



THE **ST. MARGARET'S** BEACON

Issue 10

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

Autumn 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.

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

IDOLS IN THE WILDERNESS

“When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, Come, make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him. So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool (Exodus 32:1-4).



It seems remarkable that these same Israelites had survived no less than 10 plagues, a dry journey through the Red Sea and the miracle food of Manna and Quail. Yet as they wait at the bottom of Mount Sinai for their leader to return from his “retreat” with God, they grow impatient to the point of abandoning their faith with a hand made substitute!

As we observe from “the bleachers” it is easy to cast judgment on an ancient and wayward people, however, I wonder if we would find it easier in our modern context to behave much differently? I would suggest that our culture is all about being innovative and progressive. The notion of waiting in a bank line much less waiting on God is an exercise long past since the advent of conveniences such as banking machines and on-line banking. Our highways are full of motorists manifesting “road-rage” because others aren’t going as fast as they would like! The inevitable result is that we begin to fashion and form idols that often come in the form of attitudes or mechanisms designed to create a sense of moving forward despite the absence of God.

I have experienced some of these attitudes and mechanisms first hand as we wait on Immigration to give us the green light into the States. Some days we wonder at the silence of a God who seemed to speak so definitively only a short time ago. We begin to examine

possible ways of moving forward should God be delayed somehow in coming down from the mountain consequently leaving us engaged in a prolonged experience in the "wilderness" of transition.

To find an antidote to "idol" making we turn to Paul's letter to the Romans where he gives the recipe for keeping our faith alive and engaged at all times. He says, "faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). Not long ago someone gave me a remarkable gift. It is a small chest like box that contains scripture written on strips of paper. Each verse is a promise of God's faithfulness to bring me forward into his plans and purposes for my life, and has been personalized with my name on it. I want to suggest that these have been something of lifeline for me just lately. They are in fact a reminder that it is always God's Word that enables and inspires us forward in the journey. May God grant us all a hunger for his Word that will sustain us throughout our journey to the Promised Land of his best for us.

Sincerely in Christ's Love,
The Reverend Stephen Pessah

PATTERNS

'Tis an abstract world we live in
 full of patterns and designs,
 con men speak to us in riddles,
 tempt and tease with cunning lines.
 Wise men weave a web of reason,
 years of knowledge kept intact.
 Computers spew out data,
 coldly calculated fact.
 And my brain begins to boggle,
 and my soul begins to freeze,
something's missing in their logic,
 something brings me to my knees.
 For these lines of worldly wisdom
 trace a geometric square:
 a labyrinth of logic
 with no exit anywhere.
 Boxed and cornered, uninspired,
 deadly pattern and untrue,
there's a Living One that's waiting
 bringing life to me and you.

In the form of the Almighty,
 the Blessed Trinity.
 Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 Three in One and One in Three,
a triangle that's fashioned,
 representing God above,
 and we find ourselves encircled
 by the Glory of Gods love.

Perfect Pattern I am seeking,
 perfect Love is what I see,
 in the death and resurrection
 Of Christ at Calvary.

~ Elizabeth A. Morley

ST. MARGARET'S OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH IN BARRIE TRANSFORMS HANMER PARK INTO A SCAVENGER HUNT

Submitted by Susan Cronje

Over a year ago the idea of hosting an event in Hanmer Park began to manifest in the minds of the Missional Guiding Team at St. Margaret's of Scotland Anglican Church in Barrie. By June this year the idea developed into a "Scavenger Hunt" in the Park and on Saturday October 4 we hosted over seventy-five participants in Hanmer Park as part of our missional transformation process. Can you believe it was way back in January 2010 that we first became aware of missional transformation? Our then new Incumbent Rev. Stephen Pessah and his wife Rev. Beth Pessah offered an introductory six week course on Mission Shaped Churches and two years later in March of 2012 we were invited to participate in a Diocesan ministry initiative referred to as the "Missional Transformation Process".

Our original Missional Guiding Team at St. Margaret's numbered less than 10 back then but today we are a much larger group of approximately 40 parishioners now referred to as the Missional Action Team. In an effort to see what God was up to in our neighbourhood we engaged in the "Adopt-A-Park" program in Barrie two summers ago. Hanmer Park, surrounded by both an established and new sub-division, appeared to be a common ground in which to meet our neighbours.

