



The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

May 27, 2018

Available online at StJohn316.com/OEW

Another Funeral, A Different Experience

Elaine Duncanson

Arriving home after another trip to Barrie, Bob showed me an email he had received about the death of a Presbyterian minister. It brought back warm memories of a lively family. My cousin had married the man's younger sister. When Bob asked if I wanted to go to the funeral, it took two seconds to say "Yes".

Then I had some doubts. My cousin had died two decades ago and I had had little contact with the family. But the chance to see some of them again was stronger. I needn't have worried. I was warmly greeted by the ones I knew best and we were thanked, several times, for making the effort to go to Dunnville.

Dr. Geoffrey was the son of a Presbyterian minister also named Geoffrey and his funeral was taken by his nephew Geoffrey. The first thing I learned about them was that the family recycled names. The women were Marjorie (my cousin's wife) or Alexandra (her sister), named for their grandmother and mother respectively. They were glad when Murray joined the family to add some new names to the collection.

Dr. Geoffrey had been a missionary in Nigeria for a number of years. While there, he changed the style of theological education by encouraging the students to tell the story of their personal journey in faith. Before that time, personal stories had been firmly discouraged. Nigerians have many stories to tell and love to tell them.

After Nigeria it was Jamaica where he also taught theologs. Then he became professor of church history in Montreal. He was a diligent researcher, a prolific writer, a musician and poet. We sang one of his hymns to the tune 'Ode to Joy' and many in the congregation seemed to know it by heart. Instead of a choir anthem there was a recording of the poem set to his music that he composed as a tribute to his wife Mary Lou on their 25th anniversary.

Two colleagues read Scripture and then told stories about Dr. Geoffrey when they knew him in Nigeria and library research. There was laughter during the telling. Then his five children added their stories of a kindly but demanding father. Other people were invited to add their stories either in the service or at the reception.

One was left with the impression of a man who lived life to the fullest, enjoyed people, respected all, and used his considerable talents for the benefit of others. The family will certainly miss him but two medical issues were limiting his mobility and his speech. They can accept his release from disability.

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Pentecost

The third person showed up fifty days later when those who were left and close to despair gathered together at nine in the morning and a roar like a wind tore open the air.

Not a mote moved though the whole room was breathing; consuming all thought; erasing all fear but just as it came, in no time without warning, it stopped and was instantly followed by fire.

Utterly silent the flames filled the room, the red tongues touched faces, licked their lips unburning. Unbidden their voices opened and slipped into a flood of effortless speaking.

Throughout the city for the rest of the day friends thought them drunk, strangers heard them say comprehensible words of the news of the way to live in love forever here or far away.

A wind without blows and words without learning; love beyond desire (a fire without burning), thus this person, the third of the Trinity comes and completes our divinity.

The next issue of On Eagle's Wings will be available on June 24th.

For me, it was the first time I had encountered cousin Geoff “in action” so to speak. He and Marjorie came to our Open House and he made a very good impression. He took the service in an informal but respectful style. His homily was warm and inclusive as he spoke of the Christian faith and his uncle. He finished with two words that Dr. Geoffrey had used many times to encourage the listener to think more deeply and consider more possibilities. It was dramatic and touching.

When I showed Sarah Cardwell the bulletin from the service, she told me once again of the encouragement she had received from Dr. Geoffrey’s father as a young organ student. The words of a Presbyterian in Brantford many years ago have contributed to the life of St. John’s in Kitchener today.

At the reception I remarked to one person that it was a family that enjoyed each other’s company. She readily agreed. They had family pot lucks every Sunday and anyone who was in Toronto that day was welcome. When Dr. Geoffrey and Murray both lived in Toronto for a while after Nigeria, the eight cousins flowed freely between the two houses a block and a half apart. The household rule was count noses before you set the table because if they are here at mealtime you feed them.

When I visited in Brantford that summer long ago, I learned lessons in gracious living that did not come from impossibly perfect pages of a glossy magazine. A family of faith respected each other and encouraged anyone they met. I was overawed by them but remembered details to incorporate into my life when possible. The contrast with my brother and his legacy is immense.

Huron Church Camp Wish List

Nancy Chittick

Once again, St. John's ACW will be collecting first aid as well as arts/crafts supplies for Huron Church Camp (HCC). HCC runs from early July to the end of August on the shores of beautiful Lake Huron. Many children and youth from St. John's have attended HCC over the past 70 years. If you are interested in contributing supplies for the camp, their Wish List is provided here or can be obtained from the table in the Narthex or outside the Upper Parish Hall. Items may be placed in labelled boxes which are located under the table in the Narthex or in the church office. Collection of supplies will be ongoing throughout May and June. Thank you in advance for your support of our children and youth.

For the Health Centre:

- Sun screen
- Insect repellent
- Band-Aids
- Ice packs

New craft supplies from the Dollar Store:

- Crayola crayons (other brands do not have enough colour in them)
- Paint brushes (all kinds)
- Small bottles of acrylic paint in bright colours
- Oil pastels
- Scissors
- Small glue guns and glue sticks
- White glue
- Masking tape
- Scotch tape
- Duct tape (sometimes it comes in bright patterns and colours)
- Permanent markers
- Thread
- Sewing needles

- Safety pins
- Nail polish
- Clothes pins and bags for our clotheslines

Gently used and clean:

- Hot Wheels cars and track
- Old CDs and DVDs

Please do not send: yarn, string, fabric scraps, toilet tissue tubes, egg cartons, magazines, newspaper, old pens, artificial flowers, cards, wrapping paper, pop bottles, popsicle sticks, jigsaw puzzles, board games, or holiday decorations...many thanks. A few years ago they asked for socks – they have lots now so please do not send anymore.

