



THE **ST. MARGARET'S** BEACON

Issue 4

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

March 2013

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

LENTEN JOURNEY

Reverend Stephen Pessah

The invitation to journey through the Lenten season begins in the Ash Wednesday service **when the celebrant says, "I invite you therefore, in the name of the Lord, to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God. Let us kneel before our Creator and Redeemer"** (B.A.S. pg. 282). I believe the last line of that invitation is crucial as it is impossible to engage this invitation successfully without a *"posture" of humility and an "attitude" of prayer.*

The invitation is followed in the service by the infamous Psalm 51:1-18, in which King David recognizes his desperate need for God's mercy and forgiveness in response to his adulterous relationship with Bathsheba and insidious *"cover-up"* scheme by having Uriah killed on the front line of battle (2 Samuel 11). He prays that God will create in him a *"clean heart"* and a *"right spirit"* and that he will not withdraw his Holy Presence from his life (Psalm 51:11&12). He then goes on in verse 12 to ask for restoration of the joy that comes from knowing God's salvation and also a *"willing spirit"* in order that he might be sustained as he journeys forward!

I wonder if we have found that posture of humility this Lenten season, the one that allows us to successfully engage this invitation to examine our lives. Are we finding it possible to repent of all that is in the way of our relationship with God? Have we gone without a meal or activity in order that we might instead connect with God in prayer and watch his word come alive before our eyes? And have we considered what it means for us to give of our resources to the work of the Kingdom?

As we continue to move forward into Mission at St. Margaret's and determine those ways in which we can connect with our community effectively, I am reminded that it is only as we are right in heart and spirit before God that we will be able to bring his hope effectively to



the people around us! I am also reminded that this sense of “*rightness*” comes from God alone as we engage him meaningfully. It all begins as we kneel before our Creator and Redeemer!

Our Wardens are going to be writing a letter soon to apprise everyone of our financial position at this time. As I think about that I am very aware of the challenges we have faced over the past few years. We have worked hard at eliminating our debt, we have contributed to the “Our Faith Our Hope” Campaign, and we have replaced our roof! None of these have been small undertakings and you are to be commended for your faithfulness. I don’t imagine you like hearing of our ongoing financial distress, any more than I like mentioning it. And I assure you that I share your concern for St. Margaret’s and how it is we should move forward into the future. With this in mind I commend to you the Wardens’ letter and ask that your response be guided by nothing other than God’s Spirit in your life and the light of his Word. May it come out of that holy place of rightness before God, the place that allows us to live and give with restored joy, renewed hope, and a willing spirit for the journey ahead!

*Every Blessing this Easter Season,
The Reverend Stephen Pessah*

WHAT IS A SERVER?

A server is a servant of God who acts as a representative for the people of God by presenting their offerings of bread, wine and money to the Priest to offer to God. Their major function is assisting the Priest at the altar. A server shows their love for God by their willingness to serve and by being a model of obedience, love, faithfulness, loyalty and decorum.

Know Your Server

Beth Steffler

Beth is married to Ron and mother to Gordon, Alan (Sarah), Colin (Lyndsey). When she is not at St. Margaret’s, Beth works as an Administrative Assistant at the Barrie Learning Centre. In her spare time, she enjoys Scottish country dancing, doing needlecrafts, reading and sitting on their dock at the lake.

Ron and Beth moved to Barrie mid-December 1994 and joined St. Margaret’s when it was located in the Leacock Plaza. Beth has been involved in several ministries at St. Margaret’s as she taught Sunday school and even taught Dance Fit in the classroom of the portable. You often see Beth helping out at many different events in the Parish.

Beth comments: “A cradle Anglican, I was part of the generation before girls and women were welcome to take part in the worship of God beyond the Altar Guild or the ACW, organizing rummage sales and church suppers (and I have helped with lots of those). My personal decision to become part of this ministry was made one Sunday morning when The Rev. Janet Mitchell was leading the service. I was not too happy with the way the server was doing things and I heard in my head, “why not do it yourself if you’re not happy with it”.



Later in that same service Rev. Janet announced that there was a need for servers. After having a “would it be weird for me to do this?” “Not to me” discussion with Janet it has been and continues to be my privilege to serve in the acts of worship at St. Margaret’s.

Abigail Beckett

Abigail is fourteen years old and attends Ferndale Elementary School in grade eight—looking forward to high school next year. She is busy with competitive dance, taking lessons in tap, jazz, ballet as well as lyrical dance and competes in four competitions every year. Abigail also reports that: *“I have a dog called Gunter, he is a 2 year old Schnauzer. I have travelled to Ireland many times and also visited my friend in Atlanta Georgia.”*

Nathan Pessah

My name is Nathan Pessah. Some of the things that interest me are anime (japanese tv shows) and manga (japanese graphic novels). As you can see I love Japan. Anyway for fun I play video games and sometimes sports and in fact I was a part of the soccer team at my school Barrie Central. My favourite subject in school is Latin which goes hand in hand with being a part of "Classics Club" where we do tons of things that have to do with classical places and their languages. These are just some of things that I thought you might like to know about me.

Cassandra Mouratidis also is a member of the Server team.

Shadows



In the still of night
God's love reaches me
 surrounds me
 and encompasses me.
 In the darkness I lie and think
 my thoughts turn into prayers
 as the Spirit leads me
 through the darkness
 and out into the light.
God's love is dwelling there
 in the shadow of the Cross
 in the darkness of the world
 midst the suffering and the lost
 those burdened by grief
 or swallowed up in misery.
 They may not feel his love
 but he is there
 God is always there.

