



THE ST. MARGARET'S BEACON

Issue 11

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

Spring 2015

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

INTO THE CORN

I find myself in the very strange place of writing one article for two congregations separated by a border and over a thousand miles. What brings us together is the reality that one congregation is preparing to say goodbye while the other prepares to receive me as their new Rector. Perhaps the greater commonality exists in the fact that for both congregations this new reality will require a renewed journey of faith as we forge ahead into the future!



My friends south of the border have yet to discover my love for the movie "Field of Dreams", while those of you here at St. Margaret's have graciously endured my many references to this icon of the silver screen! The movie, set in the late 1980's, is predicated on how an Iowa farmer named Ray Kinsella hears a mysterious voice declaring "*If you build it, he will come.*" It is out of this that Ray begins to discern his need to plough into a piece of his corn crop in order to build a baseball field. Eventually this magical field becomes home to none other than Shoeless Joe Jackson and the seven other players banned as a result of the 1919 Chicago White Sox scandal. Players who have been dead for decades mysteriously appear from the corn behind the field and once again enjoy playing the game they loved so passionately in the past. Each night the players disappear back into Ray's corn field only to reappear the following day.

At one point in the movie, author Terrence Mann visits the field and is invited by Shoeless Joe to come out into the field to "see" what is out there; to experience firsthand this mysterious world "beyond the corn." He approaches the corn very cautiously; he touches it and brushes some aside in an attempt to peer in and see what is there. He looks back at Ray and his family who remain on the field watching intently. He smiles and laughs indicating that he has seen enough to

whet his curiosity. He then turns around and with a sense of confidence he disappears into the corn.

In Jeremiah 29, Jeremiah sends a letter to those in exile that points to the hope that is theirs in the years ahead. He says, *"I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future"* (v. 11). It is as though Jeremiah brushes "the corn" aside to reveal just enough of God's plan in order to whet Israel's curiosity and ignite their hearts with the faith they need to forge ahead confidently.

My prayer, as we all continue forward on this new journey, is that God would "brush back the corn" and open our eyes to catch just a glimpse of what he has in store. I pray also that we will be enabled to trust that he has our collective best interests at heart, and that our future consists of nothing less than a prosperity and a hope that is rooted in his Word to us and his love for us all.

Sincerely in Christ's Love
The Reverend Stephen Pessah

PRAYER AND HEALING MINISTRY IN OUR CHURCH
Submitted by Margaret Paradis Lay Associate

In James, 5:14, we read, *"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord"*. And in Matthew, 10:8, we read, *"Jesus commanded the disciples in his name to heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers and cast out demons."*

God's plan for all of us is health and wholeness and the mainspring and heart of healing in the church is prayer. At St. Margaret's we have a lively and dedicated prayer ministry. Our "prayer warriors" that are part of the prayer chain team regularly pray for those that are sick or in distress. On Sundays, the regular practice of intercession, praying for the sick by name, not only in private, but during public worship of the believing community is a familiar part of our parish life. From our prayers we desire to see individuals receive more of our Father's love and help lighten one's burdens. **By way of our intercessory prayers and prayers of the people**, everyone can be part of the healing ministry. There will always be people on our prayer lists in need of healing.

We have a healing service at St. Margaret's twice a month. Those in need of healing in mind or body are invited to go to the prayer stations at the back of the church to receive prayers of thanks, or prayers for concerns and to receive anointing if desired.

Before our lay anointers and prayer support go to their prayer stations, together they pray that God will fill them with His Holy Spirit and minister through them. His presence is invited to come, to open their hearts and ears to hear from the Lord.

Our Lay Anointers have permission from the area bishop and have taken training to be able to administer the anointing with consecrated oil. Lay are selected for preparation for this ministry upon recommendation of the incumbent. The program of training includes biblical, theological and historical backgrounds. They are also taught listening skills and the importance of discretion. When someone shares their prayer request, that request stays between the prayer team and the person in need of prayer.

In anointing with oil we are anointed as an outward sign of being sealed with the Holy Spirit and are given the particular gifts necessary for that moment in our lives. The ministry of healing is indeed a prayer ministry and as a church family, we are all called to pray from time to time, healing prayers. You are invited to pray during a healing service for those seeking wholeness, even if we do not know the prayer request, God knows.

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us and to gracious unto us. The Lord lift us his countenance upon us, and give us health and peace, this day and ever more. Amen

MISSIONAL TRANSFORMATION

Submitted by Susan Cronje, former Lay Associate at St. Margaret's

Note: This Vestry Report has been edited for length to include in The Beacon

St. Margaret's has once again returned to being a missional church. The transformation to missional has been a process involving everyone here at St. Margaret's. Initially it involved a handful of people, today it is a much larger group of people in the church. At the beginning of April 2014 Bruce Smith, Missional Coordinator for the Anglican Parish of Christ Church St. James in Etobicoke led a workshop on "Living and Sharing Our Faith in Our Neighbourhood". The day was well attended by 30 parishioners from St. Margaret's who were further encouraged and equipped to engage with those outside the church i.e. those in our neighbourhood.

