



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

Issue 13

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

Spring 2016

## 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

### A SMALL POTTED HISTORY OF FAITH

I never grew up in a faith-based family. I was counted amongst the great unwashed who spent their Sundays walking the dogs on the beach. But there were significant influences in my life. My parents enrolled me in a Catholic Elementary school for two years and that played a significant part in my desire for faith. I went through Catechism and had to attend Mass every Wednesday and I found it profoundly engaging. In addition my older sister came to faith in her teens and took me to an Anglican youth group (I was the little kid in the corner being looked after by his big sister) and Sunday school jamborees. I obviously had a deep desire to serve God because at the age of 10 I built my first **church in my parent's back garden out of packing crates from the Ford plant down the road.** The local Anglican minister was kind enough to give me a little box of Prayer Books and Bibles for my little plywood church.



It was not until I was in my mid-teens that I started to go to a Methodist youth group for myself. I was the kid who smoked outside **and somebody had to "keep an eye on" in case I got into trouble.** It was there that I heard about the love of Christ and I responded by committing my life to being a follower of Jesus. I then became very involved in a local youth group run under the auspices of Youth for Christ and started going to a small rural Anglican parish called St Nicholas. It was there at the sweet age of sixteen that I had a profound sense of call to be an Anglican parish priest.

When I graduated from high school I took a year off to travel around

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South Africa with a music and drama team under the auspices of Youth for Christ while I tried to work out how best to express this sense of vocation. I always imagined myself being a missionary so I had thought **of either going to agricultural college or to teachers' training college before going to seminary.** Things never worked out that way - at the age of nineteen I started my theological training and I was promptly conscripted into the South African Defense Force. I come from a very politically involved family and decided that - under the circumstances - as a Christian I could not fight in support of apartheid. As a result I became a conscientious objector and then spent the next ten years of my life avoiding military service by studying and having a good lawyer represent me every six months at each cycle of conscription. By the time I was done I had completed theological college, an undergraduate degree in Religious Studies and Social Anthropology and two post graduate degrees in Social Anthropology. It was a challenging time to be a Christian in South Africa, but I am always thankful for the chance I had to be part of the transformative process of political change.

After working as a consultant for various departments of the South African government and serving as a youth pastor of an Anglican parish in Cape Town, I chose to move to England for a significant change in scenery. Initially I worked as a youth worker for an Anglican church in Devon, but was then appointed as **a consultant to the Archbishops' Council of the Church of England as an advisor on minority ethnic concerns.** My role was to brief the Church of England and the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on **anything to do with cultural inclusion, dealing with racism and the church's relationship to immigrants or refugees.** It was an exciting three years that involved a lot of travelling and gave me the chance to draw on the breadth of my education in Theology and Social Anthropology. And, while it was a wonderful post to hold, I really missed being in parish ministry and folk around me knew it.

I remember when I was in my final year of theological college the principal met with me to talk through what I was going to do next. I still had in my head that I wanted to study further in order to go and serve **as a missionary or to become a youth pastor.** After a lengthy discussion he said to me, **"Simon you have a pastor's heart and you need to simply be a pastor."** So, when I left England and came to Canada to take up a post as a Congregational development consultant with the Diocese of Toronto, it was with that thought and objective in mind. To do what I had known from the age of ten - to pastor a church.

I always find it fascinating to see where God takes us and how we often end up back at the same conversation in life. While I do not look back on anything I have done in life with regret or a feeling that all of this experience was for nothing, it is good being in a place that I know God has called me. I love parish ministry and could not imagine myself being anything but a pastor. My first parish placement was when I was 21 and straight out of theological college. It was a half-time post as a **"general dog's body"** pastoral assistant and psychiatric care chaplain. And while it was exhausting juggling being a full time student and keeping a half-time post going, I completely enjoyed it. All through my academic and work life I have kept a strong connection to a local parish church where I have been able to exercise my ministry. I do believe that each of us needs a local community of faith to be accountable to and as a community in which we exercise our ministry - **irrespective of whether we have a "day job".** I just count myself as very fortunate now that I get to do this full-time. I know it is a privilege and I am profoundly thankful to God for giving me the opportunity to serve in this way.