As the Scavenger Hunt was to be held in a public park there was need for City approval. This process alone required a number of our Parishioners to sit in discussion as the details were worked out to meet City requirements. Over the summer four separate meetings were called to plan and develop the scavenger hunt. The attendance at the meetings was unexpectedly high during the summer with an average of 15 enthusiastic parishioners each time, sometimes more.

By late September the neighbourhood was well informed of the Scavenger Hunt as over 40 posters went up in the neighbourhood, 500+ flyers were hand delivered door-to-door, and an early morning parking lot blitz was organized in the church parking lot which is the "kiss and ride" for the school next door. Sign boards were also placed at strategic locations through the neighbourhood in the week prior to the event. Many of the congregation worked endlessly to see to all the details, preparing for 100+ participants. In the end over 50 volunteers from the congregation got involved in activities leading up to and including the Scavenger Hunt. Some were in the park and others were at the church where refreshments were served following the activities in the park. The Scavenger Hunt included riddles and clues enabling everyone to find the Turkey (Peter Beckett) and obtain straw from the Scare Crow (Kevin Hamann) who became the Celebrities of the day. There were large pumpkins filled with chocolate bars, baskets of potato chips, buckets of gratitude stones, and bushels of freshly picked local apples providing prizes for all. Photographers Barbara White and Ron Steffler captured the spirit of fun in the park that day and even St. John Ambulance volunteers were on hand to ensure public safety. Everyone in the church was invited to get involved as a volunteer or as a participant.



The volunteers ranged in age from 6 to 92 years and were all easily identified by their turkey icon head pieces and name tags. Beth and Ron Steffler, and Colleen Hamann used their talents to design costumes for the turkey and scare crow respectively. Many hands helped in preparing the cornucopias which were handed to each participant, shining apples, and still others tied small haystacks, gathered acorns, maple keys, and etc. all in preparation for the day. Lorraine Whitwell together with her team organized refreshments back at the Church. Donations of soup and chili filled numerous crock pots at the Church and tables and chairs were set out in hopes of a crowd of hungry people. Tea, coffee, juice, hot chocolate and fresh bread rolls were also provided. The volunteers assembled at the church as early as 9:30 am and began the day in the same way they began



previous planning meetings i.e. prayer and Scripture Luke10:1-12. There was excitement and anticipation as this was the day so many had been waiting for wondering what would God show us.

The weather was a mixed bag of rain showers, sunshine and everything in between but the show was to go on. The setup in the park began at 10:30 am and all was in place by 11:30 am. The 20+ volunteers stood chatting and wondering would anyone come? The Scavenger Hunt was scheduled to start at 12:00 noon and at ten minutes before start three people entered into the park, within a minute another couple came and by 12:30 pm



there were 75+ participants. The rain stopped and the sun continued to shine while the volunteers and participants interacted in a friendly natural manner without apprehension. Most if not all involved in the park

returned to the Church where over 125 bowls of soup and chili were served by friendly parishioners. It was more than we could have imagined and we are excited knowing that the Holy Spirit will continue to lead us.

St. Margaret's of Scotland Anglican Church began as a mission in Letitia Heights a new sub-division back in the mid 1980's. As it moved through the neighbourhood occupying first a house, followed by a community centre, later a school gym and finally a store front it attracted many people. The story line goes "if you did not come to the church the church would eventually come to you". When St. Margaret's moved neighbourhoods in the early 1990's to West Bayfield where we currently reside it continued to grow. The focus changed from a "missional minded church" to an "attractational church", a vision that remained for many years. Since beginning the "Missional Transformation Process" in March 2012 we have once again found our identity and are moving back into the neighbourhood. Thank you to everyone at St. Margaret's who volunteered, participated, and donated gifts of time, treasure and talent towards this event. Below is the Missional Prayer by Fr. Mychal Judge (Chaplain FDNY) used at the close of St. Margaret's missional transformational meetings.

*Lord,
Take me (us) where you want me (us) to go.
Let me (us) meet who you want me (us) to meet.
Tell me (us) what you want me (us) to say.
And keep me (us) out of your way.*

CONNECTION

FACES OF ST. MARGARET

Meet Jean Wallace

When we moved to Lyfyt Crescent last July, I looked for an Anglican Church in our area and found St. Margaret's right away! The first Sunday I arrived at the Church completely unknown to anyone, I was welcomed warmly with friendly people coming up and introducing themselves. Then I found that I had actually met The Reverend Stephen before when he came to my Church in Englehart, Christ Church. At the time he made such a definite impression that I remembered him. It was a joy to find him as the Rector at St. Margaret's.