Elizabeth A. Morley



CONNECTION

FACES OF ST. MARGARET'S



Although fairly new to St. Margaret's, Wendy Pettey is already very involved in the Parish. Wendy is our featured parishioner for this issue's Faces of St. Margaret.

I grew up in Scarborough and attended St. Timothy's Anglican Church as a child. In my teen years, I volunteered in the Crèche then taught Grade 3 & 4 in Sunday School. Soon after marriage, we moved away from Toronto, first to Newmarket, then Bradford. We eventually moved to Barrie in 1991 but this was also the year that I found an exciting and rewarding job in Toronto. Go figure! Now my days were spent travelling up and down the highway.

It's been over 20 years now, just a blink really, but I still love my job. I'm the Manager of Administrative Services at a chartered accounting firm and I've seen a lot of changes in this company which I am proud to say that I have been a part of. It's grown from a small group of 7 to over 40 employees and we recently opened a branch office in Vancouver. And I've been involved in every aspect of its growth.

Personally, my life has had its ups and downs, including a divorce, but I have been blessed with two amazing children. The last eleven years have been a struggle as a single parent but I wouldn't trade it for anything. My daughter is now in her second year of University on the east coast, working very hard, and she will be travelling abroad for her third year. My son is in Grade 11 at Barrie North. He is very smart but still hasn't found his true passion yet. They have been my focus and guiding light for the past decade but they don't need me as much as they used to. I needed to find something for me.



I came across St. Margaret's one wintery morning and was welcomed with open arms. I felt at home here and was soon approached by Ron to help with Coffee Hour. Then Reverend Steve asked me to assist with the Youth Group. And when word of my earlier Sunday School teaching came out, I was quickly recruited there, too. I don't know what these people saw in me, but I'm glad they asked for my help. It's nice to be needed and St. Margaret's has become like a second family to me.

WHAT IS MISSIONAL TRANSFORMATION?

Our world is changing rapidly in discontinuous, confusing ways. People generally no longer look to the church as they once did. Making a significant impact on our neighbours and neighbourhoods remains a constant challenge.

Yet always God is sending us in into the world.

The key to missional living is having eyes and ears for what God is up to and then joining in.

(from The Diocese of Toronto Website
www.toronto.anglican.ca)

PARISH DAY APART

Submitted by Eileen Cunningham

On a beautiful winter day in January, over 30 members of St. Margaret's spent "A Parish Day Apart" with the Missional Transformational Team at the Kempenfelt Conference Centre. Everyone reviewed the "360 Report" with members of the team as well as the Rev. Duke Vipperman, our MTP "coach". We all learned the results of the report through an interesting Powerpoint presentation put together by our own Rev. Canon Elizabeth Morley, enjoyed singing with Rev. Stephen Pessah and participated in some interactive activities. Many wonderful ideas and suggestions from all were made.



Rev. Stephen leads singing



Diocesan Coach—Duke Vipperman



Creator of Powerpoint Presentation
Canon Elizabeth

Everyone enjoyed the beautiful setting, delicious refreshments and lovely lunch provided for us by the Conference Centre.

This was an encouraging step in our journey as many of those present agreed to participate in a few smaller groups that will help to examine the data further and brainstorm some ideas to help us all move ahead into the future.



Thoughtful Table Discussion



Where Are We in the Stages of Church Development?

If you would like more information about the report or being part of one of the small groups please contact one of the members of the Missional Transformation Team. Everyone's opinions, thoughts and ideas matter!

Our Team: Rev. Canon Elizabeth Morley, Rev. Stephen Pessah, Peter Beckett, Bill Gray, Margaret Paradis, David Paradis, Beth Steffler, Eileen Cunningham, Trina Rowe, Marilyn Lavender, Susan Cronje

Thank you to Susan Cronje for the photographs of the day.

BOWLS FOR BEDS

Submitted by Elaine Cunningham

Samaritan House Ministries came to St. Margaret's on Sunday, February 17th to lead a special Sunday school class.



Samaritan House is asking local churches to help them paint clay bowls provided by Creative Cafe. They came to our Sunday school and youth group to paint these bowls. On the day of the painting they taught a lesson on homelessness as well. They hope to bring awareness of this issue to our children and youth and allow them to contribute back to the community by painting a clay bowl in support of homelessness. Parents have the option of purchasing their child's bowl if they wish for \$25.00.

Students that have purchased a bowl will be given a ticket enabling them to attend the "Bowls For Beds" event on April 28th when they can pick up their bowl and taste some yummy soups and breads from local restaurant chefs, buy some goodies from the bake sale, check out the auction where there will be mugs painted by local celebrities and play the children's games. Bowls for Beds takes place on April 28th at Central United Church, 58 Ross Street, lower level from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

The proceeds will be going to help support Samaritan House housing programs for women and children in distress. We encourage you to participate in this wonderful event. For further information talk to Eileen Cunningham (705-725-1609).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Saturday May 25 at 6:00 p.m. - **St. Margaret's Annual Murder Mystery Dinner.** Young people under the direction of Bill Goodyer prepare and perform the mystery play.

Saturday June 1st - **St. Margaret's Booth at Celebrate Barrie.** See Bill Goodyer or Ron Steffler if you can volunteer for a 2 hour shift.

NEXT ST. MARGARET'S BEACON

The next St. Margaret's Beacon will be published for Sunday June 2nd. The deadline will be Sunday May 19th to the Church Office or the editor. 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; ¼ page \$45.00; 1/2 page \$85.00; full page \$160.00