



# THE **ST. MARGARET'S** BEACON

Issue 9

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

June 2014

## OUR MISSION

*Our mission at St. Margaret's is to be a loving, leading community of God's people, dedicated to involvement in the life of the parish and surrounding community, following the example of Christ and welcoming all in friendship.*

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## IN HIS SERVICE

### SUMMERTIME SANCTUARY

*By The Reverend Stephen Pessah*

I remember fondly my childhood days of loading up the family car sometime in July and beginning our annual trek to southern Ontario where we would visit family and friends in places like Barrie, Toronto, and Forest Ontario. While these locales may not seem overly exotic to many of us reading this article, they were like going to another Country for someone like myself who had been **"holed" up in Kirkland Lake for most of the year!**



This legacy of travel and adventure that was passed down to me has inspired my family and I to strike out and travel to destinations that are both familiar and new. While I enjoy the thrill of discovery of a new city or unfamiliar stretch of hi-way, I am always happy to just find a peaceful corner somewhere to read, rest, and renew.

I suspect that whether we travel afar, or stay close to home or cottage, what we all enjoy, at the end of the day, is time apart from the busyness and chaos of life. A time when we can experience some rest and peace in the midst of an often harsh and demanding world.

In Matthew 11:28&29, Jesus extends an invitation for us to find this **peace and rest in him when he says "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."** I know the importance of **"getting away to re-charge"**, however, I am also aware of how these times are not always as restful as we hoped they would be, and upon return we sometimes feel the need for a vacation from our vacation.

I hope and pray that wherever we find ourselves this summer, we also find that place in Christ where we can release our burden of care and in return receive and enjoy His wonderful promise of peace and rest.

Wishing you all a richly blessed summer!  
**In Christ's Love, Stephen**

#### MARGARET PARADIS - LAY ASSOCIATE

I have heard it said many times that God will not give you a job you cannot handle and that He will walk along with you during every task. It is fair to say that I have learned that if we think we have bitten off more than we can chew, He will come through. In February, Susan Cronje and I were offered positions as Lay Associates at St. Margaret's. **After much prayer and encouragement I accepted the job. So, what exactly does my new job entail and how is it going so far?**

I am to continue the formation and coordination of an already existing pastoral care team, including home and **hospital visits, bringing to the incumbent's attention, any special needs or concerns.** If you read the Pastoral Care brochure that can be found in the foyer of the church you will see that our team of volunteers is busy and always ready to lend a hand when needed. Throughout the year, I plan to provide on-going Pastoral Care and education where needed.

I am overseeing the ministry to Newcomers. A Newcomer's Ministry Team has been formed and with four heads being better than one, we are coming up with ideas to show people that we at St. Margaret's are a welcoming community. We try to phone and visit newcomers and are in the process of making a parish photo album so that we can get to know each other a little better. I will also make sure that Bible studies for newcomers and old comers happen on a regular basis.

Along with Susan, we will work with the ministry team to establish effective ways to minister to young families. **Together we will also develop a better Screening in Faith "approval" process at St. Margaret's.**

**At our baptism, we are sent out as apostles of Christ to do his work. As Lay Associates, we hope to "empower" you as members of the St. Margaret's family to become more confident in the tasks that the Holy Spirit has for you.** Every idea has its merits so please feel free to come to me with your ideas or concerns. I look forward to sharing with you as Jesus walks alongside our path.

#### *A little about Margaret . . . .*

Margaret grew up in New Brunswick and was part of a very devoted family active in the Church. Her mother was Sunday School Superintendent for many years and a younger brother became a priest. As a **result of husband David's work, the Paradis family** moved frequently and lived in Quebec, Winnipeg, Coquitlam and Prince George B.C. While in Prince George, Margaret completed a three year program, Education for Ministry.

Margaret is a creative person, an artist and budding musician. She said she always liked to draw and as her children grew and she had more time, she attended various art workshops. Now she paints landscapes and still life, is a member of the Barrie Art Club and exhibits her paintings with Bayside

Artists. When visiting the One of a Kind Show in Toronto with her daughter, she admired a vendor who had homemade harps for sale and took his business card. On a visit to Quebec City she heard a talented busker playing a harp and knew she wanted to learn. After commissioning a handmade harp, Margaret now studies the instrument with Debbie McKay in Oro Township.

