

# The Message

The Newsletter of the Parish of St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill

10030 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, ON Canada L4C 1T8

[www.saintmarysanglican.ca](http://www.saintmarysanglican.ca)

## Newsletter Reflection

by The Rev. Matthew McMillan



### Growing in the Summer

With all the rain we've had this spring, there is a lot of green around us as we start the summer. Summer is the time when we try to grow in ways that amplify our sense of peace, comfort, joy and hopefulness. We do this by turning from our labours, and trying to emulate creation, as we watch plants soak up nourishment from the earth and sun, which they then take in and then as a result of overflow with beauty.

As we look to the summer season, I invite you to take a few moments and reflect on a discovery made by an amateur gardener. A gardener, prompted by curiosity, counted the seed pods on a medium-sized mustard plant. There were 85. The average number of seeds in each

*Cont'd on page 2*

### In this Issue

Summer Newsletter Reflection .....	1
Vestry Notes.....	2
Online Giving, & Synod Update.....	3
What's going on at St. Mary's? .....	4
AV & Rogers Update .....	6
Conference Room & Engineering Update .....	7
Budget.....	8
Take 5.....	9
Family Ministries .....	10
Sunday School .....	11
Archives.....	12
ACW Report.....	13
Outreach.....	14
Green Team .....	15
Fall Events.....	16
Programs & Classes .....	19



### Summer Service Schedule

Remember from **June 23<sup>rd</sup>** until  
**September 1<sup>st</sup>** our 10:30 a.m.  
worship service time has  
changed to  
**9:30 a.m.**

Our **8:00 a.m.** service will continue  
at the same time as always.

**Mission Statement:** We, the people of St. Mary's Anglican Church, called by God and committed to Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, seek to live and make known, in word and action, the good news of God's love in the world. Using our gifts, we

pod was eight. Since two crops in a given year could be matured, the gardener figured that it was possible in the interim between February and mid-October to produce a yield of 463,080 seeds, all from one original plant.

The gardener discovered that this small plant so prolific, could provide a further 680 seeds, which could then be planted and grow 680 plants for each seed to yield another 680 seeds. This makes for 463,080 seeds in a year, originating from one plant. And many other species of plants far exceed that increase.

If the seed of a mustard plant can produce that kind of result, imagine what the Spiritual seeds that God gives us can do!



This summer may we grow in God's gifts and enjoy the bounty that flows from them.

*Blessings,  
Fr. Matt+*



## Vestry Notes

At St. Mary's Vestry in March of this year, the congregation began the first phase of a building review plan. The parish approved a plan to explore our preferred option for raising the needed funds to modernize and prepare our buildings for the next 30+ years. The congregation voted to begin this review process by exploring the raising of capital through the sale of surplus church land, located between the main church and the two houses on McLatchy Lane.

The Wardens and our Land Use Chair, Ron Smit met with Bishop Fenty in April to share the results of this vote and plan our next steps. The Bishop was impressed by the work done so far and has offered his support as the parish undertakes this effort. He has begun drawing together members of the different Diocesan departments that will need to conduct reviews on this proposal for it to move forward. We will be having our next formal meeting in the early fall, to determine the complete details for our review process. Bishop Fenty shared his thanks for the hard work being done by the parish in moving forward with modernizing and maintaining such a large physical plant. Our future meetings with the Diocese will continue the work of; clarifying the approval process for a sale, reviewing what % of proceeds would come to the parish, determining clearly what is the current work needed and any large-scale future projects that need to be prepared for. If individuals have any questions or would like to know more information about this process, please feel free to talk to our Land Use Chair or any of the Wardens.



## Online Giving at St. Mary's

Did you know that through our new parish website you are able to donate to St. Mary's? This Lent in 2019 we launched our new website with many upgraded features and functions. One of them being our online giving platform. St. Mary's has partnered with ('Canada Helps') a Canadian Not-for-Profit agency that helps charities raise funds through various online resources. So far this year, St. Mary's has received over \$4,000 in giving's through this resource. There is a cost to process each donation, which is 3.5 cents on

every dollar. This helps cover processing and other costs. Tax Receipts are issued immediately when the donation is made. If you're away on holidays and St. Mary's pops into your head, just go to our parish website and click on the 'Giving' tab at the top. From there you can click to give online and make your contribution. Thank you to everyone who gives so generously to support our parish church, and we hope that this additional resource will make it even easier to do so. *Thanks, St. Mary's Envelope Secretaries*

## General Synod Update

As Anglicans in Canada, we are blessed to be part of a Christian Church that has an impact all across the country. Our Anglican Churches reach out and do amazing works in the name of Jesus everywhere and every day. Part of having such a large footprint, is the need to have ways of gathering and collaborating in our shared ministries. In the Anglican Church, each Diocese is headed by a local bishop, who works with their churches to shape and mold a plan for ministry in their local area. The church comes together nationally from across Canada to engage in shared works of ministry, to review and approve elements of worship and to elect our chief bishop, The Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. This summer is the general meeting of our national church, which meets every three years. To follow along with what is happening at this event, please connect online with the General Synod website. ( <https://gs2019.anglican.ca/> )

I HAVE  
CALLED *You*  
BY NAME



GENERAL SYNOD OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA, JULY 10 TO 16, 2019, VANCOUVER, B.C.

This year's General Synod will be looking at and voting on 3 important issues: The proposed revision of the Marriage Canon to include same-sex marriage, Election of a New Primate and Indigenous Self-Determination for Indigenous communities of faith. Our bishop, The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty has encouraged all congregations in York – Simcoe to uphold General Synod in their private prayers while it meets in July. Please stay updated on General Synod's activities this summer using the special web address above and please continue to prayer for the church using the prayer shared below. We pray that through God's wisdom, our Church will be strengthened and renewed to proclaim God's love to the ends of the earth.

