



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

Issue 8

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

March 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

### INTO THE DESERT

I always marvel at how Jesus transitions from his baptism in Matthew 3:17 to his journey through the desert in Matthew 4:1-11. The final words in Chapter 3 are, "And a voice from heaven said, this is my Son, whom I love, with him I am well pleased". After such a wonderful affirmation we might imagine that Jesus has the favour of the Father so much so that the rest of his life will be one of clear sailing with nothing but promise ahead.



Personally speaking, my love for my children and the pleasure I take in them usually expresses itself in seeing that they **are safe and whole, and equipped for life's journey.** I mean how many of us wish our children a life of conflict and misery? But this is exactly **what seems to be on the Father's agenda for Jesus at the beginning of Matthew 4.** No sooner does he express his sentiments of love for his Son than he thrusts him into the desert without food. His only fellowship is that of the devil who we learn is bent on luring him into making decisions that will inevitably circumvent any chance of his fulfilling the **purpose for which he was sent, that being to show us the Father's love and mercy through his life and death.** In each instance the devil has Jesus contemplate making decisions that are self serving at best and destructive at worst. We know for instance how many have embraced **the lure of the "kingdoms of the world and their splendour" only to realize in the end that these kingdoms are empty of the meaning and fulfillment their hearts hoped to find.**

We discover that this seemingly harsh treatment in the desert reveals in the Son a wealth of knowledge that is rooted in Scripture. He has clearly been equipped to respond to the conflict of life that awaits him; a life that is steeped in sin and blinded by an inherent desire to serve self above all else. It is through his use of the Word that he remains whole for ministry and equipped for his journey to the Cross.

And so we are challenged this Lenten Season to prepare in ourselves that deep "well" of knowledge that comes from "dwelling" in God's Word. A knowledge that will indeed serve to keep us whole and equipped for the journey ahead; wherever that may lead and whatever that may be.

May your Lenten Journey bring a renewed sense of God's presence in your life as you receive the Risen Christ anew each day.

Sincerely in Christ,  
The Reverend Stephen Pessah

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MEET YOUR CHANCEL GUILD  
*Submitted by Eileen Cunningham*

My name is Eileen Cunningham and I am part of the Chancel Guild Ministry. I was born in Montreal and I grew up with a somewhat difficult childhood, but was blessed to have a wonderful mother who always tried to bring us to church. We usually attended the local United Church wherever we were living at the time (we moved a lot!) for most of my childhood.

When I was thirteen we moved once again to Pointe St. Charles in Montreal. We were only a block away from the local Anglican Church which we tried out. Once I walked into that building I felt like I met God there and had found my home at Grace Anglican Church. The beauty of the liturgy and the vestments spoke to me and still does which is one of the things that draws me to the Chancel Ministry.

The Chancel members take great care of the lovely linens, hangings and communion vessels that we are so lucky to have at St. Margaret's. Every week we work in teams of two and set up for services, polish the silver and brass as well as laundering the linens that have been used. We decorate the church for Easter, Christmas, Thanksgiving and other holidays. St. Margaret's is blessed to have such a wonderful group of ladies and I would like to introduce them to you.

*Margaret Paradis* is a long time member of St. Margaret's and is involved in many other ministries, in particular pastoral care and prayer ministry.

*Marie Lemoine* also brings her many gifts to us through the prayer ministry as a lay anointer and of course her wonderful baking which many can attest to.

*If you are interested in helping out with this important ministry at St. Margaret's, please speak to Eileen Cunningham.*

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*Diane MacCormack* is also an experienced member and the very best silver and brass polisher in the world. She brings a willingness to do whatever is asked of her and her very kind heart to the ministry.

*Lorraine Whitwell* is another dedicated soul who is not only part of the Chancel Ministry but has played a huge part in the baking group that has been so successful at the last couple of events. She also works as our custodian and keeps the rest of the church sparkling clean.

*Sharon Zacchigna* is a fairly recent member whom we love to have with us. Her always smiling face and warm hugs are guaranteed to make any day brighter. Sharon also serves St Margaret's as a sidesperson/greeter on Sunday mornings.

