



St. George's Church, Grafton

180th Anniversary Book

This is the second edition of the 175th Anniversary Book with additional stories for the 180th

**Written by the Congregation for the Congregation
Book idea by Bob Deane**

**Stories edited, compiled and formatted by Bob Deane, Valrie Cowling
and Eva Leca**



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There is no single Author of this book. It is a Book of Stories Written by Members of the Congregation for the Congregation in celebration of the St George's Church 175th Anniversary and the 180th Anniversary.

Published by St. George's Anglican Church

10792 County Road 2, Grafton, ON K0K 2G0, Canada

(905) 349-2873

Printed and bound in Brighton, Ontario by Willow Printing and Publishing Company

Available for download at www.stgeorgesgrafton.org/timeline.html

First Printing Edition, 2019

Second Printing Edition, 2024

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Foreword to the 175th Anniversary Edition

It is indeed my honour and my pleasure to present this 175th Anniversary book to the parishioners and friends of St. George's Church.

It is one of the blessings and also a highlight of my 35 years as a priest to be here at St. George's Anglican Church as your priest-in-charge as we prepare to celebrate the 175th anniversary of our little church in September of 2019. This celebration is not being done simply for pomp or splendour, but rather is a celebration of thanksgiving to God for our long-term ministry within this community by having continued to build on the efforts and foundation laid for us by our predecessors over the past 175 years. I admire the manner in which this is all coming together as a result of the hard work, the closeness, and the close-knit cooperation of our Pastoral Team, our Advisory Board Committee, our Wardens, and our Parishioners.

I came to St. George's Anglican Church in 2011. This was my first assignment as priest-in-charge of an Anglican church, and one that was a small rural church. Prior to arriving here, I was a Catholic priest who had served in many churches that were mainly large parishes. It was not an easy decision for me to leave the Catholic Church. As any change in life brings anxiety, concern, and uncertainty, I spent a long time in discernment, prayer, and trying to discover God's will for me.

But God works in mysterious ways. Sometimes what appears to be a misfortune can turn out to in fact be a blessing. This certainly turned out to be true in my case. The questions I had in my mind were quickly answered and my concerns resolved after Janina and I arrived at St. George's. We were immediately welcomed and warmly accepted by the Wardens, the Advisory Board, and the Parishioners.

It amazed me to rapidly discover how the parishioners of this small rural church were all like a small intimate family. I quickly learned everyone's name, their family information, where they lived, their current or past employment, their status and their needs. I found that, as in any family, there are differences, but I could also observe the practice of the message from Jesus to love and respect each other, as well as the generosity and willingness of everyone to help each other and to work together.

THE MOTTO of our church is:

"There is room for everyone in our home".

For spiritual needs, our Pastoral Team provides:

- Celebration of the Eucharist together every Sunday.
- Special services on special days.
- Baptisms, Weddings, and Funeral services.
- Every effort to Minister to the shut-ins, those who cannot come to worship, as well as visit the sick and dying and provide consolation to family members.

Besides our Spiritual Activities, I am delighted and impressed with the numerous other activities, programs, and Social Justice Outreach Programs that are also provided by our little church. There are basically three categories:

1. Those pertaining to our church and parishioners.
2. Those extending into our community.
3. Those that extending beyond our immediate community.

Some of the activities that we are able to accomplish together are:

- * The ongoing care and grass cutting of our grounds including our cemetery in respect of former parishioners, ancestors and community members at rest there.

- * The administration and rental of 2 rectory houses.
- * Prayer Shawls and Lambs of God knitted for sick and dying
- * Women meet for coffee every Tuesday morning.
- * Men meet for breakfast every Friday morning.
- * Soup Day open to community once per month.
- * Share the hosting of monthly Northumberland Community Care lunches with local churches & Legion.
- * St. George's Garden open for relaxation and meditation.
- * Monthly activities Messy Church open to community.
- * The completion of renovations to Canon Nind Church Hall and kitchen.
- * Increased use, activities and rental of renovated Church Hall.
- * For the past 40 years, we have co-shared the administration of Haldimand Court Apartments for seniors in Grafton with the Catholic and United churches of Grafton.

Completed or underway projects relative to our 175th anniversary in 2019:

- * Mosaic Art Hangings depicting St. George's Past – Present – Future.
- * A new St. George's parishioner's pictorial album.
- * A 175th Anniversary story book.
- * A new Electronic Sign installed on lawn to announce activities taking place in our church as well as other local churches, and also community events.
- * New organ installed in our church.
- * New Glass Doors to be installed at entrance to church.
- * Replacement of louvers in church tower.
- * Pavement of church parking lot.
- * The Floors in the church were redone with new shellac.
- * Painting of the church windows.
- * As a special 175th Anniversary Outreach Project beyond our community, we are joining together with other local churches and establishments to help fill a container with food products to

- help feed 30 to 35 needy Inuit families of Arviat in Nunavut for one full year. St. George's is supplying 300 jars of Peanut Butter.
- * Bishop's celebratory visit on September 15th.

As I prepare for my retirement from St. George's church at the end of August 2019, Janina and I wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to everyone that we have had the pleasure meeting here, and the honour of serving. You have one and all welcomed me and Janina beyond expectations. We feel that we were truly blended and integrated with you as part of the Christian family of St. George's.

In recognition of my ministry here and in consideration of the 175 years of Christian love and service at

St. George's church, I would like to leave behind as my legacy the wish that this ministry continues to flourish many years into the future and that we always remember and practice the words of Jesus who said, "*Love one another as I love you.*" Helping each other equals survival.

Until we meet again – Enjoy this book – May God Bless us all.

Fr. Ed Cachia

Priest in charge
St. George's Anglican Church
Grafton, Ontario

June 2019



Deacon Barbara's Story

When Fr. Ed and I first got to know each other about a dozen years ago, I remember thinking how much I would like to work with him if the opportunity ever arose. We shared a deep respect for each other's ministry. Eventually, both the timing and the opportunity arose, and I was very excited to contact him to inquire if the parish of St. George's just might benefit from having a deacon as part of the Pastoral Team, worshiping and working with them. We agreed to meet for discussion and the result of that meeting is how my husband and I came to be members of the family of faith at St. George's here in the hamlet of Grafton.

We received a warm welcome upon our very first visit and, as you read through other stories in this book, you will hear that echoed over and over again. This parish excels at hospitality and welcoming into its midst, friends and strangers alike. As I got to know better what St. George's was all about, I became more and more impressed by the creativity, the level of activity, the many ministries and activities that this little parish accomplishes. All of them in some way reflecting the love of God for this world.

St. George's is a smaller group than I have served in the past, however it did not take very long to discover its unique vibrancy made possible by the broad range of talents, skills, life experiences, and the spirit of encouragement and co-operation that is clearly the Gospel of Jesus in action today. While I cannot think of a place I would rather be than among this dedicated group of Christians, I look forward to what the future might hold for us and how the Holy Spirit may lead us into the challenges of tomorrow.

I pray daily for the continued life and ministry of St. George's here at Grafton and on the occasion of this 175 Anniversary I would like to congratulate the parishioners for their love of God and their dedication to ministry to their community and the wider world. I am truly blessed to be a part of it.

Peace and blessings to all.

Deacon Barbara Russell.
St. George's Anglican Church
Grafton, Ontario.

July 2019



An Open Door

My association as a Lutheran Pastor appointed to serve with Father Ed Cachia at St. George Anglican has not been a long one. Yet, I can assure you it is a deep one, due to the warm welcome that I received from so many. And I believe that my experience is no different from so many others who have been embraced by the people of this parish.

My first recollection of St. George's is attending the dedication of the newly constructed Canon Nind Hall. What struck me most were the glass doors that welcomed us into the foyer of the church, because they spoke to me of a parish that is open to anyone and everyone who might be in need of community. And I am happy to say I have not been disappointed since my first impression of this parish. Again and again, the openness of this parish and its people has amazed and encouraged me, whether through Messy Church, weekly Coffee Gatherings, the Men's Breakfast, and many other parish organized activities or get-togethers

It reminds me of the Book of Revelation, in which only one of the seven churches mentioned in the book is unconditionally praised, that being the church in Philadelphia. The reason for this commendation is because it is the "Church of the Open Door" where all are welcomed and where all are free to come and go!

In my mind, this now is, and has been the strength of the Parish of St. George's. For, through its life and its programs it has offered an open door to all who might enter, living out its motto is: *"There is room for everyone in our home"*.

With open hearts and minds, the members of this parish believe and practice this motto... offering an open door to all who might enter:

welcoming them to in the name of Christ, and inviting them to participate as they feel they are called to.

Pastor Jim Halmarson
July 2019



Why?

This is the story about a book, this book. In reality this is an open letter to the congregation of St. George's Church, a wonderful church family, who never fail to rise to the occasion, offer help where needed and provide a welcome to all who cross our threshold and do so much more. In this our 175th Anniversary Year you gave in spades.

This book was only part of a programme to celebrate our anniversary year. Sharon and her team had started in late 2018 to fund raise for an extraordinary mosaic to depict our present, past and future under a God figure looking down on us. To call this an ambitious project is an understatement, but well within the capabilities of St. George's team. The mosaic will greet us and future generations when it is hung, for all to see, on the wall facing the glass entry doors.

Now to the book. It was be late in December 2018 that Father Ed asked if I would could come up with some ideas to calibrate this our 175th anniversary year. Why me? I am known as the local historian; it is an interest for mine but I am very much an amateur. After a lot of thought I sold this very unconventional idea to the Church Advisory Board. Every twenty-five years is an anniversary year, looking back over the last two they were very conventional. This anniversary I was looking for full congregation participation in a book that would say who we are and what we do and this would leave a complete picture for future generations. Yes, it was a leap of faith. But leaps of faith are what we do. The Canon Nind Hall Renovation, the new organ, Sally's gift garden, and so much more. We don't talk things to death; we take faith and move forward. It is in our genes. 110 years ago, the Rev. Charles Brooks, looked at the fire blackened remains of the church. The easy decision would have been to just replace with a carbon copy of the old church, but he built for the future generations and so are we.

Unlike past anniversaries we are now firmly in the computer age, there are only two or three in the congregation that don't have email addresses. So following the story launch, each story was emailed for all to see. But first a big thanks to Pat McCoy and Karen Linkie, story writing is not a natural gift to most of the population, Pat and Karen helped those who asked and smoothed the rough edges in the stories for all of us.

There were no restrictions on what to write, some said what we do, some were stories were historical about the long history of our church, and many were about how and why we came to St. George's and what it means to us to be part of this our church family.

When you see this book, you know **We Did It**. I'm guessing it has never been done before. Confession time: it has been a lot of work and it certainly would not have happened except for all of you. Did I have any doubts that we would not arrive at this day? I had faith that we would end up with something, a glossy covered book was the top target. You, collectively little by little showed that we were on the right track, some natural hesitancy to start with but then a constant stream, with two or three stories email circulated per week. Then you were there for me with an email, or a quick comment on a Sunday, all pointed in the same direction, everyone was enjoying the stories and were waiting for more.

Also in this digital age we took the opportunity to digitally record our church archives, the earliest date was an 1835 letter. This was a daunting task and would not have happened had we not been blessed with Eva Leca among our church family, a real computer wiz.

We have a book, a digital archive, and another legacy we see will every time we open the doors to our church, the extraordinary mosaic which depicts who we are. Other legacies we are leaving to future generations are as important if not more so, a renovated Cannon Nind Hall and state of the art kitchen, a digital notice board outside, space we happily give to other churches and local organizations for their special events. A new

electronic organ, after 110 years the old original organ was beyond reasonable repair.

Pam and I are privileged to be part of a progressive church family - though it be small and rural - the changes that have occurred in the last twenty-five years are exceptional. Father Ed's foreword lists them and so much more as we celebrate our 175th Anniversary.

Thank you all, for writing the stories, it has been a privilege for me to compile them into this book.

God Bless our Church Family, Bob & Pam Deane



The St. George's Mosaic

My family and I moved from Calgary to Grafton ten years ago. After 17 years away we wanted to return to our Ontario roots and most importantly our families in Toronto. We bought a pretty 1870's farmhouse right in our little hamlet. I love historic buildings and architectural details, so the church across the street caught my eye. I was looking for community in our newly chosen hometown and since the Anglican teachings are pretty close to our Lutheran roots, I ventured into St. George's, where I was welcomed with open arms by everyone!

For the past 3 years I have been the "messy" part of Messy Church! I try to come up with creative fun art projects to support the teachings during our monthly Friday evening family church time. This is close to my heart as I have been an artist for as long as I can remember and have spent my entire adult professional life making art. For the past 20 years I have worked in mosaics, creating whimsical art pieces using recycled materials like china, pottery, tile, stained glass, beads, buttons, forks, typewriter keys.... I teach workshops in my studio, inspire young artists in local schools and show my work in galleries and exhibitions.

I am so humbled to have been given the task of creating a mosaic art piece that will become a permanent part of the church entrance and will honour the history of the parish and its vibrant congregation.

After quite a bit of research, which was expertly curated by Bob Deane and Eva Leca, it became clear to me that the design for the art work was defined by the history of the parish, the actual building and the people, both the church leaders and the community of parishioners. The mosaic would consist of three panels, one larger one in the center with two smaller ones on each side.

The first panel on the left hand side depicts the first church, a wooden structure built in 1844 through the community spirit that started the parish. Even though this was during a time of hardship, making a life on a homestead in Canada was not easy, everyone pitched in. Someone donated the land, someone else gave the lumber from their property, others had building or woodworking skills, and women embroidered a beautiful altar cloth and also held strawberry teas to raise funds. Unfortunately this church burned down after 64 years of services in 1908 and the parishioners were forced to move towards the future, the new church in the center mosaic panel.

The current church was built in 10 months (unbelievable today, never mind 110 years ago!) opened in 1909 with a bell tower with battlements and gothic-style buttresses and windows. The Canon Nind Hall was built in 1970 but has been witness to many gatherings of the congregation and the greater community. Heading into the church are all the people who make up the church family. Leading everyone into Sunday Services is the Priest, representing all current and past church leaders including Pastors, Reverends and Deacons, carrying the Chalice for the Holy Eucharist. The “Holy Rollers” are ready to roll out pie dough for the Thanksgiving sale, someone is carrying a soup tureen and baguettes for soup day, a lady is bringing a quilt to work on during coffee hour, kids and their parents are juggling craft projects created during Messy Church, fresh eggs are donated for the men’s breakfast which of course includes Wickie, the dog, as well as his other four-legged friends, a little girl is waving a Canada flag in anticipation of riding on the St. George’s float for the Canada Day Parade.

Jesus stands above the church and his people, leading the way.

The last panel to the right shows St. John’s Anglican Church in Centreton and Trinity Anglican Church in Colborne, the first having been demolished and the later deconsecrated in 2012. From these parishes, the congregations migrated to join St. George’s in Grafton but were also joined by people who moved to Northumberland from the city, other areas and provinces who are all walking towards the center panel, the

current church, it's beautiful historic building, it's caring leaders and community of spirited people who will insure that this parish keeps on thriving for another 175 years.

Not only will this mosaic visualize St. George's and it's community but it will also include actual artifacts donated by members of the congregation. A piece of a golden tea cup belonging to Joan Stover and Karen Linkies's mom was used to create the chalice, a collector spoon from Grafton donated by Diane Morrison will be part of the tower vent, a delicate antique tea cup from Janina Cachia's family contributes to a parishioner's blouse and a necklace with a fancy cross, out of a box of donations from Colleen and Dave Wright, will be the focal point cross on the mosaiced church. Many other wonderful treasures have found their way into my studio including bags of fancy buttons, a ceramic bell, tile left over from the hall renovation and lots more!

As I write this, the mosaic is still evolving, a constant process of finding the right pieces and shaping the materials to create the vision in my head. When it is installed in the church entrance, I invite you to stand back and take in the full image and then please step closer to find all the little treasures hidden within, maybe some of them will be yours.

Story by Anja Hertle



St. George's Fund Raising for our 175th Anniversary

In 2017, with the completion of *OUR FAITH OUR HOPE* donations to the diocese, a fundraising committee was established to complete our renovations. It was decided that grey envelopes would be included with the weekly envelopes for the members of the Community to use and designate what project they would like to support.

Three projects were identified—an LED sign to advertise services and events happening at the Church; new glass doors at the top of the entrance to the Church and an emergency generator in case of hydro being out for a lengthy period of time to provide heat and electricity for seniors especially at Haldimand Court. Very shortly after the project began money from a private donor paid for the sign. The money for the doors was raised. The generator was no longer needed due to the County's emergency plan in housing seniors, therefore those funds were distributed to other projects as requested by the donor.

With the 175 Anniversary of St. George's Church the Committee again set a \$10,000.00 goal for the celebrations of 175 years. A mosaic to depict our history was commissioned and the Wardens also set other projects. Some other fundraising projects ensued such as the Silent Auction and Car Trunk sale. The generosity of the members has made fund raising an enjoyable venture.

With the installation of the sign there have been many events advertised. There are pages on that are on permanently such as time of weekly service, Ministers that are in service, and contact information for the cemetery and Canon Nind Hall rental. The use of the sign was offered to the other churches in the area. They have all taken advantage of the sign and advertised their events. There have been other events also posted on the sign, such as the Grafton Horticultural Society has announced

their meetings. The newest inclusion is the information on the Roseneath Carousel hours of operation. The sign was installed for the benefit of the whole community of Grafton and area and has been very well received.

Sharon O'Connor



The New Organ

In 2018 the corporation began the difficult task of looking at the restoration of the organ. Estimates on repairing came in at \$25,000 in 2016 with no guarantees that it would hold a tune. With escalating costs, it could now be upwards of \$35,000 with ongoing maintenance of over \$1,000 each year to keep it tuned.

In Norma's absence for knee surgery, Neil Blackwell filled in and was spending hours to improvise around keys and pedals that were faulty. He was rewriting the score.

At Synod there were discussions over their declining revenues which were expected to decline even further going forward. "Our future is clear in that we will not be able to be dependent on freewill offerings of folks for the ministry of the Church" (The Anglican).

It was in this environment that a decision had emerged. The Incumbent and the Wardens had a responsibility not only under the Canons-but to future generations to not only honour our inheritance but to consider the as yet unknown needs of future generations. With no large donor in the wings, we proceeded.

The mixture of sadness and nostalgia was truly palpable. There was nothing easy or light about the decision. Ron Watters was asked to explore the alternative with the instructions:

- * to begin with a budget of \$6500.00
- * organ pipes and basic appearance were not to be altered
- * the new organ could be essentially a replacement keyboard
- * determine what other instruments were available (in thirty years the digital industry had come a long way)

Putting the leather to the pavement a six-month process of serious elimination began with the consulting of organists, experts, other churches, the website and dealers. One never knows what one doesn't know. We primarily examined Roland, Nord which only came in bright red and Yamaha. In the end Yamaha Clavinova CVP 709, the top of the line won hands down - used by the Ontario College of Music and Oscar Peterson to compose his music.

Shasta Morey-our local musician and band leader introduced us to the Clavinova line which she graciously demonstrated at St. Andrew's United. She directed us to Pinnacle Music in Belleville. Pinnacle gave us by far the best price and conditions-thank you Shasta.

We obtained all the features of the 709GP which was listed at \$23,729.00 including tax in a slimmer profile and the dark walnut furniture finish we required. Our final cost after the tax rebate and the reduction of our allotment fee to the Diocese-\$6,359.98 with no maintenance or tuning costs for a minimum of 5 years and less expensive insurance.

The features on the 709 are almost limitless:

- * the piano body resonates like an acoustical instrument
- * a graded hammer wooden keyboard that offers the superb touch of a Grand
- * the real piano sounds of Yamaha or Bosendorfer Grand
- * organ voices in Church, Chamber, Theatre and Pipe
- * bells for the tower-background voices in choral, violin and full orchestra-to mention a few
- * the ability to be programmed similar to a player piano.

At Roseneath, they did not have someone to play their organ and Mark Wagschal, a retired Lutheran minister who attends St. Peter's was programming their organ to play for a month at a time using a computer. This feature is built into our unit. Mark graciously offered to help us with this feature for use by our choir.

There was a challenge or two-when we went to remove the existing organ, we found that the oak paneling was supported by the organ and realized how conservative our restoration estimate had been....

In the words of Sally Hicks who was a great moral support:

*“We found it was held together:
with rocks and socks
and dead mice, not nice
which made us think we made a good choice”.*

David’s Wright’s group reinforced the structure and Shawn Hogan, a carpenter but more an artist constructed a beautiful matching new front panel.

Valerie Cowling stepped forward to provide the oak lumber and a donation in memory of her late husband Dick to cover the costs of the organ restoration work. And then there was Tony Mancktelow, a retired High School music teacher who took a keen interest and nudged us to buy the higher end unit with a substantial contribution-we did and so did he!

We are blessed to have at St. George’s a group which I refer to as ‘Friends of St. George’s’. Folks with big hearts who although they do not attend our Church are there to support us. I would like to believe that it has to do with the Halo effect of the outreach we do in our community.

Dave Compton is one of these individuals who has been providing his expertise and labour as a Gift to St. George’s-in the wiring, purchasing our projector, camera and sound system-a huge project. In addition, he brought his close friend Ian Morton, an internationally known organist. He magnanimously offered to vet the new instrument. On delivery he played each of the organ voices for a major part of the afternoon and gave us the go ahead.

Following Ian, Michael Loerich took over the new organ. She would be playing it while Neil was away. She was ecstatic over the quality of our acquisition. Her fresh infectious exuberance was a high point of our day.

We began this journey with a certain heaviness of heart. We conclude on a much loftier note. Through the unselfish efforts of many we have been graced with a superb addition that should serve our inheritors for decades.

