

# ON EAGLES' WINGS

June 12, 2011

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## Rector's Greeting

What moves you to lead or to join in a standing ovation? I suspect that if you reflect on some of those moments that you have experienced, you may have been motivated by a stellar stage production or an artistic performance where an instrument was played in a breath-taking manner. As the performance drew to a close, you leapt to your feet, clapping your hands as a profound expression of appreciation for what you have just experienced.

A standing ovation at a Diocesan Synod? A rare event. Even rarer was the fact that the standing ovation was an expression of appreciation for three superb Bible Studies which were offered over two days by the Reverend Canon Bill Cliff. A standing ovation for Bible Studies?? An Anglican Diocesan Synod standing ovation for Bible Studies??

What made the moment quite moving was the dynamic of the Bible Study

experience. There was a re-telling of familiar stories from Scripture which were offered in an insightful way. God's love for God's People was held up as that which we can all claim as a reality in our lives both individually and as a community of faith.

The dynamic of being with our Diocesan Family who were responding with enthusiasm to the experience of studying Holy Scripture energized familiar words from one of my favourite stories of the Easter Season.

"Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when He talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24 : 32)

The disciples on the Road to Emmaus were transformed, that first Easter morning, from being grieving, questioning souls, to joy-filled and enthusiastic messengers of Good News when they recognized their Risen Lord in the Breaking of Bread.

Their hearts were on fire because the words of Scripture had been put before them in a way which offered hope and meaning to them.

Knowing our story of faith and reading the words of Holy Scripture provides us all with an opportunity to be re-energized and empowered for God's Service. All that is set in front of us may be to simply step out in faith into an unknown future. The reality is, that we have been given all that we need for the journey ahead of us.

As we experience the power of God's Holy Spirit moving in our midst, let us be prepared to have our own lives transformed as we are nurtured by the Word of God to become enthusiastic messengers of the Good News through all that we say and do in our daily lives.

Faithfully yours,

The Reverend Canon Christopher Pratt, Rector

## Fund Raising

The fund raising team, assisted by our envelope secretary, Andrew Beamish, reports that currently we have received pledges for over \$53 000.00, and actual donations of over \$32 000.00

When asked at the recent Vestry meeting if it was anticipated that the full sum of \$120 000.00, would be forthcoming, Warden Doug Woodley replied that he was confident that St.

John's would be able to repay any loan from our investment funds, but that achieving this goal would require everyone's participation. It was mentioned later that the sum required (\$120 000.00) to pay for the repairs to our church walls amounted to about 40% of our budgeted annual givings and therefore a guideline for donations would be an amount equivalent to 40% in addition to a household's annual offerings.

The fund raising team has worked diligently over the passed 5 months on the "Buy-a-Brick campaign, but, as is always the case, they could use more assistance from our parish members. If you would be able to assist with the work of this team, please speak to either the Rector, one of the wardens or any member of the team (Mark Ewald, Kerry Long, Sandra Roy, Andrea Balfour, Stephanie Airey).

## Omas Siskona News

*Thea Parker*

In April we celebrated our three very successful years of following our mission of Education, Advocacy and Fundraising. Our speakers visited schools, parishes and clubs. We wrote and sent many letters and cards to government officials. Our fundraising events over those years, with thanks to many of you, resulted in more than \$100,00.00 being sent to the Stephen Lewis Foundation. As you know all but 10 per cent is sent to support and start

new grassroot projects in Sub Sahara Africa.

In May we enjoyed an unpublicized visit from Stephen Lewis himself, which we enjoyed so much. He told us there are new treatments as well as a vaccine that are right now on the verge of being produced that will help in turning the tide of aids in Africa.

At the June 15th meeting ( 10am to noon in Christ Church Lutheran 445

Anndale Rd ) our mayor, Brenda Halloran will share with us "My Journey of Hope to Lesotho." She recently has become one of our associate members.

After two months we start our meetings again on Sept.21st. If you are a grandmother or grandother and would like to visit or join us please contact me -519-886-4479. You will receive a warm welcome. Hope you all will enjoy a happy healthy summer.