David, Margaret and their family came to Barrie twenty years ago and looked around for a Church to **attend. After visiting St. Margaret's, they were welcomed, told they were needed and soon were actively involved.** Margaret has had responsibilities in Sunday School, Adult Education, organizing Bible Studies, Women's Wellness Days and Parenting Classes. She has also been a lay reader for many years

## FIRST COMMUNION

*Preparation Class Taught by Lorraine Chew*

On Easter Sunday twelve children ranging in ages from seven to twelve received their First Communion with family and friends. The children were: Jack Bowskill, Jeremy and Ryan Brister, Camryn and Ian Case, Sydney Devlin, Avery and Kiley Dixon, Hunter and Cassidy Eagleson, Lauren and Sarah Nelson.

A four week preparation class was taught by Lorraine Chew, assisted by Margaret Paradis and Jen Case, all three who have teaching backgrounds. The text used for the First Communion Course was *Life in the Eucharist*, adapted by the Children's Unit of General Synod for use in the Anglican Church of Canada from *Living the Eucharist* by Francoise Darcy-Berube and Jean Paul Berube. The study concentrated on the Eucharist, beginning with Jesus at the Last Supper, what the priest does, what happens at the Eucharist and how we can be in communion with others. Because of the diversity of ages, the class was divided into two age groups. All of the children had homework to do and worked very hard.



First Communion

Lorraine previously taught First Communion Classes and Sunday School at St. Margaret's. Many people are familiar with Lorraine's cakes for special occasions such as birthdays, anniversaries and baptisms. While at home with young children, Lorraine developed a home business making and selling cakes which she still does as a hobby. Lorraine returned to work, first as an uncertified teacher in a private school, then as an educational assistant, then went into teaching as a certified teacher.

### ST. MARGARET'S DAY APART – LIVING AND SHARING OUR FAITH IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

*Submitted by Susan Cronje*

On Saturday April 5 Bruce Smith the Missional Coordinator for the Anglican Parish of Christ Church St. James in Etobicoke came to lead us in discussion and workshops focused on *"Living and Sharing Our Faith in Our Neighbourhood"*. **Twenty five members of St. Margaret's congregation attended the day which included multi-media presentations, small group discussions, and praise and worship music.**

The day was divided into three main informative sessions:

Why bother?

But what do we have to offer?

We know what we have to offer, where do we go from here?

As the day progressed we started to understand that we really do have something to share with those people who have yet to hear of Jesus. That we are not required to reform society but rather to demonstrate love and care to society. In Matthew 4:18-23 we read of Jesus calling his first disciples; *"Come, follow me"*, Jesus said, *"and I will make you fishers of men."*(4:19) We learned that we need to be intentional and willing to take a risk with our own faith i.e. follow Jesus; that we need to be prepared for what we will encounter remaining patient and still at times sensing what the Holy Spirit would have us do. Most important we need to remember that we do not make ourselves fisher of people but that this is the work of God as promised in Matthew 4:19. Cultivating relationships is key to sharing our faith in our neighbourhood through casual conversation; it is not forced but should come naturally. How and where those relationships will begin is not always clear, we need to move out into the neighbourhood and allow God to show us. If this is sounding familiar it is likely that you are now sharing in the missional mindset of our church.



**St. Margaret's**  
Day Apart  
Group Photo  
April 5, 2014

LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANT  
*Submitted by Susan Cronje*

In March 2014, I began an exciting journey as a part time Lay Pastoral Assistant here at St. Margaret's Anglican Church. My primary responsibilities include "missional transformation" and "outreach"; other secondary assignments include "Screening in Faith" and exploring new ministries for young families. I first became involved with "Missional Transformation" back in October 2010 when I attended a 6 week course offered by Rev. Beth and Rev. Stephen Pessah entitled "*Mission Shaped Intro*". The course provided me with a new view of the church; a missional church, a church primarily for the people who have yet to meet Jesus or even understand better who their Jesus is. This excited me as the new model implied that those of us in the church would need first to understand that mission is seeing what God is doing in the world and then joining in. This was contrary to the traditional model I had grown to know in which the Church decides how they will spread the news of Jesus and attract people into the church.

Early in 2012, St. Margaret's was asked to participate in a Diocesan ministry initiative called "*Missional Transformation Process*" which I got involved in along with other members of St. Margaret's. As you may recall we conducted listening interviews, online surveys, a feedback seminar at our first Parish Day Apart at the Kempenfelt Centre in January 2013, and then small listening groups a year ago. Through all of this we began to better understand who we are as a congregation. In addition, we learned more about what inspired and formed St. Margaret's congregation to

explore new and effective ways to share the Gospel with others. The "Adopt a Park" program became an opportunity for our congregation to go out into our neighbourhood. In committing to caring for the clean-up of Hanmer Park we created an opportunity for us to meet people and to develop new relationships, to listen and discover what God is up to in their lives. The missional transformation process requires that we continue to explore other opportunities to connect with the people in our neighbourhood, to listen and discern their needs and to grow better in understanding our role in God's mission.