Ron Watters



Doors Open 2019 at St. George's Anglican Church, Grafton

St. George's was honoured to be chosen as a 2019 Doors Open Ontario site in Northumberland County. The church and hall were open to the public for six hours on Saturday, 1 June, and for four hours on Sunday, 2 June 2019, after the end of regular Sunday morning worship and the annual Decoration Day ceremony in St. George's cemetery.

A total of 99 visitors stopped in over the two days – a figure of which to be proud! Other churches in Grafton that had taken part in previous Doors Open events had received fewer visitors.

Why did people drop by St. George's?

Several visitors said that they had often driven by the church and admired it but had never been inside. Others were church people, including some Anglicans from near and far, who were interested in churches in general. Some visitors were simply following the Doors Open map and stopping at all the sites! A few people had stopped at the Art Salad art show and sale just down the road and had seen the St. George's 175th anniversary triptych being created by Anja Hertle and so dropped by to see the real church!

What interested people about our church building?

The historical documents on display at the entrance to the church caught people's attention. They were amazed to read and handle the original tenders for the work to build the current church building in 1909. These documents were borrowed for the event from St. George's archives.

A few people asked about the organ after noticing the organ pipes. Amongst these visitors were several current and former organists.

The stained glass windows were a hit with many visitors! The sunshine both days was just right: it brought out the rich colours and details of the windows. Two questions came up several times. Were any of the current windows saved from the first church? And were the windows designed and made by McCausland in Toronto? There are indications that the windows above the altar were not made for the current church; one can speculate that they might have come from the first church. It turns out that five of our stained glass windows are McCausland windows, although only one, the newest, is signed. The origin and maker of the remaining windows remain a mystery.

Did any questions stump the hosts?

Research on the stained glass had been done and documented in 2008 (by parishioner Robert [Bob] Deane), so the hosts were prepared for questions about the windows! Answers to a few questions on other topics, though, were elusive! A number of eagle-eyed visitors noticed a key hanging on a plaque next to the inner doors of the church. What was the key for? Excellent question! Long-time parishioner Steve Bates provided the answer at the end of worship on Sunday: it is the key to the original doors of the church!

Are any of the liturgical furnishings or furniture original to the first church? Except for the prayer book used by the parish's first rector, Rev. John Wilson, it is thought that no artifacts from the pre-1909 church building remain. However, one visitor suggested that the little prayer desk bench on which the priest sits in the chancel might be from the original church, given that furniture of this distinctive and rare type of wood tends to be 100 to 150 years old.

And finally, what makes this church visibly an Anglican church? Another good question! While many Church of England or Anglican churches have some representation of the royal coat of arms on display, as a

reminder that the British monarch is titular head of the Anglican Church, there is no such plaque at St. George's. However, it turns out that the buttresses and chancel arch are features of Victorian Era Anglican churches.

Reflections on hosting the event

Hosting Doors Open at St. George's was an exciting and enjoyable learning experience! It became clear quickly that hosting was not a "one-way street": the information flow was a two-way street, with visitors providing complementary information on various church-related subjects.

Volunteer engagement is essential to hosting. Some 10 volunteers collaborated to make our first-ever Doors Open a success: hosts in the church; people who provided refreshments to visitors in the hall both days and who chatted with the visitors; and the set-up and cleaning crew. The yard and cemetery were at their best, thanks to Decoration Day preparations.

Of course, various Doors Open administrative tasks, including ensuring appropriate insurance coverage, demanded time, attention, and timely follow-up in the months preceding the event. While some visitors completed their own Doors Open questionnaire at the end of their visit, most of the information was collected informally, by chatting with the folks who came.

Bolstered by the dedication of parish volunteers and by the positive reactions of visitors, St. George's would be delighted to host a future Doors Open event!

Story submitted by Margaret and Reid Ryerson
on behalf of St. George's Doors Open Volunteers



St. George's Church 175th Anniversary Special Outreach Project

At our St. George's Church Vestry Meeting on February 17, 2019, we adopted a Social Justice Motion along with a lengthy list of our Outreach Activities to support this motion, including a special Outreach Project to commemorate of our 175th anniversary this year, 2019.

St. George's Church Outreach Activities basically fall into three categories: Those that are mainly for the parishioners of our church; those that extend to include the people within our community; and those that are remote and extend beyond our local area.

St. George's Church Motto:

"The Hub of the Community"

"There is room for everyone in our house"

Our Special 175th Anniversary Outreach Project

We are proudly participating in a special outreach activity to provide a container filled with food items that will be sent from Grafton to Arviat, Nunavut, with enough food to help feed 30 to 35 needy Inuit families who live in Arviat for one whole year.

Arviat is an isolated hamlet on the coast of Hudson Bay with a population of approximately 2800 people. It is north of the tree line, with no roads connecting it to other communities. Everything that comes in arrives either by ship or by aircraft. People there mainly fish and hunt on the land for their sustenance.

Background of Our 175th Anniversary Special Project

The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grafton initiated and is coordinating this project. A master list of appropriate food items and quantities needed was compiled. Contributors were solicited from Grafton and surrounding areas. Each contributor selected the items and quantity that they wished to donate from the master list. The success of this project is reflective of the inter-denominational support between the local churches in Grafton as well as the strong support received from local and surrounding area establishments and organizations.

Two local coordinators are travelling to Arviat to assure a proper Food Bank and distribution system is established for the administration and distribution of this food arriving for the needy families.

Summary of Our 175th Anniversary Special Project

- * We at St. George's Church are contributing 300 - 750 gram jars of brand name peanut butter.
- * The Container itself, it's transportation from Grafton to Montreal, and its shipment from Montreal to Arviat have all been donated.
- * Each contributor will store their contribution inside until delivery time to load into the container.
- * The students of St. Mary's School in Grafton may be painting the container with suitable artwork.
- * June 2019: The container arrived at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Grafton.
- * September 1, 2019: The container is scheduled to leave Grafton by truck for the port of Montreal.
- * September 7, 2019: The container is scheduled to leave Montreal by ship for Arviat, Nunavut.

(Very small window of opportunity to deliver the container to Arviat after thaw but before freeze)

The container should arrive in Arviat around Thanksgiving time.

With Christian love, prayers and God's blessings, we will be able to accomplish all of our outreach activities, including this special 175th anniversary project, and continue to help those in the future who are less fortunate than us both locally as well as those who exist beyond the boundaries of our own community.

Story by Patrick McCoy



222nd Anniversary Year

We must not forget the Christian Families who settled the Grafton area, and 43 years later built the first Church of England, St. George's of Grafton.

Firstly digress, Pastor Jim tells the story of the Icelandic community that settled in the Gimli area of Manitoba, their first primitive church was built on the second day of their arrival in 1875. There are many differences between the settlers of Grafton and Gimli, the latter was a cohesive group including a minister. In Grafton, just the opposite.

The first settlers in Grafton, in 1797, were not Empire Loyalists; correction, there were four or five second generation Loyalist families moving in from the family farms of Loyalist Quinte Island and further east. This area was settled by Americans mostly looking for free land, some were disgruntled with the new government of the new Republic and some were just adventurers who arrived here by chance. They originated from all over the New England States and had little or no relationship to each other.

Here, when they arrived, there was already a civil structure; the land had been surveyed the previous year and anyone arriving could lay claim to a free 200 acre lot (second generation Loyalists did get more land). It took many years for the settlers to become a cohesive group; the first evidence of this was the naming of Grafton in 1835.

There is no doubt that these settlers would have had a strong Christian faith, although over many different denominations and different ethnic origins. The first church in Grafton was built in 1824...a Baptist Church in Wicklow just east of Grafton. It burned to the ground on June 18, 1986; a memorial chapel now stand where the original church once stood. St.

George's was erected in 1844 and St. Andrews a month or two later in 1844, the Wesleyan Methodist Meeting Hall (just north of the Town Hall) in 1856 and St. Mary's in 1875. During all these years, there were travelling priests and informal services held in private homes. School buildings came before churches but almost immediately, services were held in these building by lay preachers until, in our case, the Rev. A.N. Bethune began travelling out from Cobourg most Sundays. Our schoolhouse was about where the gardening shed now sits but it was demolished in 1849, five years after our church was built.

Our graveyard holds an answer to what happened before the churches were built. The first gravestone is dated 1815, nearly thirty years before our church was built. Each farm family would have had its own burial ground and ours was started by the Rogers Family who would eventually donate all the land that is now St. George's Grafton. In this area, cemeteries did not come into existence until the 1820-40's. The Township looks after six abandoned cemeteries; five of them are community cemeteries and not affiliated to any one church. These are the ancestors of our church family. Eventually, they did come together to build a church in 1844 under the guidance of the Rev. Bethune, and on land donated by James McGregor Rogers UE (Unity of the Empire) born 1764, Dunbarton New Hampshire. James M. Rogers died in 1841 in Grafton.

Bob Deane



Ann Raymond's Story

In this the 175th anniversary of St. George's Church, it is an ideal time to reflect on how we arrived at this moment. I grew up in this community and attended St. Andrew's United Church on a regular basis for many years. Many years later, when we were preparing to be married, Dick announced that he had made a promise, when he was in public school, to Rev. Percival Knight that he would be married at St. George's. As I had grown up in the community and knew most of those attending St. George's I agreed to be married there. The first time I attended St. George's with Dick, early in 1972, I was very disappointed in the fact that I was made to feel like a stranger. There was no warm welcome, nice to see you, glad you are going to be married here. However, we were married and our reception was held in the Canon Nind Hall. On numerous occasions I have walked down the aisle and wondered how I evolved from that first encounter into the person I am today.

Continuing My Story

We did not attend church on a regular basis until 1980. The Rev. Donald Belway was the incumbent. Donald invited himself for a visit late in the fall of 1980. He was on a mission to find someone to take over as treasurer from Sadie Brown. It was hard to refuse Donald anything he wanted. So Don Hare delivered a box of books, in December 1980, with the comment "*Remember the Lord Doth Provide*". Don was absolutely correct. From 1981 to date, we have finished every year in the black. We would review our financial situation periodically throughout the year and if the bank account looked low, we hosted another dinner. Some years we did not see black until December 31st.

I have reflected back to our 150th Anniversary, September 1994, when it was decided that we would paint the interior of the church as a way of honouring our past. At that time the walls were a cold, steel grey colour. We had recently installed good, well used carpet from MacCourbey Funeral Home in Cobourg. The acquisition of the carpet is a story on its own. We consulted with an interior decorator and chose the colour we now have. I personally believe that the attitude in the church changed with the new paint colour. We were now a bright, inviting place. You actually felt warmer when you entered.

In 1995, when Stephen Bates and Harry Bates were Wardens, it was decided to continue the upgrading of our facility. The exterior of the Canon Nind Hall was painted (its current colour), all the windows and doors were replaced and the interior of the hall was painted.

I was elected People's Warden in 1997 and continued in that position until I was appointed Rector's Warden, by Mary Ryback, in 2008. Over the past 11 years I have served with a number of incumbents.

June 1st, 1999, Stephen and I stood on the front lawn of the church and watched a fire at the rectory being extinguished. That is another upgrade and re-decorate story.

It would appear that we have been continually upgrading and improving our facility since 1994. This all happened because we became a hardworking, caring, loving family. A family looks after their home and each other.

Story by Ann Raymond



"Can't Believe This Is a Cake"

Everybody at St. George's brings something with them to the family. As a retired electrical contractor/carpenter/farmer I thought perhaps I would be able to help around our church by keeping the lights on and the breakers from tripping. However, it turned out to be my sweet tooth and my baking pans that ended up being my contribution to the life of this Parish.

It began in a very small way with a "themed" dessert for Messy Church. The planning group agreed a cake would appeal to the children and if it embodied some aspect of the teaching moment of the day that would be even better. So I made a shooting star cake. It did the trick! The children, and the adults, ate it up, with extra pieces going home to family members who were unable to join us.

Well, as the Messy Church crowd got bigger, so did the cakes. Sometimes it takes two of us to get the 50+ pound cakes up the stairs from the lower kitchen, into the vehicle and then to the parish hall. And as children continue to come and grow in their sense of belonging to our church, our themes have developed and became more and more interesting. Needless to say the cakes had to keep up, so my construction experience, and tools, has come in handy when embodying Bible stories and themes in cake. So far we have eaten up—Moses parting the Red Sea; Jonah being spit up on the beach by a "big fish"; the flight of Jesus, Mary and Joseph to Egypt; the giving tree, a globe, an advent wreath, and several others. So as long as children and adults too, continue to like sweet things, and we are able to get them up the staircase and into the car; at St. George's we will have cake. Just one more benefit provided by Messy Church is that it allows us to have our cake and eat it too.

Story by Gary Russell



The Closure of Trinity Anglican Church in Colborne

As I write this article for the 175th Anniversary of St. George's Anglican Church in Grafton, it has caused a re-awakening of so many memories of my life in the church both here at St. George's in Grafton and also at Trinity in Colborne. I hope you can glean a small tidbit from my words.

This is written in honoured memory all those people who loved Trinity Church and spent many hours there.

I am a once-and-again member of the congregation here at St. George's. My earlier years were here. I am on the baptismal roles here. If you walk the hallowed grounds behind this beautiful building, you will see the names of many of my family members who are resting there. My parents were married here, and all 7 of us were baptized at the little font here.

About the time that we started school, we began attending church at Trinity in Colborne. It was a very active church with a full choir, a Sunday School, Ladies Aid, Junior Auxiliary and later AYPAs (AYMs). There were two services Sunday morning, evening vespers, and a Wednesday morning service that kept our presiding minister busy.

My parents were sextons there for many years. My father became a lay-reader, Young People's leader, and took over Sunday School when Mr. Sheldrick stepped down. It was a very busy church. We all participated in making sure that the annual pancake supper and turkey dinner were hugely successful. During the 1960's, our young people put on folk masses and were joined by the entire congregation.

But then things changed. Our numbers dwindled as our young people moved on and the older ones passed on. Gradually it came to the time when we had very few, if any children in attendance. Sadly, they were our future, but they were no longer there. Gradually our congregation

dwindled further as the older members passed on, to the point that we could no longer maintain our beloved Trinity Church.

I recall the bishop telling us in her sermon that this was just a building. It was much more than that to us. It was a sacred place beloved by those of us that filled it. It held memories of Maude, Jessie, Ivy, Cecil and Gail, and many others singing in the choir. It was where I was married, following the reading of the bans. My babies and my grand babies were baptized at the beautiful font there. There was a lifetime of worship within those walls that held all of those precious stained glass windows. The organ resounding throughout on a Sunday morning. The ringing of the church bell. Life beginning, life lived, life passing. No, it never was just a building.

We received the dreaded news that our church would close. Anger and heartache echoed among our members. Nothing could be done. It had been decided by stronger powers. All of our records, Baptismal, Confirmation, Weddings, Funerals as well as Financial are now housed in the archives of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto.

The beloved church now stands stark and still, windows boarded, organ silent, awaiting its fate. Awaiting whatever someone who never felt the love within those walls, the clatter in the kitchen, the children's voices, the bells ringing, now decides what to do with it.

So, where do we go now? For me the choice was easy. Go home to the church that saw my beginnings. The church where once my auntie Nancy played the organ, the choir resounded with the voices, aunts, uncles, and cousins. The church where my beloved grandparents Ron and Rose Bates attended. Saint George's Church in Grafton.

I am thankful for the opportunity and privilege of putting my feelings on paper and recorded in the records of the 175th anniversary of St. George's Church.

Story by Cathie Prentice Edison



The Community Care Diner's Dinners at St. George's Church

Community Diners Dinner events are part of the services provided by the Community Care office in Colborne. These dinners were started to provide seniors with a regular monthly nourishing dinner at a reasonable cost, as well as an outing with the opportunity to socialize with other local seniors as well. The first of these dinners in our area began in Colborne in approximately 2010 or 2011. The dinners in Colborne were well attended. Diners Dinners for seniors were so successful and the attendees included so many from Grafton that it was decided to explore the possibility of moving the dinners to Grafton.

In the fall of 2011, representatives of St. George's Anglican Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Eddystone Baptist Church and St. Andrew's United Church met in the Haldimand Court Apartments Common Room to discuss if we were in a position to start sponsoring Diner's Dinners on a rotational basis in the Grafton area. The host provides a nourishing dinner at noon for the seniors who attend, and the participants pay the modest amount of \$10.00 to attend the dinner.

On February 16th, 2012, St. George's hosted the first Dinner in Grafton. In the original schedule, we would host once every three months with no dinners in July and August. In 2017, it was further decided that we would not host a dinner in December due to the fact that a number of other service club have special events for seniors.

Also in 2017, due to circumstances St. Mary's Church had to withdraw their participation to host these dinners. This created more work and events for the remaining churches. In order to alleviate this, the Grafton Legion Ladies Auxiliary were approached to see if they would be willing to participate with these dinners along with the two remaining churches in Grafton. They readily agreed.

So, here we are in 2019 with this activity for seniors in our community still going strong and fitting in well to reinforce our slogan that “There is room for everyone in our church”.

Ann Raymond



**The Reverend Dr. Thomas Reagh Millman, B.A.,
M.A., L.Th., B.D., Ph.D., D.D.**

The tenure of the late Reverend Dr. Thomas Millman may have been brief, but his interest in the parish was life-long.

Ordained deacon in 1933 and priest in 1934, Dr. Millman served as curate of Grafton and Centreton from 1933 to 1935, after which he moved to Montréal to continue his university studies. In his spare time while in Grafton, he wrote “The Story of St. George’s Church”, the first definitive history of the parish, which was published in 1935.

Vividly interested in history, especially the history of the Anglican Church in Canada, Mr. Millman became a leading historian of the Anglican Church and published numerous articles and books on various aspects of church history. He catalysed the inauguration of the historical library and archives of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada in Toronto and served as national General Synod Archivist from 1954 to 1975.

He also had an interest in personal histories, not just institutional history. During his retirement years in Toronto, he was known to return to St. George’s cemetery to conduct research on people buried there. At the conclusion of his visit, he would enter the church – unlocked in those days – and sign the guest book.

At the parish level, Mr. Millman was remembered as a gentle, generous, smiling, soft-spoken man with whom people felt at ease. At the national level, he was a highly regarded priest, scholar, teacher, and church historian.

In September 1989, on the occasion of St. George’s 145th anniversary, Mr. Millman was guest speaker at the anniversary celebrations. He was

invited to return for the 150th anniversary celebrations. In declining to attend these celebrations, as a guest speaker, due to ill health, Mr. Millman wrote: "At the time of the celebration, ... you may wish to convey to the congregation my congratulations at having attained such an honourable age and my continuing interest in its welfare."

Mr. Millman passed away shortly after the parish's 152nd anniversary, in 1996, at age 91. He was buried next to his wife in Irishtown, PEI, near his birthplace of Kensington. In the 1980s, a heritage road running through the Millman family property in Irishtown became the first in PEI to be designated a scenic heritage road. Dr. and Mrs. Millman's tombstone overlooks this historic Millman Road.

Story by Margaret Ryerson



The Faithful Easter Lily

For over 75 years, a large Easter lily in bloom has turned up at St. George's church in time for Easter Sunday service. A mystery? No, there is no mystery, just a tale of devotion and faithfulness!

Alexander Smith and his wife Bertha (née Orrock) moved to Grafton from Western Canada in the mid-1920s. With them came their three children, Marion, Orrock, and Max, who were all less than 10 years old. The family settled first in Shelter Valley, then moved to Gully Road, and finally to Bonney Blink near Finlay Road. The children attended public school in Grafton and area, including Gully Road school. Max, the youngest child, also attended a year at Hare Public School, the building that now houses the Royal Canadian Legion.

Bertha was a woman of faith, a staunch Anglican from birth who would have loved to have been ordained deacon in the church. At that time, though, the diaconate was not open to women! Alexander and Bertha became parishioners of St. George's and ensured that their children attended Sunday School. Indeed, Marion and Max appear in the 1933 photo of Sunday School teachers and students taken by the then-rector, Rev. Deering.

Alexander and Bertha died in Grafton in 1942, within a month of each other. At Easter time 1943, with Marion, Orrock, and Max (Orrock and Max served in the armed forces during WW2) no longer in the Grafton area, a neighbour of the Smith family, a Mrs. Burgess, ensured that flowers were placed in memory of Alexander and Bertha at St. George's, knowing that the three children would want that. Mrs. Burgess also sent Orrock a letter – which he kept his entire life – telling him what she had done. After the end of the war, Orrock assumed responsibility for placing

flowers in memory of his parents each Easter, specifying an Easter lily. Thus the tradition of the annual memorial lily was born.

While they did not live in Grafton as adults, Marion, Orrock, and Max all retained a connection to Grafton and to St. George's. Marion married and lived the rest of her life in Hamilton. However, she kept in touch by postal mail with a friend from St. George's, Maggie Prentice, until her own death in 1992 (Maggie outlived her by 11 years). Maggie was not only a stalwart of St. George's but also, for a number of years, the postmistress in Grafton.

After leaving the air force in 1945, Orrock studied at the Guelph Agricultural College. He became a teacher and lived and taught in Aurora, where he raised his family. Despite the distance, Orrock brought his children to Grafton and to St. George's throughout their formative years, to show them where he and his family had lived and worshipped.

Max, a Cobourg resident, and with Orrock attended numerous Strawberry Suppers at St. George's. Max was known and remembered for unfailingly going into the kitchen at the end of his meal and thanking all the ladies for their hard work and dedication and for the delicious fruits of their labours! Max made donations in memory of his parents until his death in 1993. Orrock also attended Easter Day service at St. George's from time to time, during his retirement years. Orrock attending his last supper in 1999, two years prior to his death.

To Orrock in particular, Grafton was home. Regardless of where he lived. And St. George's was the only church in which the Easter lily in memory of his parents could be placed. His loyalty to his family, his respect for his parents, his sense of place, and his sense of community kept him coming back to Grafton and to St. George's.

