to show God's love in our community during these difficult times.

Gail Thompson



Children and Youth Ministry Team

Greetings to all,

Prayers offered and wishing everybody health, wellness and safety during this challenging time. While we continue to uphold everybody in prayer at the moment; we especially remember the children and youngsters of St. Peter's Church. With the cancellation of school and the summer months still in limbo, we especially want and wish to encourage our young people as they face a 'new normal'. We applaud the incredible care offered by not just caring parents but grandparents and extended-family at this time.

I do encourage anybody interested to check out **'The Anglican Family Hub'** online (can also be linked via Facebook as well). This is a great and interactive resource for our young people. I would also suggest that parents or guardians check out some additional family-gear resources posted at the **BYMC** website (also can be linked through Facebook). Youvi and I also hope to plan a Zoom call (with parental approval of course) over the next month or so in order to check in with our young people!

A Big THANK YOU to Rev. Helena and Jaime Barrow for their continued hard work during this difficult time.

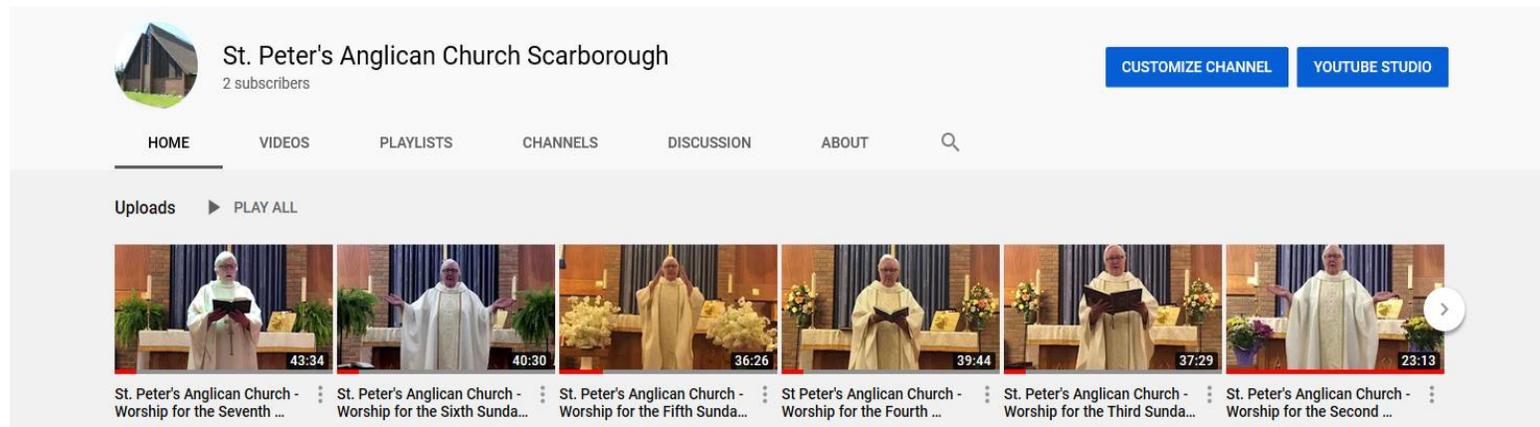
In Christ,

Youvi Youvarajah and Ian Physick

YouTube Pre-Recorded Sunday Services

Although we may not be able to gather in church for services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we encourage you to engage in our YouTube pre-recorded Sunday services. To watch, simply visit our website at www.stpetersscarborough.ca or find us on YouTube by searching “St. Peter’s Anglican Church Scarborough”. I encourage all parishioners to participate in our services as we do our part in making Christ known in our community.

Please email the church office at stpetersscarborough@toronto.anglican.ca or call us at (416)-267-2741.



Zoom Conference Calls

We invite you to join us as we will be having regular Zoom Conference Calls. Zoom is an online platform that allows us to all video or audio call at the same time. During this time, the Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft will lead us in prayer and other activities. The time and date in which we will be having these calls will be sent out to our email list.

Picture courtesy of zoom.us

Online Donations

We are happy to announce that we have signed up for Canada Helps, one of Canada’s best online sources for helping individuals donate to charities. All donations through Canada Helps will go towards the ministry at St. Peter’s and will help us to show God’s love in our community. Monetary offerings will still be accepted by mail or drop-off through the church office. Visit the website to donate online:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-peters-church-scarborough/>.

Picture courtesy of canadahelps.ca



Diocese of Toronto Updates

Stay updated with letters from the Diocese of Toronto. Visit their website for more information: <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/about-the-diocese/news/>.

Prayer for those affected by COVID-19

O loving God, we pray that you will give us courage and wisdom as we face the hard realities which confront us in life around the world today. May those with gifts for human health and hope discover ways which help us to end the threatening infections of coronavirus and restore our lives to a new day. Give to us, we pray, a profound sense of creative community, as we care for each other, especially those who are most vulnerable. Hold us in your arms, like a loving parent would, as we journey into the future. Call us towards deeper faith, O Christ, believing that you are with us. And lift our hearts, O Holy Spirit, as we face each moment. Amen.

The Rev. Dorothy McRae-McMahon, South Sydney Uniting Church

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Editor’s Note

As we begin our Pentecost journey, let us take the time to thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Hopefully, we will be able to join as a Church family once again. I would like to express a hearty thanks to all of the members of St. Peter’s Anglican Church and our surrounding community for their support as we seek to Know Christ and Make Him Known.