We have been very blessed to have some new members join us in the last few months.

*Rose Scott* who sings in the choir and recently prepared us all a delicious Jamaican lunch is a former Deputy Warden. *Barb Semsch* brings her eagerness and enthusiasm to help in any way. We also welcome *Michelle Sinclair* who leads the Book Club and *Beth Steffler* who among many, many other jobs heads up our team of Servers. I hope that these lovely ladies will find as much joy in this quiet but important ministry as I have.



#### Your Chancel Guild

Beth Steffler, Lorraine Whitwell, Eileen Cunningham, Diane MacCormack, Rose Scott, Marie Lemoine and Margaret Paradis. (Missing from photo, Sharon Zacchigna, Barb Semsch and Michelle Sinclair)

## CONNECTION

### A CELEBRATION OF BLACK HISTORY MONTH

#### *An Inspiring Message - Two Remarkable Women*

On February 9, St. Margaret's was privileged to welcome Dr. Linda Joseph-Massiah, a friend and former colleague of Rose Scott to speak to the congregation. Dr. Linda Joseph-Massiah is an educator, health executive, nurse-midwife, family nurse practitioner, and author. A lecturer, in health and leadership strategies, she conducts educational sessions for a variety of religious organizations and professional groups in Canada and overseas. She has many interests, but her passions are quality health care for men and seniors. She recently (less than 1 month) joined the Responsive Management team to provide nursing leadership to a 269 bed facility aimed at transforming the quality of life for residents in long term care environment.. As the Director of Health Ministries for the Berea Seventh Day Adventist Church, she promotes stewardship as integral to our relationship with the Father.

Dr. Joseph-Massiah's talk was entitled *Charting the Future*. She began with a bit of history about the establishment of Black History Month, particularly in Canada. All people face the challenge of learning the lessons from the past to build a strong future.

*Possessing a vision or dream.*

**We need both an earthly and heavenly vision. For example, Jesus' vision was to do the will of his father. Dr. Martin Luther King had the vision that the U.S. would eventually recognize and practice the statement in its constitution that all men are created equal. Nelson Mandela had the vision that apartheid would eventually be abolished.**

Rev. Stephen and Dr. Linda Joseph-Massiah

*Operating by the Law of Beholding or Modelling*

If people model their life after the vision they uphold, it will become part of them.

*Using the Law of Application or Determination*

People like Dr. King and Nelson Mandela lived their dream and worked hard to see changes through many setbacks and hardships.

*Hoping or Expectation*

It is only by keeping hope and faith alive through all the difficulties and hardships that we finally realize our vision as people and Christians. We must keep our vision centred on heavenly things, to model our life on **Jesus' example and make a difference in the lives of people we encounter and touch.**

After the service, parishioners were invited to enjoy a delicious lunch of curried chicken, jerk pork and puddings made with yams, coconut, cassava and spices all prepared by Rose Scott.



Marie Lemoine, Lorraine Whitwell, Rose Scott and Pam Kernen enjoying a taste of Jamaica.

Rose was born in Jamaica and went to England in her late teens to study nursing. She was trained in Northampton and London in psychiatric and general nursing as well as midwifery. In 1967 Rose came to Canada to see Expo 67 and decided to stay. She found her way to Toronto and **worked for six years at St. Joseph's Hospital as an emergency room nurse.** Eventually she moved to supervisory positions working as a nursing supervisor at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Doctors Hospital.

Rose says that she learned a great deal as a nurse, developed wonderful friendships and always put her patients first. Rose suffered a cerebral aneurysm while working at Doctors Hospital, had surgery at Toronto Western and faced a difficult couple of years recovering. Eventually she was able to **return to work with a new appreciation of life's possibilities.**

**Rose attended St. Philip's Anglican Church in Toronto for 28 years. When she and her husband Paul retired, they decided to move farther north to be closer to their cottage at Parry Sound and settled in Barrie. At first Rose tried another parish but did not feel welcomed there. On her first Sunday at St. Margaret's several people welcomed her especially the late Joyce Bertelsen and she decided that this was to be her church. Rose has been active in the choir, served as Deputy Peoples' Warden and now helps with Chancel Guild. She and Paul keep very busy travelling to various places in the world, skiing in the winter and golfing in the summer. Rose uses her golf expertise working with Bill Goodyer to arrange St. Margaret's annual golf tournaments. She is a warm, cheerful and friendly person who herself has welcomed many people to St. Margaret's.**