Orrock's daughter, Ruth Ann Bishop, assumed responsibility for ordering the Easter lily prior to her father's death in 2001 and still maintains the tradition. Seemingly unfazed by the minimum two-hour one-way drive to Grafton from her home, Ruth Ann still attends special services at St. George's when she can. She has several times in recent years turned up

for the Good Friday service, after which she has been able to see for herself the magnificent memorial lily that she ordered weeks before from Quinn's florist in Cobourg!

And how does the lily find its way into the church? Until 1996, the florist delivery person was able to stroll into the church any day during Holy Week and deposit the offering, as the church was left unlocked. Once the church had to be kept locked outside of service times, for security reasons, the lily could no longer be delivered to the church. For over 20 years parishioner Margaret Ryerson has picked up the huge lily, kept it at her home for a few days, then delivered it to the church. Depending on the weather and the state of the buds, she keeps the lily either cool or warm, so that its first blooms will open for Easter Sunday morning. A complementary tale of devotion and faithfulness!

The Smith family appreciates the warm sense of community that is always felt at St. George's Church as well as the support and respect for the families who laid the foundation for the parish.

Submitted by: Margaret Ryerson and Ruth Ann Bishop



Letter to the Future Parishioners

Dear future parishioner of St. George's Church in Grafton

Our parish celebrates its 175th year of existence in 2019 and many of the members of our little community wrote stories of their experience and life in the parish to be remembered.

I can't write such a story, being the newest member, only coming to celebrate mass (and other activities) here less than 2 years ago. So, "my story" is about why I joined.

I am involved with the cataloging and digitizing of the historical documents of the church and parish and discovered the people - and their stories - who lay the foundation of this community 175 years ago and I sincerely hope that our stories will resonate with people 175 years from now just as well.

I was born in East Europe (a minority Hungarian in Romania) and faced some hardship and adversity in my youth; religion was always present in my life but it came to a point when I stopped going to church and I felt that "religion" in general should be a private matter, one can pray and love God without any organized church.

It was December 1989. There were the darkest days of Romania's dictatorship, food shortages, power outages, hopelessness, and fear of the "Securitate" (secret police), total social and economic collapse. I also faced the disintegration of my marriage after 6 years and the hard choice of facing divorce (a time when the Catholic Church in which I was baptized had no understanding or solace to offer).

My personal despair was echoed in the collective one: we had enough and after the forced eviction of a Reformat Calvinist priest in Timișoara, the spark ignited, and the Revolution began. I followed the many thousands who gathered every day, late into the night, in protest and demonstration, demanding the end of tyranny; some were killed during the night, and chaos engulfed the city for days. The city became isolated, no news was coming in or going out, we had no idea that the entire communist bloc is falling apart, we thought we are alone; we were afraid, but determined, ready to die.

On the morning of 20th December, the Patriarch of the city's Orthodox Cathedral started to pray the Lord's Prayer and tens of thousands of people knelt in prayer. The sun came out over the cathedral – record warm weather for a winter day. After all the chanting, shouting, cries and anguish, a calm hush descended over the huge square, something changed, a transformation engulfed all of us, believer and non-believer alike. Hope was in the air.





It was a unique experience and solidified into a lifelong memory for me: the power of shared faith, the desperate cry for help from the loving God; Faith held in common; Faith transformative.

Three days later, after a botched public speech by the dictator Ceaușescu in Bucharest (Romania's capital city), that was broadcast to millions of Romanians on state television, the population of the capital revolted too and Ceaușescu had to flee. He was hunted down and executed on national television on Christmas Day, together with his wife.

This was not the Christian spirit we embraced in Timișoara just days earlier and it was the end of the Revolution for me. Next year – after the first free elections failed to deliver real change – I've decided to leave Romania.

I immigrated to Canada. I met the love of my life. We raised three children, bought our dream home in Northumberland forest, built three businesses. We were very happy, we were planning early retirement.

One summer morning my husband woke up happy as always, his breathing became ragged and he took his last breath due to a massive cardiac arrest.

The disbelief of the following days in which I lived – and still live sometimes – was paralyzing: he was the picture of health, larger than life, full of stories always (about growing up in a remote mountain village in the Carpathian Mountains and being mentored by a monk from Mount Athos, or being a doctor in an abjectly poor Romanian village and later in a high-tech hospital in Germany, or with Doctors Without Borders in the first Afghan war, or explaining to the kids the values of humanist and Christians philosophy) – how is it possible that he is no more in the blink of an eye??

Organizing the funeral I met Father Ed Cachia, resident priest of St. George's. He delivered a beautiful service and invited me and my family to the church. Meeting the friendly, kind and compassionate people was the most soothing experience of those painful ragged days.

I was desperate to reach out to moments in memory when – at another awful time in my life - prayer was transformative, to experience again the power of shared faith.

And I keep coming....

Grief brought me here but the kind, warm-hearted community, the many happenings and shared meals in our beautiful hall keeps me coming back.

I hope that our Christian, church-centric community will survive the relentless secularization of our culture and western civilization and that many can still experience the reality of shared faith even 175 years from now.

God Bless!

Eva Leca



Food for the Soul – Food for the Body

There are many “Old Sayings” out there. As I put together a few words about “Food Bank Sunday” at St. George’s Church, one that comes to my mind is: “Man cannot live by bread alone”. I think about how true this really is when we consider that the primary role of churches is to provide spiritual food to nourish the souls of each of the members who attends.

So much for the soul, but now what about feeding the body? Fortunately, thanks to the blessings of the Good Lord, many of us have the means available to provide food to nourish our bodies and those of our families. But what about those less fortunate people who do not have the means to do this?

Christian teachings tell us that we should love our neighbours as ourselves and share what we have with those less fortunate. So how did we handle this at St. George’s Church?

In around 2011, St. Georges Anglican Church joined with St. Mary’s Catholic Church to prepare and provide Christmas baskets to a number of needy local families. From then on, St. George’s Anglican Church began collecting food donations on the second Sunday of each month. These donations are transferred to the Saint Vincent de Paul Society at St. Mary’s Catholic Church who opened a food cupboard to provide assistance to needy families within our community.

For a period of a year or so the food donations collected at St. George’s Church were donated to the “Transition House” temporary emergency shelter in Cobourg that provided life skills and transitional support services to the men and women in their residence until it closed.

After Transition House closed, we resumed supporting St. Mary's Food Cupboard with our food donations for distribution to local needy families.

We are thankful and proud of the ongoing support from all the members of St. George's Church and St. Mary's Church dedicated to this joint objective to help to feed the souls and bodies of the people within our community to best meet their spiritual and basic human needs.

Submitted by Pat McCoy



Friday Breakfast Get-Together

I've just finished helping with the clear up. There were 14 of us today plus one dog. I am referring to the Friday morning "boys" breakfast. It is nice to say boys but looking round the room the average age is 70 plus. In recent times we have maxed out at 21 and two dogs. It started in a much smaller way, just three or four of us in a local cafe, now long gone.

Just a get together to chat, sometimes to put the world to rights - not difficult with President Trump in office south of the border - sometimes sport but considering it is a men's group not often. Mustn't forget the breakfast, Western, sausage, bacon and hash browns are the standard but can be customized and of course it now all takes place in the refurbished Canon Nind Hall.

Typically it is split between members of the congregation and men from the community at large. There is no reason some ladies can't join us, they would be very welcome. on odd occasion one or two have joined us when they are in the church on some other business, but not often.

It is difficult to remember how this started, maybe ten years ago. At that time there was a small cafe on the corner of Old Danforth and Highway Two. Someone must have suggested the get together but that is not important it was just the idea of fellowship among church friends. It wasn't long before that cafe folded, nor much of a surprise, then we moved to the canteen in the arena and numbers gradually increased. Dick Raymond, at the time, was the manager of the arena catering section, and he looked after our breakfast cooking. I should say that Dick is very definitely the mainstay of this Friday breakfast group from the beginning to present.

We didn't move into the Canon Nind Hall until the restoration was completed a few years ago. The breakfast is now a fixture in our church weekly schedule. It is also outreach. It would be nice to say that at some time one from the local community has joined the congregation but that hasn't happened yet, not optimized that it will, but in a way we have brought people into the church all be it only the hall.

We pay our way, five dollars each, and we have a surplus which is going to help fund our 175th anniversary.

Bob Deane



St. George's Role with a Gem in Our Community

There is a little-known gem that has been in our community of Grafton for close to 40 years now called Haldimand Court Apartments. This building is located on approximately 3 acres of beautifully landscaped grounds.

Registered as a not-for-profit corporation, it was established to provide non-assisted independent living accommodations to senior citizens from Grafton and surrounding areas who are independent. It houses 22 self-contained one bedroom apartments all on one floor. Although there are no assisted living facilities such as meals provided or medical staff on site, it does contain some common areas such as a sun room and a lounge area, a common washroom, a laundry room, hallways, and utility areas, and each apartment opens to the nicely landscaped court yard.

Its history is an interesting story. It all started back in 1975 when Rev. Leonard Ware was the priest in charge of St. George's Anglican Church. He assumed a leadership role with the clergy and a number of members from his Anglican Church of St. George's, as well as the 2 other local churches of St. Andrew's United, and St. Mary's Catholic Church to discuss the issues that many residents of this area were aging, and that there were no facilities available locally to accommodate these seniors who could no longer, or who no longer wished to remain in their own homes.

These discussions culminated in the formation of a not-for-profit and registered charitable stand-alone corporation that had its Letters Patent Approved by the Government of Ontario on December 14, 1976. Plans then were finalized, a mortgage arranged, and construction of Haldimand Court Apartments was completed circa 1980. By-Laws were adopted and included that Haldimand Court Apartments would be managed by a

Board of Directors of 9 members consisting of the presiding clergy person and 2 members from each of St. George's Anglican Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, and St. Andrew's United Church. Haldimand Court Apartments have continued to be successfully managed this way for the past close to 40 years.

Submitted by Pat McCoy



I Didn't Think I Had a Story to Tell

My faith journey began as a child at Trinity-St. Andrew's United Church in Brighton where I attended Sunday School each week and happily sang in the Sunday School choir. During the summers I went to Bible School at the Baptist Church.

We moved to Cobourg when I was 12 and my new best friend attended St. Peter's in Cobourg. It was a good fit for me since my mother was Anglican, so I joined my friend there, was confirmed, and became a lifelong Anglican. My husband and I were married in St. Peter's and left Cobourg shortly after that. He is now a retired Army Officer so you can see that we moved all around our beautiful Country.

Fast forward 38 years and we returned to Cobourg, and I returned to St Peter's. Three people who are very important to me, Sharon, Ron, and Diane were very happily attending St. George's so I eventually joined them there.

I was so warmly welcomed by the congregation, that I felt that, after attending various churches throughout the years I had found my home church. Even though I can't always be at the weekly service, when I am able attend, I am made to feel that I am part of a special family.

Thank you St George's.

Kathy Maclean



I Was Invited to Come to St. George's

A few years ago, a good friend invited me to come to St. George's Sunday service. I was leery at first since I was raised Catholic and this was an Anglican Church. I was greeted by all and made to feel very welcome. It was right around the time when the Canon Nind Hall was being reopened after the renovations. It was a beautiful venue for all kinds of activities.

I mentioned the hall to the antique car club I belong to and we decided to hold our October AGM there. The Guild put on a wonderful turkey dinner with their famous pies for dessert and we had a great time. The next summer the car club booked the hall for a luncheon. It was the annual ACCCC Pre War Car Tour (pre-1942 cars). On that Sunday afternoon we had 24 beautiful cars lined up in the parking lot from a 1913 Ford Model T ¼ ton pickup to a 1941 McLaughlin Buick Roadmaster. Many members of the congregation and passersby stopped to enjoy the cars. We have also had a Christmas dinner there with the Guild serving another fabulous meal.

Since then I have been an active member of the congregation and I have taken on a few responsibilities. One of the responsibilities I really enjoy is being the contact person for the hall. I am able to show off the hall to people interested in renting it.

St. George's has become an important part of my life. There is a spiritual calmness I feel since becoming a member of this community.

Story by Diane Morrison



As Incomers we were Welcomed

December 1999 was a relatively mild month, fortunately because we moved to Grafton on the 7th. I can't remember if it was one or two days later that our neighbour dropped in to welcome us and I'm not sure how long we were into the conversation before "which church do you go to" --ah, yes, why, Anglican. It was the right answer. She wasn't able to go the next Sunday but the Priest would be expecting us, and she was "you must be Bob and Pam".

Some of you might remember our neighbour, Marguerite Stanfield, shall we say a local character, always cooking and baking something and her pies were renowned in the area. At that time Marguerite would have been a very active mid seventy years old. For ten years we went each Sunday to church with her, during the summer we would walk the short distance but later as walking became more difficult we drove. The pew we normally sit we like to think we inherited from Marguerite but we are also creatures of habit.

Marguerite was our neighbour for about ten years before she had to go into a care home, near her family north of Ottawa. We miss hearing from, over the hedge on a summers day, "dinner is ready in 30 minutes and don't be late". For incomers she was the perfect neighbour. Without her, would we have ended up at St. George's? Having experienced unwelcoming and cliquy attitude in the local Anglican Church in Scarborough, I don't know.

What I do know is at St. George's we were welcomed, and felt comfortable in the church community and have done during the past nineteen years.

Story by Bob Deane



It Felt Like We Have Been Here Before!

In our life time we have moved thirty times but that is another story. One of those moves has left us with a connection to St. George's Grafton. Some years ago, we were living in California and went to a charming little Episcopalian church which had a carbon copy appearance to St. George's.

We eventually end up in the Cobourg area and as it has always happened with our many moves, we looked around for a small rural church. We tried a larger church but it did not have the warmth that a small community can give. We were talking about this with our friend, Gilian, who was an occasional visitor to St. George's. We joined her one Sunday in the spring. Before we even entered, it seemed as if we were destined to come here. We were transported back many years ago to a different place, with a different culture but the same look-alike church and inside we found the same friendly, welcoming people.

Story by Bonnie and Eric Moyer



Letty Jo Story

I have only lived in Colborne 20 years. I was borne in Port Colborne but lived much of my life in Montreal. It was only when my husband retired that we came to Colborne to be near our son. We were going to Trinity in Colborne it was a nice little rural church which we had missed in Montreal, but could see, particularly as new comers, that it was friendly but with a poor attendance. It is always a surprise when a part of your retired life is closed and although the congregation tried to persuade the Diocese to keep it open, we could see that closure was inevitable.

The move to St. George's was a change that was of concern but this church welcomed me from the very start and now I feel that this is so very much a church family that I am part of.

Submitted by Letty Jo Orr



St. George's Missionary Work, 1930s

This story dates back to the 1930s and Steve planted the seed, “my Aunt told me about the time she went to do missionary work in Manitoba and (maybe) Saskatchewan”. That is all Steve knew, no detail other than the St. George’s group drove all the way. Annie was St. George’s organist for 40 years, retiring in 1976 to be followed by her daughter Grace for a further ten years.

Steve had a second story and one place in particular, Loon Lake Saskatchewan. Steve had a snap shot, dated July 1934 and signed by the Rev. (his clerical collar can be clearly seen) H. R. Deering. He also had an obituary for the Rev. Herbert Robert Deering at his death in 1967 in Halifax – born 1904 in Ireland - noting that one of his parishes was Loon Lake. Another newspaper cutting showing the first mission house combined residence in Loon Lake.

St. George's Grafton had a priest, Rev. Herbert Robert Deering, between 1931-33.

Why would there be missionary work in Saskatchewan so long after the west was settled? Loon Lake was north of the prairie drought areas and settlers were encouraged to move north and resettle in a wetter area although it was poor farm land, but at that time it seemed as if the prairie drought would last for ever. This resettlement was without ministers or church buildings as was acknowledged in a Toronto Diocese Convocation in 1931 and students from Wycliffe College went out during their summer vacation.

Research:

Herbert Deering was born in Ireland, in what is now Northern Ireland in 1904, he came to Canada as a teenager. Logic would suggest it would be after the world war, so most probably in the early 1920s. The only other

relative that can be found in Canada is a sister in Sarnia but she did not come until 1934.

In 1931 St. George's Grafton did not have Minister, and it was tied in with St. Peter's of Cobourg. The Rev. Deering became "curate minister" while still a student at Wycliffe College. He was ordained in Toronto on 31st. May 1932. In October 1932 he was recorded as an inbound passenger into New York City and in transit to Grafton Canada, occupation Minister. When he left Grafton he went straight to Loon Lake which suggests he may have been a Wycliffe student visitor at an earlier time.

He is recorded entering Albert from the State of Idaho on 12th. October 1933. At that time the best road routes were through the States. It is definitely "our" Herbert Deering; he is recorded as a minister and a final destination Loon Lake. He was on the 1935 voters list for Loon Lake.

He Married Charlotte on 27th April 1938 in Westmount Quebec, his occupation "Clerk in Holy Orders, Loon Lake".



Why go to all this trouble for an ex-minister of St. George's Grafton, here only a year and a half, and his next ministry in Loon Lake? The Church in Loon Lake dates from about 1938 is called St. George's and is a carbon

copy of St. George's, Grafton. There is no active address and it appears to be closed.

Submitted by Steve Bates and Bob Deane



Louise Goody Remembers the Evening Guild

“On Wednesday evening, November 13, 1957, about twelve young women of St. George’s Church met at the home of Louise Goody with the intention of forming an evening branch of the Ladies Guild.” [The opening sentence of a submission to the Trinity/St. George’s Newsletter, February 13, 1983, by Edith Watson.]

I remember that first meeting at my house. The ladies at the church wanted us younger women to join the Ladies’ Guild – we thought they were old ladies! So we decided that we would form an evening guild of young moms. Of course, the dads would be home to look after the children! We took turns hosting the meetings.

I remember the first tea we had as a fund-raiser. It, too, was at my house. We pushed back all the furniture and set up card tables in my living and dining rooms. Jimmy Blacklock (the funeral director) gave us flowers for the tables left over from a funeral. I also remember when we started trying to raise money to build the church hall. We wrote to the Nestlé Company and they sent us some containers that we used for banks. We gave them out so that we could save our change. Things were different then.

Our whole family was involved with St. George’s. Fred, my husband, was a warden. My older daughter, Cathy, and I sang in the choir. My oldest son, Chris, was crucifer. He also cut the grass at the church and in the cemetery. When a special day was coming up in the cemetery, such as the annual Decoration Day, we Goodys all worked there, trimming around the tombstones. I loved the years we lived in Grafton.

Submitted by Louise Goody, current member of St. Luke’s parish, Peterborough, who still visits St. George’s when she can.



Me and My Church Memories - Mary Doig

My first memory of church, at about 4 years old, is of a large Presbyterian church in the small town that we were evacuated to in 1939.

I have vivid memories of parades with everyone in uniform, from the cubs and brownies, soldiers, sailors and air-force to the home guard. Everyone marched through the town and into church, where hymns like “Onward Christian Soldiers” and “Eternal Father strong to save” were sung lustily.

After the war was over, we returned to Edinburgh, and the little Episcopal church where we went as a family. The church overlooked the Firth of Forth and was originally built for sailors and fishermen. It was about the size and had the feeling of St Georges, a family church.

Then there was an Anglican school...Chapel twice a day, and church on Sunday...No coughing, smiling, talking...definitely no hugging! It was a privilege to read the lesson ...I was not allowed to in case I giggled.

During the first 25 years of marriage we moved 7 times, and attended various churches, but none that helped me feel we should keep going!...until we moved to Grafton. I remember a friend of Carol Cragg’s telling me that I must go to St Georges, and I must join the Guild.

That opened my eyes to a group of terrifyingly efficient women who could perform miraclesand still do....My early, nervous suggestion of adding blueberry, or cherry to the list of Thanksgiving pies was quickly nixed by “We only do apple and lemon meringue here”That put me in my place!

I remember how my mother loved coming to St Georges, on her visits from Scotland. One time there was a picnic on the old rectory lawn, where she met Bea Prentice, who she always thought of as a special Canadian friend. The general warmth, friendliness and informality of the congregation amazed her....

As her young great granddaughter said to me leaving a midnight service at another church..."It wasn't like St George's...they hug you there".

There is something special about St Georges, I am not a very "churchy" person, but I always feel like smiling when I drive home on Sunday morning.

Submitted by Mary Doig



Messy Church at St. George's - Our Story

The History of Messy Church

Messy Church is part of a worldwide movement which was begun in England in 2004 by Lucy Moore and now exists in twenty different countries.

You may ask, "Why the word 'Messy?'" In a book, "Messy Hospitality", written by Lucy Moore, she states: "The word "mess" itself came into English directly from an old French word meaning "a portion of food"; and we still talk of an 'officers' mess' where officers eat. Lucy Moore states that the old French comes originally from the Latin missus meaning 'something put on a table', mettre is the word for 'to put' or 'to send'." She elaborates much, much more in her book. [1]

What is Messy Church? Messy Church believes and practices being Christ-centered, in an atmosphere of warm Hospitality for All Ages, offering creative activities and encouraging Creativity (at St. George's, Grafton, expressed through theme-related crafts), and Celebrating Christian faith through Bible story and song. People come as families or individuals; children must be accompanied by a parent(s) or guardian who is responsible for them during Messy Church. Messy Church must incorporate and evidence these five values. Sharing a meal together each meeting is a natural part of Hospitality. Welcoming and being open to people on arriving and throughout the session is part of Hospitality.

Our Story

Our first Messy Church session actually began in September, 2016 but Whispers of Messy Church could be heard in January 2016 when a group of people met to plan for an Open House scheduled for June of that year. The purpose of the Open House was to gather together all the ways St.

George's could be a blessing to the community and especially how the Canon Nind Hall, which was being beautifully renovated, could serve the community. I was given the awesome responsibility for implementing Messy Church. Knowing very little about Messy Church, I started looking for books about it and began searching the internet. My husband and I went to experience an operating Messy Church at St. John's Church in Ida that February. Later I went to experience a Messy Church at St. George's Church, in Trenton. The prospect of offering a Messy Church gathering once a month at St. George's was introduced at the Open House in June. A fuller presentation followed in August, assisted by the Regional Coordinator for Ontario. St. George's, Grafton, developed its own Messy Church team of volunteers and in September, the doors to our first Messy Church were opened.

