



# THE *ST. MARGARET'S* BEACON

Issue 12

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

Autumn 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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## CANON'S BLAST

As we come to the final three months of the year, there seems to be a kind of universal effort to get things done, especially when we look back at what our intentions were for this year and what we have left to do. We are encouraged to fulfil financial commitments we have made to ourselves and savings plans and charities. Perhaps there were things you wanted to get done around the house or people you wanted to visit. Maybe this was the year you were going to read a certain book, write a letter to the editor, quit smoking or lose a few inches off the waist line. At this point in the year, you still have time to do it.



For you, as a parish, this has been a year of uncertainty and change. I know that the selection committee would like to think that they can wind up their very important task of calling a new priest to this **parish by the end of the year. My job has been to both "hold the fort" and prepare you for more change when a new person takes leadership.** Still as we contemplate the end not only of the year but also my time with you, it is helpful to think about what we have done and maybe what is left undone.

**I came to St. Margaret's in the Spring when life was beginning to sprout from the earth newly uncovered from its blanket of snow.** It was during the Easter Season when we celebrate the new life that we are offered because of the resurrection. Six months have passed. I look back and find myself pleased with the time I have spent with you. We have laughed together, cried, and struggled. We have made plans and you have invited me to be part of your life here. You are good and welcoming people and I am glad I have had this opportunity to be your servant. I look forward to the months ahead

as you prepare for a new life with a new incumbent.

As an outsider, I see your life here from a different perspective than you do, especially those of you who have been here since the days of Warren if not Jeff Brown. I would like to suggest that you begin to write your history and make a pictorial record of your incumbents to hang on the wall. Like young people, you are almost unaware that you now have a history that tells a story of how you have grown and developed into the unique community that you are.

I see much good in what you have become. You take seriously the call to go out into this community and make a difference. You welcome people to your events even though they may never become members in the classic sense. You have made yourself part of the neighbourhood and I am sure that will bear good fruit for you in the years to come.

You are people of prayer for others. I love that about you. I love that you have made a commitment to visit the lonely, sick and dying. I love that you care for one another and offer healing for those who are in need and ask. I love that so many of you are involved in the Sunday liturgy and church school and coffee after. You are good people and a blessing to this community.

My worries for you are that you may get worn out by what needs to be done in terms of the building and debt that has accumulated over the years. It is hard to be spiritual when you feel the burden of so much to do. In this I urge you to do two things: do not be afraid to ask others to help and trust that Christian churches in many places and times have gone through much worse than this and found that God's love and strength can lift up the downtrodden and give new life to the broken. You are neither downtrodden or broken. Your future is as bright as you will let God make it for you through the indwelling spirit of Christ.

May God continue to bless you in the wonderful witness you are to the power of God doing more than we can ask or imagine.

*Submitted by Rev. Canon Barb Hammond*

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### AWARE 2015

#### Anglican Women Alive Renewed and Enriched

*Submitted by Sherrie Osmond*

Each spring in Peterborough, AWARE is hosted at Elim Lodge Christian Resort and Conference Centre, nestled amongst all of God's natural world and beauty on Pigeon Lake. You can be certain of fresh air, maybe some drizzle and fog, but most significantly peace and quiet reflection. Oh and not to forget the buffet meals! I go with many friends to AWARE. This year Maggie, Barb, Nellie, Sharon, Cheryl and I share a cottage. I do hope you savour my little piece of happiness and perhaps entice you to join AWARE next spring for fellowship, fun and frolic.

This is my experience at AWARE. As I prepare for the drive to Elim Lodge, it feels a lot like I am going to summer camp. I have my suitcase, pillow, snacks, reading material and definitely my runners and music iPod Nano. Once you arrive at AWARE, you sense the heaviness lifting from your shoulders. The tension in your neck becomes warm and at ease. You begin the registration process and look for familiar faces and new faces as well. You arrive to your lodging and embrace each woman you are camping with. Share a few funny memories, unpack, call your husband and children and ensure your safe arrival.

**And then it happens... YOU TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE! I love this part. No pressure though, if you prefer to have technology at your fingertips you are welcome to use it freely. This is my call to GOD that I am here and we are going to have a wonderful, intimate, meaningful conversation for the next 3 days; uninterrupted. Now I love to eat just as much as I love to run. The white linen tablecloths, the glass wall view of the lake and the endless variety of buffet foods are divine. This is followed by a service of hymns, prayer, small groups and yes even live entertainment.**

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Each day is blessed with all kinds of God's goodness. There are workshops of song, crafts, prayer and yes I managed to organize a running workshop. I call it "RUNNING ON PRAYERS". It is a 5 km offering of meditating prayer with God while enjoying the endorphin of physical exercise. It also helps to balance the 3 buffet meals I devour each day. The fellowship of learning and growing in God with Anglican women is the heart of AWARE. It changes you. Each woman at AWARE is unique, valued and in need of the same desire. To be close with one another. To lessen our burden and to just "BE" with God. I am enriched and a better person for knowing each of the women at AWARE. It is God's grace that we each receive.