### **Prayer for General Synod: BAS**

*Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in General Synod for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*



# What's going on at St. Mary's?

*Happenings and Opportunities to Serve!*

## **Family Ministry Summer BBQ at the Rectory – Saturday, July 27th**

### **Summer Family Programming**

Now that summer is here, and many of us have scattered to attend to our different family and personal commitments, we are looking to create an opportunity to gather and continue to enjoy some fellowship as a parish family. Our **Summer Family**



**Fun Night** will be a Backyard BBQ on **Saturday, July 27th** at the Rectory, from **3:00 – 7:00 pm**. Pam and Fr. Matthew will be hosting this event at their home, located at 100 Arnold Crescent. We'll be looking to have a bouncy castle and some crafts and other activities in the front yard. While at the back, we will be set up for dinner and quieter conversations. Each guest/family will be asked to bring a side dish or dessert, and your own seating! Sign-up sheets will be put up in the narthex on the Canada Day Weekend, or you can call the office.

*Family and friends are welcome as well!*



### **St. Mary's Gardens**

The Church gardening team hope you enjoy the many gardens around St. Mary's as much as we enjoy working on them once a week. We have a dedicated team who work together maintaining the garden beds, tidying, pruning, weeding and planting too.

Each season brings different strengths to different plants. This year was just right for tulips and soon the iris will be making a great display. We also look forward to another great show of the beautiful yellow "Garden Sunshine Roses".

We welcome any perennials anyone can donate so we can add to the established garden beds as we continue to beautify St. Mary's property.

*Jenny Rogers, on behalf of the Gardening Team.*





## Home on the Hill's Free Community Lunch

Coming together and sharing food is the most engaging and binding activity in any community. Our community is no different. We all have a strong need to come together in a warm and accepting environment. We all appreciate the opportunity to take part and feel a sense of belonging while at the same time enjoying a nourishing lunch. Home on the Hill offers a free lunch every Friday at noon in Wrixon Hall at St. Mary's Anglican Church. We cordially welcome all community members of any age including seniors, and their family members, or caregivers.



The meal is prepared by a team of volunteers under the guidance of a York University Social Work Student. The volunteers who make this meal are people who experience invisible barriers everyday because of they have a serious mental illness. Preparing the lunch offers them a time of camaraderie and teamwork as they work together to produce and serve the lunch. As one volunteer said, it is her opportunity to give back to the community which has supported her. For more information please contact Maggie Veltheer at [maggie@rveltheer.com](mailto:maggie@rveltheer.com).

## Summer & Fall Service Updates

For the month of August, Fr. Matthew will be away on holidays. During his absence we will be having service coverage provided by the Rev. Wendy Lywood on August 4th and September 1st, with the Rev. Don Downer on August 11th, 18th and 25th. *Thank you Wendy and Don for being with us this summer!*



As of June 23rd our 10:30 am service moves to 9:30am for the summer months, so that we can use our worship space during the cooler periods of the morning. We will revert back to our 10:30 am service time on Sunday

September 8th, the 1st weekend of the new Sunday School year.

MEMORY LANE HOME LIVING INC. IN COLLABORATION WITH  
ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH IN RICHMOND HILL  
INVITE YOU TO ENJOY AN AFTERNOON OF CONNECTION.

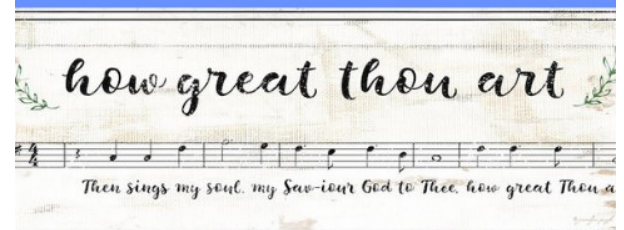
## Lunch and Hymn Sing

FOR SENIORS, CAREGIVERS, AND THEIR LOVED ONES  
LIVING WITH MEMORY LOSS, WHO ENJOY SINGING.

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EVERY FRIDAY FROM NOON TO 2 PM  
ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, RICHMOND HILL, ON  
WHEELCHAIR ACCESSIBLE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 905.237.1419 / [MLLIVING14@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MLLIVING14@GMAIL.COM)



Services will be continuing throughout the summer months to be of assistance to caregivers and their loved ones. Please contact **Mona Lancaster** at **905-876-8666** if you would like more information about the Memory Lane Program.





# UPDATE

***In case you hadn't heard, you can watch us live every Sunday!***

If you are a person who gets confused by lots of buttons and switches, you aren't alone. The picture you're looking at is the Sound and A/V desk at St. Mary's. Every Sunday a dedicated group of youth from your parish church, help to manage a weekly Sunday broadcast of our main

worship service every week. You can catch the service by going to our parish website ([www.saintmarysanglican.ca](http://www.saintmarysanglican.ca)) and at the bottom of the home page, click on the media viewer to join in. The previous weeks services can be found on the sermon page of the website and past weeks services can be found stored there as well. Who watches, you may wonder? Well, anyone and everyone is the answer. Parishioners who are away on holidays and want to see what is happening. Members of our community that have worked Sunday mornings or individuals who are unable to come out for a variety of reasons are among the numbers that have tuned in.

The cameras for our broadcasts focus on wherever the main point of the liturgy is occurring. If individuals have privacy concerns or would like to know more information about our multi-media efforts, please feel free to contact the office or our parish priest.

## ***St. Mary's Planned Internet Upgrades***



# ROGERS™

As most of our community knows, connectivity to the Internet is now an essential for all organizations, and this goes for churches too.