Come to Messy Church!

You will be warmly welcomed at the door by Clare. If this is your first visit with us, we will ask you to fill out a registration form for your child(ren) and we will make everyone a name tag. If you have no children with you, you are still welcome (after all, aren't we all children at heart)? We ask that you wear your name tag so other members of your Messy Church family can get to know you and, as well, you can get to know them. Come into our beautiful hall and have a snack, moms and dads usually head for the tea and coffee, prepared by Sally, while children help themselves to fruit and vegetables or other light snacks prepared by Sharon. You might notice a fabulous cake on a table right there under a wall hanging of the Last Supper. By the way, this wall hanging was donated to our church by Dick's father Bill Raymond. If you look, you will see a plaque telling a bit about the making of it. Gary is amazing at baking cakes and we are very lucky that he takes the time to make a special cake for each Messy Church gathering. He has made a cake in the shape of a big fish (to go along with the story of Jonah) and another one for the parting of the Red Sea (when God lead his people out of bondage), January's cake was a camp site in the desert with tents and animals and people on a journey...you get the idea. You will notice that tonight's cake directly corresponds to the lessons being taught this

evening. You will be invited to join the activity centres, there are usually five or six of them. They will keep minds, young and old, engaged while they are learning about Christ's teachings and God's love. After, everyone will grab a chair and sit in a circle with Pastor Jim, sing songs, hear a bible story and say a blessing before supper. Sometimes Father Ed is there too with his wife Janina.

Ahh, supper, I forgot to mention that! Everyone will sit together at the long table and enjoy good food and friendly conversations. We pass food from one to the next as you would at home with your other family. It might be chicken strips and French- fries, pancakes and sausages, pizza, hot dogs and macaroni and cheese, hamburgers...why, the list is endless. Nothing is too difficult for Joan and the kitchen staff. And dessert! Gary always serves one of his amazing cakes for dessert. And get this...the kid's serve the dessert. Isn't that great???

We know you have had a busy day but we are so very happy that you were able to spend this time with us. We hope you felt the love here. We pray God's blessings on you and your family and we look forward to seeing you back with us next month. We'll keep the Light on for you!

[1] Messy Hospitality by Lucy Moore, published by BRF (Bible Reading Fellowship) 2016, page 82.Ibid, pages 8-9.

Submitted by Clare Phillips



A Mexican Mission in the Beginning

It was our first winter in a park called Llano Grande in the year 2000 in a rented trailer five miles from the Mexican border near a town called Weslaco Texas. I had joined Grace Episcopal Church and was warmly welcomed as extended family. One Sunday, I stopped to admire the cross on a young acolyte; it was made of large nails. We conversed for a while and he shared with me that he had spent Saturday at a colonia in a dump in Reynosa Mexico as part of a team with a Baptist minister as the leader. He described children without shoes and how some people were living in cardboard boxes. I expressed an interest in going over and he said it was too dangerous for a woman to go there.

His story stayed with me over the next few months and I could not shake the images that he described, especially of the little children without shoes. That summer, my husband and I purchased fifty pairs of children's running shoes of differing sizes and knew that we were going to get them to the dump some way or other. We travelled back to the park in the middle of October to move into our new mobile that we had purchased in March. I knew of a retired United Methodist minister, Bill Jacoby and his wife Lynne in our park who missioned in Reynosa and Rio Bravo and I took the shoes over to their place and asked Bill if he could give them to children who needed them. He, in turn, invited me to go over with him and another couple to Rio Bravo that Thursday and to the dump in Reynosa the following Tuesday.

There was no preparation for the shock that I received when I saw how the people were living in abject poverty. The only thing that I knew about the colonias (meaning add-ons to cities) beforehand was that the homeless people built homes on Government land along railway tracks, in dumps and along the Rio Grande River; that the people were extremely poor and that many were without outdoor toilets. If Bill didn't deliver food to them each week which included a bag of beans, a bag of

rice for each family and a package of biscuits for each child, they would not have enough to eat. Bill had warned us ahead of time that we must hide any emotion that we felt when we initially arrived and act normally. It was hard, but we did.

The people were so happy to see us and greeted us with expectation of food. At the dump in Reynosa, many of the people were wearing dirty clothes and there were some children who were not wearing shoes at all. The stench from human feces was overwhelming at times as we followed the van over rough pathways filled with huge boulders jutting out here and there as we handed out the bags of food. Their homes in both colonias were shanties clustered in rows built from found materials, anything that they could find in the dump. Tires were used to hold their roofs down. We went into the home of the leader of the colonia at the dump and his home contained one room with a dirt floor, the family's clothes were piled in a corner and there was one mattress on which all seven family members slept.

After we had distributed the bags of food at Rio Bravo along the railway tracks, Bill took me to visit the school which was at the end of the dirt road, also along the railway tracks. The buildings were very rudimentary constructed wooden buildings for single classes with one bare light bulb, except for one building which was made of cement blocks and housed two classrooms. Each classroom contained only teacher and student desks with maybe a map on the board with little evidence of teaching aides or other supplies essential to learning.

We then returned to the clinic that Lynne, who was a retired registered nurse, operated. When we arrived, there had to be forty people lined up outside, mostly mothers with little children. The building had been constructed by Bill's volunteers. I remember that a wall was at the front of it, made of stone with a gate that could be locked and there were jagged pieces of glass on top of the wall to prevent anyone gaining unlawful entrance with the purpose of stealing drugs. It was a very small building with one small sink and it seemed that no more than three people could move comfortably in it. Most of the treatments that day as

well as other days were for colds, diagnosing diabetes (because of the poor diet) and diaper rash.

It was a very quiet ride on the way home after each of these visits as I wrestled with my thoughts. Here was a community of people whose sole needs were the three basic things for survival – warmth, water and food, and my needs seemed so frivolous in comparison. Bill and Lynne worked respectfully with their volunteers who were members of the team both outside and inside the community to help these families who just wanted the best for their children, working together to make life more bearable. I tried to describe it to Charlie but broke down in tears saying, “No human should live this way in this age.” I knew that I wanted to be a part of this team.

When we returned home that spring, Charlie and I went into immediate action. I shared my story with Trinity and St. George and they came on board immediately with money and supplies for the school and clinic and St. George continued to be there right up to our final stay in Texas – 14 years later. That summer, we travelled around to yard sales to buy small toys and we held our own yard sale. We arrived back in Texas in the middle of October with boxes and bags of supplies and an eagerness to deliver them to the two colonias and clinic.

Since that first year, our mission work was like a mustard seed growing and spreading into other ministries in Mexico and only enabled by the wonderful Christians here in Canada and in our winter home. Both Charlie and I co-ordinated the mission-work with our northern families and friends, local churches, our southern park residents and Grace Church friends in Weslaco. Some examples are: the water ministry, joining another colonia mission team, giving funds to build a cement block building to store drugs in the Reynosa dump and to build a library in Ford School, contributing supplies and teaching materials to four schools, collecting toiletries from hotels to hand out, collecting candles, toys, clothing and household items, a blanket ministry, giving money towards purchasing required school uniforms, supporting high school students with bus fare and assisting two university students with tuition. Such items as dolls, bears, mittens, and pencil cases were made for the

children by others who also wanted to help. There are just too many things to mention. It was the generosity; love and compassion of so many who made this mission work a happening over the years!

Story by Gail and Charlie Moffat



A Miracle on Highway Two

It was the morning of Monday April 27th. 1908 and the devastation of the fire that night was all too apparent. St George's Grafton was just a mound of smouldering ashes. It isn't as if the community and congregation hadn't done all they could during the night to save their church. The party line telephone system had been used to the maximum to alert people, far and wide, and the horse drawn fire cart was quickly on site, it being only a hundred yards away in the stables behind the Mansion House.

Forgive the author for editorial license, everything above in italics is probable but no information about the first exists, other than the date. BUT there was a hand pumper, and it was in the stables behind the Inn and if you want to see it take the first left just after the west bound on-ramp to the 401 and it is in an open display next to the fire hall. And the Grafton Inn built in 1834 was called the Mansion House. Finally, the local telephone system operated out of the annex to the left of the Inn, they were all party lines which had as many as 10 connections to one number and the operators could use them for emergencies, one ring could alert up to 10 families.

Over the next ten months by modern day standards a miracle happened, the congregation ably lead by the Rev. Brooks rebuilt on new positioned foundations the church we know and love, in just ten months. During those months Church of England services were held in the Methodist church and the congregations of the community churches all helped in the rebuilding.

Wouldn't it have been so much easier to just replace what had burned down? But the Rev. Brooks would have prayed for guidance and strength to build for the future rather than the easy way. He led his flock and first hired a renowned Toronto architect. The drawings for a church already complete that presumably only needed small changes and with shovels, picks and wheelbarrows started the new foundations slightly to the west of the old church.

We recently had reason to do some work in the belfry (squirrels store of walnuts had again jammed the bell rope) and photos were taken of the bell. It was cast in Troy, New York State and has our church name and the year 1909 as part of the casting. Rail Transportation to Grafton Station wouldn't have been a problem but from the dimensions we know it weighed one and a half tons. Many able-bodied men and a few horses were needed to bring it to the site of the church. That first service and a few following were probably held without a ceiling in the bell tower.

Bob Deane



Mission of the Lambs

It seems to me that on a second occasion death inspired me to go forward. Well, I think it only fair that since he is such a horrible pain in the neck the least, he can do is hold my hand and become my muse.

The mission of the lambs was born in England at my mother's funeral, on December 11, 2011.

On Christmas Eve along with my family I was at the Christmas Eve service in the small village of East Bergholt. Small, knitted lambs were given out at the start of proceedings. During the service we were asked to pass our lamb on to someone in need of comfort or to keep it to comfort ourselves.

I brought the idea home to Grafton. We did the Christmas Eve thing and haven't put our knitting needles down since, as these charming little lambs wove their spell of comfort and joy and worked their way into people's hearts.

Sometimes as I check their basket in the church, I find they have almost disappeared. It seems as if the Shepherd packs them up in a hand cart and disappears into the night.

The lambs have run off to eighteen different countries including Russia and China.

They also provide comfort to cancer patients, palliative care, police services, and many individuals.

One lady posted on Facebook a lamb riding on her dashboard taking her to chemotherapy. One also made a guest appearance in a local newspaper. A member of the congregation on seeing this announced "our lambs have gone viral!"

While I was with my husband in palliative care two little children and a young man the build of Arnold Schwarzenegger were leaving in tears. I had given the lambs to the little girls when I got a gentle tap on my shoulder and Arnold threw himself into my arms and sobbed saying I can I have one of those.

From that experience I learn never to be afraid to go up to strangers in need and just hand them out.

Submitted by Sally Hicks



A Story about St. Georges Evening Guild or Musings of the President

As I reminisce about my time as a member and then as President of the Evening guild a lot of memories come to mind. I have had the privilege to spend time with some amazing ladies. We have had too many laughs to count, washed too many dishes to count and put up and taken down way too many tables to count. My Mom Beatrice Prentice was the first President of the Evening Guild so I am in good company.

During our many receptions we cater to we have lots of time to chat about a wide variety of topics and catching up on each other's busy lives. While filling the sandwich trays at one of the receptions one of our esteemed members stated "I don't want tuna sandwiches served at my reception" another stated "please remove the crust from the sandwiches at my reception". To this I replied well if I don't go up yonder first I will see that your last wishes are carried out. Recently staff from MacCourbrey Funeral Home stood at the kitchen door and marvelled at the number of people helping the funeral reception. He asked me is everyone from this congregation, to which I proudly said yes. The gentlemen told me that some churches in Cobourg don't have enough helpers to make food so they order it in and try to get enough help to serve it. Wow I said we have an amazing group of ladies and gentlemen to help were and whenever they can.

That leads me to our June Dinner. This dinner used to be just for the ladies that helped throughout the year now we have gentlemen and ladies helping at all the event so now we open it up to everyone. The last few years the dinner has been held in our beautiful hall and has been catered. After a busy year it's nice to sit back and enjoy an evening of great company and great food. This venue is quite popular with

everyone; usually fifty to sixty sit down to join an evening of relaxation and fun.

When I first joined the Evening Guild one of the first events I organized was a pie sale at the foyer between the Zeller's Store and the Dominion Store in Cobourg. I put out a call for pies donations and set off first thing on a Saturday morning with enough pies to fill two grocery carts. The pies were gone in record time. I remember getting calls from members to see if all the pies went to which I happily said yes! That was a real leap of faith I didn't know what I was going to do with all those pies if they didn't sell.

Over the years different fund raisers were held and I think the most successful is our famous yearly pie sales. When we started having them we held them twice a year one at Easter and one at Thanksgiving. This is where the Birth of the Holy Rollers happened. We would show up at the hall to roll out pie dough, rolling out circles for everyone to take home so making pies for the big event would be easier. Some of you will have memories of me going around say "that is not thin enough yet, keep rolling". We have refined this exercise over the years and I am sure more refining won't hurt. Some years we would have over 150 yummy pies for sale. The selection of pies available was amazing, raspberry, cherry, raisin, apples, blueberry, coconut cream and banana cream. Dick Raymond gave rave reviews to a pear pie he purchased at one of the sales. The pie sales are a huge hit with the community usually selling out in half hour. It is really quite an experience seeing the crowds gather and rush forward to the tables to get the pie of their dreams. It is not uncommon for 2 or 3 of us to go home and bake a pie or two for someone that missed out purchasing one of our yummy creations. Last year we went on hiatus not sure if we will start up again this year it is a huge undertaking. Stay tuned.

Another fond memory is our Christmas outreach event. Some years we would make Christmas baskets or buy Christmas plants. Now we make Christmas Cookie Boxes for members of our congregation and members of our community. Over the last few years we have cheerfully delivered

over 500 cookie boxes. Every year we bake our little hearts out and bake the most amazing cookies you will ever eat. Big Trays are delivered to Transition House and the shelter in Cobourg. It's not until you get to deliver a cookie box that you realize how awesome this ministry is. A homemade cookie is priceless! We also purchase Tim Cards for residents of Transition House, at Christmas time our thought is everyone should know that they are thought of.

In closing I think that I have been president of the Guild for over twenty years wouldn't surprise me if it was close to thirty years. I wonder if I will get my over 20 year pin this year. Hahahaha. With the invention of the computer I don't spend all day on the phone asking for help for a dinner or a reception. This task gets done fast and quick and in even faster speed is everyone getting back to me with offers of food and help. This is just awesome and keeps me on my toes keeping up with the responses. I usually mess up in some way. Thank you all for all your patience.

We are truly blessed at St. Georges; I would like to thank everyone for their love and dedication they continue to show our community.

Cheers!

Joan Stover
President of St. Georges Evening Guild



My Journey to Saint George's

I was born in Nova Scotia and as a young girl I attended Sunday School at the Baptist Church in my home town. God and spirituality became an important part of my life at a very young age. I learned to pray there and did so every night throughout my life.

When I was 8 years old, my family moved to the little mining town of Murdochville, Quebec in 1957. Even at this young age, I was excited to attend Sunday school at the United Church. When I became a teenager, I joined the church choir and enjoyed it very much. I attended all of the choir practices after school with enthusiasm and pride.

I met my first husband in Murdochville where we were married in the Anglican Church that he attended. We both worked at the copper mine there for a while, then we moved to Ontario. We lived in Hamilton, then Sudbury, and finally moved to our home in Cobourg where our 3 children grew up. We enjoyed living in the town of Cobourg for 37 years. In 2007, my husband developed colon cancer and underwent chemo treatments the following year. In 2009 believing that the cancer was in remission we travelled to Nova Scotia in our Fifth Wheel trailer and spent 40 glorious days in my home town of Advocate N.S. We enjoyed seeing family and I even got to revisit the church where I was introduced to God as a little girl.

In February of 2010 we bought a house in Vernonville and we moved into the house in July. I first noticed Saint George's Church in Grafton as I was driving by on my many trips to and from Cobourg as we were moving into our new home in Vernonville. I made up my mind that after we got settled into our new house we would attend services there. A few months after moving I realized that my husband wasn't doing so well. After more tests we were told that the cancer was back. He passed away April 9, 2011.

For exercise, I used to go walking every day in Vernonville. I would think about my faith and how I would very much like to attend Sunday services at that little church of Saint George's in Grafton. I thought about going in and sitting at the back of the church but I didn't have the courage to go alone. Little did I know that such welcoming and loving people awaited me there. As time went by I would pass by the church and wish each time that I could go in.

One day about 3 years after my husband had passed away, I decided to go to Cobourg and walk on the walking track at the Cobourg Community Center. After I had walked there several times, I met a very nice person and we began to talk together as we walked around the track. I eventually found out that he lived in Grafton a short distance from my home, and that he too was a widower whose wife had passed away almost a year before my husband passed away.

We started meeting there almost every day and soon started going for coffee together. As we talked I mentioned to him about having seen St. George's Church in Grafton and that I had many times thought that I would like to go there and find out more about that little church. He told me that he attended services there regularly and that he would be glad to accompany me whenever I would like to go. We attended Sunday services together at Saint George's for two and a half years. During this time, I was made to feel very comfortable and accepted there.

The people I met and got to know there were like extended family to me. On August 21, 2015 we were married in "our little church" of St. George's. I can't say enough about how helpful and caring the people of Saint George's are. I am grateful every day for the love that my husband and I share and for our St. George's family.

"God works in mysterious ways" comes to mind. If I had gone to the church alone I may or may not have met him there. Since I did not yet go to the church there, I was drawn to the Cobourg Community Centre and it was there that I met him. As we often hear: "It was a sign that it was

meant to be”.

Happy 175th Anniversary St. George’s Church – Thanks and God Bless everyone.

Story by Cheryl McCoy



Our Precious Baptismal Font

Over the years our congregation has delighted to participate in the Initiation of many new members into the Christian faith. Babes in arms, children of all ages, young adults and elderly persons - God welcomes us at any time in our lives.

We have a fine baptismal font in our beautiful sanctuary, all the more to be treasured for its intimacy. The words of the priest, godparents and church members resonate in everyone's ears. The sight of supportive faces, polished wood and the colourful church windows add to the calming, reflective ambience.

One celebration is especially memorable for me. In June of 1980 my youngest daughter, Rebecca was baptized. Father Donald Belway officiated in the presence of family members and a large group of congregants. But the venue was not The Church of St. George, Grafton.

This particular Sunday was the occasion of our church picnic and we were all gathered outside at the home of Don and Ada Prentice, in the country north of Colborne. For the occasion Don had constructed a large wooden cross and erected it on the front lawn.

It was a lovely summer day, but as the ceremony began the sky looked threatening. At about the moment the sign of the cross was being traced on Rebecca's little forehead, a light rain began to fall.

My daughter has grown into a deeply spiritual person who connects with empathy to the people around her, and also has a deep love for the natural world.

After her baptism, the rain ceased and our outdoor picnic began, complete with delicious food, games for "all the children", lots of smiles, laughter and much conversation. It was the kind of atmosphere we so easily create when the members of St. George's gather.

Story by Jane Davis



My Life at St. George's

I was born in the family home on Aird Street, Grafton, in August 1928 and baptized at St. George's in August 1930. My older sister, younger brother, and I were baptized at the same time, as it was the wish of my English-born mother.

In 1932, at age 4, I began my active life in the parish when I became a member of St. George's Sunday School. A photo taken in May 1933 reveals that there were 25 youngsters in the Sunday School that year, five of whom are still alive as of March 2019. For several years as a young girl, I was a member of the Junior Women's Auxiliary, where I took part in Bible-based activities and enjoyed lemon tarts and other baked goods at refreshment time. As a teenager, in the early 1940s, I sang in the choir, as did my sister. For a time, my mother was a member of the altar guild and I would take her place when she was unable to tend to her guild duties. I also tried my hand, a few times, at manually pumping the bellows of the 1902 Lye tracker organ used for worship at St. George's until early 2019.

Several years after moving to Toronto at age 17 to find employment, I met my future husband. Earl and I were married in St. George's in May 1954 and subsequently lived in five provinces in Canada. Two of our children were born in Manitoba and one in Québec. We brought each in turn back to St. George's to be baptized. While my parents were alive, I returned to the family home on Aird Street at least twice a year to visit them; I often attended services at St. George's during my visits, sometimes accompanied by my deafened mother. My husband's final posting was in Cape Breton, where I became involved in the life of the Anglican parish in our town. In 1976, I had the honour to be the first woman elected warden at our parish and, at the same time, to be the first of two women wardens elected in the diocese of Nova Scotia.

After my husband retired, we returned to Ontario in 1983 and settled in Baltimore. This allowed me to return to St. George's as a regular parishioner. A year after my return, I became active again in parish life.

In the spring of 1985, with support from then-rector the Rev. Donald Belway, I started a monthly coffee hour, held the first Sunday of every month after morning worship. Coffee hours had been attempted prior to 1985, I was told, but had not been successful. For over 25 years, from Easter-time 1985 until January 2010, I provided home baking for the coffee hours, becoming known for my oatmeal cookies and lemon loaf. During my rare absences, another parishioner filled in for me.

In 1986, I was the first woman to be elected warden at St. George's and had the pleasure to serve a four-year term. I was privileged to serve most of those years with Rev. Donald Belway, who was a strong supporter of women's full participation in the Church. I retain many good memories of meetings with the bishop, Most Rev. Terence Finlay, who was known for his sense of humour. And I was delighted to be able to invite former rector (and one of my childhood rectors) Rev. Dr. Thomas Millman to speak at the parish's 145th anniversary celebrations in 1989.

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, volunteers from the three Grafton churches made deliveries to area residents for Meals on Wheels. I was one of the volunteers from St. George's. My husband often assisted me until his ill health no longer made that possible.