## Sabbatical Leave for Our Rector

The Rector's Sabbatical Leave, which has long been in the planning stage, will soon be a reality. Beginning in July, Canon Pratt will be journeying to the Abbey of Gethsemane, in Kentucky, for a week's Silent Retreat. Other elements of the Sabbatical include attending a week's programme at the Chautauqua Institution in western New York State, a Guided Retreat at Loyola House in Guelph, sharing in the Diocesan Clergy Conferences in Italy and Niagara Falls and leading a tour to the Channel Islands in September.

During the Rector's Sabbatical a

number of people will be sharing in the ministry of St. John's.

The Reverend Paul Kett will be the Priest in Charge for July, August, September and October.

The Reverend Canon Sonjie Pearson and Pastor George Strack will be sharing in the Sunday liturgies.

The Reverend Don Davidson will be the Celebrant for the 7:30am Eucharists during July, September and October on Wednesday mornings. Canon Pearson will be the Celebrant during August.

St. John's Parish Nurse, Elsie Millerd; Chair of the Parish Health Council, Rene Alexander, and Canon Pearson will monitor and respond to the messages left at extension 24 requesting Pastoral Care.

### PLEASE NOTE:

PASTORAL CARE REQUESTS MAY BE MADE BY CALLING 519.743.0228 AND LEAVING A MESSAGE AT EXTENSION 24.

From July 1st to November 1st Canon Pratt will be on Sabbatical Leave and will not be available.

## Vestry Meeting, June 5, 2011

On Sunday, June 5, 2011, following the 10 am service a short Vestry Meeting was held to ask Vestry to ratify a motion passed at parish Council during their May 11 meeting. This motion was required because our canons stipulate that approval by at least a 60% majority is required for any withdrawal from our investment funds. The motion presented to Vestry by Douglas Woodley, warden, and seconded by Maureen Ilchti, warden, read as follows:

"Whereas the church of St. John the Evangelist has contracted to have repairs made this summer to the church building at an estimated cost not to exceed \$120 000.00

and

Whereas less than half of the funds necessary for this payment of this work have been raised to this date;

Be resolved that Vestry approve the withdrawal of funds from the in-

vestment account sufficient to make up the difference in a timely manner between what has been raised and what remains to be paid for this work with the understanding that fund raising will continue until the amount borrowed from investments is repaid in full."

After a brief discussion, this motion was passed with two abstentions and no one opposed.

## Report from Parish Council

Over the past three months Parish Council has been devoting a significant amount of their monthly meetings to a conversation about the mission and ministries of our parish. The following is a report on some of these conversations. We began with a consideration of three questions from Archdeacon Richard Salt which were discussed in small groups and then shared with the larger group:

### 1. Do you consider your parish outward looking? Why or why not? What dream do you have that would make your parish more outward looking?

Responses:

- Outward looking means to be mission-focused and outreach-focused.
- Hard to focus on outreach with so many financial problems but the desire is there. Some positive examples of current outward ministry: clothes closet, ACW, Green Passion, concerts

- Stretched very thin in making ends meet. Membership has been in a state of flux, but the core is gradually being rebuilt and working toward being more outward-looking.
- ACW to be commended for their work in outreach. Also Deanery partnerships.
- We're a downtown church that draws more commuters than local people, which impacts our presence in the neighbourhood, and parking is scarce, which discourages people from attending, but given these challenges we still manage to provide outreach opportunities
- Still managing our apportionment, which helps to support the diocese and smaller churches.
- We are inward right now as we focus on staying alive. We can't sustain our current course. We will have to re-focus and really make mission a priority.

- How we interpret spirituality varies from person to person in our church and across the wider Anglican Church. We have our own style that includes some diversity and some common agreements, but always running through is the sense that we care deeply for each other, and not always in obvious ways. This is an indication of spiritual health.
- Prefer to replace the term spiritual health with words such as outward, and showing caring (like Jesus). In terms of individual growth we are blessed with inspiring and strengthening liturgy and sermons, the ministry of laying-on of hands, candle-lighting, and the ministry of the Parish Nurse and the Health Council and the way they care for the whole person.

