



THE ST. MARGARET'S BEACON

Issue 5

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

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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.

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. West
Barrie, ON L4N 7S1
Phone: 705-721-9528
Fax: 705-721-9455
E mail: stmarg@rogers.com
www.stmargaretbarrie.ca

Incumbent
The Rev. Stephen Pessah
Honorary Associate
Canon Elizabeth Morley

Newsletter editor
Barbara Phillipps
bjphil@sympatico.ca

IN HIS SERVICE

A NIGHT AT THE OPRY

The Reverend Stephen Pessah

"Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it" (1 Corinthians 12:27). Recently I reflected in a sermon about my experience at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, TN. As I mentioned in my message, my wife and I had the privilege of sitting up on stage just behind the performers (thanks to a friend of a friend)! What amazed me the most was the way in which each person fulfilled a role that contributed to the "whole" of the show. The musicians took their place on stage and played for the set they were responsible for while other musicians waited to rotate in for the next portion of the show. The announcer introduced the act that was about to perform while the drummer tapped the side of the drum to count everyone in just as he was finishing his final sentence. This resulted in a seamless transition from one song to another. Behind the scenes were people who escorted the performers to and from the stage and made sure each musician had the appropriate sheet music for the songs they would be playing. I was struck by the positive attitude each person displayed as they went about the business of the evening. No one seemed concerned that someone else was getting more attention than they were or that their job was more cumbersome than that of another. Everyone seemed perfectly content to fulfill the task they had been assigned. And the result was a magnificent blend of instrument and voice and harmony. Music that pleased the ear and, yes at times, fed the soul!



I can't help but see the parallel between this experience and God's intention for his church as revealed through St. Paul's words to the Corinthians quoted in the opening sentence of this article. We are called to unite under the headship of Christ and work together to build his Kingdom. To this end we are all invited to respond to God's

invitation to fulfill our task in his body no matter how big or small that may seem. As I write this, I am especially aware of our new friends from St. Peter's Minesing and how God is grafting them into our midst. How blessed we are that you are with us! I pray that you will find St. Margaret's to be a place that you can call home, that part of Christ's body where you feel a profound sense of belonging. I hope together we can truly embrace Paul's reminder that each one is a part and therefore has a part to play. I am sure there must be nights at the Opry when things don't go as smoothly as it appears. There are likely conflicts and challenges before the show that require time and attention to resolve. This is without question a reality amongst God's people in the Church. The key to overcoming our challenges can be found in our willingness to follow the example of Christ and lay down our lives, our wants, our desires, in order that his purposes for us may be fulfilled and his body be formed effectively.

I pray this summer will afford us opportunities to reflect on God's purposes for us, for our families, and our service in his body the church. May we truly be formed into a people who are, for our neighbors', a symphony that draws them into the sweet music of God's Grace and Mercy.

Summer Blessings—Rev. Stephen Pessah

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRY

A Conversation with Bill Goodyer

As many of you know, Bill Goodyer has been a member of St. Margaret's since very early days and has assisted with various activities with youth ministry most of that time.

A Little Bit of Background About Bill

Bill was born in Toronto but moved to the Big Bay Point area of Innisfil with his family when he was about four years old. He attended local schools and had just finished his secondary education at Barrie Central Collegiate when his father died. Since Bill at age eighteen, was the eldest in his family, he felt he had to go to work immediately to help out. After a while Bill met and married Wendy, also from the Big Bay Point area. Daughters Melissa and Candice completed their family. Bill worked at Hill Refrigeration for twenty-two years until the plant closed and after a couple of interim positions found work at Glenda's Gardens in Elmvale, landscaping and gardening.

Bill really enjoys working outside, with people and plants. The church gardens benefit from his care.



The Goodyer Family. From left to right, Melissa, Bill, Wendy and Candice

St. Paul's Innisfil was the Goodyer family church, where Bill was baptized, confirmed and married and where his children were baptized. A move to the north end of Barrie brought the family to St. Margaret's.

How Did You Become Involved in Youth Ministry?

Bill reports that around 1990, when St. Margaret's was at Portage View School, Rev. Elizabeth Morley came to his door and asked if they would like to become involved with St. Margaret's. Bill and Wendy's children were young and many young families were associated with the parish. Bill served as People's Warden for a couple of years into the transition to the store front. When Rev. Leibovitch came as priest, Bill decided to teach Sunday School and head the youth group.



Christmas Around the World
Beth Steffler, representing Scotland, leads a workshop making sheep

Highlights and Activities

For three or four years, the youth group attended Youthfest at Aurora Conference Centre and had annual camping trips in all kinds of weather on May long weekends. Some of these weekends were often called rain fest or frost fest. Bill decided to have Murder Mystery nights to raise money to fund the trips. These were such a hit that they continue to the present day with only a couple of years when they did not take place. Bill purchases the Murder Mystery kits and edits and adapts the parts to suit the players available. Now the evening combines the play with dinner with different acts of the play taking place between courses.

There were also educational activities such as visiting other churches to learn about the variety of different worship services, both traditional and more modern. Many agreed that St. Margaret's provides a good combination of both. Older youth participated in World Famine weekends along with young people from other Anglican Churches. Other activities with youth that still continue to this day are movie nights and gym nights. This past winter, young people from the area enjoyed snow tubing at Snow Valley.

In more recent years, Bill began organizing Christmas and Halloween parties with Christmas Around the World being particularly interesting. Younger children look forward to the annual Easter Egg hunt on Easter Sunday morning.

What Have Been Some Challenges Over the Years?