For five years beginning in 1996, with assistance from my family and some steadfast parishioners, I decorated the parish's float for the annual township Canada Day parade held in Grafton. Over that time, two parishioners (Harold Prentice and Don Hare) provided the hay wagon and tractor for the float. Some years, St. George's float was the only church float in the parade: it was important to me to maintain the parish's presence in the community.

A strong interest in the history of the parish and of the village led me to become a member, first informally then formally, of St. George's

Cemetery Committee. A member for some 20 years, I truly enjoyed working with my two co-members (Dick Raymond and Steve Bates). Our tasks were diverse: In addition to keeping the books and providing correspondence, I spent many an autumn afternoon raking pails full of fallen walnuts from the beautiful trees on the cemetery property, often alone but sometimes with one of the other committee members. I treasure the chats we had, sorting out the world's problems while raking walnuts!

No matter where I have lived or travelled, St. George's has been a part of my life. I am proud to have been a member of this community for over 85 years.

Story by Margaret Ryerson



Pies!

When my mother, Carol Cragg, made the decision to worship at St George's there was always a discussion with the entire family in the fall about the annual pie sale. As mum said, 'In the country, baking is a competitive sport'. These weren't ordinary pies, these were church pies, with the connotation that these transcended all others. We were asked to get our order in for how many and what variety we might like. She would call in the order and it wasn't unusual for her to take home 10 pies from the sale.

There were stories about church dinners where attendees could only have one slice of pie, but if you were complimentary to the servers you might be able to get a second piece. If you mentioned that you were undecided about which pie tasted best, you could possibly wrangle a third. Apparently Mum's friend, Stone Avery was silky smooth and could regularly obtain three pieces, which made us want to work on our persuasive skills and vocabulary.

The tradition of state-of-the-art baking continues today. At the Town Crier's dinner at St George's on June 1st, 2019, the meal was wonderful and there was a fabulous array of pies. The selection was daunting. I had a piece of blueberry and a cherry tart, but it was the lemon meringue pie calling out to me. The meringue was so tall. Then the first forkful... heaven! Flaky crust, tart lemon and light as air meringue. The experience was almost spiritual. I fear I shall never again taste its equal. It goes without saying that I was not the only person in the room who was left almost speechless by the quality of the baking.

Many thanks to the ladies and men who carry on the tradition of incredible church pies.

Story by Liam Cragg



St. George's Church Rental Properties

Almost every church has a rectory that is usually used as the home of the priest that is in charge of the church and his or her family. If for some reason, it is not needed for this purpose, it normally can then be rented out with the rental income becoming part of the church's funds. This has been the case for the rectory of St. George's church for a number of years.

Trinity church in Colborne was affiliated with St. George's church for many years. Trinity similarly had a rectory that had been rented out for the past number of years. When Trinity church was decommissioned and closed in 2012, the question arose regarding what to do with its rectory. It was decided that the rectory would continue to be owned by the diocese, and as part of the local Outreach Program, it would remain rented out at a reduced rent to a needy family. The bishop at the time then offered St. George's the option to maintain and monitor this home. In return, after upkeep expenses were paid for from the rental fee, any residual money could be used to benefit St. George's church.

Already having previous experience with the rental of our own rectory, St. George's readily agreed to take on the residence in Colborne for the short term. There were some concerns as the building was already about 30 years old and we knew that it could possibly need extensive and costly items for maintenance and upkeep. Fortunately, so far, we have done very well and the extra money going against St. George's operations has been very helpful.

It is always a challenge as a landlord to balance the tenant's request for upgrades and maintenance and still generate a modest profit. Over the past couple of years, as well as having completed a number of small

repairs and modifications, we have shingled the roof, replaced two windows, replaced the hot water tank, and installed a humidifier.

The end result is that St. George's has been able to keep both rental units occupied and that has created an ongoing very helpful income to support our church from these two properties. Hopefully we will be able to maintain this situation for a while longer into the future.

Story by David Wright



Returning Back Home Again

The thoughts of our quaint little church of St. George's in Grafton celebrating its 175th anniversary this year have brought back many memories of my own personal and spiritual life during a part of these years.

I grew up locally in a large family with 7 kids. My story starts back many years ago to when my Mom and Dad, Ada and Don Prentice, were both baptized, confirmed, and married right here in

St. George's church in Grafton. As each of us was born, all 7 of us, as their children, were each also baptized in St. George's church. I was told that when I was baptized, we had no car, and we went from our farm in Dundonald near Colborne to St. George's and back by horse and buggy.

From there I have to fast forward my memories a few years to when my age was in the low single digit numbers. In life, it is very common for people to move from one residence to another. Similarly, in our spiritual lives it is not uncommon for us to sometimes also move from one spiritual home, or church, to another. My early childhood memories now find us attending church at Trinity church in Colborne. At that time, Trinity Church in Colborne was affiliated with the St. Paul's church in Brighton.

I remember that as kids took our catechism classes with them and we were all confirmed together.

There was a short period of time that because of a difference in opinion between Dad and the Priest in charge at the time, we did not attend Trinity for a while but went to church elsewhere. Once that priest left, we returned to Trinity once again.

Later things changed again and Trinity church in Colborne then became affiliated with St. George's church in Grafton.

My Mom and Dad were very well known and were always very active both within the community, as well as within the church. They also ensured that we were all nourished and grew mentally, physically, socially, as well as spiritually. It was important for them to make sure we all had a well-balanced life.

Now that we were back attending Trinity Church in Colborne, I remember that when we attended church, our large family of 9 would sit in the front pew. I also remember that there was another large family of 8 from Lakeport, the Mazurek family, who always chose to sit in the back pew of the church.

Besides Dad's hard work on our farm, he was also a butcher. He was also very active and helped at Trinity Church. He took on the role of a sidesman, and also became a server. Later, with the help of Rev. Leonard Ware, he and Bill Self became lay readers. It seemed neat for us to listen to our own Dad occasionally deliver a sermon at church. Dad went on to be a Sunday School Leader. For a good number of years, he also cut the grass at the church. There were times when we joined with Grafton to put on Christmas plays. For those occasions and any other Christmas functions, Dad was most always there participating incognito as Santa Claus. Another big contribution Dad made at Trinity church was organizing the AYPAs, (Anglican Young Peoples Association) for teens. It was a large group that I participated in and will write about a bit later in my story.

Mom stayed home and lovingly looked after the family. She also was very dedicated and active in many ways both at home and at church. Mom even made most of the dresses for my sisters and for me. At Trinity church, she was part of the Ladies Aid and contributed a lot of time helping at many church dinners, teas, and other functions, not to mention her many contributions of home-made baked goodies. She was

also caretaker there for many years. Her affiliation and work in the church meant so much to her, and she was very sad when it was closed in 2012.

As I continued to grow and move through my teenage years, the church remained very important to me spiritually and socially as well. For a good number of years, I was a member of the AYP (Anglican Young Peoples Association) that my Dad had started at Trinity church. We were a large group and very active. We learned a lot by visiting all the local churches and participating in their services. We even went to St. James Cathedral in Toronto.

There were also many social activities to keep us interested and keep us active. Our group would help out at church functions like pancake and other suppers, and even helped by placing tiles on the floor in the church hall on one occasion. We had wagon rides and I especially remember one in winter after which we ended up at the church rectory for hot chocolate. Other activities included dances. We would have dances in our church hall with local bands from the community. One indelible memory for me was one time when we went to a dance in the church hall of St. Paul's church in Brighton. On this particular evening, we were driven there in a station wagon that was filled to the brim with an unbelievable number of, (you won't believe this), 27 of us kids aboard. That was bad enough, but on the way back home again, around midnight, we had a flat tire. What an experience. And no one can ever forget those times that Rev. Ware would drive us.

Within our AYP group, from an "Outreach" point of view, we had 2 members, (Bob Hall and Jane Reymes), who went to Jamaica, and one member, (Ric Westall), who went to British Guyana to assist the local population there in their building projects.

All of my sisters, as well as myself were all married at Trinity Church. Most of our children were baptized there, and some even married there. Some of their children, my sisters' and my grandchildren were also

baptized there. The church continues to be an integral part in all of our lives.

When Trinity church was closed in 2012 it was a very sad feeling and loss for all of us. We knew that we would be losing touch with a lot of members and friends who would be moving to different churches in town, in Brighton, and elsewhere. For our family, there was no doubt where we were going. We already had family heritage and roots firmly embedded to follow back to St. George's church in Grafton. It was like returning to the old original family homestead. Upon return, Mom and Dad claimed the back pew and that remained their spot until it was vacated when Dad passed away and joined Mom once again, this time to be together with her in their heavenly home.

Mom, Dad, our grandparents, and our brother are now at rest in the cemetery behind St. George's church. Our roots are here, our heart is here, we are back home again.

This is my story:

Anne McMurray

March 2019



The Rectors Last Service, 13 Years in Retrospect

Taken from the July/ August 1980 newsletter.

The rector and Mrs. Ware will spend their last Sunday of worship in the parish on Sunday, July 29th.

“We wish to express our thanks to everyone in this parish that have made our ministry in Grafton and Colborne a very happy memory”.

As I look back on my ministry amongst you I know that I have made many friends and I certainly have come to love and rejoice with you in the name of our Lords Jesus.

You have been a great source of strength to my wife Doris and I.

We have rejoiced with you and your family in the happy moments of your life and we have cried with you in your sorrow. In some small way we trust that we have, in the Name of the God whom we serve and adore, made your life worth living and enjoyable.

You have built a parish hall in Grafton; worked hard to install siding in Colborne; and developed two of the best choirs found anywhere in our community. You have developed two fine church schools and encouraged many your couples and their children to return to the Church of their fore-fathers.

In the Name of Jesus and in the power of His Holy Spirit a renewal is happening in this parish.

Your new Rector will find and very warm and loving people anxiously awaiting his arrival. Support him and pray for him.

You and your love ones will always be in our thoughts and prayers as we venture forth in God's name to care for His flock.

Len & Doris Ware

Submitted by Karen Linkie



Revitalizing Our Inheritance

St. George's Church and Canon Nind Hall

We have many stories, recollections, events and much historical information that we have accumulated to publish and to share for our 175th anniversary. This is one of the historical stories. The story describes the latest renovations within the church and in Canon Nind Hall that forms part of St. George's Anglican Church.

This story takes us back to the year 2014. At this point, the church requires several projects of repair and updating. Canon Nind Hall has been in use for approximately 40 years. Little, other than the normal ongoing maintenance, has been done to the hall. It is tired and needs updating and a makeover. What can we do, how and by whom can it be done, and how are we going to pay for it?

November of 2014: The church wardens met with Bishop Linda to discuss St. George's buildings and our community. Also to discuss the availability and requirements to obtain funds from the Diocese program of "Our Faith – Our Hope – Re-imagine the Church.

February 22, 2015: At our annual Vestry Meeting, a motion was passed to appoint Deputy Warden Ron Watters as project manager for revitalizing the church and Canon Nind Hall. A steering committee of interested members was formed to prepare the plans and the budget required to meet all standards and codes and to revitalize and enhance the already beautiful country church of St. George's and Canon Nind Hall in order for them to become a more reverential and welcoming spaces that would be more attractive and useful to the local community, as well as for visitors to use them for regular worship, weddings, funerals, baptisms, baby showers, anniversaries, occasion dinners, and other activities and events.

Project Manager Ron also consulted with many external and internal resource persons to determine the many specific detailed requirements needed to successfully apply for the grant available through the ‘Revitalizing our Inheritance Program,’ and to plan and accomplish each step of the project.

*** NOTE:** See list of names of persons consulted and supporters in addendum at end.

Spring 2015: The application for funding was submitted.

October of 2015: Funding to proceed was approved and received from the diocese.

*** NOTE:** See list of funding in the addendum at end.

January of 2016: Renovations began with contractors from Fellowship Baptist Church in Cobourg, Ron, and several church members and members of the steering committee assisted to help however possible, including the removal of old materials and clean-up etc. at the end of each day.

June 2016: Renovations completed.

*** NOTE:** See list of renovations done in the church and also in Canon Nind Hall in addendum at end.

Future Planned Projects:

*** NOTE:** See list of projects planned in addendum at end.

Some Activities at St. George’s:

*** NOTE:** See list of activities in addendum at end.

ALLELUIA: And they thought it could not be done. Well, it was all done in record time, beautifully finished, functional, and within \$23.00 of our original targeted budget cost. This was thanks to the work and dedication

of the total St. George's community as well as the contractors from Fellowship Baptist Church in Cobourg who helped with their reduced rates. A big "Thank You" as well to the municipality for their support, as well as all the extremely helpful persons that we consulted regarding various associated issues.

As we celebrate and pass through our 175th anniversary in 2019, we are hopeful that as we age, the buildings will increasingly be used by additional groups and that the St. George's Community will continue to grow, to be alive and vibrant as we move across the next 25 years and towards celebrating our 200th anniversary.

May God Bless us all.

ADDENDUMS:

Names of Persons Consulted:

- Minister Leslie Barclay (Making renovation environmentally friendly)
- Suzanne Lawson (Making renovation environmentally friendly)
- Dr. Sister Linda Gregg (Making renovation environmentally friendly)
- Dr. E. Meakes (Needs of Seniors today)
- Members of St. George's (Many items and too many to name)

Renovations Funding Information:

- Total Renovation Calculated Cost **\$197,000.00**
- Cost Sharing Calculation St. George's \$37,000.00
- Grant Requested \$160,000.00
- Amount Refused by Diocese for tower Repair: (\$15,000.00)
- Grant Amount Approved by Diocese: **\$145,000.00**
- Additional Cost for Wireless Communication\$12,000.00

- Communications Grant Amount Approved: **\$12,000.00**

Completed Renovations to the Church:

- New carpeting on the floor throughout.
- New Seat cushions.
- Freshly painted altar area.
- Outside new LED electronic marquis message board to announce events at St. Georges and for the other community churches as well.
- Outside cross was refurbished.
- Roof cap was removed and repaired.
- Microphones in church were updated.

Completed Renovations to Canon Nind Hall:

- New glass doors for entrance to foyer.
- Added coat hanging area and second bathroom in foyer area.
- New flooring in Vestibule, kitchen, and hall.
- New coiffured ceilings for hall.
- New fireplace in hall.
- Extra storage areas added in hall.
- New Lamp fixtures in hall.
- Engineered flooring in hall.
- Air Conditioning installed in hall.
- New glass oak doors installed from foyer into the hall.
- Hall wired for sound and with a projector unit.
- WiFi installed in the hall.

Renovations to Kitchen in Canon Nind Hall:

- The kitchen was slightly enlarged by a cut out to the foyer.
- All new appliances - New Gas Stove.
- New stand-up subway oven and warming oven.
- Dishwasher.
- New Stainless steel counters.
- Newly tiled walls.

Fund raising for Future Planned Renovations:

- Replace upper entrance doors of the church with glass doors.
- A 175th anniversary mosaic has been commissioned. Will hang in the entrance foyer.
- Other projects to be announced.

Some Current Ongoing Activities at St. George's:

- Regular Sunday Services.
- Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals upon request.
- Tuesdays: Ladies coffee morning etc.
- Fridays: Men's Community breakfast.
- Church bake sales and pre-arranged dinners.
- Community Care Senior's dinners.
- Monthly community soup luncheon day.
- Messy Church now in its 3rd year allowing children and families to experience the community of St. George's.
- Yoga classes beginning in March 2019.
- Canon Nind Hall is also available for pre-arranged events such as celebration of life luncheons, Wedding, Birthday and other receptions or celebrations, and to reserve for meetings or other events.

Submitted by Ron Watters



Roy and Jane's story

We had left Pickering and built our new home in the north end of Baltimore, about 20 years ago, and now was time to find a church where we would feel comfortable as part of a church community. The closest church was in Roseneath; it was good but didn't quite work for us, just that we couldn't put our finger on what was missing or even what we were looking for. While there we met a young couple, Jody and Pam.

The couple of Sunday later we travelled south to St. Peter's, in Cobourg. There we had an easy decision, too big and impersonal. However, also in the church were Jody and Pam. This had not been planned, it was a complete surprise.

A few Sundays later, we had ruled out going to Port Hope, they would be big churches again, so instead headed to St. George's, Grafton and there we met Jody and Pam for the third time. We had found our church family, friendly people who were pleased to see and welcome us. This also became the home for Jody and Pam.

Was this an extraordinary coincidence? We believe we were destined to come to St. George's.

It is nice to share and to participate in the smooth running of the church, Roy has taken on the church maintenance roll and Jane is always there to help with Soup Day and food preparation for parties and when outsiders are renting the hall.

Submitted by Roy and Jane Hodder



Being Part of St. George's Community

In 2008 Ron introduced me to St. George's Anglican Church Community at a service in early January. I was overwhelmed with the warmth of a greeting from Joan Stover who welcomed us at the door. When I suggested that we marry in this beautiful Church and possibly have our reception in the Hall, Joan and the Ladies Guild took over with decorating the Church and Hall with balloons, fall bouquets and a feast fit for a King! It truly was a magical day with so many of the members involved in setting up, preparing food, serving, cleaning up and looking like it was so much fun for them as well as our guests....the next day was Bishop Linda's visit and she commented that she had never been treated to a beer after the service (there was plenty of food and drink left over to continue the celebration)

Ron and I formally joined St. George's when Father Ed Cachia was appointed to our Church...since then many Roman Catholics have joined and realized that being an Anglican is similar to practising in the RC Church but women are ordained ministers and lay people have a strong say in how we offer service to the community.

Ron and I have tried to be involved in the life and spirit of St. George's.

Ron became a Deputy Warden and when discussion of repairing the ceiling in the Hall, it was decided that Ron would apply for a Grant from Our Faith Our Hope to renovate the Hall, Kitchen and add a bathroom to the foyer. He was successful in receiving the money and the renovation was completed in 2016. It has given a renewed use of the facility with Messy Church, Men's Breakfast, Anniversary and Special Birthdays, and other uses. Another project after the renovation was to purchase an LED sign to face Highway#2 and post activities, events happening at St. George's and other Churches in the area. After fund raising the sign was

purchased and installed. It has advertised our events plus the local churches. The local Churches have thanked us for this advertising.

For me, St. George's has become my Community with involvement in Messy Church, Soup Days, Pie Making, Serving at funerals etc. And going to Tuesday morning coffee.

St. George's has also supported me with the Stephen Lewis Granny- 'Dare To Dine' and Transition House (an emergency shelter for the homeless) by coming out to the different fundraisers that both groups offered. In October of 2018 the Church Community prepared served and hosted a Gala for Transition House's re-opening. All the food and the Hall were paid for by the Friends of Grafton so all the proceeds went to Transition House - THANK YOU!

We are proud to be part of this vibrant Community of believers and hope that we can be part of it for a long time to come.

Story by Sharon O'Connor and Ron Watters



Soup's On at St. George's

The last Tuesday of every month from October to April, (excluding December), is Soup Day at St. George's Church in Grafton. It provides the opportunity for members within our community, or in reality anyone, to join us for the opportunity to socialize together once per month and enjoy a great lunch that is prepared by volunteer members of the church. The lunch usually includes a variety of five or more home-made soups, chili, plus buns or crackers, juices, tea and coffee and a dessert of some type of sweet, etc. There is no charge for anyone to participate. A donation box, however, was provided at the request of many of the participants who mentioned that they would like to continue coming but wished to make a donation.

How did this all come about? Outreach is forefront in the life of most churches. Outreach is defined as reaching out to others or becoming involved in a community or effort. In St. George's we had many brainstorming meetings regarding who, what and how could we best help the less fortunate within our community? One of the many ideas that came up was, that maybe we could invite the less fortunate for a free lunch. There it was, a free lunch. Let's try it. The decision was to hold a Soup Day, our first one, on the last Tuesday of October 2009. We advertised it to the community, and to our surprise, this first one and the one that followed in November 2009 were poorly attended. Since then it quickly grew to become a social event available to everyone in our community. It has become a place for community members to gather, visit and socialize together, as well as enjoy a wonderful home-made meal together. Here we are in 2019, 10 years since beginning Soup Day and now serve somewhere in the vicinity of 40 or so persons each Soup Day.

As Soup Day progressed through the years, people attended and enjoyed the many different kinds of home-made soups and chili. They began

asking for the recipe for their favourites. As this continued, it sparked the idea that a cook book might be a valuable project to undertake. Thus in 2012 was born a cook book called “Soup Day Winners” that included a recipe collection of 16 favourite soups and 4 sweets from the 2009 to 2011 Soup Days. Then again in 2013, interest and sales prompted a follow-up recipe book, “More Soup Day Winners” that included recipes for an additional 5 soups and 5 sweets. These recipes could either be added to the prior cook book or kept separately. Total sales so far have exceeded 100 through sales at our church’s Monthly Coffee Sundays, as well as at other events. Interest in these cook books continues to exist with many repeat customers looking for Christmas or other special occasion gifts for family members and friends. It is a fun activity and rewarding spin-off from our successful Soup Days. The proceeds from these books is returned to subsidize our ongoing Soup Days.

We are still collecting new recipes for the “New Winners” that show up as we continue to serve different soups and sweets. Who Knows, maybe another cook book may be coming.

Hopefully we will continue to host Soup Day at St. Georges for many more years, and we look forward to meeting you there.

Story by Ann Raymond and Julie Davis
February 2019



St. George's Evening Guild - 1983

This article is taken, in its entirety, from a submission to the Trinity St. George's Newsletter, February 13, 1983 by Edith Watson.

On Wednesday evening, November 13, 1957 about twelve young women of St. George's Church met at the home of Louise Goody with the intention of forming an evening branch of the Ladies Guild.