Nellie, Sharon, Cheryl, Maggie and Sherrie

There are surprises awaiting for you as well. There is a boutique gift shop and Christian bookstore. I adore getting a little something to treat the children and manage a few goodies for me as well. It feels special, indulging. It is also a reminder to me that with all that AWARE has to offer, I can choose to do absolutely nothing and NAP! I can go for a meal, perhaps a run and yes I can nap before service. I can listen to the loon lullaby, the sounds of the forest and the giggling and prayerful whispers of fellow campers. All the while, I am taking a breather on my comfy bed with the squint of sunlight or maybe foggy drizzle and a breeze on my cheeks. This is the moment I realize how grateful I am; all that God has provided for me. I feel JOY.

I have to say. AWARE is a compilation of the senses. It touches each one so sweetly. It is God's gift to each woman at AWARE for the asking. I look forward to the Sunday Eucharist Worship and parade. I miss my family now and I am ready to return home. My arms are fresh and strengthened. My heart is light. God's forgiveness is plentiful. And I am most definitely RENEWED. Perhaps I will see you next May on Pigeon Lake!

### THE WHOLE PEOPLE OF GOD - TEACHING OUR CHILDREN

*Submitted by Eileen Cunningham*

Another "school year" has begun for St. Margaret's Sunday school and we are off to a happy start! We have had between 6-10 children and hope to see these numbers increase as we get closer to Christmas. After many years of using "Seasons of the Spirit", this year we are using a new curriculum called "The Whole People of God". It is a more flexible on line program that seems to be working well so far, as it gives teachers the option to choose between multiple age levels and customize a lesson plan if they wish to. We presented a little skit about David and Goliath in September and keep your eyes open for more fun and interesting events coming up in the Advent and Christmas season.

We must thank the small group of very dedicated men and women that work to help our youngest members encounter God. This ministry is often unseen or undervalued but I cannot emphasize the importance of it (we do not just keep the kids quiet while the grownups worship) and I invite you to prayerfully consider participating in it. A couple of years ago I was teaching the younger children (4-7 year olds) a lesson about God's love for all, when one little boy suddenly announced that he was sure that God didn't love him because he had been such a "bad" boy and had been in serious trouble. Before I could say anything, another little five year old turned to him and very earnestly told him that there was nothing

that he could do that was so bad that would make God stop loving him "No matter what, even when you're really, really bad, God ALWAYS loves you!!" he said.....This is why we do this, so when some girl or boy is feeling very alone, sad or scared he or she will remember that they are not alone....God loves them and you.

This is a drawing from Noah who is seven years old.

He has this to say about Sunday School

*" I like Sunday school because we do a lot of fun crafts, puzzles and games. I also get to see all my friends and sometimes get yummy treats."*



#### NEWCOMER MINISTRY

*Submitted by Margaret Paradis, Lay Associate Pastoral*

As I write this, I am sitting looking out the window at my much loved garden that is gearing down for hibernation. It is still full of colour with zinnias still in bloom and my cosmos are finally flowering. I have picked my remaining tomatoes and have yet to dig up the rest of the carrots and beets that will hopefully feed us till November. There is an overnight frost warning so, I fear, it is time to put the garden to bed.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner I am so grateful to our Heavenly Father for so many things: our 8<sup>th</sup> grand-child Lucy who is a month old already; a new son-in-law, another Stephen; David, now retired **and home to help with the house work, hee hee; and our St. Margaret's family that is always there waiting** with love and out stretched arms for those of us already seeking a relationship with God, and those perhaps seeking a spiritual life but not knowing it is God they are looking for.

Even though the garden is ready for a long winter's nap, St. Margaret's, after a quiet and good summer, is coming to life again. Fall is often a time that those looking for a new place to worship check out the churches in their area, so why not St. Margaret's. St. Margaret's has a reputation for being a loving and welcoming community.