This past winter during St. Mary's "Out Of The

Cold" program, we were approached by guests staying overnight, to see if we could allow them to use our internet while they stayed in Wrixon Hall. They wanted to connect to loved ones or unwind with some leisure activities before going to bed. We tested our Bell system and found it did not have the capacity for more than 3 or 4 users. As well, we determined our office system Wi-Fi could not reach Wrixon Hall. Bell could not do anything for St. Mary's, so we reached out to Rogers. Through a long negotiation process this spring, we have been able to secure an internet service upgrade from Rogers. This new system will take us from 4.5 Mbps to 1Gbps, which is a little over 200 times faster. Bell was not willing to upgrade their cabling, but Rogers would bring new cable right into the church. The cost of this install was proposed to be \$12,000. However, by reaching out to our tenant 'Discovery Academy' and having them sign up for internet services as well, we have been able to get Rogers to waive any install charges. We are hoping to have this work completed over the summer and then expand our Wi-Fi setup during the fall into other areas of the building, to support our ministries and programs that occur here at St. Mary's. Thank you to our parish leadership for all their efforts in securing this needed upgrade for St. Mary's.

# *What's going on at St. Mary's?*

*Happenings and Opportunities to Serve!*



## ***Conference Room Update***

In the fall of 2018, St. Mary's had been given an opportunity to display some new artwork, a modern copy of a picture of the Virgin Mary in prayer. This artwork was then graciously donated to the parish by some anonymous sponsors. As we deliberated on an appropriate location for this piece, a plan came together to include other paintings and prints from the archives in a curated display for St. Mary's Conference Room. The artwork was installed in early 2019 and it looks tremendous. The parish Conference Room is used by committees and parish groups for meetings and small events. A special thank you to all who helped in the efforts to update and modernize this space.

## ***St. Mary's Engineering Review Update***

Every 10 years the Diocese of Toronto mandates that all parishes must conduct a full engineering review of their church buildings. St. Mary's was on the list to have this work completed in 2020, but with our Vestry efforts to start working on long-range planning for our building, we began to consider conducting the study this year, as we work with the Diocese to explore our Land Sale Proposal. Our initial inquiries lead to us receiving quotes for \$19,500 for a full engineering review. After much leg work by our property wardens (Colin Webb and Chas Mills), we were able to obtain a quote for \$11,500 from CDW Engineering (taxes included). This firm was hired at the end of May to begin their building study of St. Mary's. Our engineers are currently drafting their report, which should be submitted to the parish some time during the summer. We look forward to sharing some updates from this work at the beginning of September. The parish leadership thanks the congregation for your support as we work together to maintain and strengthen our church.







## January to May 2019

*Envelope Giving's* \$ 74,252

*Fundraising & Other* \$ 22,048

*Family Grant:* \$ 19,687

*Rental Income:* \$ 81,443

**Total Income:** **\$197,430**

*Diocesan Allotment* \$ 27,959

*Building Expenses* \$ 96,636

*Staffing* \$ 74,490

*Admin & Other Exp.* \$ 18,530

**Total Expenses:** **\$ 217,619**

We, as your Wardens and Treasurer would like to thank the congregation for your continued and generous support. Attached are a financial update for the first 5 months of 2019. We have given a brief summary of our current finances, including income and expenses. A small operating deficit is expected for this time of year, as a variety of capital works has occurred at the start of the fiscal year. However, last year our envelope giving's were about \$10,000 ahead of where they are presently. With all the change that happens in a congregation, it is important we all know what the financial picture is. Last year we had some parishioners pass away, move or reduce their giving levels because of job transitions or financial challenges. We hope this financial picture will allow new and longer-term members of our congregation to be aware of our present financial situation and ensure that we are all contributing as we are able to support the work of our church. Thank you again to the entire parish for your ongoing support. Also, if you wish at any time to receive an update on your current year to date donations or have any specific questions, please contact the office and we'll be glad to help in any way we can.

*Sincerely, The Treasurer and Wardens*

**DID YOU  
KNOW**



*Did you know that close to 40% of St. Mary's budget comes from space rentals? St. Mary's is very fortunate to be able to share our space with other churches and users of our space. We also need to keep our giving levels up and current, so that we can keep our booking calendar focused on supporting parish ministry rather than being used to simply generate income.*





## ***Take 5 at St. Mary's this Fall***

St. Mary's is a special place that draws us all together. We come to this church because it feeds our hearts, minds and bodies, with the *Love* and *Strength* of Jesus Christ. Often when we come to church or think about nurturing our own spiritual selves, we tend to put ourselves first. This happens by us doing what we want, or what is most comfortable. It is as though we fall into a consumer oriented perspective in our faith. We do what we want and think about what our needs are, rather than simply walking in faith and seeing where God is calling us.

This fall as your parish priest, I would like us as a community to consider embracing an initiative called, 'Take 5'. This begins by simply taking 5 minutes during the social times, such as after service or at coffee hour, to look for people who are new to St. Mary's or who are on their own. I would like to see if we can challenge ourselves to expand our established routines and lovingly welcome others into our parish family. St. Paul's Anglican Church on Bloor Street has found this program to be very helpful in expanding their community and also reminding their community that acts of discipleship are needed from everyone to help unfold and expand the Kingdom of God.

As some of you will notice in the 'Family Ministries Update' coming up later in the newsletter, we have not been able to move forward with our hiring plans because of the high costs that this position involves. Rather than see a position start and then conclude abruptly because of financial concerns, we are taking some time to reassess what should be our next steps. As we look at our next steps for this hiring process, the Wardens and I would also like to ask the congregation to take 5 minutes over the summer to reflect on your level of giving's to St. Mary's. Are you currently offering a sacrificial tithe or what level of giving have you prayerfully come to between yourself and God? If you are feeling called to move towards a tithe or could contemplate making an increase in your church offering, we would ask you to consider how giving even just an extra 5% could help strengthen our resources and grow God's church, in a way that gives life and makes God's blessings open to all.

I would encourage everyone to be part of our 'Take 5' movement this fall and enjoy watching God's blessings flow in our midst.