### 3. What things need to be enhanced and what things need to be let go of, in order for your parish to move into the future with hope?

Responses:

- Let go of rigidity, be ready to try new things within the context of who we are. One example of this is having a single service during the summer.
- Resolve our building issues and move on.
- It's one foot in front of the other now, but as more people get involved the burden gets lighter.
- So many facets and groups, all with different needs, hopes and aspirations. Would be good to let go of a focus on numbers: if the church is not packed, is the ministry lacking? No, packed or not, every service is

## Parish Golf Tournament: June 18

In case you haven't already signed up, Paul Wilson informs us that there is still room for members and their friends to take part in the annual St. John's Golf Classic. The cost, which includes the use of a cart, is \$65.00 per person. This is golf played in the traditional Scots' manner (which simply means that although skills are admired and encouraged, the point of the event is friendly fun).



### 2. Do you believe your parish is spiritually alive? Why or why not? What does spiritual health look like?

Responses:

- How to measure it is a challenge. It means different things to different people. Some come for the service only. Some come for that but also want to participate in groups. The Health Council and prayers for healing are availed by some. The diversity of needs is responded to through nurture rather than trying to please, and our spiritual health measured more individual by individual than corporately.

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**"Report from Parish Council"  
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important because it's what we do and who we are.

- Continue Bible study and education, rebuild the children's ministry, green the property. Use solar panels. Serve lemonade on the lawn in summer instead of coffee hour.
- Enhance diversity in worship, provide education for all ages, have social gatherings, place a new focus on mission and outreach and encourage participation.
- Get advice from the bishop.
- Get rid of exclusive Sunday model. Try alternate forms of worship.
- Become involved with other Anglican churches.

**Ideas for Increasing our Income**

Our treasurer, Allan MacKay, has been working hard to keep our parish in a sustainable financial state, and at his request, Parish Council spent a substantial portion of their May meeting in brainstorming ideas for ways to increase our revenue. The following is a list of some of these that were brought forward by members of Parish Council at that meeting. You'll notice that at least one of these has been already implemented. We include the ideas here in this issue of OEW so that everyone can share them and, if they feel so moved, either adding to the list or offer to help develop an idea by writing to the Editor ([djwoodley@yahoo.com](mailto:djwoodley@yahoo.com)), or leaving a note in OEW's mailbox in the

narthex, or speaking to any member of Parish Council.

**The List**

- Set up a booth to encourage and assist people in signing up for direct debit. Send information packages on direct debit and current church activities to people whose mailboxes are overflowing and/or when their name comes up in the cycle of prayer.
- Distribute leaflets to houses in the neighbourhood of the church.
- Give fire and brimstone sermons. Set a target.
- Hold a silent auction.
- Have a huge glass jar in church for loose change.
- Have a bridge night.
- Sell Treasures coupon books.
- Bake and sell pies.
- Use visioning: if you have the heart and will to grow and be vibrant, you will.
- Have a games night/bbq cook-off on a Saturday.
- Provide a day program for special-needs people. The government will provide funding and we have the talent and facilities.
- Provide sustained education on stewardship, make mission the focus, not fundraising.
- Have an outdoor party and invite the surrounding community.
- Share what we have: record our sermons, music on YouTube.

**Toronto Church Tour**

We are beginning to plan the details of a tour of three (or more if time permits) historic and beloved churches in Toronto on **OCTOBER 1st**, a Saturday. We have begun making the necessary arrangements with people in Toronto at St. Paul's Bloor Street, The Cathedral Church of St. James', and St. Thomas's. Please contact John or Dede Boulden 519-744-1914 ([bj1340@rogers.com](mailto:bj1340@rogers.com)) if you are interested. More information will follow.



*John Boulden*

- Identify areas in KW underserved by the Anglican Church and come to them as outposts of St. John's.
- Sell vouchers for groceries, gas, Tim Hortons.
- Have a kitchen cupboard that does quantity cooking which is then apportioned and sold in single servings.
- Reach out to the community by creating a place of rest, refreshment and respite. Paint footprints up our sidewalk and into the garden. Place a box there for poems and prayers. Add a trash can, a picnic table and a sign welcoming people to sit, eat and reflect.