Simon+  
Incumbent

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## SPECIAL HONOUR FOR TWO ST. MARGARET'S PARISHIONERS

On New Year's Day, Bill Goodyer and Stephen Rodaway from St. Margaret's received special recognition from the Diocese of Toronto. During a ceremony at St. James' Cathedral, Bill and Stephen were presented with The Order of The Diocese of Toronto, an award created in 2013, which *honours members of the laity in the Diocese who have given outstanding service over a significant period of time in their volunteer ministry*. Stuart Mann from the Diocese, provides a little background information on the Diocese of Toronto website. The medallion and a pin will be given to about 60 people annually with four or five deaneries selected each year. The Parish must provide a citation giving details of a nominated person's ministry to the church or community. These citations will be kept in the Diocesan Archives to provide a record of lay contributions in the parish. In 2015 the recipients were from the deaneries of Victoria/Haliburton, North Peel, St. James & Easter Toronto and Nottawasaga.



Bill Goodyer with Canon Barb Hammond

*William Goodyer, ODT, St. Margaret Barrie*

*Mr. Goodyer was nominated for his work in children's and youth ministry. His passion, dedication and love for children have made a difference in their lives, as well as in the wider ministry at St. Margaret, Barrie, while never seeking recognition or acknowledgement.*

*Stephen Rodaway, ODT, St. Margaret Barrie*

*Mr. Rodaway began his volunteer service with the Diocese as a youth member of Synod in 2000. He has served the diocese in many capacities, particularly on the Arrears Committee since 2005 and now as chair of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Foundation. Mr. Rodaway has a gift for working alongside parishes that are struggling to faithfully and graciously help them find their financial feet.*

(quoted from The Anglican, February 2016)

Under the Leadership of Bill Goodyer, Elaine Cunningham, Wendy Pettey, Jane Robinson, Sherrie Osmond and other devoted teachers and helpers, St. Margaret's Youth have many opportunities to learn and grow. An active group is shown in the photo below of this year's Christmas Pageant.



## TRANSITION

After the departure of Rev. Stephen Pessah last spring, Canon Barb Hammond arrived as interim priest in charge. Her husband Blair accompanied her and added his singing voice to the choir. At the end of January 2016, the congregation said farewell to Canon Barb and Blair. Canon Elizabeth Morley was also recognized for her service as Honorary Assistant for many years. While Elizabeth has retired from this position, the Morleys still are active at St. Margaret's.



**Rector's Warden Bill Gray thanks Canon Barb and Blair Hammond and Canon Elizabeth Morley.**



### INDUCTION SERVICE FOR REVEREND SIMON BELL *Submitted by Colleen Hamann, Office Administrator*

Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup> was St. Margaret's Induction Service for our new incumbent, The Rev. Simon Bell. The Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty (Bishop) presided over the day's event. We had an additional dozen other clergy join us for this wonderful service. The whole day went very smoothly and we were very pleased to see an excellent turnout from our congregation. We had more than 100 people come out for Simon's Induction indicating how pleased St. Margaret's is to welcome Simon, Amy and Ernest to our family. The service was followed by a pot-luck dinner with lots of food for all to enjoy! Simon, we are so delighted to have such a knowledgeable, energetic, enthusiastic, considerate, caring individual with such a great sense of humour and the most infectious laugh to lead us in our future ministry. Once again, thank you to our Selection Committee for a job well done!



## WORSHIP AND STUDY

WEDNESDAY, 11:00 A.M. HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE

*Submitted by Do Saunders*

It was not long after we moved from the portable into our new church, that a small group on Wednesday mornings, met in the chancel with Father Warren for Holy Communion. As the numbers grew a little and we wanted to look further into the Gospel, we moved to the Nave, with a table for an altar. An informal service with discussions emerged.

Over time, the service took on its own life, with Canon David, Reverend Janet, Canon John, Father Steve, Canon Elizabeth, Canon Barb and now Father Simon. We have the opportunity to learn from the scholarship of others, and are free to express our thoughts in a trusting environment. We are grateful to Canon Barb, who agreed to continue through the summer months of 2015. A First!

On Wednesday mornings, apart from the service you are invited to join Father Simon in his office for community prayers. Lunch gives an opportunity for fellowship. We bring our own lunch. Tea and coffee are provided. Welcome!

