

The Message

The Newsletter of the People of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill
10030 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, ON Canada L4C 1T8

Christmas Reflection

by The Rev. Matthew McMillan

One of America's greatest poets is Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The year 1860 found Longfellow happy in his life, enjoying a widening recognition, and elated over the election of Abraham Lincoln, which he believed signaled the triumph of freedom and redemption for the nation.

The following year the Civil War began. On July 9, 1861 Longfellow's wife, Fanny, was near an open window sealing locks of her daughter's hair, using hot sealing wax. Suddenly her dress caught fire and engulfed her with flames. Her husband, sleeping in the next room, was awaked by her screams. As he desperately tried to put out the fire and save his wife, he was severely burned on his face and hands.

Fanny died the next day. Longfellow's severe burns would not even allow him to attend Fanny's funeral. His white beard, which so identified with him, was one of the results of the tragedy — the burn scars on his face made shaving almost impossible. In his diary for Christmas day 1861 he wrote, "How inexpressibly sad are the holidays."

In 1862 the toll of war dead began to mount, and in his diary for that year Longfellow wrote of Christmas, "A merry Christmas say the children, but that is no more for me."

In 1863 his son, who had run away to join the Union army, was severely wounded and returned home in December. There is no entry in Longfellow's diary for that Christmas.

But on Christmas Day 1864 — at age 57 — Longfellow sat down to try to capture, if possible, the joy of the season. He began:

*I heard the bells on Christmas day.
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

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Merry Christmas

from St. Mary's Sunday School!



A special thank you to all the members of St. Mary's Sunday School for their performance of this years Christmas pageant on December 16th. This year's pageant was entitled "*The Very Important Christmas Pageant*" and was lots of fun. *Well done everyone!!*

As he continued writing, he was stopped by the thought of the condition of his beloved country. The Battle of Gettysburg was not long past. Days looked dark, and he probably asked himself the question, "How can I write about peace on earth, good will to men in this war-torn country, where brother fights against brother and father against son?" But he kept writing — and what did he write?



*And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth", I said,
For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men.*

It seems as if he could have been writing for our kind of day. Then, as all of us should do, he turned his thoughts to the One who gives true and perfect peace, and continued writing the final verse:

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men."*

And so there came into being that marvelous Christmas poem and carol, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day."

This Christmas, may the bells of Christmas reach deep into our hearts and remind us of God's never failing love for us.

May you and yours have the most blessed 12 days of Christmas!

*Merry Christmas,
Fr. Matthew+*

*Merry
Christmas*



New Member of the Board of Directors – Richmond Hill Ecumenical Homes Corporation

The Outreach Committee would like to congratulate our Parish Priest, The Reverend Matthew McMillan, on his appointment to the Board of Directors of the Richmond Hill Ecumenical Homes Corporation. This not-for-profit organization was started over 30 years ago by a group of concerned citizens in Richmond Hill, who felt the time was now to create affordable housing options for our community. A number of individuals from St. Mary's have served on the board over the years. The seed of this work came from former parish priest, Canon Gerry Loweth and we wish Fr. Matthew well, as he picks up this mantle and helps to move forward plans for more affordable and social housing in Richmond Hill.

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING



Sunday, March 10th is Vestry Sunday

St. Mary's will be holding its Parish Vestry Meeting, also known as our Annual General Meeting on the 2nd Sunday in March after our 10:30am service. This meeting is the parish's annual business meeting, where we: present our reports on the work of the past year, review our finances, choose our leadership team, and approve priorities for the upcoming year. All are welcome to attend this meeting in Wrixon Hall, after our services on Sunday morning.

This year's meeting will fall in March, instead of February, when we traditionally hold our Vestry. This year we have a number of activities planned in February, especially our African/Caribbean Dinner, which is being held on the last weekend of February. The Corporation would like to thank Bishop Fenty for his permission to move our Vestry back a few weeks, and we encourage as many of you as possible to attend. The office and parish leadership will be working to have our Vestry Packages, including audited statements ready to hand out by Family Day Weekend, Feb 17th 2019.

Vestry reports are due into the office by the end of January, 2019.