We do have a "Newcomer" Committee that is quite active at St. Margaret's. We have made name tags for each member of the parish to wear on Sunday and at special events. Newcomers and old timers get to know each other better when wearing name tags. We have made a photo directory that can be found in the Narthex. We will be deciding soon how to update the directory. On the table in the Narthex are **welcome packages for those interested in learning what St. Margaret's has to offer. Our greeters/sides** people are the first people seen as one enters the church. They are always ready with a warm smile. **Those that decide to stay at St. Margaret's** are visited as well by one of the committee if that person or family would like.

Yes, we do have a welcoming/newcomers committee at St. Margaret's but I hope each and every member of the congregation will get involved in some small way. Introduce yourselves if a newcomer is sitting



near you. Show them that Anglicans are not cold, as legend has it. Invite them to stay for coffee after the service and tell them where to find newcomer packages for information about us. We all desire the same thing – to learn about the love of God and accepting what that means. In 1 John we read, “If we love one another, God abides in us and His love is perfected in us”. Let His light shine forth from us. Many blessings, Margaret Paradis

### AUTUMN CIRCUS - OUR SECOND SCAVENGER HUNT

*Submitted by Beth Steffler, Lay Associate Missional*

To quote from the words of my predecessor, “Missional transformation is all about taking risks and trusting that God will lead us”. So God led us to Saturday October 3, 2015, a cold and blustery day that brought neighbours and parishioners together at Hanmer Park for St. Margaret's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scavenger Hunt. Our committee worked on the details over the summer to ensure another successful event. Posters were added to area mailboxes and approximately 1000 flyers were delivered door-to-door in the local neighbourhood surrounding the park inviting St. Margaret's neighbours to the event.

This year's theme was “Autumn Circus” so, as well as our signature “Scavenger Hunt” for treasure in the forest, we added several “midway” type activities. Children of all ages enjoyed tossing a beanbag at the windows of the red barn and trying for a “hole in one” at the little mini-putt.



The Turkey and The Jester



Face Painting Booth

The blustery winds did not deter folks from getting their face painted and walking the tightrope or running the tightrope as a 3 legged activity. Some of the little children determined that the horseshoes were a mite heavy for them but the adults had fun trying for a ringer. And chasing bubbles in the wind was enjoyed too. After a bit the “Free range Turkey” and “Jester” had to come out of the forest to warm up in the meagre sunshine.

The opening was provided by Barrie's Town Crier, Steve Travers and Mayor Jeff Lehmann popped by to offer his best wishes and thanks to St. Margaret's for taking care of one of the City of Barrie's parks. The first aiders were reluctant to get out of their warm truck and join the group but were persuaded with the promise of more treats such as chips and chocolate bars.



A Visit by the Mayor and Town Crier

Pauline, Canon Barb and Emily



The participant numbers were similar to last year with approximately 72 tickets distributed. Most of the participants returned to the church for a welcome lunch of soup or chili with a bun and hot chocolate provided by Lorraine Whitwell and her helpers. Plans are already underway for next year's event with the theme of "Alice in Wonderland" so please put on your thinking caps and stay tuned.

**ST. MARGARET'S BOOK CLUB**  
*Submitted by Michelle Sinclair*



St. Margaret's Book Club meets monthly in the church at 7:00 p.m. usually on the third Thursday of the month. September 24<sup>th</sup> was our beginning of the season meeting. In October we will be discussing *Before Amen* by Max Lucado. Other upcoming selections are: November - *Joshua The Homecoming* by Joseph Girzone, and *Tattoos on The Heart* by Greg Boyle for January. There is no meeting in December. Join us for friendship, fellowship and an engaging, thought-provoking AND fun discussion. For more information contact Michelle Sinclair.

## A REPORT FROM THE WARDENS – OCTOBER 2015

Over the last 5 months we have seen significant changes with the parish and church of St. Margaret's. Reverend Canon Barb has been our spiritual guide as we have journeyed through this time of uncertainty and we thank her for providing us with continuity of our church services. However, there have been a number of things (both physically & financially) that have occurred that necessitate us to provide you with an update. These are impactful things that will shape the future of St. Margaret's as we move forward. You all play a key role in the lifeblood of the church. We have a proven history of rising to the challenge and it is because of you that we always overcome any obstacle or opportunity.

There are four main points of discussion that we would like to review with you

1. The future of the Anglican churches in Barrie
2. Church finances
3. Building campaign for Phase II
4. Update – parish selection committee – new incumbent

### The Future of Anglican Churches in Barrie

- Meetings are being held with representatives from each Anglican church in Barrie and the surrounding area. These are being facilitated by diocesan representatives supported by our area Bishop Peter Fenty.
- Discussions are being held about the future of Anglican churches in our area as we see both attendance & givings are on a steady decline.
- We are being asked how we can minister to the greater Anglican community with some out of the box thinking.
- Do we need all of the churches that we currently have?
- Are there opportunities for shared ministry / outreach / youth programs / administration, etc.?
- How do we become more relevant to the greater non church going community?