In many ways outreach initiatives are missional opportunities too; as we serve those with a need we may develop a relationship which leads to deeper discussions. As we demonstrate love and care through our listening and actions we may actually discover what God is up to and in time be given the opportunity to share our faith story i.e. tell the stories of Jesus. My own outreach ministry began many years ago in South Africa where I worked for the National Centre for Occupational Health in Johannesburg, taught in Colleges and later served as a Lay Reader in St. Mary's Anglican Church located in the province of Zululand. Years later when I returned to Canada I took up positions with The South American Missionary Society (SAMS) and Samaritan House Community Ministries (SHCM), engaging in many initiatives at St. Margaret's.

Outreach has always been a big part of who we are at St. Margaret's; the programs have changed over the years

reflecting the needs and the relationships we have had in the community e.g. Barrie Food Bank, Christmas Hampers, Rainbows, Breakfast Program, Missions to Haiti and Guatemala, Operation Christmas Child, to name a few. A new outreach committee is now looking at different ways of connecting with the community. **Recently 31 people from St. Margaret's attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bowls for Beds event a fundraiser for SHCM.** A drive in early May to collect blankets, sleeping bags, tarps and tents was coordinated with West Bayfield Elementary School and the David Busby Street Centre to help the homeless. We are now also busy investigating volunteer opportunities with West Bayfield Elementary School; perhaps this is an area of interest to you?

As volunteers we are given the opportunity to model the love of Christ to seek and serve members of our community who often are vulnerable due to age, infirmity or particular circumstances of dependency. **The "Screening in Faith Policy" for the Diocese of Toronto requires that we at St. Margaret's acknowledge volunteering as a sacred trust which must be responsibly and safely managed. To this end, St. Margaret's is required to train, mentor and maintain records of volunteers and their responsibilities and when necessary request police record checks.** This is a ministry that Margaret Paradis and I share in our new roles as Lay Assistants to Rev. Stephen. Another area that we

are working together on is the young family ministry discovering further the needs of families with young children and ensuring they are met.

It is now 15 years ago that my husband and I together with our two children and then 2 dogs immigrated to **Canada and joined St. Margaret's Anglican Church.** Our children Katie and Alex are now young adults making their own way in the world allowing Roelie, my husband and I more time to focus on our interests. As many of you know Roelie is a committed athlete and will enter his second Half Ironman race this September. Although I do not race, I do try to provide support in all ways. He loves to tell the story of me expressing how tired I was after his first triathlon race in Welland. It was only after I told him I had to run after him photographing him in all the events that he realized I too had run a race of my own that day. This past year I have returned to university to study theology on a part time basis. I have taken 4 courses at Wycliffe and am now contemplating commitment to further studies. Study and learning has always been a big part of my life and has enabled me to move in new directions. Twenty five years ago Roelie and I met in a classroom at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in England doing post graduate studies. It was Roelie who brought me back to Christ so many years ago and together we seek direction from God for our family and our life journey forward.

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## CONNECTION

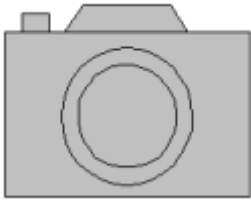
AWARE – MY EXPERIENCE  
*Submitted by Cheryl McPhee*

Hello my name is Cheryl McPhee and I would like to share my extremely uplifting and spiritual experience at "AWARE"; (If We Are One Body). On our way there, I was feeling so nervous and excited. I could feel the butterflies in my stomach. When we had finally reached our retreat destination I felt an instant feeling of peace and tranquility. Even though mother nature wasn't being too cooperative with the weather it didn't matter. There were over one **hundred Christian women there and although I didn't get to meet everybody, the paths of the ladies I did cross were** such amazing people. There was an instant connection and feeling of love.