*Thanks, Fr. Matthew+*



# FAMILY ministries

## ***St. Mary's Director of Family Ministries – Hiring Update***

Throughout Lent St. Mary's volunteers had been eagerly labouring to complete a hiring process for our new Director of Family Ministries position. In the fall of 2018, our parish was awarded a 3-year grant for approximately \$45,000 per year. The parish planned to use these funds and the monies already raised by the parish (*approximately €81,666*) to rejuvenate and expand our programs for youth and families at St. Mary's. We began our search process by updating our online presence through modernizing our parish website and adding a service broadcasting capacity, so that all members of our parish family could be connected regardless of their location.

As we received responses and our hiring committee started our review, we uncovered some gifted candidates. Our rounds of interviews lead us to a preferred candidate. However, once we extended an offer, we found out that our budget plans were not in line with the current financial realities for this type of position. As we looked to secure an accepted offer, we uncovered that individuals in this specialized field, who come with formal experience and education were looking for salaries around \$65,000. Because of this current cost context for a full-time position, we have decided to pause our search process and do some further reflection and review. With a \$20,000/year funding difference and the parish hoping to have our budget grow, to be able to absorb the full cost of the position after the grant ends, we felt that further review was needed.

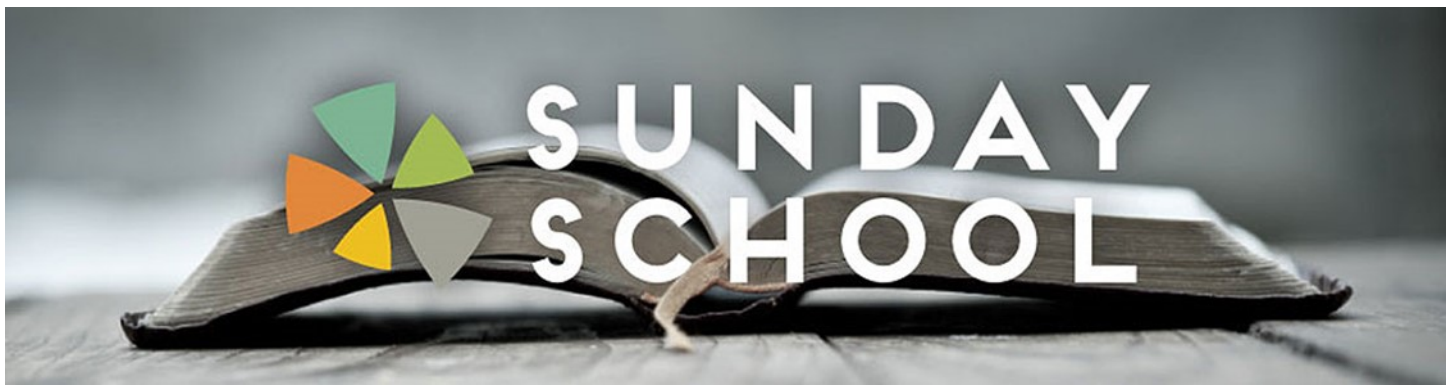
Over the summer our volunteers and parish leaders will be reviewing a variety of options, so we can decide on a way to go forward. The parish leadership has already been in consultation with Bishop Fenty about different options, such as: exploring additional grants, doing more internal parish fundraising, and reviewing the possibility of a part-time position. We're thankful for the parish's support and assistance as we continue this important work.

## ***New Youth Ministry Program Space – Youth Group Balcony Lounge***

As the parish has been looking forward to our new ministry expansion of our Family Ministry Plan, we have been looking at how we can set aside the needed space, to enhance and support our programming. We have been able to clear out some of the forgotten items from the Wrixon Hall basement to better organize our storage areas, and as a result, we have been able to pull together some plans to convert the room opposite the Archives on the balcony of Wrixon Hall, into future Youth Group Space. Over the Summer and Fall, we will be working to clear out this space, so that it can be used for Sunday School older youth classes, as well as become a dedicated space for a youth group. Please stay tuned in the future as plans for this space come together. Calls may go out to the congregation for furnishings and resources as the space becomes ready for use.







Our formal Sunday School program is drawing to a close for the school year after the picnic on June 16th. We have had a fun and busy year in Sunday School, with up to 19 children participating on a given week, across our three classes from preschool to grade 7. This past year the children have put on a nativity pageant, helped create hygiene bags for out of the cold, collected books to send to Northern schools and have had visit from the archives committee to learn about the cross in our sanctuary. They have also helped lead songs, readings, prayers and reflections for our family services.

Starting June 23rd until September 1st, during the 9:30am service, we will have informal activities available in our Sunday school for any children wishing to join us. We will also have activity packs available in the Narthex to borrow if they wish to stay in the service, as well as the activity area at the back setup for our 5 and under crowd.

As we plan ahead for our new Sunday School year in the fall, we are always looking for people to be involved in a number of different ways. If you'd like to help us grow our Sunday School program, please let me know. We are looking forward to our new year starting September 8th. *Lauren Wirtzfeld*

*We would like to thank our parish volunteers, who work tirelessly to help provide programming every Sunday for the youth of our church. This past year we have had numerous occasions where due to sizes and age groupings, that we've been running up to 3 different programs on a Sunday. Thank you to Lauren Wirtzfeld our Sunday School coordinator and her team for all their help. We would like to thank; Natasha, Lucia, Bob, Julie, Eric, Pam, Lucy, Norman and Mona for all their dedication and effort over this past year. Sincerely, The Wardens*

## ***Sunday School A/V Upgrades***

This past spring St. Mary's was awarded a community grant from the Richmond Hill Legion to help with our Sunday School. A grant was awarded to St. Mary's to help install a new A/V system in the Sunday School room, in support of our youth programming. This resource has been used for our first communion program and is used weekly in our Sunday School programming. A special thanks has been extended to our friends at the legion for this wonderful gift.