## BEGINNING A BIBLE STUDY

*Submitted by Jean Wallace*

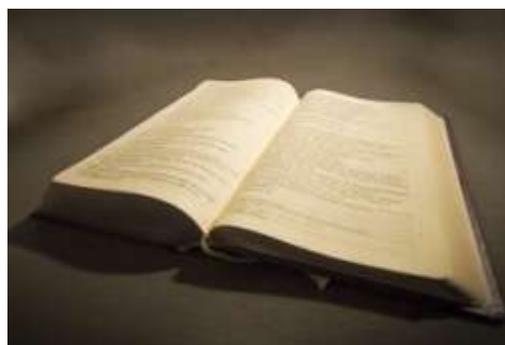
*Eternal God, who caused all holy scripture to be written for our learning, grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ . . . . .*

Collect for Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November p. 391 Book of Alternative Services.

Since coming to St. Margaret's three years ago, I have found members who have been and are reading the Bible regularly. A number of members have been enjoying Bible Studies with Rev. Simon, on Wednesday mornings or evenings. Our group study with Rev. Simon's scholarship illuminates our readings. Discussing The Acts of the Apostles as we have been doing, from beginning to end, gives new realizations about the early Christian church and Paul's missionary journeys. In the Bible there is available to us an immeasurable treasure of learning, teachings, history, prophecy—all that is needed to inform, strengthen and support our faith. Reading the Bible from beginning to end is a worthwhile discipline and enlightening to faith. While the project of reading the entire Bible may be beyond your limitations of time, etc., just now, there is a less demanding Bible reading project in following a daily devotional guide.

The ones I know are Our Daily Bread; Forward Day by Day; and I'll add my own choice, Every Day With Jesus. Many are familiar with the first two. Forward Day by Day is available at the Church. Our Daily Bread is at P.O. Box 1622, Windsor, N9A 6Z7, or at [www.odbc.ca/subscriptions](http://www.odbc.ca/subscriptions).

Every Day with Jesus is a challenging guide, written to a theme for each three months, by an Anglican Clergyman in England, The Rev. Dr. Selwyn Hughes (now dead but his writing lives on). Available from David Cook, 55 Woodslee Ave., Paris, ON N3L 3E5 [booksmedia@davidccook.ca](mailto:booksmedia@davidccook.ca)



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## HOW TO READ THE ENTIRE BIBLE IN ONE YEAR

*Submitted by Jean Wallace*

*For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.*

**Paul's Letter to the Romans, 15: 4**

In reading the Bible from cover to cover several times we can begin to see how people have inter-acted **with God and God's over-arching plan** for us. It is all recorded in The Book.

Shall I admit here that there was a time when I thought that only the New Testament was important? Wrong. The New Testament grows out of the Old. Now I believe that in their wisdom the biblical scholars who compiled our Bible, made sure we could know the history of the people of the One God, and their prophecies and their prophecies of a coming Messiah.

To read the Bible entirely is an ambitious undertaking, and to do so requires a daily commitment of

time and focus—time which is hard to set aside in a busy life—and focus which is perhaps harder to maintain.

If you want to commit to reading the entire Bible it seems a bit too unstructured to read a random amount each time. To have a Bible divided in 365 daily portions makes such an undertaking easier I believe— **that's how I began.**

Bibles organized into daily readings that cover the entire Bible in one year are available (in paperback even). For each day an Old Testament, a New Testament and a Psalm reading are printed.

Alternatively, Our Daily Bread Bible reading guide sets out a plan for reading the entire Bible in one year.

You will find that parts of the Bible are heavy reading, but there are also many parts which it is pure joy to discover—parts which are never read in worship services. Reading

even one book of the Bible entirely through, for instance one of the **Gospels; Paul's Epistles; Acts; Samuel; Ruth,** gives a fuller and exciting continuity that is missing in reading isolated passages. You **will find many "ah ha, that's where that came from" moments .**

Also to consider is that there are a number of translations or versions of the Bible; some easier reading **than others. I'm sure that most** people have their favourite version. I might mention, though, that I have found a Study Bible a valuable resource, in whatever translation, especially for explaining cultural references.