FACES OF ST. MARGARET  
*A Conversation with Nellie McPhee*

**Nellie is a newcomer to St. Margaret's and has been attending for about a year and a half.** For many years she suffered from depression and felt only darkness in her life. One day she called Rev. Stephen who reached out to her, prayed with her, kept in touch with her and encouraged her to attend church. Nellie said she found this extremely difficult at first and could not often stay for the entire service. Several people, especially Maggie Prentice, Sharon Zacchigna and Susan Cronje embraced her and encouraged her and she gradually became more comfortable.

A turning point was the weekend at the AWARE conference last May that Nellie attended along with Maggie, Sharon and Barbara Semsch from St. Margaret's. **Nellie said that she came home from that weekend a different person.** Everyone prayed for her. She overcame her fear of water and went out in the canoe in cold water in May! It was a journey from darkness into light and now she feels that life has possibilities. Nellie assists with coffee hour and sometimes attends the Wednesday service as well as Sunday services.

This past summer, Nellie renewed her wedding vows with husband Al, after 42 years of marriage. Maggie, Sharon, Barbara Semsch and Colleen arranged a bachelorette party at Barb's house, an event that Nellie didn't have when she was first married. After the service, people from St. Margaret's arranged a small luncheon complete with wedding cake for her family.

Nellie's husband Al has always been a source of strength, "her rock" and the love of her life. She also has two sons and two teenage granddaughters Megan and Lindsay who are a joy to her. Her son Allan and daughter in law Cheryl also attend St. Margaret's.

Nellie is a strong believer in angels. She would like everyone to know that St. Margaret's is a place of friendship and healing.

*If you would like to learn a bit more about AWARE, please speak to Maggie Prentice. Barbara Semsch is selling lovely note cards with art work that she painted or photographed herself to raise funds to assist with the costs for women to attend the AWARE conferences.*



The next issue of The Beacon will be published in late spring. 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 space is available with rates provided on request.

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH – BARRIE  
FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM THE WARDENS

We are now on the final leg of the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the 3 year agreement with the Diocese. We committed **St. Margaret's, by a vote during Vestry, that we would remain current with our Monthly Invoices** from the Diocese. We also agreed to repay back \$13,000 of our operating debt each year.

Current Monthly to the Diocese - 2014

<b>Rev. Stephen's Stipend plus Taxes &amp; Benefits</b>	\$ 5,667.85
Housing Allowance	\$ 1,400.00
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 1,491.00
Operating Debt Repayment	\$ 1,256.90
Mthly Grand Total	\$ 9,815.75

2013 Revenue Plan	\$231,779.19
Average Monthly Revenue Target	\$ 19,314.93

We have met our Payment Goals for the last two years. In turn the Diocese has forgiven us in excess of \$320,000 of capital debt.

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FINANCIALS – OUR COMMITMENT TO THE DIOCESE – 05/31/14

We are now in mid-March. We have 2 ½ months remaining until the end of May. At that time we need to have repaid \$13,000 of our Operating Debt. Our remaining balance owing is currently at \$7,499.75 of the \$13,000.

At the end of February our expenses are \$14,114.14 higher than our revenue year to date. We are estimating that at the current rate of revenue we will be approximately \$8,000.00 short of our commitment to be current by the end of May this year. Hanging in the balance is the last portion of Capital Debt forgiveness, from the Diocese, in the amount of \$120,000 +. We cannot fall short of this goal . We are reaching out to every family in our Parish. We need to raise approximately \$15,000 by the end of May 2014. This money is over and above our Regular and Special Offerings (Easter)

Let us do all that we can to ensure our financial health and surpass the expectations of the Diocese. We will be providing weekly updates in our Sunday bulletins. If you have any questions **please don't hesitate to contact Rev. Stephen, Bill Gray or Peter Beckett.**

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