## Archives Committee Update

For many years the Archives Committee has wanted share the story of The Fragments Coffee House through a community event, hoping especially that some of the original attendees would return. I am happy to share that



our walk down “memory lane” on Saturday. April 6th did just that. In addition it was a real pleasure to welcome Rev. Canon Jim O’Neil and Rev. Canon Don Bone to St. Mary’s and to hear about their efforts to establish The Fragments in the early 1960’s. Karen Gold and Susan Litchen provided

a wonderful evening of songs and stories taking some of us right back to the “swingin’ sixties”. It was obvious that they enjoyed the evening just as much as we did.

On behalf of our Committee I want to thank all who helped in any way. As always, Diane Robertson arranged the refreshments with competence and efficiency. Betty Romanchuk and Betty Lehming kept me focused around issues of use of space and responses to inquiries. Alice and Owen Pegg kindly helped out with tablecloths while Caroline Machett sewed some great little gingham cloths for additional decoration. Jenny Rogers lent intriguing wall decorations as well. Thanks to Gwen Halliday and Kevin Dark for volunteering to staff the ticket-taking table. In total 86 tickets were sold and it was a delight to



have it was to have some of our children with us to sign and sing “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”. I

would be remiss not to mention Fr. Matthew, whose enthusiastic encouragement and technical support were invaluable.

This was a big undertaking for our small Committee but with the steady help of our members Joan Connolly, Lucia Ferrara, Dave Hunt, Lucille King and Colin Webb the evening was a huge success. I am proud of what we accomplished that night and happy to have received so many rave reviews. When Gordon Lightfoot was asked about his memories of The Fragments he replied “And a good time was had by all”. The same can be said about our Fragments Evening.

In May we had another opportunity for hospitality through our participation in Doors Open. This was the 11th year for the event in Richmond Hill and we welcomed 97 visitors to St. Mary’s. As in past years we were fortunate to have an excellent team of volunteers who warmly welcomed visitors and provided tours of the chapel, the Arnold Plot and the main church. Fortunately the weather was favourable and many visitors spent considerable time looking through our buildings. By tradition now, our first visitor was a gentleman who always stops by to say “hello” and have a short and hurried visit. He gets us off to a great start and I hope we will see him again next year!

It would be impossible for our Committee to even consider spear-heading Doors Open without the support of so many faithful volunteers: Vera Briggs, Helen Butt, Catherine Goodman, Sharon Hanns, Jan Mills, Jenny and Bruce Rogers, Joan Smith, and Pearl and Denis Taylor. Special thanks also to Diane Robertson who made sure the coffee was on when we arrived and arranged lovely refreshments for us through the day in the Conference Room. I want to extend an invitation – especially to newer Parishioners – to consider volunteering for Doors Open next year. It is a unique way to welcome the community to St. Mary’s while learning more about our own rich history. There are usually 3 shifts covering 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. but any amount of time is just fine. Several of our team this year volunteered for the entire day. Many thanks for that.

So as you can imagine, we have had a busy spring with two events that allowed us to welcome guests to St. Mary’s. I have always loved the verse from the book of



Hebrews, Chapter 13, Verse 2: "Do not be forgetful of hospitality to strangers, for by doing so, some have entertained angels without knowing it". I'm not sure if we actually encountered any angels - perhaps so - but who can deny the importance of a smile, a friendly greeting and a warm welcome to our church.

Hopefully you had a chance to view our first display on the bulletin board in the Arnold Plot area. We wanted to share the wonderful colouring of our Sunday School children that was part of our annual visit in honour of National Heritage Week. Following some minor repairs to the bulletin board, the next display will feature information about the history of the Arnold Plot. Several years ago we were honoured to receive material from the Arnold and Zeller Families which we want to share with the Parish. Thanks to Fr. Matthew and the Wardens for allowing us to acquire this space in order to share our history.

As in the past our Committee will continue to meet over the summer. This time usually allows us space to do some sorting and planning for the coming year and, with the summer break, we also have an improved opportunity to provide tours. We are looking forward to welcoming Vera Briggs and friends for a "tour and tea" as part of our donation to the Silent Auction at the African Caribbean Night. Please contact me if you are interested in learning more about the history of St. Mary's through a tour.

On behalf of our Committee I want to express our thanks for your interest in our ventures over the past months and I hope you have a restful and enjoyable summer break.

*Norman McMullen, Chair,  
The Archives Committee*

## **ACW Report 2018-2019**

THANK YOU to all the women and men of St. Mary's for all that you do to make our parish events such a huge success.

Saturday, November 24, 2018 – Our Annual Christmas Bazaar & Luncheon once again provided an opportunity for fellowship, community and fundraising. Thank you to all of our table convenors and teams. Thank you to our luncheon committee of Lyne Webb, Colin Webb and Diane Robertson. Thank you to Linda Wightman for being our "Bazaar Treasurer" and to Jane Robertson for organizing our Poinsettia Sales. Many thanks to Charlie Mills for

sharing his musical talents and providing an ambiance of Christmas Music. We raised more money than the previous year due to all of our hard work and efforts!

Sunday, December 9, 2018 – We held our Annual General Meeting and voted to disburse the money that was raised at the Christmas Bazaar. Funds were donated to the following groups in our community; Home on the Hill, ACW Toronto Diocese and in our parish; Choral Scholars Program, Parish Sound System, Archives committee, General operating fund, John Macey, Church Gardens and Altar Guild. Well done everyone!

Saturday, April 27, 2019 – Toronto Diocesan ACW Annual General Meeting was held at St. Timothy's Anglican Church Agincourt. This year's theme was "Working with Change". It was a great event and it was fun going with Vera Briggs, Caroline Matchett and Joan Temple Porter. I encourage you all to consider attending next year. During the meeting the names of ten ACW sisters who have passed away were read and their names were inscribed in the Memorial Book for 2018. Three of these women were from St. Mary's; Lorraine Kisch, Ruth Wilton and Elizabeth Loweth. We remember them as sisters in Christ and wonderful servant leaders in our parish and beyond.