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## MISSION AND OUTREACH

### MISSIONAL UPDATE

*Submitted by Beth Steffler*

Planning is underway for our 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Scavenger Hunt scheduled for Saturday September 24, 2016. This event provides us with an opportunity to invite the neighbours to come and meet us in a neutral environment and have some fun. There are games as well as the hunt in the park followed by a soup or chili lunch at the church. We hope that by moving it back a week into September we will have more favourable weather. Our next planning meeting is on Tuesday May 10 at 7:00 p.m. More enthusiastic volunteers are always welcome to join in planning this fun event.

With the arrival of spring, the clean-up of Hanmer Park will soon begin. A regular day and time has not yet been decided anyone is welcome to help out at their convenience. The badges and pick-ups are available at the church.

Ron will soon be asking folks to sign up to help at Celebrate Barrie on the first Saturday in June. This is an ideal venue **for St. Margaret's to meet the citizens of Barrie and provide some entertainment for all.**

If anyone has an idea or suggestion of how we can share our ministry with the community please feel free to contact me.

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### GLIMPSES OF ST. MARGARET'S OUTREACH

Scavenger Hunt and Lunch Following



Park Cleanup



Celebrate Barrie



If you can assist with this year's Hanmer Park Cleanup or Scavenger Hunt, please contact Beth Steffler and if you could volunteer at Celebrate Barrie, please contact Ron Steffler.

### SUMMER FOOD BANK HELP

At a recent morning service, Rev. Simon drew our attention to the Barrie Food Bank and its particular need for food over the summer months. There is always a good response at the Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving food drives but people are away in the summer and the supply drops. We are encouraged to bring extra food over the spring and summer to leave in the Food Bank receptacle at the church to help keep up the supply. Also if you know of people who could donate fresh produce, please contact Rev. Simon or Al McPhee, St. Margaret's liaison with the Food Bank.

## ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND - PATRON SAINT

Have you ever wondered about the patron saint of our parish, St. Margaret of Scotland? She is pictured in our main stained glass window, wearing a crown and surrounded by children. Neil Purcell found a sketch of her in a book he has enjoyed, [Lives of the Saints, Daily Readings](#), by Augustine Kalberer, O.S.B., published by the Franciscan Herald Press in 1983. When Neil first noticed St. Margaret's parish, he was particularly drawn to the name of the patron saint and her connection to both Hungary and Scotland. Livia Purcell has family connections in Hungary. It is rather unusual to see a Scottish saint attached to churches in the Anglican tradition.

The author of [Lives of the Saints](#), Father Kalberer was a scholar, who eventually obtained a Ph.D from the University in Toronto and taught seminarians for many years at the Seminary of Christ the King in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Vancouver. In addition to his book on the saints, Father Kalberer wrote a column for the B.C. Catholic Newspaper called Saint of the Week. (*from an obituary written by Laureen McMahon, B.C. Catholic Newspaper April 24, 2008*).

In his sketch of St. Margaret, Father Augustine Kalberer describes how she grew up in Hungary after her family was exiled at a tumultuous time in English History near the end of the reign of the Saxon Kings. She returned to England in her teens to the court of Edward the Confessor. When the Normans invaded at the Battle of Hastings, Margaret and her family found safety in Scotland. Eventually she married Malcolm III of Scotland, became Queen and exerted her gentle influence on the court. In the words of Father Kalberer:

*"she and her son St. David I are in great part responsible for ushering in two centuries of progress in religion and culture. She set the nation an example in personal care of the sick and in bringing up a family."*

Augustine Kalberer, "Lives of the Saints" (Chicago: Franciscan Herald Press, 1983) page 418

St. Margaret also was known for organizing ladies of the court to work together to embroider vestments for Dumferline Abbey.

Further information about St. Margaret can be obtained through other biographies and online resources such as Wikipedia. Her feast day is celebrated on June 10th or November 16th depending on the tradition followed.

*Thank you to Neil Purcell for contributing the information on St. Margaret.*

## IN APPRECIATION

Thank you to everyone who submitted articles and information for this newsletter. Your interest and input keeps us all informed. Thank you to Ron Steffler for permission to use many of his photos and for posting The Beacon on St. Margaret's website. Thank you to Colleen Hamann for her ongoing interest, encouragement and assistance with proofreading and producing The Beacon.