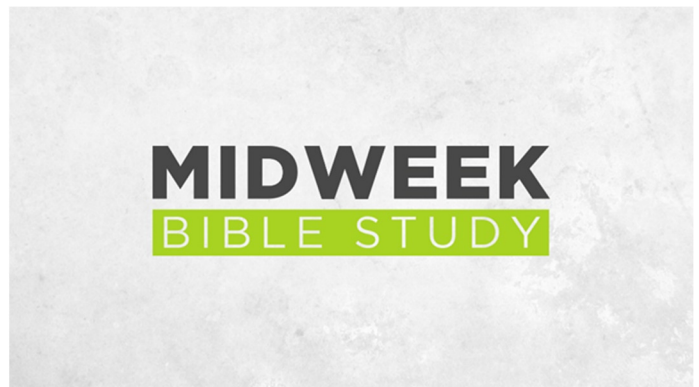
Volunteers...



Thank you to Alice & Owen Pegg who are here faithfully every week to fold bulletins.



On Sunday mornings, we offer a group bible study program between our 8 am and 10:30 am services. Our Parish Priest leads a Bible Study from 9:15 – 10 am in the West Classroom Wing, beyond Wrixon Hall. Our study program comes out each month and focuses on the Sunday readings, providing reflection material and discussion questions. Our Sunday morning Winter/Spring term will run from January 20th until June 2nd, when we begin our summer break. Study packages are available in the entrance to the church. For more information or if you have any questions, please speak to Fr. Matthew or the office.



Are you interested in joining a Midweek Bible Study Group?

Some parishioners at St. Mary's have spoken about how at different times in the past, there have been weekly study groups in the parish. These groups would meet weekly to study particular themes or biblical material, during the day time hours. We have found some volunteers to help start up this type of program, should it be something there is strong interest for in the parish. Parish Board is asking, that if individuals are interested in participating in this type of program, that they put their names down on a sign-up sheet that will be posted over January and February of 2019. If there is a sizeable enough group that is interested, we will look to start this program in Lent, which begins in March 2019. Please feel free to speak to the office or Fr. Matthew if you want more info or have any questions.



St. Mary's Website Update

Our parish website, www.saintmaryschurch.ca is up and running, but we are still working to expand and update our online presence. We are now looking to see if any parishioners would be willing to work with us and help oversee this important resource for our church. If you could lend us a hand, we would be most grateful for the time and help. If you are potentially interested in taking on this role, please feel free to speak to the wardens or Fr. Matthew at any time.

Thanks, Parish Board.

What's going on at Saint Mary's?

Happenings and Opportunities to Serve!

Ways to help out and serve at St. Mary's

Maybe you are new here at St. Mary's, or maybe your schedule has changed recently and you have some extra time and you'd like to give back or help others. There are many opportunities to help out in our parish church and we would love to connect you with programs that need extra helpers or ministries that you may enjoy participating in. New volunteers and committee members are needed and welcome in every area of programming at St. Mary's. If you have any interest in helping out in the following areas we would mostly gladly welcome you and your gifts. We need more of the following;

Out of the Cold Program Volunteers, Servers, Communion Ministers, Altar Guild Team Members, Intercessors, Sub-Deacons, Greeters, Sides People, Coffee Hour hosts & hostesses, A/V Team Members, Sunday School helpers & many other areas as well.

If you can help in any of these areas or have a particular interest, please contact the office or speak to Fr. Matthew. We can put you in touch with the leaders of these programs and ministries to get you connected and provide further information about what help is needed and where you can help.



Outreach & Social Justice Committee

Christmas season is a time of giving and we thank you for your support again this year with donations for needy families. We will be partnering with the Salvation Army to ensure the needy families are best served.

In the spirit of Giving we will continue with the Out of the Cold again this year. It will begin on **January 21, 2019** and run Monday nights until **March 25, 2019**. Please talk to Lyne Webb or Maggie Veltheer if you wish to volunteer or contribute baked goods.

We will be putting extra focus on the Merchant Cards, as it is a very good way for Outreach to realize funds to finance helping those in need who approach the church office throughout the week, by distributing Tim's Cards and grocery items. We encourage you to purchase cards for gasoline or groceries at your favourite vendors on a regular basis. You spend this money each week anyway. Speak with Ron Smit, Lyne Webb, or Maggie Veltheer with any questions about this program.

We are starting a new venture this winter in that we will be holding Conversational English classes at the church to encourage interdenominational activities with the Russian and Korean Church, and encourage integration into Canadian society. This initiative will begin the second Wednesday in January, in the Sunday school room at 7 pm. You are welcome to join us to assist in this endeavour. Tea, cookies, and conversation will be on offer. Please speak to Norman McMullen for more information.

In the early spring, in an effort to connect with the community, we will be looking to partner with Councillor David West at his annual Maple Syrup Event. Perhaps crafts for children? If you have any ideas for this project please let us know.

As always, please know that our committee is open to new members. If any of the above activities speak to you or if you have an idea for Outreach &/or Social Justice, please contact Maggie or Lyne.