**Wednesday, May 29, 2019** – Annual Spring Potluck dinner. What an amazing event with a record high number of women who came out to enjoy good food, fellowship and fun. Thank you to everyone who came, who cooked and baked such delicious food! Thank you to our committee for making this evening so special; Vera Briggs, Caroline Matchett, Lucille King, Barbra Amadori, Linda Wightman, Jane Robertson, Joan Temple Porter, Dionne Robertson and Diane Robertson. Thank you to Jennifer Ferdinands for taking photos of the evening. Special thanks to our guest Andrea Pringle who lead us in a Drumming Circle. A new experience for most of us and a great way to end the evening.

**Saturday, November 16, 2019** - SAVE THE DATE – for our Annual Christmas Bazaar & Luncheon.

*Gratefully submitted by Marlene Gardiner,  
ACW Executive Chair*



## ***Outreach and Social Justice Committee***

We are very excited to report that our proposed Refugee Sponsorship has been approved by the Diocese, the Sponsorship Facilitating Agency AURA, as well as St. Mary's Wardens on the recommendation of Fr. Matthew and the Outreach & Social Justice Committee. St. Mary's will partner with Ibrahim Mohebbi, an Afghan-Canadian, in the Named Sponsorship of Ibrahim's brother's family of five (5), including three (3) children and his wife as well as the family matriarch. As was noted at Vestry in March, this family is of Hazara ethnicity. The Hazara have been persecuted over many hundreds of years in part due to their Shi'a Muslim faith. Once the dominant indigenous people of Afghanistan, this ethnic group now represents only 19% of the country's population. This family, including Ibrahim, survived the systematic slaughter of Hazara men and boys in August 1998, however, the Taliban targeted Ibrahim's brother in February of this year. The family was able to flee Afghanistan and are now in exile in Tajikistan. The family has done their own fundraising to acquire the necessary funds to meet the requirements of the Canadian Government, so St. Mary's will have no financial responsibilities other than to hold the necessary funds, supplied by Ibrahim, until his family arrives, at which time said funds will be distributed evenly to the family over the period of one year. During



the course of the first year of settlement, St. Mary's will be available to assist the family in integrating into Canadian society. We expect Ibrahim's application will be submitted to the government by mid-June, hopefully approved, and then we wait, likely for two years, for the family to arrive. We would like to introduce Ibrahim to our St. Mary's family during one of our social activities, so we might get to know him better and he us. Also, as the time approaches for the family to arrive, we will be looking for a couple of volunteers to aid in the tasks of getting this family settled. We also may be in need of articles of furniture, linens and perhaps clothing. If you feel called to help; perhaps you too have had to relocate to a new country, please contact anyone on the Outreach committee. In the meantime, we ask that you keep Ibrahim and his family in your prayers.

Your Outreach committee is also working on a follow-up to the KAIROS Blanket Exercise of last year to further our participation in Truth and Reconciliation learning and awareness. At a date to be determined, we plan a showing of the documentary film, Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen Lands Strong Hearts. Please watch for further information on this activity.

With the help of our faithful bakers, Catherine Goodman, Karen Ferry, Paulette Popp and Outreach committee members we will continue to host Loonie Muffin Sundays once a month. We will see you again June 23, break for the summer and then be back September 15. Come November our Fair Trade Chocolate will be back for your holiday gift giving. Your support of this and the weekly coffee/tea time in Wrixon Hall after the 10:30 a.m. service, continues to support our two Plan Canada foster children and is much appreciated. We believe supporting these children until their schooling is complete is a worthy aim.

Our Conversational English initiative budded but failed to bloom during its three month trial. Many thanks to Norman McMullen for facilitating this program. The committee plans to re-visit this initiative again in the fall and its very possible that



Ibrahim's wife might be interested in participating. Her English is not nearly as good as her husband as she was denied, by the Taliban, education past grade five.

With the help of Ron Smit, Outreach will continue to promote the sale of Merchant Cards. The money we earn on the sale of these cards is used to purchase additional grocery and coffee cards to be held in the office and used at the discretion of Fr. Matt and/or Betty for those who approach the church for assistance. Please consider purchasing these for your weekly gas and groceries as well as for gifts.

As always, we welcome new members to this ministry. Please consider joining us.

*Prepared by Lyne Webb on behalf of committee members: Maggie Veltheer, Dionne Robertson, Norman McMullen and Julie Hastie*

## St. Mary's Green Team



The tide is rising – not only in heat-driven global oceans – creating drastic changes in climates, but more and more of St. Mary's Parishioners are joining us in interest and in action in responding to this urgent threat to Mother Earth. Thank you so much. We will be a part of the Solution!

Environmentally 2019 has been interesting so far. Along with the increasingly damaging effects of climate change and "extreme weather", there has also been a general increasing awareness that this is human-made and action to reverse the effects is desperately needed without delay. This awareness is evident here locally in Richmond Hill as well as on a world -wide level. This is despite recent political changes in Ontario and the roll-back of prior eco-friendly policies.

Our Green Lent program reminds us to continue to reduce our use of plastics; to carry our own utensils & coffee mugs everywhere – particularly to Wrixon



Hall Coffee Hour. If you bring your own mug, Diane Robertson will be kind enough to make you a cloth bag to carry it in for \$2.00. We will advise parishioners on the sourcing of recyclable catering items as they come to our attention.

The Green Team chose to focus on Plastics this year, and likely will continue to do so in the future. The over-use of plastics, in particular that of single- use plastic and its harmful effects on the globe and wildlife when discarded into the Environment has become a monumental environmental issue.