We have been challenged to come back with recommendations that will include the closing of current church/s within the Barrie area (closure to happen within the next 3 years or less). More information to come, stay tuned!!

### Church Finances

- As of the end of September we are at a break even position. While on the surface this sounds positive our expenses and our revenue are less.
- We are paying for an interim minister instead of a full burdened incumbent (saving approx. \$4,000 / month).
- We have lost pre-authorized givers to the equivalent of \$12,000 annually.
- The number of envelope givers has declined as well as the givings in the envelopes that we do receive.
- We have upcoming repairs in both the church and the portable that could exceed \$20,000.
- We have upcoming expenses for church building inspections and annual audit for approx. \$7,000.
- We have temporarily suspended our debt repayment plan to the diocese and interest has resumed on both our operating and capital debts.

We need to work together to find both creative and meaningful ways to increase weekly & monthly revenues to turn this around. This is not the first time that we have been challenged. We have always found a solution and we will this time as well; have faith!!

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## Building Campaign for Phase II

- Our Montessori School has been an integral part of our ongoing revenue stream. Over the summer it was discovered that we have some serious issues with the portable structure. The quotes that we have seen so far total in excess of \$55,000. The portable has been in use for much longer than it was intended to be. In discussions with the diocese we have all agreed that this has become a money pit and is untenable moving forward. We are looking at a short term solution (capping out at \$20,000 of which \$5,000 is a grant from the diocese).
- Montessori has been a great tenant. We would like to continue that relationship, long term. We have been in discussions with the Diocese and they all believe that we need to look towards a Phase II building campaign. As part of that discussion we have approached the Montessori School regarding their intentions (yes they want to be a part of it / yes they want to have input on the design and requirements / yes to a financial investment). We will be meeting with them over the next two weeks. Once we have their input we will set up a meeting with the diocese to move the Phase II project forward.
- While we will have some financial involvement in Phase II we will be looking towards the Diocese for the majority of the money in the form of a grant/s, along with Montessori to complete the project. Stay tuned, much more to come!!!

## Update – Parish Selection Committee – New Incumbent

- We have completed our parish profile and have submitted it to the bishop. It has been approved. During the second week of September the bishop sent us 5 names of potential candidates. Your parish selection committee has reviewed all of their CV's and are arranging visits, during the month of October, to their parishes to hear them preach. We will be starting the interview process in November.
- **The interesting twist here is that when we put the profile together we couldn't have imagined that we would be starting a building campaign.** This will certainly play into the selection of a new incumbent.

We will strive to provide continuous communication updates, on all four fronts when they are appropriate. We realize that this is a lot to take in. We invite your questions and comments. Please reach out to either of your wardens.

*Respectfully & prayerfully submitted;*

*Bill Gray*  
**Rector's Warden**

*Peter Beckett*  
*Peoples' Warden*

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## NOTICE BOARD

PLEASE NOTE: Just a reminder to all that we NO LONGER collect Supermarket Receipts or Postage Stamps. We do however still collect Canadian Tire Money and Campbell Soup and affiliates Labels. [Campbell soup (tins and boxes), Campbell's condensed soup & Ready to serve soups (full label – UPC and front panel), Habitant Soup (full label - UPC and front panel), Chunky Soup or Chili (full label – UPC and front panel), Chunky bowls & Healthy Requests (Lid), Hearty Noodles Cups (Paper lid), Gardennay, V8 Soup, Easy Cooking Sauce, Boxed Broth (UPC), PACE Salsa (lid), Goldfish Crackers (UPC), Prego Pasta sauce (Full label), V8 Veg. Cocktail – cans (crushed), bottles (labels), boxes (UPC), V8 V-Fusion & V8 SPLASH (cap).

Canon Barb's husband, Blair, will be appearing in the chorus of an upcoming musical comedy November 19-22 at the Newmarket Theatre. Company, by Stephen Sondheim, is a wry look at what happens when a young men's married friends want to get him married off. This sophisticated adult comedy is sure to dazzle with song, dance and humour. See Blair for specially discounted tickets on the Saturday matinee of November 21.

Thank You to everyone who provided articles for this issue of The Beacon. You help to keep all of us at St. Margaret's informed. Thanks also to Ron Steffler, Sherrie Osmond and Eileen Cunningham for your photos and images. A picture is worth a thousand words.

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