Mrs. Nancy Snowden opened the meeting with a prayer, then afterwards explained the procedures in starting our group and conducting the meetings. It was decided to call our group the Evening Guild. Our first president was Mrs. Beatrice Prentice. Our meetings were to be held on the second Wednesday of each month, except for the summer, at 8 p.m. A collection was to be taken at each meeting and yearly dues of fifty cents were to be paid in January.

At our January meeting we decided our program for the year. Members offer their homes for our meetings and two volunteers to provide the lunch.

Many of our women are super craft persons, and at our annual tea and bazaar held on the last Saturday in October, we have a grand array of knitted articles, sewing, various crafts and a bake sale table that all church members contribute to, including jams and fresh vegetables.

We usually cater to two or three dinners a year, such as the Co-op dinner, a wedding and the Catholic Women's dinner. Last year we added another tea to our efforts—the Spring Tea, just after Easter. And, of course, when the church has its annual Strawberry Supper in June or its Bean Supper in November, our Evening Guild women are all in there working to help make these events a success. Our guild gives several hundred dollars each year to our church wardens toward the expenses of the church and rector.

In June 1982 we celebrated our 25th anniversary in the Canon Nind Hall with a dinner catered by the Catholic Women's League. Almost all of our members from the past twenty-five years attended. We renewed acquaintances with those who have moved away, reminisced, showed pictures taken at past meetings and chuckled over the changes in each of us—from being slim and trim to adding a pound or two (?). We had a marvellous reunion.

At present we have fourteen members and we would be delighted to have new members join our group. Come ladies...come one, come all.

Submitted by Karen Linkie



St. George's Gift Garden

My Husband died in 2015 when the idea for a Gift Garden was still in its planning. I had two choices: 1- To not bother. 2 - Carry on the plan. I have been described, fairly, as a runaway train. The train left the station.

We wanted the property at 550 Pipeline Road to be of service to its community, and one day a British gardening programme talked about Gift Gardens. Our eyes went all big and we were off!

The purpose of the garden is for the use of anyone in distress; being widowed, (little did I know that would be me) the loss of a child, a bad diagnosis, loss of a job causing economic distress, generally not knowing which way to turn.

The church also received a request for wedding photos to be taken in the garden, and the wedding party duly arrived. During one photo opportunity the small bridesmaids dressed all in white were missing. They were found blowing bubbles for the fairies in the fairy garden. At the same time the small page boys decided that they should get in climbing as many trees as possible before close of play. At that point I went in for a cup of tea. Through this request the garden acquired another delightful purpose.

One day two friends came to visit with their ten year old grandson who is interested in marine life. He spent a happy afternoon catching and examining some prize winning toads and frogs, they were put back, by the way, but I am now responsible for a request to his parents for an ecological responsible pond at his home in a quiet suburb in Brampton. This visit gave me the idea of having a children's day at the garden. Ah, I feel another train leaving.

Apart from the Fairy Garden, there are also, lookouts, a labyrinth, a meandering path through native grasses and wild flowers, a large pond with wall to wall frogs, toads and assorted beetles, a secret garden is being put in this spring, an apple and plum orchard, a vegetable garden, all produce to local charities, a locust tree spinney, plenty of tables and chairs.

To all who use the garden I wish peace, tranquility and harmony.

Sally Hicks



St. George's and the Dragon

While he retired from public life to the “suburbs” of Grafton over 10 years ago, St. George's dragon was a popular figure at the annual Haldimand Township Canada Day parades in Grafton and at parish functions in the Canon Nind Hall from the late 1990s to the early 2000s.

Inspiration and collaboration marked the dragon's “birth”. The Canada Day parades were the brainchild of Murial Braham, who took up politics at the municipal level as a retirement activity, winning a seat on Haldimand Township council in 1988 at the age of 73. With vision and confidence in others (which allowed her to bring to life numerous enduring projects in the Grafton area, including the Wicklow boat launch), it struck her that a Canada Day parade would be an excellent way to bring together the citizens of the various tiny communities of the township. She canvassed local businesses to raise funds for the first parade, which took place in June 1991. St. George's entered a float in the parade in 1994, respecting the parade theme. Two years later, I put together a simple parade float to highlight the presence of St. George's parish in the community, using a hay wagon and tractor lent by Harold Prentice, a farmer and former warden of St. George's. The parish has had a float in the parade each year since 1996.

After the 1998 parade, Mary Doig, who is an actress and theatre director, suggested that the parish ought to have a dragon on its float. An excellent suggestion! I contacted the props department of the Northumberland Players in Cobourg. After thoughtful research and taking into consideration parade and float platform criteria, the creative props team members proposed a design for the dragon, using solid but light-weight materials. The day before Canada Day parade in June 1999, the bright green, winged, rampant dragon was transported in procession from Cobourg to Grafton in the back of Dick Raymond's half-ton truck. The dragon was a hit at the parade!

But what is a dragon without a St. George to fight him? In June 1999 (and again in 2000), Steve Bates, another former warden of St. George's, agreed to be the sword-wielding saint on the float with the dragon. Suitably outfitted in period-looking garments provided by the Northumberland Players costume department in Cobourg, "St. George" challenged the dragon along the parade route, to the delight of parade-watchers. St. George's even won first prize for its float in 2001 and displayed proudly the coveted milk can (the prize!) in the parish hall during the victory year.

Age and too many parades caught up with the dragon. He retired; standing guard in the parish hall at first, and now rests in Liam Cragg's barn.

Story by Margaret Ryerson

(Note: Every person named in this article is/was a St. George's parishioner.)



St. George's Cemetery

As we celebrate the 175 Anniversary of our church we cannot forget that we are fortunate enough to have our cemetery located immediately north of the church. As reported by Bob Deane a couple of years ago the oldest grave appears to be that of Elizabeth Welding Rogers who died in 1815. This date is significant due to the fact that the church was not built until 1844. What building was here before that?

If you do not spend much time in the cemetery you may not be aware that the Board considers the cemetery in three sections – 1935 plan, 1985 plan and the 2012 expansion plan. Due to excellent record keeping by people like Don Hare, Marguerite Stansfield and most recently Margaret Ryerson we have been able to maintain the information pertaining to interments in the cemetery. Lynn Palmer started updating Margaret's information a few years ago and we have continued the practise. At the moment we have names of approximately 750 interments and/or future interments. This list was compiled using our own records and those on file at the library. When reviewing this information we discovered some discrepancies which appear to be quite normal when dealing with information that is this old.

Over the past 30 years a number of improvements have taken place. The hedge on the east side of the property was trimmed and cleaned up. The evergreen trees around the perimeter were planted to mask the steel fencing and cut down the number of softballs that find their way into the north end of the cemetery. The storage shed was painted and shelving installed. With the 2012 expansion came a water line up to the round-about making watering of flowers more convenient.

Everyone enjoys the shade provided by the huge black walnut trees. However, depending on the year there can be thousands of walnuts that have to be picked up and removed. Failure to do this in the fall will result in expensive lawn mower repairs. If you drop by the storage shed, late in the fall, you will inevitably find where the squirrels are keeping their stash. As you are picking up the walnuts the squirrels are usually sitting in the trees chirping at you for taking their food. While attending the shed you may also disturb the family of fox that take shelter in the south west corner of the foundation.

The Cemetery Decoration Day is celebrated on the first Sunday in June.

Countless hours are spent maintaining, what we believe to be the most beautiful cemetery in our area.

Story by Ann Raymond

St. George's Cemetery Board



Thank You for Accepting Us

Our story begins the day our 3 ½ month old daughter died, April 24,1993. Following our visit at MacCoubrey's, we had to find a place to bury our precious daughter. We went to a few cemeteries before we found St. George's. We drove in and got out and walked around the grounds. It was very peaceful, with the park and the ball diamonds right next door.

We went to the Canon Nind Hall to see if anyone was there. No one was in the hall but we found Reverend Lesley Barclay's phone number on the board so we went down the street to call her. She was very pleasant and, within an hour, Lesley Barclay was sitting in our living room to speak with us about what had happened and what she could do for us. Lesley agreed to do a service for our daughter even though we did not go to church at the time. Lesley gave us the number for the cemetery contact. I believe, at the time it was Marguerite. Later that day, we met her back at the cemetery to pick a place for our daughter to rest. Every encounter we had with members of St. George's was positive. We purchased a plot in the cemetery; Lesley agreed to do a service on April 28th and the internment May 1st, 1993.

We attended our first service at St. George's on May 2nd, 1993. We had both our other children baptized here; my parents are both buried in the cemetery. My Niece was married at St. George's. I have been the St. George's Synod member for many years and will continue to do so until someone else wants the job.

We were made to feel like part of the family all those years ago, which made it very easy to keep coming back. Thank you all for accepting us.

Karyn Beausoliel



The Back Door

St. George's Anglican Church, Grafton has a very well utilized back door. Many of its parishioners use it as a short cut direct to the kitchen facilities when food is in hand. Many delicious homemade meals & pot luck luncheons have entered through the back door. Events such as Soup day, Men's breakfast, Coffee hour, Community dinners, Messy Church evening, Surprise events, Private functions and more... all successful gatherings and hosted by the Guild and volunteers who scramble in and out of the back door.

Let us go back in time at St George's to the year 2002. Then the back door would have another purpose.

Two parishioners had been engaged for some time. They were repeatedly asked by their blended families when they would become Mr. & Mrs. The engaged couple finally responded, "OK, by the end of the year". (2002).

Many months passed by and the engaged Parishioners had all but forgotten their commitment. Out of nowhere, mid-December the children barged into the rec room, turned off the TV, held out a calendar and said "pick a date!" After all there were over a dozen dates left to choose from until the end of the year.

Now mid-December is a very busy and hectic time of year. "He" was wearing fur hats and "She" worked 130km away in Toronto, only home weekends. The available dates were now down to what you could count on one hand

Sunday December 22nd was the chosen day. The two prayed to the Good Lord that he would miraculously help make this happen.

Luckily Father Ted Clark would be available! A late in the day ceremony was scheduled. Again Prayers of thanks were made by the thankful couple.

It was decided to only have the children in attendance. Family and friends would already be scrambling to prepare for Christmas. It was to be a hush-hush event.

The special day arrived and those attending hid their vehicles behind the church and “snuck in the back door”. The ceremony will always be a special occasion remembered by the now Mr. & Mrs. who then “snuck back out the back door”.

A small intimate dinner was to follow. The popular restaurant was known as Northumberland Heights. Everyone knew everyone when dining at the Heights. There were at least half dozen couples you would acknowledge and say hello as you were being seated. No one would suspect anything as it would appear as a family dinner out, everyone all dolled up, (remember the couple did not want to run into those they needed to call with the good news, more prayers).

The secret was ours until our only invited guest arrived. Father Ted Clark caught the attention of everyone in the room as he arrived in black attire and starch white Collar. You could have heard a pin drop as the room followed his destination.

Our table had champagne and wine flowing, as we reminisced the day and likely louder than we intended. The stares and whispers were evident. The cat was out of the bag & congratulations came our way.

Afterwards everyone said it was not the Priest that gave it away. Rather the new husband who never ever went to restaurants and especially without his hat and cow covered overalls.

The husband's dolled up days are kept for special occasions, like Sunday service at St George's. The church where the back door will always have a special meaning for us.

Story by David and Colleen Wright



The Last Supper Wall Hanging

The wall hanging was a gift to St. George's Church in January 2004 from Dick and Charles Raymond in memory of their mother Margaret, father William (Bill) and sister Christina Inglis.

Some of you, as you read this article, will remember the Raymond's as Raymond's Esso (Margaret) and Raymond's Television Shop (Bill). The Esso station is now Grafton Pharmacy and the T.V. shop is the building located at 210 Aird Street (prior to the second storey renovation).

When Dad retired in 1985 he became interested in latch hooking. A craft he could do at home while listening to hours of classical music. Dad had latched numerous items and was fascinated by the Last Supper, however, was hesitant to spend approximately \$1,000.00 on the kit. In order to encourage him to tackle the project I funded it so that he did not have to touch his income. The purchase was made January 1996.

The kit arrived and so the journey begins. As you may be aware this kit had more than 100,000 pieces of yarn in various hues. The first thing you have to do is interpret which colour number matches which actual colour. Dad and I spent hours of time sorting colours (not without some disagreement) and prepared to start the project. Due to the size of this hanging Dads loom was far too small for this project. Charles took on the task of building a loom that could support the weight of the project.

Dad spent most of the year, over 1,000 hours, latching the wall hanging. During that time he also had an issue with carpal tunnel syndrome. Once the hanging was complete where does it go. To start with it went to the master bedroom above the bed. It resided there until it was mounted on the south wall of the Canon Nind Hall where Dad had hoped it would be. It was carefully removed and re-installed after the 2015 renovation. The

wall hanging now has lighting and a drop down screen was installed so that it would cover the hanging and can be used with a projector.

The wall hanging needs to be in a large room so that you can step back and get the full view. I think it creates a marvellous backdrop when we hold Sunday service in the hall.

Story by Dick Raymond



The Old Church Organ Couldn't Be Given Away

This story starts, not this month, or even in 2019, but five years ago in Colborne. Trinity Church, the sister church to St. George's, had closed its doors for the last time and the old 1892 organ sat idle. It had only recently been through a twenty thousand dollar service but, without use, deterioration would soon begin to set in. It was a one of a kind organ made by a then famous Toronto organ manufacturer, R.S. Williams. It was an education to step inside the little door at the back of the organ, brush cobwebs aside and, with flashlight in hand, survey the engineering marvel that sadly has going the way of the dodo bird. Surely a heritage instrument had to be worth some dollars; selling it looked to be an easy job. A company in Vermont specialized in the sale of church organs but, firstly, line up behind all the other church organs that had become redundant. There was a small market still in the southern States if you could find a church that was flush with money. Even giving it away it would be a monumental cost to the recipient. In round figures, eight unseen, twenty thousand to take it apart and seventy thousand to transport, reassemble and repair the inevitable damage when a 120 year old machine was taken apart for the first time. So much for a heritage machine being worth something! Just today, I researched this company for this story. Their page on used pipe organs is no longer there; they are now big in recently used or new digital organs.

Fast forward to 2019 and St. George's organ dated 1902. I don't know who made it or if it was from a famous manufacturer. As to the sound, I am no expert but it sounded fine to me. Karen, in the choir, said she found it difficult to sing because the organ had notes that no longer worked. Organist Neil said he managed to do better than most but sometimes he still had to momentarily stop playing in order to put extra force on several of the stops-whatever that means. Then one Friday morning in February, 2019 a new digital machine was installed in its

place. Michael, the temporary organist, literally jumped for joy when she heard the first sounds, she referred to as beautiful music.

Time marches on and we have to move on too. I once took the top of a Remington typewriter, another masterpiece in engineering, on a somewhat smaller scale than an old pipe organ, but the outcome is the same for a thousandth of the price, we now have digital that can do the job a hundred times better. It won't be many years before there is an automatic car. This makes me nervous but in twenty years when I am 100 and they have taken away my driving licence it might not be such a bad idea. But at St. George's we do have one big advantage over all the other digital replacements, we can still look and image the sound is coming from the organ pipes.

Bob Deane



The Old Church Pews

The church pews at St. George's Church would have been one hundred and seventy five years old and they would have been very uncomfortable.

In 1844 Samuel Morse taps out, "What hath God wrought", in the world's first telegraph message and also in 1844 the world's oldest bible, "The Codex Sinaiticus" is discovered in Egypt. In Grafton those 1844 pews perish after a devastating fire destroys the old church in 1908 and the need for new pews at St. George's Church is born.

When you enter our beautiful church, they greet you with their quiet elegance; ageless oak, smooth and sleek. They beckon to you, seeming to say, "Come, rest, sit awhile, commune with God and be at peace. We will hold you when you pray, we will rejoice with you when you sing, our quiet strength will support you when you weep, we will keep your secrets forever.

Close your eyes, envision our church without those beautiful pews. What do you see? I see a big, empty, lifeless room. The altar is there, to be sure, and the pulpit too, but they need the pews to anchor them. There would be nowhere for you to sit and pray, nowhere for you to rejoice with your neighbours.

When you enter St. George's the next time and relax in "your pew", imagine the generations who have gone before you who called it "their pew". Listen and you just might hear it say to you, "I am here for you, I will always be here for you."

Story by Karen Linkie



Let's Celebrate with Cake

It seems very appropriate as we come to the end of this book to have a story about cakes.

Cakes are special. Every birthday, every wedding, special meals, and most every celebration ends with something sweet, a cake, and people remember. It's all about the memories.

This book is also all about the memories. Memories related to the events and activities that have occurred, and also the personal stories of memories of many members of our little church.

At special events and meals, we are physically nourished with good food and companionship. In this book we are nourished with the memories of the role and outreach of our church within the community, as well as the memories of many parishioners.

Our cakes at St. George's have also played an important part at the conclusion of many events and activities that have taken place over the years. Most recently, theme cakes have been the ongoing highlight at the end of each Messy Church meeting at the meal shared with the children and their parents. They were something that were a real hit and an attraction to look forward to.

These are not just the ordinary and usual cakes. Each cake is a special and unique piece of sculptured artwork that reflects the theme of that evening. Gary Russell, a member of our congregation, who deserves the honorary title of "Master Cakeologist," is the creator of these pieces of culinary art. He admits that they are time consuming to prepare and take up anywhere between 15 and 30 hours each to create, but are well worth the time and effort.

To name but a few, Gary has designed many impressive cakes to reflect such themes as:

- * Jonah and the Whale
- * An Advent Wreath
- * The holy Spirit descending as a dove upon Jesus when He was baptized by John
- * The Advent Log
- * The Giving Tree (The story of the boy and the giving tree)
- * And Many Others.

Attached on the back cover are a few for you to drool over and admire.

And now, as we come to the end of this, our 175th Anniversary story book, we gratefully thank everyone who has participated in so many ways and in the many projects and activities over the years, especially for those that highlight this milestone anniversary of 175 years within our community and to everyone, *"Thanks for the Memories"*.

May God Bless our little church for many more years to come and also all those who enter it.

"A M E N"

Submitted by Pat McCoy



Forward to the 180th Anniversary Edition

Is a 'Can Do' gene built into the DNA of St. George's Grafton? It seems that way. There is much fog in early history but the events of 1908 and 09 are very clear, the original wooden church burned to the ground, but under the leadership of the Rev. Brooks in ten months this new modern church was built and held its first service.

I have been a parishioner at St George's for over two decades and when discussion on an idea takes place it is how to do it, not shall we do it .

'Can Do' in action: Back in 1934 the Rev. Deering led a convey of cars from St. George's to Saskatchewan to help farmers and help with God's Ministry during the 'Dirty Thirty's. - in those days the route was though the northern States. Then in 1957 Rev Ware of St. George's lead the other two Grafton church denominations in building the first Canadian interdenominational Seniors Home - Haldimand Court. Next, Canon Nind Hall was the work of the whole of the congregation and was named after the late Canon Nind, a much loved incumbent for 15 years. Then in 2018 the complete refurbishment of the Hall, Kitchen, washrooms and front entrance was led by Ron Watters a member of St. George's. This projected the church into being the 'Hub of the Community'. These modern facilities have hosted so many outreach projects. This is who we still are today.

Recently the Rev. Helena-Rose suggested we add a supplement to our 175th Anniversary book to mark our 180th Anniversary and present a copy to the Bishop of Toronto, the Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, when he comes on 15th September to celebrate the occasion with us. We thought it would be an easy step to make; twelve weeks should be ample time. However, Valerie and I were planning a wedding, our wedding, and suddenly we are down to six weeks, plus Eva Leca, my partner for book assembling to be ready for printing, is vacationing in Hungary. However

thanks to the Internet, the manuscript will be done in time for the printers. Never underestimate the congregation of St George's who rose to the challenge and produced more interesting stories twice the optimistic number I gave to the printer for an initial quote. "Can Do" again, as you will see, when you turn the page and read on.

Bob Deane



My Spiritual Journey to St. George's

I have been a Priest since 1983 and have had a diversity of opportunities and experiences. I have served at the local, diocesan and national levels. I have been privileged to provide leadership around Indigenous issues of healing and reconciliation, in the engagement process around sexuality and partnering internationally.

I spent twenty-five years serving in rural Saskatchewan before moving to Toronto to do community development ministry in Flemingdon Park. When I almost thought I retired, I responded to different Bishops' requests to serve in places of need. A downtown drop in and then an amalgamation through Covid. When I could no longer afford to live in Toronto, I moved to a condo in Cobourg, fortunately down the hall from a friend I have known for over forty years. Even before I moved the Bishop called to ask if I would serve St. George's in Grafton and Colbourne. I was thrilled to be in a rural community again. I had grown up north of Parry Sound and with my western ministry, have lived in and loved rural settings.

This Parish is extraordinary and I am delighted to be walking alongside many faithful folk. This Ministry has always been about outreach and relationship with the wider community. When money is raised at events, it is given away. The ongoing support of the ministry and building is from the donations of members. As an aging congregation, we use our energy well. We do not do anything because we have always done it that way. We all find creative and life giving ways to live into our mission within our means and energy. Above all else this is an inclusive and welcoming church. I am a widow since 2003 and have raised two daughters and a son through many challenges. I now have a room of my own where I can paint, sketch and create art. I have also been known to discover spiritual sustenance on the golf course. The air we breathe in this place will most certainly last another 180 years just as we breathe in

what has shaped the past. We are fellow travellers on God's journey of eternal Hope.

This I said at last year's anniversary, and it is forever applicable:

"As we move forward as a congregation, remember to let go of what we are clutching. We have the assurance that our God goes before us with mercy and grace. Let us lighten our hearts to embrace our future as a people of God.

I hope that our stories will inspire those who remember our witness at future anniversaries. We had to let go of much during the phases of Covid lockdown. But we have discovered that having let go of much, we have appreciated treasures beyond measure. The treasure that comes from a heart full of love and forgiveness!"

The Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft
Priest in charge

St. George's Anglican Church
Grafton, Ontario
August 2024



Louise Goody remembers St. George's in the "old days"

In winter, when it was too cold to worship in the church proper, services were held in a side room in the parish rectory across the road. That room, during the tenure of several rectors until about 1960, was set aside for use by the women of the parish, but was set up for worship as needed. This was one of the reasons why the parish worked together in the 1960s to build a church hall, although the need for one had been voiced a couple of decades earlier.

Sunday School was held in the church in the 1930s and 1940s, as there was no church hall or Sunday School room. One of the organists during this time, Mrs. Annie Snowden, also taught Sunday School. In those days, women and girls wore hats to church, including to Sunday School. One day while at Sunday School, I lifted my hat for some reason, although I did not fully remove it. Mrs. Snowden reached over and clapped my hat back down onto my head!

My family and I lived across the road from St. George's, next to the rectory, in the 1950s and 1960s. The house was rather close to the road – Highway 2, as it was known then. (Doug Johnston's "Uncle Will" had owned and lived in the house, which was on Johnston farm property, before we moved in.) In the days before the 401 was built north of Grafton, traffic was very heavy on highway 2 through the village, with more and more people owning cars. Because of the traffic, it was too dangerous for my children to play in the front yard. They also could not cross the road without supervision. For several years, Dick Raymond would come each Sunday morning, with his brother Charlie, and take my children across the road to attend Sunday school. Dick volunteered to do this, since he was passing by anyway on his way to church. I appreciated his offer. Dick was just that much older than my eldest son, Chris, and

was a very responsible lad. (An aside concerning Dick and Ann Raymond: Ann's sister Brenda often baby-sat my children when I needed someone.)

Thinking of the volume of traffic on highway 2 in the late 1950s and early 1960s and of the desperate need for the 401, 20 years makes a difference. In the 1930s, there was little traffic. Few people in the village had cars; most local people came to the village in horse and cart. I remember roller-skating on Highway 2 to Cobourg and back as a teenager. I had to step off the road for cars maybe twice during my skate. I also remember stopping at Carruthers farm about halfway between Grafton and Cobourg, on the north side of the highway, likely on the pretext of getting a drink of water while roller-skating. They had many dairy cows and had lots of cream, so they often made cream puffs. I always seemed to end up with a home-made cream puff whenever I stopped in!

In December 1965, after the Rev. Kiddell left and before the Rev. Ware arrived, there was no rector, so no services were held at St. George's. Just before Christmas, my husband, Fred, decided to decorate a small evergreen tree that was growing in front of the church. Each night, after dark, he would go over and turn on the lights that he had placed on the tree. Mrs. Gilliland, a parishioner who lived next to the church, told us that seeing the lights at the church each night gave her hope that the church would continue to be.

(Note: these reminiscences were shared over the phone with Diane Ryerson, who took copious notes. Due to time constraints, Louise was not able to draft a text in time to meet the submission deadline. As much as possible, Louise's own words are used in the text. She gave verbal permission for her reminiscences to be transcribed and submitted for inclusion in this new compilation of stories.)



Louise Goody, née Harrott, lived in Grafton and was an active parishioner at St. George's as a girl (aged 11 to 16) and again as a young wife and

young mother of (eventually) four children (from 1952 to 1969). As Louise noted in her submission to the 175th anniversary collection of stories, "Our whole family was involved with St. George's. Fred, my husband, was a warden. My older daughter, Cathy, and I sang in the choir. My oldest son, Chris, was crucifer. He also cut the grass at the church and in the cemetery. When a special day was coming up in the cemetery, such as the annual Decoration Day, we Goodys all worked there, trimming around the tombstones. I loved the years we lived in Grafton."

Although Louise went to St. Peter's, Cobourg, as a young woman (where she met her future husband) and worshiped at parishes in Peterborough after leaving Grafton in 1969 (she is currently a member of St. Luke's parish), in her heart, she still considers St. George's to be her church.

Louise Goody's story written by Diane Ryerson



The Rolling English Drunkard made the English Rolling Road

My road to St. George's Anglican Church in Grafton has had many ups and downs, twists and turns, like the path in J.K. Chesterton's "Rolling English Drunkard" poem, seldom straight, and with many diversions. This is true of my physical path and of my faith journey.

I was born in 1934, a time between the Great Depression and the Second World War, in Denham - a pretty semi-rural village in Buckinghamshire, England. Because my mother was Roman Catholic, my brother and I received instruction in Roman Catholicism. Later, after confirmation, I began to doubt certain tenets of that faith. In a private ceremony with the Bishop of London, I renounced Catholicism and was received as an Anglican.

In the 1950s many parishes were still feeling the effects of the war. My husband and I sometimes worshipped in churches in Southwark where parishioners had scattered to avoid the bombing. Where one church had been utterly destroyed, services were held in the parish hall, facing the ruins. Another large, dark, and dingy church was so poor in resources that only a few seats on either side of the aisle were clean. The rest were unused, unlit, and dirty.

In 1957 we emigrated to Canada. My husband became disillusioned with Christianity when, after a house-to-house visitation in a new Toronto sub-division to appeal for funds, the Parish Council built a wall around the church property. Hardly a welcome invitation to the public who had paid for it! From Toronto we moved to Prince Edward Island where I joined the local Women's Institute in Gaspereaux but worshipped at St. George's (an omen?) in Georgetown. We emigrated to Ireland in 1991, which I loved, but after five years we sold our house in Kilkenny and emigrated back to PEI.

We found a house in Stratford, a town across the river from the city of Charlottetown. I needed a home church. Uncomfortable at St. Peter's Cathedral, I found it in Christ Church, in rural Cherry Valley. I represented Christ Church on the Charlottetown Area Christian Council, eventually serving as President for three consecutive one year terms.

Christ Church, the little wooden church in Cherry Valley, resembles St. George in Grafton in its inclusive Ideology and in its warm, caring, congregation.

One Christmas, after my husband died, I visited my daughter Lesley who had moved with her family to Grafton. She took me to St. George's for an evening Carol Service. Father Ed was officiating; he was so kind and welcoming. When, because of deteriorating health, I knew I was leaving PEI to live in Grafton, there was no doubt in my mind that St. George's would be my new home church.

Ann Dutton



My Journey to St. George's

My first memories of church are when we moved to a small village in England and Mum and I started going to Sunday service. My father had a small farm and was busy attending his cattle and chickens. I was only 8 years old, but it was decided I should sit in the choir stalls with two older ladies. I wasn't there long as one lady felt I fidgeted too much and the vicar's wife, who played the organ, wanted me to stand by her and turn the pages of the music for her. The congregation was very small, but I always felt welcome there and a warmth.

Over the ensuing 50 years I attended a number of different churches in many communities before we "retired" to Cobourg.

For a number of years, we attended another church but never felt "part" of the community there, and the final straw came one Thanksgiving when not one familiar hymn was played: being a farmer's daughter Harvest Festival, as it was called in England, was a very important and special service for me. We decided it was time to try another place and St. George's was calling.

Our first Sunday was a revelation, we were welcomed so warmly and felt it was for ourselves and not what was in our wallet. Dick was often happy to come with me to Sunday service and he enjoyed the fellowship of the community as much as I did. During his illness I always felt I had the support of the members and after he died it was an easy decision to have his remains placed in the beautiful cemetery. Our children love to visit him there and have been known to take a beer with them to share with Dad on Father's Day!

The last few years have been an interesting journey. As I returned to Sunday services, I felt the warmth and friendship of so many and gradually became a little more active in church life. Then COVID happened and we all felt lost, and those of us alone, rather isolated, especially during the darkest days when we didn't even have Sunday services.

However, one day my phone rang, and Bob Deane was calling to see if I would help him work on a new project for the church, a suggestion from our revered Warden, Ann Raymond, I understand. We agreed to meet over tea and cookies and discuss the new idea. I came home loaded with relevant reading material, books and pamphlets already published, to study and see if I agreed with the new proposal. We agreed to meet in another week or so and it was quickly decided to shelve the idea; but we had so much else to talk about and the rest is well known to this parish.

Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft joined our church at the beginning of our journey together and she married us a few weeks ago, a really joyous occasion, 15 June 2024. Thank you, St. George's, for making my life feel whole again.

Valerie Cowling



The Canon Nind Hall

I feel we need to include some information about our beautiful hall in this publication. I was not involved at St. George's when the story of the hall starts so I am relying on information I have found in previous documentation. Research tells me that the idea of having a hall at St. George's started back in 1959. At a church meeting there was a motion by Mrs. Una Dickson and seconded by Arthur Riley that plans be made immediately to raise money to build a hall. It would take eleven years of fund raising.

The original hall was built using concrete block on a concrete slab. I believe the plans were made by Lang & Smith Building Supplies of Baltimore, Ontario and built by Ron Bates Jr. Ron was a lifelong member of St. George's and a general contractor. It appears that the budget for the building would be \$25,000. Records indicate that \$61.93 was raised in the first year. The funds would be raised from envelope offerings, euchres, talent show, Tupperware parties, auction sale, fishing party, dinners and the sale of beef and pork. Eleven years of fundraising resulted in \$14,785.75 and the decision was made to move ahead with the build. The official sod turning was on July 12th, 1970. The Church approached the Anglican Diocese of Toronto for a loan to cover the balance of the expense. The loan was granted, and the terms were that the church would pay \$1000 per year and would be interest free for the first three years.

The Hall was named after Rev'd. Thomas Arthur Nind who served at St. George's for 15 years, including the war years, prior to his retirement in 1959, he died in 1962, at the age of 84 and is buried in St. George's cemetery. He was a much-loved minister and was part of the 1959 meeting that approved the building of the Hall.

The Hall was officially named "The Canon Nind Memorial Hall" and dedicated at a service on November 28th, 1970 .

At the time of the build Ron Bates was working on the demolition of a high school in the area. The church was gifted doors, cupboards, shelving and basically anything else they could use from the old school. As a point of interest, the shelf and coat rod in the present hall are the ones that were originally installed.

At the Vestry Meeting on January 27th, 1975, Betty Reid, chairperson of the fund raising committee, moved that the balance of the loan, \$2,948.25, be repaid to Synod.

The hall remained basically unchanged until the mid 1980's, when a serving window was installed, and the basic layout of the kitchen was redesigned to meet the current needs. Most of the money raised during those years was by serving dinners.

In 1995 the hall was refreshed with new exterior doors and windows, exterior and interior painting, along with new flooring in the bathrooms and foyer.

In 2011 the Diocese of Toronto were conducting a major fund-raising campaign called "Our Faith Our Hope". Every congregation was asked to raise \$50,000; we did not feel that we would be able to reach this figure. However, we raised \$59,000. The Campaign Funds would be used by all churches in the diocese for upgrades to their premises. The latest renovation resulted because Ron Watters was listening to a homily being presented by the Rev. Dudley Walker wherein Dudley mentioned that God speaks to us and we need to act on it. Ron spent the next few months deciding how we could renovate the hall and make it more appealing to the public. He could see that the congregation was aging and serving dinners as a source of funding was getting more difficult. Ron's idea was to encourage hall rental as a means of income. The kitchen would be set up so that those using the hall could bring in their own caterer.

With a vision of a conference room at The Old Mill in Toronto, Ron would do countless drawings to best utilize our space. The renovation commenced in January 2016 and was completed in early August. Also completed at this time was paving of the parking lot, installation of the electronic sign on the front lawn and replacement of the barely functioning 1900 pipe organ with a superb new digital organ/piano, for a total cost of about \$200,000. We received a grant from the Our Faith Our Hope Campaign for about \$160,000 and the balance was raised by the congregation.

We are thankful for the foresight of those parishioners who in 1959 decided to build the hall and to Ron Watters for the last renovation. The renovated Hall is an asset to the Church and the wider community. It has been admired during many functions and was a prominent part of our 175th Anniversary and will be again for our 180th Anniversary on September 15th, 2024.

During the Covid Restrictions we moved all services to the hall where we could have the necessary distancing between people. Now, during the summer months, when the weather is hot and humid, we hold services in the hall as it is air conditioned. The cloth we use on the table used as a temporary altar was made, many years ago, by one of our parishioners for use on the head table for weddings and other special occasions.

Thousands of people have enjoyed food, fellowship and community in what we call "The Hub of the Community". Hopefully it will be enjoyed for many more generations.

Submitted By Ann Raymond



Social Justice Committee

In September of 2019 we celebrated our 175th Anniversary with a visit from Bishop Riscylla Shaw. At that time, we had many ongoing Outreach activities. They included Messy Church, Tuesday Coffee Hour, Friday morning Men's Breakfast, monthly Winter Soup Day Lunches, quarterly Community Care Seniors Luncheons, and Food Bank donations. There had also been a number of one-time events at which we raised money for community projects such as Transition House for men and our local women's shelter. In addition, we had two very important Social Justice ministries that supported the need for affordable housing in the communities of Grafton and Colborne. This ministry consisted of participation on the Board of Directors for Haldimand Court, an affordable housing complex with 22 apartments. As well as managing 2 houses rented out at affordable rates, to two single mothers. We were an active church.

With the onset of the Pandemic, many of these ministry activities necessarily came to an abrupt halt. Even more disturbing was the fact that we could not attend our regular Sunday morning worship service which is so central to all of our other activities in the community. Each week we listened to broadcasts and news updates on the lethal toll the pandemic was taking on people within our County and all over the world. By June 2021 Sunday services were being offered in our Hall with very strict protocols and guidelines of social distancing, wearing of masks, using hand sanitizers, and very, very little person-to-person interaction. This was going well with no evidence of the disease among us. However, there were soon new outbreaks in the wider communities and anything with person-to-person contact again had to be paused. We learned to be patient, and we learned to 'attend' church online, something new to most of us.

In the February of 2022 there was sad news that a war had been started in Ukraine. We were eager to do something. Together we collected from our own belongings, dozens of boxes of blankets, toiletries, first-aid supplies, baby formula and food, and children's clothing, to be airlifted to Ukraine by the Canadian Air Force based in Trenton. When families from Ukraine started arriving to seek refuge in Canada and in Northumberland County in particular, community churches grouped together to help provide accommodation and food for them. There were 119 people who were in shock and dire need of almost everything needed to live. With some of the COVID restrictions lifted Dick Raymond, (lead in the Men's Breakfast) suggested we host a fundraiser dinner for the families. We fed over 140 people and raised more than \$14,000.00. Afterwards there were no reports of a COVID outbreak from it! Thrice blessed indeed.

In the Spring of 2021, our Social Justice Committee was formed and that Fall a speaker from Habitat for Humanity gave a presentation on the future build of 7 homes in the nearby community of Baltimore. Again, Dick Raymond and his crew offered to join with the Social Justice Committee members to host a fundraiser. On Shrove Tuesday, two Pancake Breakfasts were offered where \$8,000.00 was raised and donated to Habitat for Humanity. Further donations have been made to help offset the costs of providing food for some of the team builds. Our support for the Habitat organization continues.

New Outreach opportunities have emerged. For the last 3 years a number of members of St. George's have hosted a table at the Grafton Outdoor Christmas Market. At this table we give to both individuals and families; Gingerbread House kits, activity supplies, and beautiful handmade craft items. The parents and grandparents of children are particularly delighted to receive a gift.

Like many others, the Church of St. George here in Grafton had many challenges during COVID, but like 'The Little Engine That Could' we rose to the challenges, continued to support our beloved church and Outreach projects. We believe we have emerged from the Pandemic in a robust

way, and we continue to serve our community with sensitivity, vigour and the leading of the Spirit.

Submitted by: Sharon O'Connors, Rev'd Barbara Russell.



St. George's Is Different

A Personal discovery by Anthony Mancktelow (Tony)

My first recollection of any attendance at a church was at a St. Barnabas children's party in Sheffield, England. This was the period when the Luftwaffe had recently bombed the central shopping district missing the intended steel works. My mother had made a cake for me to take to the party where I conducted a separate war with the teacher screaming "it's mine!". Her reply: "You have to pool it." Nobody ever explained to me what the verb to pool meant.

After the war my parents and I moved to my father's home town of Brighton, Sussex. Piano lessons were a big item in their parenting schedule. As organist at St. Bartholomew's, Brighton it was not long before my teacher had me cloaked in surplice, cassock and ruff. The sign at the entrance: "Anglo Catholic". did create a bit of a scare but it was ably explained. The sung Liturgy (Mass) is still embedded in my brain. Each summer this band of choir boys that can look like the cast from the movie "Lord of the Flies" went to Pevensey Bay where a choir boy camp of bell tents was set up. The property had a chapel and a building for us to gather. Our Priest in charge who had a dark Mediterranean complexion and a resemblance to Zorba the Greek would reward good behaviour by thrilling us with stories with titles like "The Man with the Talonned Hand".

I emigrated to Canada in 1957. In Toronto, St. Mary Magdalene, with organist Healy Willan complete with male schola singing Gregorian chant could be an appropriate fit. However, by 1998, I moved to Port Hope with my late wife urged by friends who lived a few doors down from St. Mark's Anglican Church on King Street which we started to attend. St. Mark's has an excellent music tradition led by Organist Randy Mills. The congregation at this time enjoyed the activity of putting on church fund

raising shows involving chili suppers and entertainment skits like “Full Monty” and Pantos with Ugly Sisters called Cameco and Cogeco. In current times the climate as with many churches is one of declining congregations and finances. This caused me ask what was the nature of its “Church Family”? Rejecting the idea of a church directory because of privacy issues was not acceptable. The appointment of an incumbent who would later retire to a monastery did not seem a good fit for me or the church. Being aware that Father Ed was now at St. George’s my friend Barbara Russell suggested I give St George’s a try.

The St. George’s “church family” is organic and has a sense of oneness. I will observe this under the following 2 headings: The Laity and the Clergy.

Laity:

Communication whether by announcement, email or in service hand offs is driven by the Laity. Warden Ann Raymond functions as a CEO making sure every one is aware of the wellbeing of each member especially if health is involved. Birthdays are tracked, announced at the end of a Sunday service and on cue the organist will strike up a chorus of Happy Birthday to You!

Regarding music I was pleased to be part of a lobbying effort in the replacement of the old broken organ. Having researched Yamaha organs and collaborating with Ron Watters we agreed that it was important to buy the best. Our organist Neil Blacklock demonstrates its power and sensitive response to his musical touch.

On fund raising, many churches use the money to “keep the lights on”. In the case of St. George’s, the money goes to outside specific causes such as the Ukrainian Dinner and Transition House. In the case of the Habitat for Humanity project church members contribute their time, skills and labour at the construction site.

Some church kitchens are strictly controlled by fiefdoms. The Friday Breakfast is an example of “help yourself” to the kitchen if you have a good idea to bring interaction with the community. Head Chef Dick

Raymond and other men are flipping eggs and bacon for anybody who shows up from the street.

Clergy:

I have heard many sermons where a deceased friend of mine would say “That was a load of twaddle” At St. George’s, I always get material from a sermon to form a comment or question relating to Christian scholarship in a book I might be reading. There is total freedom to explore other thinking e.g. Incarnation, co-creation, indigenous concepts, God and quantum physics.

In Summary

At St George’s we don’t have twaddle we just do stuff. I tend to elevate this to what is meant by the Kingdom of God being available here and now.

In July 2020, our Deacon Barbara Russell closed her sermon with an application from Martin Luther King’s Dream Speech:

“I have a dream the kingdom of heaven is like a little church located in the center of a hamlet where there is a combination of fixed prayer and free thought. A place where people care for and support each other, through both the best of times and the worst of times. Where the practice of generosity, kindness, forgiveness, mercy and justice are extended to all others. Where the dignity of all creation is safeguarded. Where there is such an abundance of love that this love becomes infectious and spreads far and wide, blessing, inspiring, and changing the world....”



My Musical Road to St. George's Grafton

My very first music engagement coincided with my entrance to an English Grammar School and took place at the family Methodist Church. My training over several years focused primarily on Methodist hymns with which I became very familiar. My tutor, the blind father of the church organist, intended that I replace his son when he left for university. This never happened since I was considered by those in authority to be too young. The training, however, was not lost.

I sought a position at a local Congregational Church and remained there for the ten years up to my emigration to Canada. The Congregational hymnbook contained many hymns that were new to me and so my inventory of hymns continued to grow.

My arrival in Canada in 1975 saw me, eventually, return to a church congregation and since there were no Methodist or Congregational churches in Prince George, B.C. I had to look elsewhere. Believing the Presbyterian Church to be a close relative to those I was familiar with, I attended a morning service. The minister welcomed me warmly and somehow, during a brief conversation, he became aware that I was an organist of sorts. By the following Sunday, I was on the bench at the Presbyterian Church with ne'er a note of music, having left it all in England. I remained a Presbyterian for five years gathering music, experience and choral knowledge on the way. Oh, of course, the Presbyterian hymnbook is different to all the others and so my inventory of hymns continued to grow.

In small town B.C., one's presence soon becomes known particularly if you make some kind of public appearance, even as a

church organist. I was approached by the rector of the local Anglican Church who was in desperate straits. He needed an organist since he had been forced to dismiss his previous organist for some wicked transgression. Who can say no to an Anglican Priest? For the following ten years, my education in Anglicanism grew rapidly as I accompanied church and community choirs across Northern B.C. and gave recitals on occasion while I mentored a student organist. Oh, and my inventory of hymns and choral music quickly grew.

In 1995, Fran and I made a decision to move to Toronto for professional reasons. In downtown Toronto, I quickly realised that we were living just a block and a bit from St. Paul's Bloor Street Anglican Church. Perhaps they were looking for an organist. Toronto is a big town with bigger ideas than Prince George and not only did I continue learning more hymns, but I also learned a hard lesson; I was very much a small fish in a very large pond. However, over time, I was invited to become a bass in the St. Paul's Choir as well as an periodical relief organist. On those occasions, I proudly became the latest in a long line of organists to grace the bench once occupied by the late Healey Willan. Needless to say, my time at St. Paul's was a valuable education in organ music, choral music and, of course hymns. The often sixty voice choir gave me a much broader understanding of the purpose of hymns and their value in a service, any service of any size.