Funds are still being collected to purchase our Water Bottle Filling Station. Green Envelopes \$\$\$ are still welcome. Fr. Matt's encouragement of this initiative, and his enthusiastic support of the Green Lenten Program is greatly appreciated.

### ***Moving Forward***

***Faith and Community Group Involvement:*** St. Mary's Anglican was pleased to be involved in hosting the community Green New Deal at our Church on May 25th. There were over 40 participants from Richmond Hill and beyond. We will keep you aware of further results.



We also plan to continue working with the Targeting Climate Change Network group with meetings usually at the Richmond Hill United Church. Special thanks to Janet Bartram-Thomas for providing many relevant books for perusal and optional borrowing.

As we increase our collaboration with other faith and community groups please join us as we journey together as Disciples of Christ in Stewardship of God's embattled Creation.

Not to worry!! We will take a break during the Summer hopefully after a small celebration of this our 11th Year of Green Teaming at St. Mary's AND the receipt of our Light Green Entry Level Certificate for GREENING SACRED SPACES. Next is Medium Green and finally Deep Green.

## Coming up this Fall!



Please join us for our service of Morning Prayer with Brass Accompaniment this fall on **Sunday, September 29th, 2019**. Our musical partner, 'Upper Canada Brass', will be joining us for worship this Sunday to share their musical gifts as we gather

## Harvest Feast Dinner

**Saturday, October 26, 2019**

**6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.**



### ACW News

**Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>—ACW Christmas Bazaar & Luncheon—10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Join us for a wonderful event of Christmas crafts, baked goods, knitting, luncheons, music and more! Set up day will be **Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>**.



### Fall Parish Luncheon Dates & Speakers

**September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

*Guest Speaker Joan Burrows from the Curtain Club*

**October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**

*TBA*

**November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

*Princess Ann by Norman McMullen*

**December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

*Christmas Carols*

*led by Janet & Bill Bartram-Thomas*

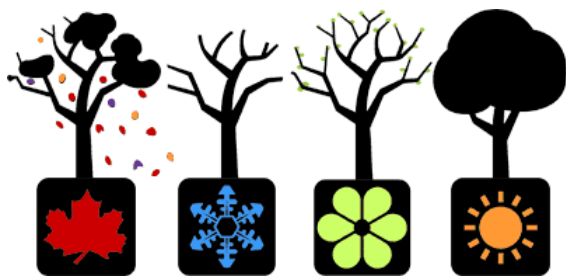
Another Challenge going forward is to continue in the process of making our church Deep Green. This includes monitoring and reporting on energy, maintenance, waste management, signage etc. all of which depend on all our parishioners and tenants. Property Team stay tuned!

To this end, the Green Team will work with the Parish Board to attempt to enable our tenants to participate in this process of Greening the entire space of St. Mary's Anglican. Our ambitious goal!!! This includes the challenge of students & tenants waste management, and kitchen usage. Prayers are in order!!

The Green Team meets monthly to focus on current issues and commits as able to bring items to the attention of the congregation. Of course we will continue with our in-house education, videos, discussions, skits etc.

Our Big Ask - We do need new members. New blood; younger arms, legs and brains; skilled tech members. Working together the tasks are not at all onerous. Our meetings are as much fun, as they are of learning and sharing. Dates and times are flexible depending on our members. Please join us in this urgent and critical work – yet so rewarding, on doing what we can in spreading the good news of care and protection of this beautiful planet Earth of which we are Stewards.

*Many thanks to Fr. Matthew and St. Mary's leadership and staff for their gracious support and assistance through out.*





## ***Wednesday, September 18th 7:30 pm – Holy Land Travel Night***

This September, St. Mary's will be hosting a travel night, with the Reverend Canon Claire Wade. Canon Claire is the Rector of St. Thomas's Anglican Church in Brooklyn and is a specialist in organizing tours to the Holy Land. Prior to her ordination and calling to the priesthood, Claire worked in the travel industry and specialized in tours to the Holy Land and other Christian pilgrimage destinations. Fr. Matthew has invited his friend Canon Claire to come to St. Mary's to help us explore what type of interest there would be within our parish, or our extended parish family for a pilgrimage in a year, to a year and a half's time. This travel night will be an opportunity to see possible travel plans and to hear from an industry expert any questions you may wish answered. All are welcome to join us on September 18th and please speak to Fr. Matthew or contact the office if you would like more information.



## ***Special Services This Fall...***



As our 2019/20 school year begins the first week of September, St. Mary's will be looking to offer a moment in our 10:30 am service on **September 8<sup>th</sup>** to bless our Children's backpacks for the upcoming school year. Children, as they would like to participate, will be asked to bring and wear their backpacks to church. During our Kids Talk we will have a moment to bless them, and ask God to walk with our young people in their year a head. This Sunday will also be the Sunday we resume our Sunday School Program, so come out and join us on

September 8<sup>th</sup> as you're able. For more info or if you have any questions, please speak to Fr. Matthew or the office.



## ***St. Mary's Thanksgiving Festivals***

**Harvest Home Sunday - October 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thanksgiving Sunday - October 13<sup>th</sup>**



Please mark your calendars to join us for our special Thanksgiving services this fall. On the first Sunday of October we celebrate the festival of Harvest Home, where we give thanks for the bounty of the fields, that our Lord has providing during the fall harvest. On the second Sunday of October, we celebrate Thanksgiving Sunday, a time when give thanks for all our good blessings as a nation and as a community. Please join us these Sundays as we gather to give thanks to God for the bountiful goodness bestowed upon us, and as we pray for strength and grace, to live up to the love He has for us and all His children!

# YOU CELEBRATE HALLOWEEN

## ...AT CHURCH?

### *Sunday, October 27<sup>th</sup> - Blessing of the Costumes*

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us the Sunday before Halloween at our annual “*Blessing of the Costumes*.” This Sunday is an opportunity for us to support our youngest members as they eagerly look to Trick or Treat on October 31<sup>st</sup>. We’ll be asking our young people to wear their costumes to church, so that they can be blessed for their upcoming night time journey. Please speak to Fr. Matthew or our Sunday School leadership if you have any questions or need more information.