Helping families!



Adopt-A-Family for Christmas

This year we continued the "Adopt-A-Family" program, which allowed parishioners to contribute towards the purchase of gift cards for those less fortunate than ourselves. We partnered with the Salvation Army to ensure the needy families are best served. *Thank you for your support to this program.*

NEW — Conversational English Pilot Program

The Outreach Committee will be piloting a Conversational English as a Second Language program, every other Wednesday evening, beginning **January 9, 2019**. This is planned to be an informal gathering and is being advertised to the Blessed Community & St. Seraphim's, both congregations who worship here at St. Mary's. We welcome anyone from our Parish who has an interest in this ministry to join us. If you have learned English as a second language, your experience would be appreciated as well as anyone who enjoys meeting new people.

For further information please speak to Norman McMullen or Lyne Webb. There is a sign-up sheet, with dates, in the Narthex.

St. Mary's Family Ministry Update

Grant Approved – Search Process Commencing



The moment is here, the journey now begins! Approximately three years ago our parish felt a call to work on a plan about how we can nurture and groom the faith lives of our younger members and also the whole parish community. We began to set aside funds to create a reserve for a future staff position here at St. Mary's. Our goal was to raise a sizeable amount of money and articulate a clear calling for how we would like to invest in the ministry team for our church. Last spring we assembled a steering committee, which helped to clarify our vision and craft an action plan, on how this position could come to life and integrate itself into our busy parish life. Our efforts have born much fruit and as a result, what was a plan is now something that is about to come to life!

On December 2nd, during Bishop Fenty's confirmation visit to St. Mary's, he announced that our parish has been awarded an "Our Faith Our Hope" Grant of \$133,000 over three years. This adds to the \$25,000 that the parish has already fundraised and set aside for this project. The Family Ministry Leadership Team's grant proposal was accepted and approved by the Diocese and now we begin the challenging work of drawing together the next steps of our hiring process and implementation of this new position. We ask you to keep our volunteers in your prayers, as they begin the next crucial steps of bringing our vision and plan together.

We have called this position a Family Ministry Position, rather than exclusively a Youth Ministry Position, because our aims are to have this position and its efforts program for and nurture the faith and spiritual life of the whole parish family. We are wanting this position and our candidate to create programming opportunities and build parish resources that will enhance each demographic of our parish community, and at the same time bind us together as one in Christ's love.

This process is a blessing, but truth be told, it will actually require some sacrifice on all our parts. This 3 year funding plan that has been put in place is to help give this new ministry enough strength to establish itself and make strong inroads in our community. The hope and need for our church family is to understand that by the end of this period, we will need to have grown in our ability to pay for this position ourselves. By either raising our financial contributions personally or by growing our numbers and ensuring that we all contribute to the ministry needs of the parish.

We thank Fr. Matt and the Family Ministry Team for their efforts and wait with eager anticipation for the next steps of this journey.

Sincerely, The Corporation

BUILDING ENVELOPE REPORT

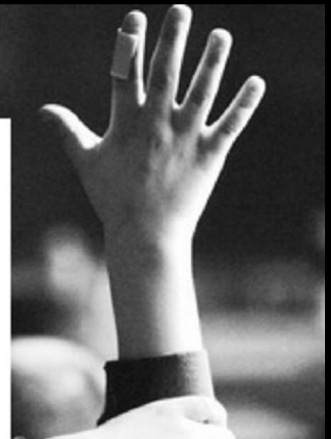
In 2018 St. Mary's completed the needed work on the exterior of our building. This work helped to secure the envelope of our building and address some neglected and ongoing maintenance needs. The Corporation will have a full report in the Vestry Package for all to review. The Corporation would like to thank Charlie Mills and Colin Webb for all their energy and

efforts to oversee and organize this important project. This fall we finished the last piece of work and we have spent \$118,000 to complete this effort. We were able to fundraise the bulk of this amount and only withdrew \$48,000 from the Heritage Fund to complete the work. We repaired masonry work, eaves and downspouts all around the property, repaired multiple leaking sections of flat roofing, installed a new roof over the Arnold Atrium that connects the chapel and Wrixon Hall to the main Church, repaired the chapel furnace room, upgraded signage and trimmed up overhanging trees that were too close to the building. We thank the congregation for their generous contributions and are thankful for everyone's support to get the job done!