Jean and daughter Janet

With great delight I learned that the congregation is dedicated to outreach through "missional transformation" and saw in activities of the congregation and the varied ages of the people that this has been going on for some time. The "Beacon" in every issue I have seen contributes to this; it is interesting and helpful to me.

It is close to my own heart and interest, as for years my helper and I published a newsletter at Christ Church, Englehart the congregation I have belonged to for most of my life.

When I say that I remember The Reverend Stephen, it is because I had the opportunity to talk with him about the situation of our Parish at a time when we were without a Rector, because I was a Warden. I had two terms as Warden, totalling eleven years. I have (at different times) been Envelope Secretary; Treasurer; weekly pew bulletin editor; in charge of flowers in the Church; a delegate to the Diocesan Synod several times; on a Diocesan Committee; co-author of Chronicles of Christ Church a history of our parish since its founding, and have done other jobs that needed to be done.

The most rewarding time of growth for me began when I trained as a Lay Reader in 1985. Our extensive studies with Rector, The Reverend Michael Tipper provided a time of learning and discernment for all

eight of us studying at the same time. Since that time we have been sometimes without a Rector and at other times have shared a priest with other parishes, resulting in many services led by Layreaders. Probably I have been too detailed in recounting my life in our Church over the last 50 years. The work for and in the Church, however, was the most important part of my life and I poured into it any **"talents, time and treasure" I had, serving in any way possible.** Unfortunately because of several surgeries and limited mobility I had retired from an active role four years ago. There are other physical disabilities **which don't show, but which hinder me from active participation.**

Bio Sketch: I was born and grew up in Englehart, Temiskaming District, Northern Ontario with my parents, three sisters and a brother. In 1952 Frederick Wallace and I were married and we had two daughters, Janet and Eleanor (Eleanor and her husband live in Victoria, BC and they have two daughters, my only grandchildren). I trained as a stenographer and worked at several jobs, including as a legal secretary. The longest lasting, until retirement, was as School Secretary at the Englehart Public School, a job I loved. That was what I did for a living, but my interests have been many and varied besides the Church: Horticultural Society; floral design; speaker; local Hospital Board Trustee and Chair; newspaper reporter and editor; extensive gardening; birding and nature studies; canoe tripping; cross country skiing; cottage life; sewing.

For the last 35 years my husband (until his death in 1997) and I lived in our self-built dream home on 80 acres mostly of forest outside the Town of Englehart. In 2001 I was married for a second time, to a wonderful Christian widower, Richard Williams, who died in 2007. At that time Janet came to live with me and last year we left behind the place we had loved and moved for health and family reasons, led I believe **by God's will.** Since we have moved here, Janet has had a kidney transplant and is recovering normally. I have had timely medical attention. And just recently another sister has moved to Barrie, so that now all four of us are for the first time living close to each other as adults. My brother and his wife still live in North Bay.

At St. Margaret's I have found a caring and friendly community. I would like to contribute to parish activities but am very limited physically and financially. I am still seeking the Lord's direction in having me move to Barrie, although health issues are a part of it..

ST. MARGARET'S BOOK CLUB

Submitted by Michelle Sinclair



Our book club had its' first meeting January 16th with a group of eager readers and some tea. At the first meeting

there was lots of discussion, tossing around of ideas and thoughts then we had our next few months of book club reads established. The group meets the third Thursday of each month at the church at 7:00pm.

The first books selected for reading and discussion were as follows: February - *One Thousand Gifts* by Ann Voskamp; March- *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver; April- *The Light Between Oceans* by M.L. Stedman; May- *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis and finally

June with-*The Five People You meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom. We each witnessed something we could relate to from the discussions, either through the theme of the book or from a character. I have included something below from our discussions and/ or from one of the books:

From *One Thousand Gifts*, thanksgiving is a prevalent theme. The author is always asking about the practice of gratitude- finding your 1,000 gifts. From *One Thousand Gifts*: a dare to live fully, right where

you are. “Eucharist—always precedes the miracle.”