#### ***In Communion with a Spider***

*by Paulette Popp*

Little spider, little spider,  
Crawling on the wall,  
What's your hurry, lofty spider?  
Careful not to fall!

Little spider, scary spider,  
Scurry to your nest;  
Little spider, hairy spider,  
Uninvited guest!

Creepy creature on the floor,  
Tell me you don't bite:  
If by chance you're poisonous,

Please stay out of sight!  
Some would squish it; others wish it  
Would not cause such fright!  
Sit beside me, gentle spider,  
You are a delight!

Won't you, spider, shy and quiet,  
Join me as I dine?  
Might you need a special diet,  
Or would bread be fine?

Gracious spider, noble spider,  
Do you care for wine?  
Every night I dine alone, please  
Be my valentine!



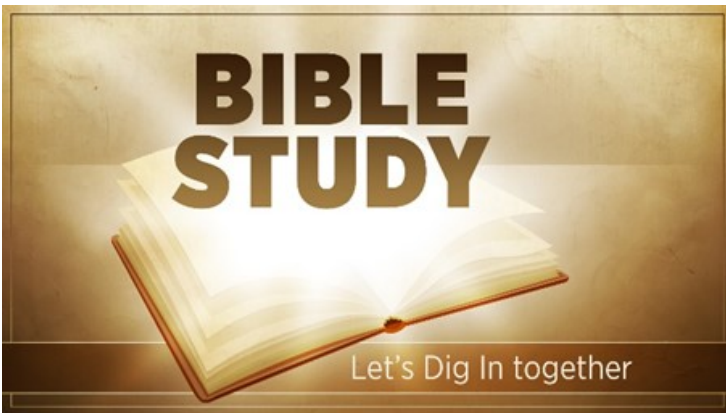


# Programs & Classes



## ***St. Mary's Weekly Bible Study***

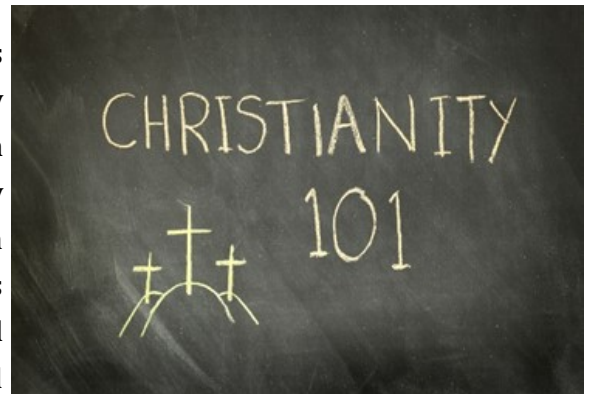
St. Mary's Sunday Morning Bible Study program has concluded for the summer and we hope everyone enjoys their summer travels and activities. In the fall, we will be moving our weekly bible study program to



Wednesday afternoons from 1:30 to 3pm. Our Bible Study program will be held in the Sunday School Room in Wrixon Hall and all are welcome. This program will run every Wednesday afternoon from September 25th until December 11th. We will continue to use the Synthesis CE program and monthly packages can be picked up any Sunday you are in church in the Narthex from our Sides people. No sign-up is needed, and all are welcome!

## ***Sunday Morning Education Programs***

As we have moved our Weekly Bible Study Program to Wednesdays for the fall, we have an opportunity to explore some new programming options at St. Mary's. We are considering an introduction to Christianity program, that would loosely follow some of the Alpha Course materials. The program would run from 9:15am to 10am and would consist of a variety of theological topics that would involve small presentations and then communal reflection and dialogue about the material. Depending on the level of interest, this program could start in October 2019. Please contact the office to sign-up or feel free to speak to Fr. Matthew if you have any questions.



*Prayer* is an important part of our lives. It centres us, lifts up to God needs and builds communities, seeking holier paths for all God's creation. Every 3rd Thursday afternoon during the year (*excluding the summer months*) St. Mary's Prayer Group holds their monthly meeting at the home of Barb and Neil Mann, just past the Mill Pond at 379 Sugar Maple Lane. This meeting is open to the entire congregation and is a time for any prayer needs within our community to be prayed for. This gathering is informal and is an

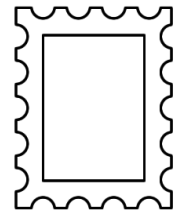
opportunity to gather and pray about: medical or spiritual needs for yourselves or loved ones, concerns facing our community or nation, environmental or creation needs and any other personal or private needs that are known to the group. If you would: like more information, like to participate or have any prayer needs, please contact Barb at (905) 884-4618.



# The Message

St. Mary's Anglican Church

10030 Yonge Street, Richmond Hill, ON Canada L4C 1T8  
(905) 884-2227



Throughout the year at St. Mary's, we augment our traditional 10:30 AM service with a number of special additions to enhance the life of worship at our church.

On four Sundays a year, St. Mary's offers Sung Choral Mattins from The Book of Common Prayer. This service (*also known as Morning Prayer*), was the main form of worship for generations in our faith tradition. It is a service without communion and consists of communal prayers that are sung, in addition to the traditional prayer routine of a standard Sunday Service. Morning Prayer will occur on the 4th Sundays of September, November, February and May at our 10:30 AM service. *Please join us these Sundays as you are able.*



**A Little Wind Music  
Upper Canada Brass**  
*in concert on*

**Friday, October 25th, 2019**

St. Mary's Anglican Church - 7:30 p.m.



**York Symphony Orchestra (YSO)**  
**Holiday Spectacular**

**Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

St. Mary's Anglican Church - 8:00 p.m.