St. Mary's Parish Identity Conversations — November 2018

When the parish leadership reported to the congregation our Fall Building Update, we celebrated a great accomplishment in what we had done. Raising funds and completing this work in such short order was an amazing accomplishment. But at the end of this presentation in October, the Property Committee and Corporation reminded the congregation that the work isn't over. We presented a series of future building needs that we needed to give serious thought too and begin making some plans for.

OUR IDENTITY
AS A CHURCH
COMMUNITY



During 2018, the Property Committee and Senior Parish Leaders conducted walkarounds of the property and inventoried our long-term building needs. As you can imagine, there were many. But the first step in this journey isn't a look at numbers, or bricks and mortar — it is something more important. It is a look at the heart of St. Mary's, so we can say to ourselves who we are. What are the things we do that give us life and bring the light of Christ to this world? And from this work, we'll have some clarity as to what our priorities are.

As St. Mary's looks forward we've started by looking in. To be able to say to each other, this is who we are as an Anglican community of faith, seeking to serve Christ in all persons, in this neighbourhood and in this modern age. It is our hope that from this vision, our parish can then gather and plan next steps, to align our building with how we are being called to live our faith by God. As your Parish Leaders, we hope you find your experience at St. Mary's recorded here and that these notes will affirm your connection and devotion to your spiritual home.

Summary Statement:



St. Mary's is a parish in the Anglican tradition, that embodies the love of God revealed to the world through God's son, Jesus Christ. The People of this church feel empowered by God's Holy Spirit and are committed to authentically showing that love and being that love where ever it is needed.

Our community draws strength from serving others, being family to each other, engaging in communal prayer and worship, being open to holy learning, and by letting God speak to our souls through music, art, nature, and prayer.

St. Mary's embraces a community mindset, where all success and goodness is to God's Honour and Glory. We embrace sharing our worship spaces with other churches. We support community and arts groups by sharing our program space. Our church building is our spiritual home, and it is where we reach out with others, to others and model a holy love, that lifts, liberates and blesses in every way it can.

At the heart of this community is the word "family". This faith community is a vessel, which carries us all through the storms of life. It draws people from differing paths and priorities and melds us together as God's loving family. A place where we can grow in our ability to love God, each other, and even ourselves.

As St. Mary's continues the process of looking forward in faith, to work for the building up of God's Kingdom in our midst, it is our hope that this visioning statement will be the core clarifying statement, which will anchor our priorities for the future. The next steps of our journey will be to empower parish leaders by articulating with a clear voice a set of priorities that will shape and define our path for the future. All are welcome to join us in the next steps of this journey and all input is welcome.

Sincerely, Fr. Matthew and St. Mary's Wardens



OUR FUTURE IN DETAIL

St. Mary's Vision Report Presentation and Building Planning Review

On Wednesday, February 6th the Corporation will be hosting two presentations about the next steps in our parish vision and building planning exercise. There will be a session in the morning from 11am until noon during February's Parish Lunch gathering. In the evening, we will be holding the same format of meeting between 7:30 and 9pm, for those unable to attend during the day.

At this meeting, there will be 4 sections.

We will start by elaborating briefly on the results of our vision exercise, and receive any feedback that individuals wish to share.

Next, we will move into a conversation looking at the future of St. Mary's. This conversation will look to solidify a common understanding of how our identity as a faith community will shape how we organize our church and physical space. This section will highlight current known building needs and present some broad costs for our anticipated work.

The third part will involve presenting a series of possible plans to address possible funding streams and also to determine what size or scope of building renewal plans to undertake. At present there are three options for review listed below, but other options are welcome and may come forward and be presented at the meeting.

The final stage will take the bulk of the time and will begin with a time for questions to clarify understanding or to receive more information about church process or current Diocesan rules and regulations. Once a period of time has unfolded for questions, we'll then open the floor to statements from parishioners who wish to advocate in favour of one option or another. These opportunities to speak will need to be limited to roughly a minute and a half, so all who wish to speak can.

The meeting will conclude with a small review of our discussion and a concluding prayer. The content of what was discussed will be the subject of a vote at Vestry on March 10th. There will be a vote to direct St. Mary's leadership team to explore a specific funding and building renewal plan. This will give the Corporation a chance to strike a committee to negotiate and prepare an option with the Diocese and any other groups for possible approval by the parish. The vote at this Vestry would give permission for everything to be reviewed and prepared as a potential plan and path forward. Once put together, it would then come back to a special Vestry meeting for a final review and either rejection or approval.

All are welcome to join us at this special meeting and vestry. Individuals are welcome to speak to members of the Parish Board, the Wardens or Fr. Matthew if they would like more information about this process. We thank everyone from the parish for their interest and support, in making our church as strong, as vibrant and as prepared for ministry as possible. Thank you all for your efforts and willingness to be good stewards and co-workers in our life of faith here at St. Mary's.