In *The Poisonwood Bible* the missionary and his family experience the Congo in a way they were unprepared for. We the readers are witness to a tale of sin, redemption and humanity doing what it does, also at a very difficult time of African history. The book was funny, sad, sarcastic, touching and enlightening all at the same time. The women of the family listen to and experience the African language and culture with the term “*muntu* which describes the concept of unity and how all life is connected in some way”

With *The Light between Oceans* the author somehow has us the reader develop a bond for each character, we almost feel what each person is going through as though we are there. Tom is paralleled to Frank by having the propensity to forgive. Even the lighthouse somehow becomes a character in this novel. One of the quotes in the book is “**You only have to forgive once. To resent, you have to do it all day, every day.**”

C.S. Lewis’ *The Screwtape Letters*. It was quite interesting to reread this, to ultimately still find it is quite relevant to our times- commercialism vs.

religion; troughs and peaks of a human life; “a really just society would be a major disaster”; Uncle Screwtape is not very nice to his nephew Wormwood, although they are devils- so what should I expect!

I have also included a couple of online comments I found interesting. “**Every Christian needs to get a hold of this book and read it through! It's helped me gain a deep understanding of how the forces of darkness try to undermine joy and truth. I'd especially recommend it to readers new to C.S. Lewis, as this is a good sample of his writing and a good place to start from when reading his work.**”

“You cannot read this book and not think of how extremely pertinent it is to your life. C. S. Lewis has thought deeply about the things we do each day that lead us away from God, and he articulates them very well. As you read the book, you are in a constant introspection of your own life, and the things that are put before you daily that lead you away from what we all desire - a close, personal, consistent, and deep relationship with God, that leads to happiness now and the hereafter. I love this book!”

The June book to read and discuss, *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, was a very intriguing read for sure with lots of thought-provoking lifelong concepts. Through Eddie we are exposed to formulating a discussion of **Eddie's five lessons of life. Albom's wisdom and perceptions delivered to us through Eddie are thought-provoking.** Lesson One: No Random Acts - all lives intersect, one withers, one grows (everything happens for a reason); Lesson Two: Sacrifices are a part of life; Lesson Three: Forgiveness and about loyalty, releasing anger; Lesson Four: Love is not lost, there is memory and the power of love. **(life has to end, love doesn't);** Lesson Five: Asking for forgiveness, there is always a purpose for our life. Eddie makes peace at the amusement park.

The book club continued in September with *Have A Little Faith* by Mitch Albom. Upcoming selections are, *The City of Tranquil Light* by B. Caldwell and *Take One Candle, Light a Room* by Susan Straight. We would love to have you join us for an evening of interesting conversation and great fellowship. Please speak to Michelle if you would like more information.



ST. MARGARET'S SECOND ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT JUNE 2014

Submitted by Rose Scott and Bill Goodyer

Our second golf tournament took place at the Shanty Bay Golf Club on a beautiful summer day. Over thirty parishioners took part with some of Rose's friends from the Parry Sound Golf and Country Club and from Barrie. When golf was over we finished the day with a fine barbecue.



We were overwhelmed with the donations received from different stores and other businesses that we approached in Barrie and with the support we received from the golf pro at the Parry Sound Golf and Country Club. We netted the sum of \$365.00 which was donated to the church. A special thanks to our photographer Ron Steffler. You are hired for the next tournament Ron. A sincere thanks also to all the parishioners who offered their support and donations.

GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER - THE PARISH PHOTO PROJECT

Submitted by Laura Johnston



We want you and your smiles! Project Parish Photo Album is continuing this fall. Barbara White has generously offered to take photos following the 10:00 service and will also be available for a photo session after an 8:30 service (the date to be announced in Pass the Word). It only takes a few minutes of your time after the service. 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. This will be of assistance to all

parishioners and especially our newcomers. There are sign up sheets in the Narthex. This will reduce the number of phone calls and emails that the Newcomers Committee members will have to make.

Thank you to all who have already had their photos taken and we look forward to seeing your smiling faces in the photos! If you have any questions, please speak with Margaret Paradis, Lynda Reid, Rose Scott or Laura Johnston.

A big thank you to this committee for making all the name tags for parishioners to wear on Sunday. We will soon be getting to know each other better

The next issue of The Beacon will be published in the new year. If you have news about a church or personal ministry or a report of a church event, please consider sharing it. Creative submissions are welcome but must be original works to respect copyright.

Thank you to all who contributed to this issue.