**The ladies from St. Margaret's: Nellie, Maggie, Sharon Barb, Sherrie, Eileen and I had a wonderful weekend together;** from the spectacular accommodations, the endless supply of food, snacks and drinks, the workshops and small groups, the prayers and amazing singing. Our guest speaker Yetta Dekker was simply inspiring, our entertainment country and gospel singer Cheryl Dunn was phenomenal, the Reverend Jeannie Loughrey was an extraordinary person and helped me tremendously! Just meeting all the ladies made it a truly unforgettable experience. I met a lot of lovely people and made friends along the way. We even exchanged phone numbers and email addresses. I myself would personally recommend that any women who have the opportunity to go on this wonderful ladies retreat to not hesitate. It can change the outlook of a **person's life; it did mine. I'm so very grateful and thankful to everybody** who made it possible for me to go this year. If it weren't for so many angels of God I would have missed out on this beautiful journey surrounded by so much love and support. Thanks to all who cared so much and took me under their wings (You know who you are) I will be forever grateful to you all. God Bless.

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## PROJECT PARISH PHOTO ALBUM

*Submitted by Lynda Reid*

Project Parish Photo Album is well underway. Barbara White has been snapping photos following the 8:30 and the 10:00 o'clock services since the end of April. We are very appreciative of her excellent photography skills and her generosity of time and effort. These photos will be placed in an album to be kept in the lobby where we can all access it when we need to put a name to a face. With so many new parishioners, this will be a help to all our parishioners and especially to our newcomers. Watch for the photos of church staff which will be hung in the lobby.

To reduce the number of phone calls that the newcomers committee has to make, we ask that you sign up for a photo session using the sign-up sheets in the lobby. Just flip through the sheets to find the Sunday you would like to be photographed. We will take a break from photographing over the summer. Our aim is to have 50% of the parish photographed by the end of June and we are well on our way to that goal. Thank you to all who have already had their photos taken. Barb looks forward to seeing the rest of you through her lens in the near future.

Your Photo is Needed for the Parish Photo Album!

## FACES OF ST. MARGARET

*A Conversation with Maureen Daley*

Maureen grew up in Thunder Bay in a family with three brothers and her extended family is still in that city. Being the only girl in the family encouraged Maureen to develop strength and flexibility, defending herself against her brothers when they liked to use her for snowball target practice. Maureen studied nursing at Confederation College and after graduating in 1982, worked in long term care. She moved to Toronto in 1988, roomed with a friend and worked in stroke rehabilitation at Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga. A back injury led Maureen to consider other areas of nursing and she moved on to Sick Kids Hospital in Toronto. Twenty-five years later she is still there and now works in orthopedic surgery. Maureen says that Sick Kids is an extraordinary place for staff and patients and although she has to commute, she would not want to work anywhere else.



Maureen met husband Trevor in Toronto and after Joseph their eldest son was born, they moved to Barrie to find a better environment in which to raise children. A busy time followed with the birth of Hillary and Adam. Maternity leaves were shorter then and Trevor worked part time and assumed many responsibilities at home. Maureen came from a Roman Catholic background, while Trevor was Seventh Day Adventist. They looked around for a church home where both could find some common ground and **walked into St. Margaret's in 1995, at that time in a portable. Both the late Joyce Bertelsen and Jean Jones welcomed Maureen like a daughter.** Rev. Warren Leibovitch, the priest at the time, invited the family to attend and visited them in their home.

**The Daley family became part of St. Margaret's. Adam the youngest was baptized, the children attended Sunday School and Maureen began to sing in the choir.** One day at a pancake supper, Maureen helped out and was thanked profusely by older parish members who had assumed responsibility for hospitality and social events. As a result, Maureen gradually started to assist planning and organizing social events. She looks back fondly on such events as a **Caribbean Night, an Italian Night, a Jazz and Dessert Evening as well as efforts assisting regular St. Margaret's dinner evenings, the Christmas Dinner and Mystery Night Dinners.**

Fundraising is a constant factor in many parishes but Maureen feels that it is important to also just have opportunities for fun and fellowship, to assist in encouraging that warm family feeling that was such a vital part of St. Margaret's in the early days. **This spring on May 31<sup>st</sup>, the Spring Fling Garage Sale and Barbecue will have a**

fundraising component but also will encourage the surrounding community to come and participate. Plans are underway for a special Ladies Tea in June at the English and Miller Tea House in downtown Barrie, a family picnic June 22<sup>nd</sup> at St. Vincent's Park after the church service and perhaps an Octoberfest Evening in the fall.

Thanks so much Maureen for your valuable contribution to St. Margaret's over many years.