Sincerely, St. Mary's Parish Board and Corporation

At present the three options we are considering are:

- 1) Fundraise \$1,000,000 over 10 years to fund ongoing capital needs.
- 2) Review plan for possible sale of an 80 foot wide section of land between the south end of the Church and the two houses at the corner of Major Mackenzie and Yonge Street. The funds the parish would receive from the sale are estimated to be well over \$1,000,000 and would be used to fund ongoing capital needs and building upgrades.
- 3) Enter into discussion with developers to explore interest in taking over ownership of main church lands and look into options for redevelopment with modern structures and right-sized building for more manageable future needs.



Thank you to our confirmation class for all their commitment and hard work this fall. We were blessed to have over 200 people in attendance for Confirmation Sunday, and Bishop Fenty expressed that this has been the largest class of his Episcopacy, with 14 Confirmands and 2 Reaffirmations. Please join us in congratulating everyone for their efforts!

Confirmands

Christian Alexander Cole, Gabrielle Elizabeth Cole, Sofia Kupka, Ethan Alexander Lemanski, Manuella Mcewen-Oke, Alessandro James Luigi Salerno, Sarah Jane Victoria Salerno, Michael Christopher Sampson, William Michael Sampson, Eamon Devin Singh, Niall Kegan Singh, Kyra Smelser, Onyekachi Chibuikem Ukwe, and Katarina Joy Wirtzfeld