## A.C.W.

### Deanery Report

April 30th was our Annual Diocesan Meeting. Waterloo Deanery was well represented and there was a good overall turn-out. The day began with Morning Prayer led by our Chaplain, the Rev. Margaret Shortell. This was followed by the presentation of the budget for 2012. Our Treasurer, Esther Moore, reported that our income for 2010 from our investments and the Parishes was a little higher than expected and we were therefore able to give a larger donation to the Diocese than was originally budgeted for.

The meeting was then opened up for a time for questions and sharing of news from Parish representatives. This was something new for the meeting and a number of delegates accepted the opportunity; the feeling was that this should be a part of our future meetings.

Our afternoon speaker was Shannon Prince, who is the curator of the Black History Museum at Buxton, just outside Chatham. She and her husband are 7th generation descendents of slaves. Buxton was settled by a Presbyterian minister, who emigrated with his family, including their slaves, to Canada with the express purpose of giving his people their freedom-- this was illegal in the Southern States where they lived. Shannon and her husband told the story of this settlement and of others who fled here to escape persecution.

The afternoon closed with Holy Communion led by Bishop Percy O'Driscoll, during which the A.C.W. officers for 2011 were installed.

### Waterloo Deanery Spring Meeting

On Saturday May 7th St George's

New Hamburg hosted our Spring Deanery meeting. We were all glad to see the sunshine and 49 ladies attended the morning session. Gail Cuthbert-Brandt spoke to us about the history of women's groups during the 19th and 20th Century entitled "Curious Relics or Dynamic Agents of Christian Mission? Continuity and Change in Women's Church Groups in Canada"

I don't think that many of us realised how forward-looking these ladies were. They were leaders and advocates for social justice and reform- as well as doing many of the things that we still do to support our own congregations. I attach a poem dating from the beginning of the 20th Century called "Doing All the Rest"- Church women of the Ladies Aid Society. I think you'll get a chuckle out of it. Do you recognise your own women's groups in it? I hope you will share it with your ladies. Finally Gail urged us to be aware of and to tell our own story.

The morning began and ended with prayers and hymns, led by the Rev. Jesse Dymond who accompanied us on the Keyboard.

We adjourned to the Parish House for a lovely lunch and then returned to the Parish Hall for the Fashion Show and afternoon tea.

A huge Thank-You to Margaret Bennett and the Anglican Church Ladies who organized the day; everyone who attended had a great time and many of us were able to add to our wardrobes.

### Business Arising from the Deanery Meeting

HOW TO RE-VITALISE ANGLICAN WOMEN IN YOUR CHURCH-A pro-

posal was made that we should have a further meeting to discuss the problem of involving all women in our congregations and how to bring Anglican women together in a meaningful way.

This proposal was made as a direct result of what we learned from our speaker of the often very militant work of Church Women over the past 200 years. We would particularly like to hear from some of the younger members of the congregation.

The meeting will take place on June 8th at Renison College and will be led by Gail-Cuthbert-Brandt.

*Enid Emery. Deanery representative.*

### A.C.W. Outreach

We have delivered over 20 pairs of used spectacles to the Lyons Club for re-use and a large bag of Zehr's tapes was delivered to Freeport Hospital. We will be sending the stamps to the Leprosy Mission shortly. Please keep your donations coming during the summer-- don't forget we also collect Campbell's soup labels.

Our Christmas stocking project runs all year, the proceeds this year will go to the Waterloo Region Nutrition for Learning Programme-- the school and church breakfast programme.

*Bernice, Eleanor, Nancy and Enid*

### "DOING ALL THE REST" Church Women of the Ladies' Aid Society

*Marilyn Färdig Whiteley*

We've put a fine addition on the good old church at home,  
It's just the latest kilter with a gallery and dome,

Continued on following page.

"A.C.W."  
continued from previous page

It seats a thousand people — finest church in all the town,  
And when 'twas dedicated, why we planked ten thousand down;  
That is, we paid five thousand — every fellow did his best -  
And the Ladies' Aid Society, it promised all the rest.