Our time in Toronto came to an end and seeking to leave the turmoil of the big city, we moved to Cobourg. There are no coincidences, only small miracles, especially in Cobourg. On the corner of King and College, is the parish church of St. Peter and on this occasion, there was a sign advertising new condominiums on University Avenue. By the end of the summer of 2009, we had bought a new townhouse and become regular attendees at St. Peter's. By the time that I retired in 2012, we had become full-time residents in the town and I had become a relief organist and choir member at St. Peter's.

During the following few years there were numerous significant changes in the parish including clergy and organist. On occasion, I was relief

organist during which my education in hymnody and church music continued to grow. It was during this time that I came to know Rev. Ed Cachia, the great persuader as I have lovingly called him. We had many good conversations about Malta which I have occasionally visited and the church universal. It was no great surprise when, in 2018, I received a call from him and he came by the house where we shared coffee and perhaps a little drop... We talked about the parish of St. George and a serious crisis that he appeared to be dealing with. Father Ed is not someone that you like to turn down because, for one thing, he would not let you.

In the late summer, we attended a service at St. George's and what happened after that is something of a blur. Christmas was coming and Father Ed was worried about the upcoming Service of Lessons and Carols. It was still some time away which would give me lots of time to prepare!! Long story short, I agreed to meet his potential needs for the Service of Lessons and Carols and POTENTIALLY a period in the New Year when the need was expected to continue. All went according to plan until the word potential was no longer appropriate.

Circumstances had changed and St. George's was now in need of a full-time organist. Oh, and by the way, St. George's is presently undergoing negotiations for the purchase of a new organ. Father Ed used the sweetener as only he can.

During my brief introduction to the parish, I had been warmly welcomed and was complimented on my ability to somehow manage the old pipe organ over the Christmas period. The new organ was expected to be delivered in early to mid-February, 2019 but the exact time was to be determined. Fran and I had planned a two week holiday in Cuba during February and I had requested my ever-faithful colleague Michal Loerich to warm the bench for the two Sundays that I would be away. The rest of the story is largely well known. Arriving at St. George's on the weekend of February 16 to prepare for the service, Michal frequently reminisces about her challenges to get a tune out of the instrument in time for the

Sunday service. Her memories are now fond as she has grown to love the instrument and the parish.

My return to Grafton was exciting to say the least and from that time to now, I have developed a fond relationship with the Yamaha Clavinova. It has many interesting features which often stretch my abilities. There is one thing that this “organ” does very well – HYMNS. It is not quite Westminster Abbey but it is close. My long experience with hymns is widely used as they sound much better on the “organ”. Father Ed requested that I select the hymns on a weekly basis as he acknowledged that I had rather more experience than he. This responsibility tests my understanding of the Lectionary, the Hymnbook and my extensive collection of alternate tunes which vastly expands the number of hymns that we can sing. And now, I really believe that the congregation enjoys singing hymns. That is so pleasing to me since there are many more hymns with which we can make a joyful noise as we sing.

Neil Blacklock Organist and Hymn Selector



St. George's During Covid Times - 2020 - 2023

What had never happened before in our lifetimes occurred in the year 2020. The first case of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) was found in Canada on January 25th, 2020. On March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization declared this disease a pandemic. As a result of this declaration, a state of emergency was announced by the Premier of Ontario followed by a lock down beginning on March 17, 2020.

Writing this in August 2024 when this previously devastating virus is now treated as “just another winter flu virus” it is easy to forget the devastation to society that the pandemic caused world wide. The following time line for Canada is taken from dozens of detailed pages in Wikipedia – “Time line for Covid -19 Pandemic”.

- 31st. Dec. 2019 China acknowledges details of a viral outbreak.
- 25th. Jan. 2020 First known case in Canada.
- 11th. March 2020 ...WHO call it a Pandemic.

There were several infection/death peaks as Governments tried to bring the outbreaks under control; initially the only protection was masks, hand sanitizing and shutdowns. The first vaccinations were still a year away. Then it would take another year for the population vaccination rate to reach the “herd” immunity level of 85%.

This was a highly infectious virus.

- 10th Jan 2021 First Major Infection Peak - 85,000 daily active infections.
- 9th. Jan 2022.....Fifth and greatest active infection peak of 443,000.

In total the Canadian recorded deaths from the virus was 59,330; that is a confirmed number due to the virus, so probably an understatement.

The impact on communities was devastating, including for our St. George's Church Family. The Diocese instructed that 8th. March 2020 would be the last Church Service until further notice. There was an exception for Church funerals, but with masks and physical distancing, and only 10 people allowed in the room. (The next story tells about one such funeral). At that time I remember lining up in cold February days outside 'No Frills' for groceries, masked and with six foot spacing between shoppers along the sidewalk, with only a limited number allowed into the store at a time.

My impression is that our Church community had many Covid infections but most were not too serious, on the whole we were fairly healthy as were many rural communities. Our congregation was very good at following the Government and Diocese restrictions but phone calls and emails continued and they helped keep people connected.

"The community that Jesus calls us to be is one that engages in self examination, repentance, mercy, forgiveness, formation and evangelism."

The restrictions were eased as the pandemic declined and on September 20th. 2020, we were able to reopen for our 176th anniversary service, with a restriction of no Communal Wine. The attendance that day was fifteen. Following this we held weekly services in our hall until full lock down was reimposed after our service on 20th December 2020.

The next allowed Service was September 19th. 2021, and this was the first service presided over by our new Minister, Rev'd. Helena-Rose Houldcroft. The Eucharist was able to be held and services were able to continue with restrictions in place. On Christmas Eve 2021, there were 34 in attendance. Now into 2022 and there were no more lock downs. Gradually the restrictions were lifted and gone in the Spring of 2023.

How did we manage during those long months when we could not come together? The use of technology, particularly e-mails and websites and the free program, Zoom, became extremely important.

For this writer, in particular, in an e-mail from St. George's incumbent, Rev'd. Lesley Barclay, among other information and invitations was a note that St. John's in Port Hope, through the use of Zoom, was offering the Book of Common Prayer's Morning Prayer service on Tuesday and Friday mornings at 8:00 a.m. This group led by Laurie Robertson of St. John's continues to meet.

Another important word was isolation. If you were in contact with someone who developed COVID one had to remain isolated from Church, everything. Family or neighbours would do necessary shopping and leave the goods on the doorstep. This was my personal experience. My daughter called to tell me that her boss had COVID 19 symptoms, and she had to isolate herself for fourteen days. I was worried but she had no symptoms. I also had to isolate because I had seen her the just before she got this news and so I had to isolate for 14 days even though I had no symptoms. The only thing I could do was walk my dog as long as I take a wide berth from anyone I meet. I joked on the phone to my friend that I felt I should wear a sign saying STAY AWAY. I began to have a slight understanding of what the lepers in Jesus' day experienced except that my situation was temporary and theirs was permanent."

The Bishops had put out this statement in regard to streaming the liturgy of the Eucharist:

"The Bishops of our province have agreed together that our virtual worship through Holy Week and the season of Easter, or until such time that we can gather in community together, will not include the liturgy of the Eucharist. Sacramental celebrations are the work of the whole People of God and require a gathering of people who can be physically present to one another. That is impossible for most of

us at this time. The Great Three Days of Easter, and through the fifty days of the season, we will be fasting from the Eucharist but feasting on the Word. We believe that the Risen One, the Word, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is present and active with us as we hear and receive him in the word of the scriptures, in that word interpreted and proclaimed in preaching, and in the word inwardly digested, by faith, in each person.”

From the Diocese:

“Spirit of compassion, fill our hearts and give us peace. Give us strength to care for those around us even as we may be physically separated. Deepen our sense of compassion even in the midst of our anxiety. Keep us mindful of the many other needs in the world – conflicts, refugees, poverty, and many other illnesses besides the coronavirus – and all other concerns we name before you now. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen”

From Rev’d Lesley – quoting from the Iona Community:

*“Don’t be afraid, my love is stronger
My love is stronger than your fears,
Don’t be afraid my love is stronger
And I have promised, promised to be always near.”
(To hear it sung Google <https://youtu.be/LoYKTFe9dVw>)*

This was a very stressful time for everyone but in our parish every person on St. Georges list received a telephone call from a clergy person inquiring how the person or people living in isolation in that residence were faring.

But what about events such as funerals, marriages and baptisms, where people normally also gather together? In 2021 during the highest level restrictions there was one baptism. Also during the restrictions there was one marriage but not on church property. There were interments, one in 2020 and none in 2021. Then two in 2022.

In conclusion, let it be noted that occasions have existed where services were cancelled. On December 24 &25, 2022 and Jan. 1, 2023 the church closed due to severe weather conditions which made travelling dangerous.

Clare Phillips with collaboration from Valerie and Bob



A Funeral during Covid Pandemic Restrictions

My wife, Pam, died in early February 2021, we were deep in the Covid pandemic, including Government restrictions on the number of people allowed to gather together. For Church Funerals just 10 people were allowed to attend, and they had to wear masks and be at least six feet apart, unless they lived in the same household.

My two sons, Andrew and Michael, took over all the arrangements and the service took place in the Canon Nind Hall with Rev. Lesley Barclay officiating. Our family were only eight in total, so the inside limitation of 10 people was not a problem.

Then after the service my sons' innovation took over. Without breaking a Covid Rule between 50 and 60 people, family, friends and so many others from our special church, were able to share their love for Pam with me.

As we left the church the car park was full, and more cars were lined up along the road. A later count had it at 42 cars many with double occupancy.

Driven by my son Michael, I was in the lead car as we headed west to Gully Road then north, past St Anne's Spa to the top of Academy Hill Road where we stopped and from that high point we looked down on Grafton and the Lake beyond, which had been our retirement home for 21 years.

Back at our house I stood at the side of the road and each of the 42 cars stopped and through open windows kind words of comfort were given.

Bob Deane



A Warm St. George's Welcome

During the dark days of the COVID-19 pandemic, my husband and I accelerated our plans to move away from Toronto to somewhere east of the City. Serendipity brought us to Grafton. The builder we had found online was developing a subdivision in the hamlet, and, to cut a rather long story short, we decided to jump on board.

In looking for a local Anglican Church, I was delighted to find that St. George's was within walking distance of my new home. There's something about walking to church in the morning that is very special to me. My former parish—St. Clement's Eglinton, in the heart of Toronto—was also within walking distance of our home and I have many happy memories of those family walks to church over our 22 years on Briar Hill Avenue.

St. George's was immediately welcoming—Father Ed asked me to introduce myself at the very first service I attended—and, in my relatively brief time at St. George's, I have found it to be a generous, and inclusive Christian community committed to proclaiming the Good News and to serving those in need.

For me, music is a very important part of worship and I very much appreciate the care and thoughtfulness that go into music selection, as well as how the congregation at St. George's make every effort to sing with energy and enjoyment!

I am grateful to the St. George's community for offering me such a warm welcome. As I am still working in Toronto, my time for further engagement in the life of the parish is limited; however I hope I am able to contribute more in the fullness of time.

Louise Yearwood



What St. George's Means to Our Family

I have been part of St. George's since I was a boy.

Our Hare family tree goes back to the first Empire Loyalists, Hares settling in Grafton in 1797. Back then the Hare family were Methodists. But in about 1880 The Hare name first appeared in St. George's congregation.

I was baptized and confirmed at St George's and my father, Don Hare, was a warden for many years in the church. Later when I met my future wife, Shirley, we were married at St. George's. Shirley was from Cambellford and brought up in the Methodist congregation, but Grafton and St. George's easily accepted her and she them. Soon after we had two children, Payton and Canyon who were baptized in our church.

We have drifted away from the Sunday Service. Life is so busy and complex. But when we get a chance, it is with pleasure we are able to give back and be part of the church. Special moments such as helping in the parades and driving the church float. When our friend Dick asks for a helping hand around the grounds of the church, we do what we can.

When life slows down, we hope we can again be part of the church family. Shirley works for some people of the church and that inspires her.

St. George's is part of our life and memories.

Submitted by Dave and Shirley Hare



Church isn't just for Sundays

For many people, church is somewhere you go on Sunday to raise your spirit and interact with the minister and congregation, but not me.

Almost every Friday morning you can find me cooking bacon, sausage and home fries then assembling a breakfast with a toasted western sandwich to go with freshly brewed coffee. It is a great way to get out and socialize instead of just staying on the farm. It is also a way to see the church 'in action', not everything in church is on Sunday.

It takes a number of us to do this breakfast every week and again it is both congregation and local residents who are at work every Friday morning. Most of the time there are five of us including Bill Stover, Dick Raymond, Mike Sheehy and Roy Hodder.

The Friday Breakfast serves people from both the congregation and the local community, typically 20 in total and fairly evenly split. We serve the hungry, be they employees at the Co-op (who get takeout) or maybe a passerby who stops in after seeing the sign. Sure, there are regular attendees, some so regular we know what they want when they walk in the door. like 'No Onion Hans' or 'The Deputy Mayor special'.

At one point I was able to provide fresh eggs from my farm, but a combination of under-performing hens and the success of this program, meant a transition to store bought eggs.

This Friday Breakfast started long before my arrival in Grafton. Fifteen or more years ago, the Church Ladies had a weekly coffee

and quilting morning. Two or three of the men decided to go to a local (long time closed) cafe for coffee. Then this moved to the arena cafeteria and eventually to the Canon Nind Hall and Kitchen after the renovation. Evolution took place and the quilters group became the Tuesday Morning Coffee and the Men's Breakfast became the Friday Breakfast both open to all of the community.

Dick and Ann Raymond look after the financial side and over the past two years the Breakfast has given about \$15,000 for special donations and church funds.

Let's celebrate the non-traditional events of St George's.

(and God Save the King)

Liam Cragg - also Grafton Town Crier



Laura and Keith's Story

We invited Laura and her husband Keith to make a contribution to this new edition as they are frequent visitors to our church. The following is their submission.

"One Sunday after Mass, our priest stopped Laura and me. He told us he had a dream last night and Laura was in it. Father West explained that in his dream Laura was leaving the church after Mass and, as usual, joined the group at the church entrance to socialize. But this day was special because the Pope was standing in his Popemobile at the end of the driveway calling to Laura.

Father West said he was almost beside himself because Laura was ignoring the Pope. Laura finally acknowledged the Pope and said she would be there shortly.

Father said "Thank God, Laura eventually went and spoke to the Pope".

Father never elaborated to us why the Pope wanted to speak to Laura, but he wasn't surprised that he would.

A little background about Laura.

Laura graduated as a Registered Nurse in 1984. In November of 1984 Laura and Keith moved to Yellowknife, NWT. Laura worked for 5 years as a pediatric nurse and also had two sons. The family then returned to Ontario where a daughter was born. Laura later returned to work in Long-Term Care in Port Hope. In May of 2000 Laura had a stroke.

After two surgeries and a month in a coma, Laura started on the road to recovery. She was in hospital for nine months before being discharged

home. This has not slowed her down. Proof of this is she received an Ontario Volunteer Service award from the province for 25 years of Volunteer Service at our local Catholic Grade School Council. The following year Laura received the Community Spirit Ward from The Alnwick Haldimand Township."

We at St. George's feel it necessary to try to complete the picture of a woman who inspires the whole community every day. Keith and Laura's story is unique and goes some way to explain how truly inspirational Laura is. She can be seen in the community every day spreading cheer with her wonderful smile and a happy wave as she drives around in her wheelchair exercising her Service Dog. Snow and ice do not stop her. She and Keith live just across the road from St. George's and in a way, this is her second church home.

Many years ago, and after her stroke, the ladies of our Tuesday morning Quilting group invited Laura to join them. This has now evolved into Morning Coffee open to the community and Laura still comes and, since his retirement, Keith is with her. They also come to Friday breakfast and support many of our fundraising activities and Special Event Services.

Thank you, Laura, for spreading happiness and goodwill everywhere you go.



Notes from new members of St. George's Anglican Church, Grafton (Mary Lou Adams and David Turner)

Mary Lou moved from Cobourg to David's rural home in Grafton in 2020 seeking support following recent illnesses and the threat of Covid. We explored the local Anglican church of St. George's which is a centre of activity offering both worship and service to the community. Hall and kitchen rentals are available for Church and other purposes. Three local churches work together to manage operation of a Senior Housing complex (Haldimand Court); namely, St. Andrews United, St. Mary's Catholic and St. George's Anglican.

An electronic sign in front of our Church faces Highway 2 and informs the community not only what is going on at the Church but also promotes other local community events.

It was the regular Tuesday morning coffee gatherings and Friday morning breakfasts (the latter prepared by the men of the Church) which introduced us to the congregation members on a personal level. A bonus was meeting local candidates for election who were willing to chat at these coffee social hours and answered questions from newcomers to the community.

We had only attended Sunday worship a few times when we were invited to actively participate in various church activities. Mary Lou responded immediately with preparing food for special events, both at the church and Habitat-for-Humanity team builds, while David accepted Deacon Barbara's request to be a reader on Sunday. Mary Lou went on to help with the church garden plantings and Rev. Helena-Rose accepted her suggestion to create a lending library of books on both Christian and indigenous topics. St. George's is blessed to have such a welcoming congregation plus an enviable roster of clergy. (With little prior

experience David made his reading debut on a Sunday morning in the presence of a retired Lutheran bishop, a retired Lutheran priest, an Anglican Priest-in-Charge, a retired Anglican priest, a retired former Roman Catholic priest turned Anglican, and an Anglican deacon, all frequent attendees.)

St. George's is a forward-looking, community-minded church. Its members, while older, remain active, taking care of building and property maintenance while at the same time contributing to social justice and outreach projects such as: (Affordable Housing - Habitat for Humanity); New Immigrants - (Ukrainians); Seniors' Housing - (Haldimand Court). One of the focuses for next year (which we personally favour) may be Canada's Indigenous Peoples with associated learnings. Through donated books, the current Church library is being expanded accordingly.

We enjoy attending this rural church of dedicated members who work together closely. Leadership roles and day-to-day needs are met willingly with little fanfare yet there is a hearty welcome to new members and to their suggestions which are considered and responded to in a respectful manner.

Finally, the worship is flexible, inclusive and well considered. The topper is the grand welcome to Sunday services by warden Gary who swings the door wide and smiles from ear to ear.

David Turner and Mary Lou Adams

Grafton, ON
July 15, 2024



Emma's Story

I started coming to church on Sunday mornings when I was little. I am bigger now that I am 5 years old and I always come to church with my Grandma Karen. My Auntie Joan sits with us near the very back. We like to sit in the same place every Sunday.

One of the things I like is when I help carry the cross to the front and put it into the holder and then at the end I help to carry it all the way to the back of the church. We walk slowly and I see it makes all the people happy because they smile at me. Bishop Cindy made me a white robe, so I have the same as Helena and Barbara. I don't have it on very often because it makes me feel too hot and I like to just wear my pretty dresses.

I like to sing and know some of the words to the songs. And I listen too. I learned that when we die we go to be with Jesus in heaven. And if we want to talk to people who are not here anymore we sing and they can hear us.

Sometimes we have cookies or cake after church and I like to sit at the back on the bench with my friend Barbara. We eat lots of treats and drink tea.

I like coming to church. One time my mom and dad signed me up to play soccer, but it turned out to be on Sunday mornings. I tried it twice but decided I like to go to church more than playing soccer, so I didn't have to go to Sunday soccer anymore.

Story written by Barbara Russell



St. George's, my Church Family for 60 plus Years

What a privilege it is to write this meme about my second home, St. George's Anglican Church in Grafton.

I was baptized and confirmed here, as were my three children. I can't really remember a time when St. Georges wasn't a part of my life; my children called it home too.

When we entered the church, mom, dad and their three "littles" would be greeted with warm smiles and friendly "Hellos" from numerous aunts, uncles and cousins. All of us together managed to almost fill the church each Sunday.

My aunts and uncles have long since passed on and now reside in our beautiful, peaceful cemetery behind St. George's Church. I encourage you to visit the cemetery, feel the soft breezes kiss your cheeks or feel an invisible touch to your brow; they just might be Heaven sent.

The fragrance of beautiful flowers adorning the headstones reminds you that you are welcome here, you are not alone here, you will never be alone here.

Submitted by Karen Linkie



Sept 22, 2019 to August 2024 by Lesley Barclay

I was asked by the Bishop Riscylla if I would be available to be the Priest-in-Charge at Grafton when Father Ed retired. I agreed. I started on September 22, 2019. Grafton had been my first parish along with Colborne (Sept. 1992-1997). I knew a few people from my earlier time in Grafton but there were a lot of new people. My first impression was that Grafton was a thriving parish. It was a Homecoming for me.

In March 2020, the Covid pandemic caused a lot of changes in how we worshipped. There were specific protocols given by the Diocese pertaining worship. These protocols were intended to keep worshippers as safe as possible. The main sanctuary was not designed for the separation required for worship, so we moved into the parish hall for services. Eventually, we closed parish worship and I did my best to stay in touch with parishioners and provide email homilies and worship resources. Nearby parishes developed online services that we could access. We did not have the expertise or the wifi capability needed to do the same. It was a time of great concern for the health of our members.

I developed some health issues and I was on a list for a surgical procedure so I thought it best to resign as incumbent April 30, 2021.

After my recovery, I attended the parish and Helena asked me if I would like to help out by presiding and preaching from time to time. I hesitated because my voice is not always reliable. Helena said that if I had a problem with my voice she was alright with a last minute cancellation. This took the pressure off for me and I agreed to help out. The parish has been supportive even when I struggle with my voice.

I once said to the Bishop that I thought St. George's was the healthiest parish in the Deanery. She agreed. The parish is dedicated to service, to each other and to the community. This is something to celebrate.



All eyes look to thee in hope,
O Lord.



~ from A Book of Family Graces edited by J. F. Coakley