### ST. MARGARET'S IS MISSIONAL!

#### BOWLS FOR BEDS AND DAVID BUSBY OUTREACH

*Submitted by Susan Cronje*

On Sunday April 27 Samaritan House Community Ministries (SHCM) held their 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Bowls for Beds" event. SHCM provides Transitional Housing along with support programs for women and children escaping abuse and violence. This event was to raise funds for those in need and was well attended by several people in the community including Jeff Lehman, City of Barrie Mayor and MP Patrick Brown. Thirty-one parishioners from St. Margaret's attended enjoying refillable bowls of gourmet soup and winning several raffle items. In this photo Maggie, Susan, Sharon, Michelle and Ken, enjoy their soup lunch.



As the Out of Cold Program came to an end April 30, a number of people are now without shelter in Barrie. The St. Margaret's Outreach Committee collaborated with staff at West Bayfield Elementary School (WBES) to collect sleeping bags, tents, tarps and blankets for the homeless.

The purpose of the drive was to collect and then hand over these items to the David Busby Street Centre (DBSC) who would distribute the items to those most in need. The DBSC Outreach Van arrived on a rainy evening Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> to collect the numerous donated blankets, sleeping bags, tarps, and tents. It was heartwarming to hear Sue McVeay and Stacey Daoust of the DBSC Community Outreach comment how excited they were as they had just handed out the last of their supplies.

People in the picture are: Susan, Kevin and Rev. Stephen.

Thank you to everyone who donated items and especially to those who volunteered to make this event happen. We look forward to partnering with WBES and other local organizations with future outreach activities.

## GETTING US OVER THE TOP – MEETING THE CHALLENGE

We have been very grateful to have entered into this three year agreement with the Diocese. In year 1 and in year 2 we have met our benchmarks and have been forgiven over \$320,000 of capital debt on both the church and the rectory. Our Parish has worked extremely hard and we are proud of our achievements. Our challenge was to take us over the finish line. With just 2 months to our deadline we needed to raise \$15,000. Some thought that this was an **impossible goal to achieve. However, St Margaret's always finds a way to overcome adversity. We communicated our status so that everyone knew where we stood to our goal. On behalf of Rev. Steve, Peter, Joy and myself I am proud to let you know that we achieved our goal and we have now completed our 3 year agreement with the Diocese. We didn't just achieve our goal at the end of May but we surpassed it. Here are the results:**

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**WE STAYED CURRENT WITH OUR MONTHLY PAYMENTS TO THE DIOCESE as of May 31<sup>st</sup>.  
WE REPAID OUR OPERATING DEBT  
THE \$15,000 CHALLENGE  
WE RAISED \$16,233.32 FROM 52 DONATIONS  
AS A RESULT THE DIOCESE WILL FORGIVE US AN ADDITIONAL \$120,000 + ON OUR CAPITAL DEBT  
FOR THE CHURCH.**

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Having over achieved our goal of \$15,000 is fantastic and that 52 separate donations contributed to the total. It shows the commitment of our Parish family and the love that they have for St. Margaret's I wanted to share with you some contents of an email we received from Arch Deacon Elizabeth Hardy, from the Diocesan Office

**"I would like to congratulate St. Margaret. You have done an excellent job with your debt forgiveness. You have been rigorous in meeting your bench marks and honouring your commitments. This has resulted in a reduction of your debt but also in greater financial health and stewardship education for your parish. I would be pleased to discuss with the Director of Finance and Bishop Fenty the possibility of extending this plan for another one year term. Once Ms. Rogers and I have had a chance to analyze our facility to absorb any more write downs on this debt I will be back in touch with a suggestion. Once again congratulations to the entire leadership team and the congregation. Best regards. E+"**

The Ven. Elizabeth J. Hardy  
Archdeacon of York  
Chief Administrative Officer & Secretary of Synod  
Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto  
135 Adelaide St E  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5C 1L8

We have achieved a great result here and as you can see it has been recognized by the Diocese. A hearty congratulations to everyone because together we made this happen! When we began this journey our Church Operating and Capital debt surpassed \$1,000,000. Three years later our debt is in the \$460,000 range. What a fantastic achievement! We are committed to reducing our Operating Debt until it is no more. We look forward to discussing our next steps, with the Diocese and how, together, we can partner moving forward. There may be more opportunities for future debt forgiveness.

**LET'S KEEP THIS MOMENTUM GOING!!!!**

Rev. Stephen Pessah  
Incumbent

Bill J. Gray  
Rector's Warden

Peter Beckett  
People's Warden

Joy Packham  
Treasurer

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