There have been some challenges coordinating different ages of children and varying instruction requirements in very limited spaces, particularly in the gym and storefront. Curriculum has also changed over the years and become more difficult for older children and youth.

What are The Rewards?

Bill thoroughly enjoys his work with young people - *"it keeps me young"* - and he hopes to continue long into the future. Many lasting friendships have been made over the years and a generation has grown up and moved on to post secondary education and careers. Bill looks forward to seeing his former students come back to visit.

St. Margaret's is indeed fortunate to have had Bill and many other dedicated volunteers through the years and the present, who work hard to keep young people involved in the church. Under Rev. Stephen's leadership they all have made St. Margaret's a child friendly parish where children and young people are valued and give hope for the future.

Chalice of my Heart

*Father, to thee I raise my whole being
A vessel emptied of self. Accept Lord
This my emptiness, and so fill me
With thy self, thy light, thy
love, thy life, that these thy
precious gifts may radiate
through me and overflow
the chalice of my heart
into the hearts of all
with whom I come in
contact this week
revealing
unto
them
the beauty of thy
joy
and
the serenity
of thy peace
which nothing can destroy*

Pamela Williams

CONNECTION

LORD REVEAL YOUR JOY TO US

Submitted by Barbara Semsch

WOW, what a magnificent joyful weekend that Maggie, Sharon, Nellie and I had attending the 21st "A.W.A.R.E - 2013" at Elim Lodge during the weekend of May 3rd.

The theme was **"I am the vine; You are the branches"** John 15:5. There were some 150+ women who came to celebrate their faith, fellowship and to praise and worship our Lord and 29 of these were attending for the first time. Simone Robinson was the keynote speaker who provided a spirit-filled message wound with inspiration, personal stories, lots of laughs and a message that made each of us take away exactly what we needed to have a new or increased love for God and to better understand his plans for us in strengthening the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Praise and worship was always a highlight as the choir led us and we raised the roof in song. His presence was definitely felt by all. The Taize Service was a special part of the weekend as it allowed us the quiet time to be with God through remembrance and reflection.



Banner Making—St. Margaret's Group with Facilitator

Maggie was a wealth of information for us three newbies as she led the way and was a member of the "Prayer Team" for the weekend. The small-groups offered each of us growth, reflection and fed each of us on our personal journeys in furthering our personal relationship with God. The food was to die for and I am especially grateful for everyone who had dessert for me. We all enjoyed the various workshops we attended. They included a 75 acre Historical Walk of the Elim Lodge Property, Forgiveness Bracelets, Call to Prayer and Breath of God.

The one common thread that bound us together is that we were spiritually fed. Sharon came away with a renewed sense of peace and serenity and that God was with all of us at all times. Maggie loved renewing old friendships, learning to pray aloud and finding herself in her relationship with God. With God's hand Nellie was able to conquer her long time fear and she made new friendships that she will treasure. She won the banner for the parish which will be displayed in the church for the year.

As for me personally, I came away with a better understanding of a few things I had been struggling with and after talking with the Chaplain, I have a few things to surrender and to pray about as for God's plans for me. A nice surprise was I won a gift basket in the raffle draw in support of the "Bursary Fund".



Nellie and Barbara Prepare For Their Canoe Trip

My most humbling experience was that I was honoured to be part of a blessing in which God allowed me to walk with Nellie in conquering her fear of water. We canoed the waters of Pigeon Lake twice, once along the shoreline and the other across the lake. As she has said "I can do anything now"!

A great weekend was had by all as we made many new friends and enjoyed getting to know each other. We all can agree that we were richly blessed as we were inspired and renewed by the Holy Spirit and enriched for service. Thanks be to God! Please think about joining us next year for a blessed weekend. The more the merrier! As a side-note Rev. Suzanne McKim (an old school chum from seminary) sends her blessings to Rev. Stephen.

MISSIONAL TRANSFORMATION PROCESS GATHERS MORE PARTICIPANTS

Submitted by Susan Cronje

The Missional Guiding Team would like to thank everyone who took part in the small group meetings during April and early May. Approximately 30 people took part in small groups meeting over the course of 4 weeks to review and discuss our readiness as a congregation to engage in Missional change. We focused on our current staff, energy, connections and finances and discussed some of the issues and challenges we need to address as a congregation in order to become more Missional. The information gathered during these meetings will now be reviewed by the Guiding Team with the intent of selecting one or two of your ideas to implement in the near future. We will soon again be asking you to join us as a member of a Missional Action Team or another small group. In the mean time we encourage everyone to continue to dwell in the Word through Luke 10:1-12.

Being Missional is all about moving back into our neighbourhoods, appreciating where God is already working, and then asking what "experiments" the Spirit may be calling us into in our neighbourhoods. If you would like to get involved or learn more about Missional Transformation please speak to Reverend Stephen Pessah or a member of the Missional Guiding Team.

LOOKING FORWARD

On June 9, 2013, Archbishop Colin Johnson will attend St. Margaret's to confirm four young people. We wish the candidates all the best as they begin this next step in their faith journey. In the fall issue of The Beacon, we will have more information and photos.

The next issue of The Beacon will be published in October. If you have news about a church or personal ministry, or a report of a church event, please consider sharing it. Book reviews, poems and creative submissions are welcome. To respect copyright laws, these must be original works.



ADVERTISING RATES

To offset production costs, advertising will be accepted for the newsletter at the following rates for two insertions. 1/8 page (business card size) \$25.00; 1/4 page \$45.00; 1/2 page \$85.00; full page \$160.00