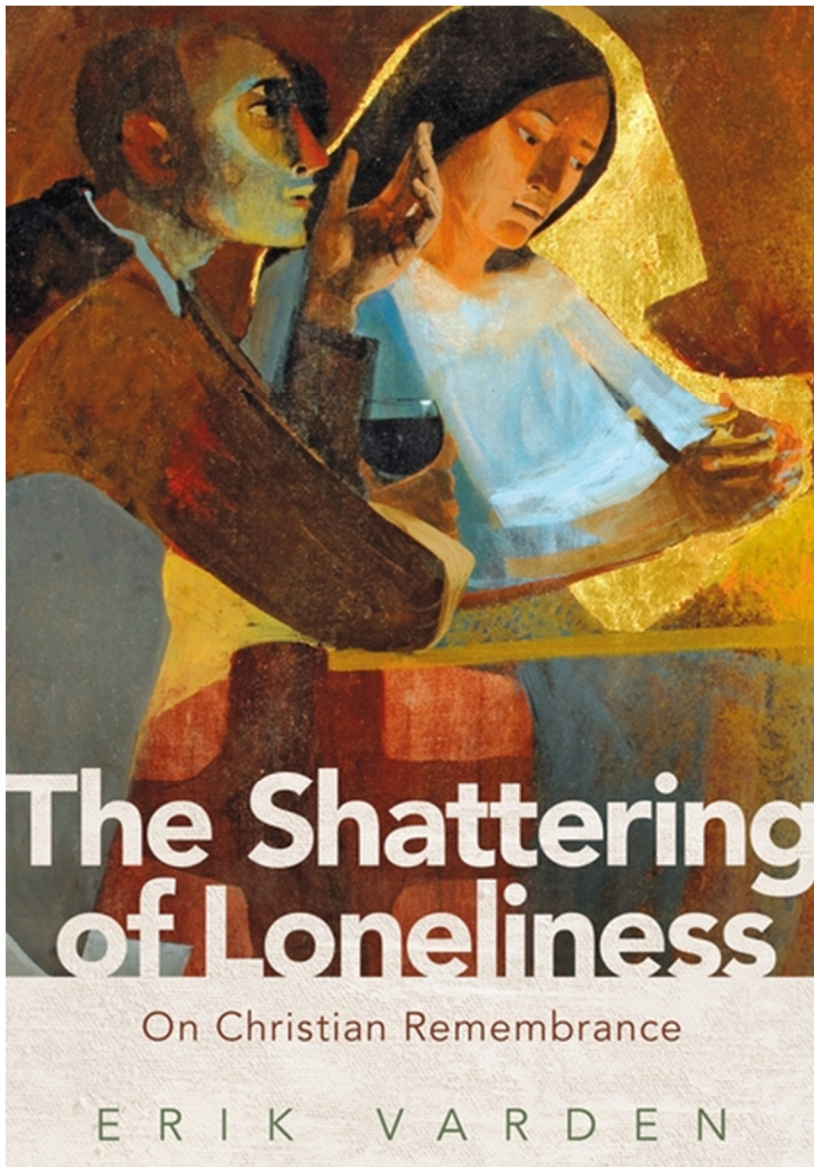
Reaffirmation Candidates

Julie Anne Hastie and Betty Romanchuk

1st Communion Sunday Sunday May 19th



In the Anglican Tradition baptism constitutes full membership in the church and provides the opportunity to participate in the prayer, worship, service, and fellowship activities of your parish church. Parents at different times make decisions with their younger children about when it is the right time, to expand their participation into the different religious traditions and sacraments that form our piety. If you are a parent or grandparent and are wanting to have some religious formation offered to support your younger family members as they grow in their life of faith, maybe it is time to register your youth for our next round of 1st Communion Classes and our 1st Communion Sunday on, May 19th. We will be holding classes on 3 Saturdays (April 27th, May 4th, and 11th) where we will introduce our young people to the meanings and history of our weekly communion meal. This will culminate with our young people receiving their 1st Communion together. All are welcome to register with the office, and once we know the size and scope of our class, we'll set a firm time and choose a room location that will fit our group. If your children already receive communion, but you feel they would benefit from some formal instruction, please feel free to register them as well. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to Fr. Matthew or any of our Children's Ministry Team.



St. Mary's Wednesday Night Lenten Study

For our Lenten program this year, we will be holding a book study on **Wednesday** nights. Please join us this lent as we journey through a 6-week program on the theme of Loneliness and a look at how the Christian Tradition speaks to this condition. Our book is entitled *The Shattering of Loneliness* (see the brief synopsis below). Any who would like to attend can purchase this book online through Amazon for about \$20. If you are inexperienced with this method of ordering books, please call the office in early February 2019 and we can assist with orders if needed.

Thanks, Fr. Matt+

Book Summary: The experience of loneliness is as universal as hunger or thirst. Because it affects us more intimately, we are less inclined to speak of it. But who has not known its gnawing ache? The fear of loneliness causes anguish. It prompts reckless deeds. To this, every age has borne witness. No voice is more insidious than the one that whispers in our ear: "You are irredeemably alone, no light will pierce your darkness." The fundamental statement of Christianity is to convict that voice of lying.

The Christian condition unfolds within the certainty that ultimate reality, the source of all that is, is a personal reality of communion, no metaphysical abstraction. Men and women, made "in the image and likeness" of God, bear the mark of that original communion stamped on their being. When our souls and bodies cry out for Another, it is not a sign of sickness, but of health. A labour of potential joy is announced. We are reminded of what we have it in us to become. That our labour may be fruitful, Scripture repeatedly exhorts us to "remember". The remembrance enjoined is partly introspective and existential, partly historical, for the God who took flesh to redeem our loneliness leaves traces in history.

This book examines six facets of Christian remembrance, complementing biblical exegesis with readings from literature, ancient and modern. It aims to be an essay in theology. At the same time, it proposes a grounded reflection on what it means to be a human being.

About the Author

Dom Erik Varden is Abbot of Mount Saint Bernard Abbey in Leicestershire. Norwegian by birth, he was, before entering religious life, a Fellow of St John's College, Cambridge. He has published several translations and scholarly monographs and is much in demand as a preacher, spiritual director, and lecturer.

Join us Wednesdays from 7:30 – 9:00 pm on: March 13, 20 & 27 & April 3, 10 & 17.

St. Mary's Anglican Green Team

St. Mary's Green Team continues to work with our Parishioners in living out the lofty, yet growingly urgent mission of the Anglican Church of Canada's 5th Mark of Mission: "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth."

The 10TH Anniversary of Our Green Team

(Do you remember our ECO FAIR?) It's difficult to believe that the Green Team has been at the Creation mission for 10 years of

- A) Raising awareness at St. Mary's on issues relating to protecting the environment — sharing information and holding informative sessions.
- B) Suggestions on how our Church might sustain environmentally friendly acts such as recycling, reusing, reducing.
- C) Liaising with like-minded persons, groups, churches in our Community — sharing and supporting each other in related activities.

Last June we celebrated our momentous 10 year Anniversary.



2018 BBQ Green Team 10th Anniversary (photos)



The Green Team is forever grateful for the support and encouragement we continue to receive from St. Mary's Priest and People particularly in putting plastic, Styrofoam, and batteries in the appropriate bins which we take to Green Lane in Thornhill.

2018 was particularly eventful with keen parish participation. Our Green Lent activities were well received and supported. We saved time and treasure by intentional efforts to reuse, recycle, reduce, enabling us to share appreciated resources with the Diocese of NECA in the Caribbean, which had been seriously impacted by climate change effects of Hurricane Maria.