We've got an organ in the church — very finest in the land,  
It's got a thousand pipes or more, its melody is grand.  
And when we sit on cushioned pews and hear the master play,  
It carries us to realms of bliss unnumbered miles away.  
It cost a cool three thousand, and it's stood the hardest test;  
We'll pay a thousand on it - the Ladies' Aid the rest.

They'll give a hundred sociables, cantatas, too, and teas;  
They's bake a thousand angel cakes and tons of cream they'll freeze.  
They'll beg and scrape and toil and sweat for seven years or more,  
And then they'll start all o'er again, for a carpet on the floor.  
No, it isn't just like digging out the money from your vest  
When the Ladies' Aid gets busy and says, "We'll pay the rest."

Of course; we're proud of our big church from pulpit up to spire;  
It's the darling of our eyes, the crown of our desire,  
But when I see the sisters work to raise the cash that lacks,  
I somehow feel the church is built on women's tired backs.  
And sometimes I can't help thinking when we reach the regions blest,  
That men will get the toil and sweat, and the Ladies' Aid the rest.

## Report from the redevelopment committee, June 5, 2011

At a Town Hall meeting, following the short Vestry meeting on June 5, 2011, Mark Ewald presented the following report on the progress of the work of the Redevelopment Committee. This report included a short presentation from Ms. Glenda Lucas, a consultant who is working with us to advise us on the need and feasibility of developing affordable housing on our property. The point of the meeting was to keep parish members of St. John's informed about recent information that the committee has obtained and to provide us with a chance to respond to this information. At the conclusion of this one hour meeting everyone was asked to complete a brief questionnaire and to hand it in so that the committee could

take everyone's thoughts into consideration. The results of this questionnaire will be available after the committee has had sufficient time to tabulate them.

**Committee's mandate:** To outline the positive and negative attributes of all our options with respect to redevelopment of our property and building in ways that will further our mission and ministry and enable us to live out our purpose; to formulate recommendations with respect to redevelopment.

**Participants in the redevelopment committee:** Ray Cloutier, Al Coughlin, Alice Croft, Mark Ewald, Brenda Holvey, Maureen Lichti, Frank

## Thoughtful Reflections

A member of our parish has recently come across an acronym for the word "Bible" and a stanza from a great poet that has been a comfort and has sent these on to us. Here they are:

BIBLE Basic Information Before Leaving Earth

Also from the 2011 Friendship Book:

When all the woes of the world were released from it, the last thing left in Pandora's box, according to legend, was Hope. It seems such a gentle thing, but often it's what sustains us until the sun rises and our fortunes improve again.

Emily Dickinson summed it up well when she wrote:

*Hope is the thing with feathers*

*That perches in the soul*

*And sings the tune without the words*

*And never stops at all.*

Millerd, Gary Millman, Barry Paquette, Christopher Pratt, Jim Prytula, Don Ross, David Rumpel, Doug Woodley

**Last report:** Vestry, January 30, 2011

**Starting Point:** Current condition of building

### Building assessment

April 2010: Pretium Engineering engaged to perform an assessment of building condition

### Masonry repairs

June 2010: Pretium Anderson Water-

“Redevelopment” continued from previous page

loo Inc engaged to specify masonry repairs, carry out tendering, and supervise repairs

January 2011: Vestry approved contract to Brick and Co. Restoration Ltd., cost not to exceed \$120,000.

**Hazardous materials**

November 2010: Reitzel Brothers carried out repairs and selective removals of hazardous materials.

**Heating system assessment**

January 2011: MNE Engineering assessment report

“the system isn't nearly as efficient as a retrofit but it could probably continue to work for at least the next 5 years with some patching here and there.” Cost estimates (including engineering work and HST):

- Replace boiler and new distribution system for sanctuary and lower floor: \$145,520.

- New rooftop units for parish hall wing: \$91,470

**Space requirements study**

October 2010: Revised report incorporating all comments and suggestions. Approximately two-thirds of current space needed for ministries.