Missional Transformation is all about taking risks and trusting that God will lead us. Over a year ago the idea of hosting an event in Hanmer Park began to take shape. It began with the idea of a BBQ in June in the park but manifested into a "Scavenger Hunt" in October in the Park. As this event was to be held in a public place there was need to obtain City approval.

Over the summer four separate meetings were called to develop the scavenger hunt and organize its delivery. The attendance at the meetings was unexpected with an average of 15 enthusiastic parishioners meeting each time, sometimes more. The meetings were not only work sessions but were joyful fun events. By September 2014 over 50 people from St. Margaret's were involved in supporting, the Scavenger Hunt. It is

our hope and plans to have the Scavenger Hunt once again in Hanmer Park in October of 2015. For a second summer St. Margaret's continued in the "Adopt-A-Park" program here in Barrie where people commit to

approached she stopped and spoke directly to one of the parishioners saying "You are cleaning the park, it is good for the earth", she then rode off looking back over her wee shoulder and commented "God will like that". In



Beth Steffler, Sharon Zacchigna, Margaret Paradis and Maggie Prentice at Hanmer Park

cleaning Hanmer Park. Last summer (2013) the congregation was very enthusiastic with approximately 10 regular people from the church going out twice a week. However, this summer (2014) was quite different, there were fewer participants and enthusiasm dwindled. It was in one of those dry periods in mid August that the voice of God was heard by the only three participants that evening. After their prayer in the church the three set out for the park where they encountered a wee girl on a bike riding along the path. As she

our mind God spoke that night affirming what we needed to hear "the park is the instrument to meeting God's people". As this experiment in cleaning the park has been important to our moving back into our neighbourhood it may now be that we need to change it slightly. It may be that we need to ask our neighbours if they would like to share in cleaning the park too rather than observing us cleaning the park i.e. enabling the neighbours to be good stewards. What would this look like? How could we engage with our

neighbours to accomplish this? Perhaps these questions can help in formulating another missional experiment.

Last May 2014, we invited West Bayfield Elementary School (WBES) to take part in collecting sleeping bags, tarps, tents and blankets with us for the David Busby Street Centre (DBSC). We conducted a parking lot blitz one morning where we encountered the "outreach teacher" from WBES. The school responded together with people from our church delivering a number of items for this initiative. The DBSC was grateful for the many blankets, tarps, sleeping bags and even tents and we are hopeful we can join forces again with WBES in 2015 towards this initiative. As we have developed a friendly relationship with the school they have invited us to sit on their school council which I have been

attending since November 2014. When WBES began their breakfast program in November they asked us to help with obtaining toasters; thanks be to God Walmart provided two new toasters at our request. In December 2014, Lorraine Whitwell attended the school council meeting where she presented to the school hand knit hats, mittens and scarves provided by some of our parishioners at St. Margaret's and tenants in her building. The school was again most grateful and they will make contact when more mittens, etc. are required. You may be thinking it is a small miracle that a large public school sits next door to us. This not only gives us easy access to building meaningful relationships with our neighbours but allows us to open our eyes and see what God is up to. As we continue along the missional journey we need to

continue to ask where God may be leading us. How we can work further with people in need in our neighbourhood. Missional and outreach activities are not easily segregated as can be seen from the DBSC drive. Perhaps we need to enquire further what the social justice activities are at WBES and commit to working with them on one of their projects.

St. Margaret's is blessed to have so many people in our congregation willing to share their talents. It would not be possible to mention by name those who have supported the above mentioned activities; no doubt everyone here at St. Margaret's has taken part in one way or another. I would like to thank everyone here at St. Margaret's for supporting me over the past 10 months in the position of Missional Lay Associate. It has been a privilege to serve with you within God's community, it has also resulted in a deepening of my faith as there were times I was not sure or certain how things would turn out. Hebrews 12:1-2 "To have faith is to be sure of the things we hope for, to be certain of the things we cannot see." has been a source of great comfort. As I move onto Long Island New York I truly believe God has already planned how the missional transformation here at St. Margaret's will continue. I encourage each one to find a scripture that comforts and encourages you as you continue this spiritual journey.

Remember
Missional
transformation is all about
taking risks and trusting that
God will lead us.



Susan Cronje, Kevin LeMoine and Rev. Stephen with goods collected by St. Margaret's and West Bayfield School for the David Busby Centre.

GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY



A Solemn Procession through the Neighbourhood Stations of the Cross

Bill Goodyer prepares children for the annual Easter Egg Hunt on the lawn after Easter Sunday 10 a.m. service



CONNECTION

FACES OF ST MARGARET

Do Saunders Celebrates 90 Years

On February 28th, almost 200 people attended an Open House to celebrate the 90th birthday of **Do Saunders**. Many St. Margaret's parishioners past and present were there as well as Do's family and many friends. All enjoyed a tasty buffet, cake and a chance to have glimpse's of Do's life through photo albums and a slide show. Congratulatory plaques from all level of government were on display as well.

Recently I had the privilege of enjoying afternoon tea with Do in her lovely home and to learn more about her full and interesting life. Doris Jones was born in 1925 in Toronto, the youngest of six children to parents who had

immigrated to Canada from England. It was a warm, busy, artistic and musical family. Do's grandfather had been an actor and singer in the D'Oyly Carte Opera Company and her own father was an excellent amateur musician. While working for Canada Packers to support his family, he played piano for silent movies and also sang in Gilbert and Sullivan productions. In fact the entire family became involved in Gilbert and Sullivan Operettas through the Canada Packers' Musical Society. They travelled to various locations in southern Ontario to perform including the Orillia Opera House. Family life also revolved around St. Chad's Church in western Toronto where

the family attended morning worship, afternoon Sunday School and Evensong at night, traversing a mile between the church and their house. Before Dufferin Street was widened, the overhead canopy of trees touched in the middle creating a magical atmosphere. Sunday School was a serious affair, complete with exams. There were required exams but Do wrote a one-time only voluntary senior advanced paper open to people right across Canada. Do received the highest mark in the Diocese and the second highest in Canada. A great honour was bestowed upon Do, by the Bishop. At age 15, she was the first female in the Anglican Church in Canada to be allowed to

read the lesson, in this case the Gospel, in a church service at the lectern. This did not start a trend - it was years before it became a practice.

Do also enjoyed school and was an excellent student. While attending Northern Vocational School she formed a wide circle of friends including many suitors; one of whom, Les, became her future husband. Les also came from a family of British immigrants. His father was an executive with Cadbury in Canada and during the war served on the Wartime Prices Board. Northern Vocational School had an excellent spirit where boys were expected to be gentlemen and girls, ladies.

After graduation, Do worked for an advertising firm doing layouts and becoming an expert in script type penmanship, a dying art. World War Two came and Les joined up, serving in the Army and becoming wounded in Italy. Throughout this time they corresponded, beginning a loving relationship that was to last 58 years.

On September 7, 1946, Do and Les were married in St. Chad's Church. They settled in an apartment on Vaughan Road and in 1948, Doug was born. In 1951, assisted by the Veteran's Land Act they bought property at Lawrence and Keele, in the country then, and built their own ranch bungalow with the assistance of some professional help. However, many hours of their own hard labour went into the project. The Saunders family settled into a small community on a circular street with large lots backed by a ravine. The neighbours, all young families, cooperated in clearing an area in the ravine with a playground for all the children, a community garden and path to the

Do surrounded by cards, flowers, gifts and cake celebrating 90 years



school at the top of the ravine. Two more sons, Dennis and Dale arrived to expand the family, followed by three daughters Patti, Lesley and Alie. The Saunders family enjoyed a warm and lively family life and encouraged their children to bring friends home. At one time, Do mentioned that they had Doug and his classical music ensemble practicing upstairs and Dennis and Dale with their rock band downstairs. Les' career brought them to Barrie from 1968 to 1972 and then back to the Markham and Unionville area. All six children grew up to be creative, practical and productive adults and the family has expanded to include 7 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren.

The work that Do did outside her home was huge part of her life. She took on leadership roles in fundraising for United Appeal, now United Way, for the Red Cross Society and for Cancer

Research and an executive role in the Home and School Association.

As Secretary for the North Park Community Association serving a new and growing community, Do taught herself to type. Her position involved many appearances at North York Council Meetings. Fighting CNR's plan for a holding yard close to her community took up more than a year. When young parents lost the lives of their three children in a home fire, a committee was set up to provide a home for the couple. Volunteers in the building trade got things started and well underway. North York Council provided the land. A builder, a treasurer and Do as secretary were left to carry on to completion. The house was completely furnished even to pictures on the wall. Do wrote over 200 letters to companies asking for contributions and letters to the companies thanking them for their help. Only one company turned them down.