2016 Green Team Year End BBQ (Photo)

A favourite picture as we remember our dear departed friends Gerry & Elizabeth(2018) Loweth.



Single Use Plastics

Our overall objective for 2018/19 is to focus on the over-use and random disposal of plastics especially single-use types, creating damage to and pollution of all creation including humans. To highlight this, we showed the documentary of the Dutch inventor, Boyan Slat's, efforts to take plastics from the ocean with his OCEAN CLEAN UP invention.

We welcome ideas from the congregation as to how we might continue to address such issues that foster our relationship with the Creation and our Creator God.

Greening The Hill / Lake St. George

We are planning a couple of **Speaker events** in the New Year hopefully from our **Municipality** friends which would focus on how our Town has addressed climate change in Richmond Hill, and from **Lake St George Field Centre**. This is an environmental and educational facility located near Lake Wilcox and part of the Toronto and Region Conservation Association. Stay tuned. We are looking at joining our Lake St. George friends for something fun like a Christmas sleigh ride.

Can we achieve just 1.5 degrees Warming in 12 years?

We have looked at the recent IPCC's Special Report on 1.5-degrees <<http://bit.ly/CRP-IPCC-SR15>>. The threats related to global warming challenge us to think very seriously of our individual contributions. How can we reduce our carbon footprint? As the carbon we put into the air directly affects climate change, it is worth noting the rough figures given by scientists relating to how much we typically use in America:

ONE year's driving (average) : 1.9 tons per car //// one major flight (return) 10.4 tons per passenger /// a year's electricity (average household) 6.6 tons. "Sourcing responsibly" is a term used more frequently, and will become more familiar by practicing it ourselves.

Greening Our Church

In 2019 we plan to continue Greening our Sacred Space that is St. Mary's Anglican. Working with the Faith and the Common Good organization, St. Mary's participated in a Benchmarking exercise that measures energy efficiency. Increased efficient energy use will enable us to reduce costs and save needed dollars for other outreach purposes.

Great thanks to our congregation for making efforts to **Green our kitchen**, by using less single-use plastics (plastic forks, plastic cups), and by recycling responsibly — using correct bins. Proposed Signage in our kitchen and other common areas will also help our renters to come on board. Hopefully some of these efforts will be included in new leases in the coming years.

Advocacy

Along with Single-Plastic Use, our **Lenten plans** may also include some type of advocacy. Our Mission in caring for God's Creation may call us to boldly speak up as we strive to sustain and renew the Earth responsibly. We look forward to working with Fr. Matthew in developing our plans for Lent. **All ideas are welcome.**

A note of Thanks to St. Mary's Pastoral Service Volunteers!

Some of you may not know, but multiple times a month, members of your church family are out in the community, visiting shut-ins and leading worship services at our local hospital and retirement communities. St. Mary's volunteers take services every month at Mackenzie Health, Mariann Home, Elginwood, Hilltop and Brookside Retirement Residences. Thank you to our lay pastoral coordinator Jan Mills and her team for all their visiting and service volunteering. Included here is a picture from the November 2018 service at Elginwood, with service leaders Elain Daviau and Joan Temple-Porter.

Thanks team and keep up the great work!

“And a great time was had by all”. Gordon Lightfoot

CBC TIMES

April 9 to 15

Vol. 18, No. 41, 1966, 10c

Sue



What the World Needs Now

Sue story on P. 4. The show was excellent!

One of the more interesting local legends at St. Mary's is the success story of The Fragments coffee house, which flourished in the 1960's in the basement under the Chapel. I am always fascinated by the reminiscences of those who as teenagers were part of this very interesting experiment within our Parish. We are fortunate to have a copy of The CBC Times, April 9-15, 1966 in which a forthcoming TV programme hosted by investigative journalist Larry Solway is described in some detail. The programme entitled "What the World Needs Now" features an interview with Rev. Canon James O'Neil who was a driving force behind the concept of The Fragments.

The article notes "Traditionally the Church has been the focal point of the small community; not only a place of worship, but also a centre for much of the community's secular activities. In Richmond Hill, Ont., one church in particular has responded to the needs of the community by providing a place where young people can meet and relax and just be themselves without adult interference. Today, any teenager who wants to hear folk rock in the atmosphere of a coffee house goes to St. Mary's, where the

church basement has been transformed into The Fragments. This is a coffee house run by the teenagers themselves, non-denominational and everybody is welcome". We are fortunate to have a transcript of this half-hour C.B.C. special feature in our Collection.