**Neighbouring developer**

Mr. Nimer informs us (April 2011):

- Appraisal of parish hall land: \$262,000

- His estimate cost to make property ready for construction: \$491,669

- Total cost too high to proceed with development involving our property

- He is undecided about what to do

- Cannot see selling Shoppers parking lot to us

Purchase of our parish hall land by Mr. Nimer is not a viable option at this time

**SUMMARY OF OPTIONS AS PRESENTED AT JANUARY 2010 VESTRY**

**MEETING**

- Stay with present building configuration
- Amalgamate with another congregation
- Sale of parish hall land to developer: *not viable*
- Construct affordable housing
- Joint housing development with developer: *not viable*
- Demolish parish hall or rectory wing, reconfigure remaining space
- Complete new building in partnership with developer: *removed from consideration due to historical considerations*
- Sell all property, rebuild in new location: *removed from consideration as our mission is in downtown Kitchener*

**Stay with present building configuration**

PROS:

- Plenty of space for current and future activities, community outreach
- Attractive to amalgamation candidates
- Preserves our building which has historical significance

CONS:

- Repairs and renewals in next 10 years: \$415,000 or more
- Annual operating costs: \$111,000 (for 2011)
- Rehabilitation of stage and change rooms needed for full use
- More than adequate space for all ministries: Social Justice and Service, Eco-justice, Community outreach, Worship, Teaching/Preaching/ Discipleship



**Amalgamate with another congregation**

- Kitchener Anglican churches
- Exploring ways of moving from ministry in isolation to some joint ministry
  - Low participation from St John's at joint Ash Wednesday and Easter Vigil services
  - Amalgamation at St John's or another location
  - Need to link with suitable and willing partner, this takes time
  - Satisfactory and mutually beneficial agreement required
  - A crisis may force an amalgamation upon us
  - Diocesan direction needed

PROS:

- Larger membership, increased financial resources
- More efficient use of deanery facilities for mission and ministry
- Preserves our building which has historical significance

CON:

- Difficulties in combining personnel, traditions, etc.

Ministries: Social Justice and Service, Eco-Justice, Community outreach: possibly broaden scope and create new programs.

Worship: opportunities for new expressions of worship

**"Redevelopment" continued from previous page**

Teaching/Preaching/Discipleship: new and expanded programs possible

**Affordable housing**

**PROS:**

- Mission related, service to community
- Accessibility requirements could be included in development
- Reduced need for capital repairs, reduced operating costs

**CONS:**

- Government funding needed, no program at present
- Considerable effort to apply for funding, develop housing
- Loss of upper parish hall, at least
- Limited land on our property, have to build up.

Ministries: Social Justice and Service: provide needed housing

Eco-justice: 'green' building

Community: relationships with occupants

Grant of \$10,000 and loan of \$10,000 from CMHC for affordable housing studies

SHS Consulting

- Contracted to do needs and demand study and business plan

- Paid from CMHC grant

Studies will help us decide whether to pursue this option

**Demolition of parish hall wing or rectory wing, reconfiguration of remaining space**

**PROS**

- Immediate operating cost saving
- Parking spaces created
  - Revenue
  - Use by parishioners
- With smaller building, eventual reduction in capital costs

**CONS:**

- Loss of space
- Higher capital costs in short run, additional costs for:
  - Demolition
  - Develop parking area
  - Reconfiguration
- Possible land contamination

Ministries: Spaces for many ministries need to be found elsewhere in building or beyond.

**FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS**

Options involving staying with present building

- Major repairs and renewals needed in 10 years
- Do we have the capacity to raise the funds required?

**Amalgamation**

- Encourage diocesan and deanery leadership in exploring amalgamation possibilities
- Continue exploring cooperation with Kitchener Anglican churches
- Encourage participation in joint activities
- Make contacts with other churches

**Affordable housing**

- Business plan coming from SHS Consulting at the end of June
- Be prepared to make application to affordable housing program, when announced by the provincial or federal government, with the approval of Vestry

**At this point, committee proposes:**

Staying with the present building configuration until the possibilities of amalgamation and affordable housing become clearer

If we amalgamate at our site we want to keep the building intact

If we decide on and get funding for affordable housing, that will be a determinant of how we adapt the building

Amalgamation and affordable housing are not currently feasible but may be in the future