Church has remained an essential part of Do's life since childhood. As a young adult she became an Associate of the Sisters of St. John the Divine. Over many years in different parishes, she has assisted in many ways. At St. Chad's as choir mother, Do took care of 18 boys, washing, starching and ironing their ruffles and surplices and at old St. Philips, she was directress of the Chancel Guild. She learned to sew Church linens at the Diocesan Centre. Finally in 1980, Do obtained a paying job teaching English as a Second Language at night school, summer school and in the workplace until they moved to Barrie in 1994.

After Les retired, he and Do moved back to Barrie on Livingstone Road West. When Les and Do moved to Barrie the second time, they went to a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper held at St. Margaret's when it was in the plaza. Bob Smith was so friendly and so enthusiastic about the priest and parish that they decided to attend. In their early days with the parish, Les and Do cleaned the building. Do has

Do with her six children



participated in many activities at St. Margaret's including greeting people with her friendly smile and welcoming them in turn. Regularly she reads lessons and prayers at morning service. Those of us who have attended study groups and the book club with Do have benefitted enormously by her intelligence, curiosity, knowledge and spiritual

insight. Not only does she read widely on many different topics, Do also keeps a diary of all the books she has read!

From all of us Do, we are privileged to know you and wish you many more happy years!

GREETERS - A MINISTRY OF WELCOMING

What does it mean to welcome someone? Webster's dictionary gives us this definition - "*to receive or greet with signs of pleasure, to receive gladly.*" The Diocese of Toronto has a section on Welcoming Ministry on its website which looks at welcoming within a Christian context.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me (Matthew 5:43). Our common vision must always be that which is expressed in Ephesians 2: 19. So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

(Diocese of Toronto Website Welcoming Ministry.)

People moving to a new community or just deciding to try a church for the first time often do a little bit of background exploration via the parish website or other publications and observe church activities from within a neighbourhood. The first time a newcomer visits can be so important. Are they greeted at the door and made to feel welcome? Often a decision to return for another visit is made very early.

St. Margaret's is exceptionally fortunate to have a team of greeters led by Kevin LeMoine who take their ministry very seriously and welcome parishioners old or new, warmly every Sunday. They make sure that

people have a bulletin, assist them in finding a seat and are ready to answer any questions they might have. Greeters watch for people who may be new and who could benefit from a newcomer's package and more information. Teams of two or three people serve on a rotating basis. Presently Maggie Prentice, Tim Fitzmaurice, Neil Purcell, Jerry Wade, Bill Goodyer, Grant Robinson, Al Lavender, Dave Thomson, David Paradis, Jim Tomkins and Sharon Zacchigna assist Kevin with this ministry. If you would like to learn more or volunteer to help, please speak to Kevin.

Our formal greeters are assisted by many other parishioners at St. Margaret's who are friendly and welcoming both within the church building and outside in the community. They represent St. Margaret's at community activities such as the Scavenger Hunt, at Hanmer Park, at West Bayfield School and just by meeting people at parish events such as the bazaar, dinners and teas.

Kevin and Marie LeMoine

Kevin has been a greeter (formerly sidesman) for many years and took over leading this group when Les Jones retired from these duties. He and Marie have been members of St. Margaret's since 1990 when services were held in the portable. Kevin, who had just retired from his formal working life, soon was busy assisting with the construction of the new church as well as taking over cleaning and janitorial duties for ten years. He still helps out occasionally in this area when Lorraine Whitwell is on holidays.



Marie has filled many roles, being a member of Chancel Guild and assisting with the healing services. You will always see her in the kitchen whenever food is required for an event - a duty she loves.

Kevin and Marie are Maritimers who both grew up in Cape Breton and came to Ontario in 1963. They settled in Thornhill for 25 years where Kevin worked first of all for Eaton's and then Royal Tank. Marie was busy in the early years looking after their four children, Karen, Colleen, Stephen and Christopher. Now seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren have joined the family.

Both Kevin and Marie became Scout and Guide leaders when their children took part in these organizations. Marie also served as a crossing guard and taught Sunday School at Trinity Church Thornhill. After her children were in school full time she returned to the employment world working in customer service.

In addition to their duties at St. Margaret's, Kevin and Marie enjoy activities with their family, all who live close by. Kevin's well equipped shop is a source of tools for family projects. He enjoys using some of these tools for his many woodworking projects. Both Kevin and Marie enjoy camping and for many years had a seasonal campsite near Uxbridge. This summer they are planning on establishing a summer site in Cape Breton to keep in touch with extended family there.

This quiet, unassuming and friendly couple are always active behind the scenes and have welcomed so many people to St. Margaret's. Thank you.

The next issue of The Beacon will be published in the autumn of 2015. Thank you to all who contributed and shared their news and photos for this issue. We hope that everyone enjoys a restful summer. Please think of ideas, news and photos to share in the fall.