On **Saturday, April 9, 2019** we will be hosting a Fragments Evening in Wrixon Hall. We want to revisit the 1960's with appropriate food, music and entertainment and we hope you will plan to attend. Early in the new year, we will be seeking out some of those 1960's teenagers in order to replicate the coffee house as accurately as possible. We believe this event will be a great excuse for an end-of-winter party and a chance to tell the story of The Fragments once again.

Another interesting item in our Collection is a letter from Gordon Lightfoot, confirming that he had indeed performed at The Fragments — with some conditions — and he certainly seems to have great memories of those early days of his career.

“And a great time was had by all”. Gordon Lightfoot

I also want to share that **Saturday, May 11, 2019** has been set for Doors Open, Richmond Hill next year. We hope that all those who volunteered so faithfully last year will consider joining the team once again and there is always lots of room for more. We plan to share the story of The Fragments with our guests, using materials that will have been prepared for our April event. At the recent wrap-up meeting for Doors Open, 2018, Heritage Services staff from the Town made special note of the fact that St. Mary's has participated since the very beginning and stressed that we are a very important part of the event. Nice to hear!



A visit to a coffee house in a church basement: Sunday at 4.00 p.m. est / 5.00 a.m. on television

HERITAGE



Traditionally the church has been the focal point of the small community; not only a place of worship, but also a centre for much of the community's secular activities. In Richmond Hill, Ont., one church in particular (St. Mary's Anglican) has responded to the needs of the community by providing a place where young people can meet and relax and just be themselves without adult interference. Three years ago Richmond Hill had no such place. The local teenagers had to choose between hanging around hamburger joints or driving to Toronto.

Today, any teenager who wants to hear folk rock in the atmosphere of a coffee house goes to St. Mary's, where the church basement has been transformed into 'The Fragments'. This is a coffee house run by the teenagers themselves, non-denominational and everybody welcome. It was started three years ago by the Rector of St. Mary's, the Reverend J. O'Neil, and his curate, the Reverend D. Bone. They leave the teenagers pretty much alone but drop in on them now and then for a coffee and a chat, not with the idea of converting anyone. "We've steered

away from this," says Mr. O'Neil. "We have a need to serve the young community around here and I think they have a need to find a place to get together. Religion is about life. This is what we're here for. I think if we can help this generation to see that it isn't all square and it isn't all what they think it is, sort of unrelated to life, then I think we've done something."

CBC-TV's *Heritage* recently visited St. Mary's to talk to Mr. O'Neil and Mr. Bone and the teenagers who run 'The Fragments'. On this week's program, sub-titled *What the World Needs Now*, Larry Solway interviews the youngsters and questions them about the meaning for them of the Resurrection. The title of the program comes from one of the numbers which their folk rock group has written (*What the World Needs Now is Love*).

This edition of *Heritage*, written by Kenneth Bagnell, marks the debut of a new producer, Dale Barnes. Formerly a photographer who joined CBC seven years ago after coming to Canada from England, he has worked on previous *Heritage* productions. □

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Saturday, April 6th, 2019

“Fragments Evening”

in Wrixon Hall

Saturday, May 11th, 2019

“Doors Open”

On behalf of our Committee members

Joan Connolly, Dave Hunt, Lucia Ferrara, Lucille King, Phil Shepherd and Colin Webb, I want to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Norman McMullen, Chair,

The Archives Committee

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

A Little Wind Music's
UPPER CANADA BRASS
presents...



Brass-ing Off!



Friday, April 12, 2019
St Mary's Anglican Church,
10030 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill
at 7:30 pm

Tickets for Parishioners of St Mary's - \$10.00
www.alittlewindmusic.wordpress.com

PosterMyWall.com

Monday, December 24th Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Family Service with Communion

7:00 p.m.

Candlelight Service with Communion

10:30 p.m.

Carols, Anthems and Readings

11:00 p.m.

Candlelight Midnight Eucharist

Tuesday, December 25th

10:30 a.m.

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 30th

10:30 a.m.

Service of Lessons & Carols



Upcoming Parish Luncheons Dates & Speakers

February 6, 2019

Vision Report Presentation and
Building Planning Review

March 6, 2019

Betty Gilpin on her experience
as "A Bomb Girl."

April 3, 2019

Jan Mills
Hospital Chaplaincy

February 23rd, 2019 is the
scheduled date for the
African/Caribbean Evening.

There will be food and
entertainment
for everyone.

More information to follow.

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year in 2019!

Betty Lehming, Office Administrator