HCC also really appreciates Canadian Tire money – they can buy sports equipment, beach toys, camping gear and even some hardware items! **They are also more than happy to accept cash or a cheque.**

Nurses Notes

Elsie Millerd, Parish Nurse

Safe Kids Week: June 4 – 10, 2018

As summer approaches and children have more time for play at home and in the community, it is a good time to review safety measures for fall and injury prevention. Below are a few tips:

- Supervision is key.
- Walk with your child and teach road safety.
- Encourage children to learn proper sport skills and techniques to protect themselves and others from injury.
- During sports and recreation, use correctly fitted protective equipment.
- Choose a playground with a deep, soft surface to better protect from falls. Children under the age five should play on equipment lower than 1.5 metres (5 feet).
- Prevent falls of young children by use of wall mounted safety gates on tops of stairs, window guards and nonslip mats. Avoid baby walkers with wheels.
- Follow the rules of the game and the rules of the road. They are there for everyone's safety.
- Learn to recognize the signs and symptoms of a concussion; it can happen even without a direct hit to the head and without losing consciousness.
- Ensure any child with a possible head injury is checked out by a doctor.
- Encourage children to speak up about how they are feeling.

For more tips and resources for fall prevention and to learn the signs of concussion go to <http://www.parachutecanada.org/programs/topic/C427> or ask for information from me, your parish nurse.

May everyone have a happy and safe summer.

Resource: <http://www.parachutecanada.org/programs/topic/C427>

Lyme Disease on the Rise in Canada

Lyme disease is a bacterial infection transmitted through the bite of a tick infected from infected animals. In Ontario, Lyme disease is only transmitted through the blacklegged tick. This disease was very unlikely in Ontario until recently. With warmer winters the black legged tick is moving farther north and can now be found around the shores of Lake Erie and Lake Ontario. This species is spreading out and by 2020 is expected to reach the Manitoba border.

Symptoms of Lyme disease usually begin between three days and one month after being bitten by an infected tick. Prompt antibiotic treatment is usually effective in treating the disease. Early symptoms of Lyme disease may include fever, headache, muscle and joint pain, fatigue and an expanding red rash with a white bull's eye. If left untreated, Lyme disease symptoms could progress to cardiac symptoms such as heart palpitations, arthritic symptoms, extreme fatigue and general weakness, and central and peripheral nervous system disorders.

The best way to prevent Lyme disease is to avoid tick bites by:

- using insect repellent with Deet when outdoors, especially around openings to clothing such as wrists, ankles and neck.
- wearing proper clothing, long pants and long sleeved shirts (light coloured to help spot the ticks). Tuck pants into socks to prevent ticks getting into the legs.
- checking clothes for ticks often and removing ticks from the body as soon as possible after bites.
- walking on paths and trails when possible, staying in the middle, avoiding low lying brush or long grass and removing tick habitats from around the home.

If you have symptoms of Lyme's disease or are just feeling unwell in the weeks following a tick bite, see your doctor or health care professional right away. Cases of Lyme disease should also be reported to the public health unit.

Resource: <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/BrowseByTopic/InfectiousDiseases/Pages/IDLandingPages/Lyme-Disease.aspx>

Coming Events

Discovery: A Comic Lament

A play using a number of theatrical styles, including dance and comedy, starring Ted Swartz and Michelle Milne, written by Alison Brookins. A talk back session with an opportunity for reflection and questions follows each performance. Invited guests, Mino Ode Kwewak N'gamowak (Good Hearted Women Singers), will open and close the evening with traditional songs, prayers and drumming.

This joint project of Mennonite, Lutheran, Anglican, United churches of the area will take place in four venues:

- May 31 at Rockway Mennonite Collegiate
- June 1 at Conrad Grebel University College
- June 2 at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Cambridge (Preston)
- June 3 at Steinmann Mennonite Church, New Hamburg.

All productions begin at 7:30 pm. Online tickets are \$15/10 students plus a small processing fee. They can be purchased at: <https://uwaterloo.ca/grebel/events/discovery-comic-lament> or at the door (if not sold out).

The play invites us to learn about and lament the ongoing legacy of the Doctrine of Discovery and to connect with Indigenous-led healing and justice efforts. It is another step toward better understanding and relationships with our Indigenous neighbours.

Habitat for Humanity

Jennifer Uttley

St. John's has supported Habitat for Humanity Waterloo Region (HFHWR) for many years. A number of years ago our parish supported the Deanery Build and since then we have maintained a connection by providing refreshments. On June 19th, we will once more provide snacks and a substantial lunch for volunteers at the Habitat build on Kehl St. during the Women's Build Week (June 18 – 22nd).



Your yearly support of this outreach event is greatly appreciated by the Habitat organization. We always receive compliments for the meals that we provide and there are always sufficient leftovers for those days when there are no donations.

In order to provide for this parish outreach ministry, we need your financial support. Envelopes are available on the table in the Narthex. Please make cheques payable to St. John's ACW. Many thanks for your continued support of this outreach. If you would like to help by preparing the refreshments or delivering the snack or lunch, please contact Jennifer Uttley at acw@stjohn316.com or 519-578-6052.

Habitat has also forwarded brochures regarding applying for a Habitat home, volunteering for the build and information about the Restore. For more information, please see the ACW bulletin board in the Upper Parish Hall.



Congratulations to Barbara Shaw who was confirmed by Bishop Terry Dance at a lovely Waterloo Deanery service at St. James' Anglican Church, Cambridge on Sunday, April 29th.

Correction to the 2017 Apportionment report from congregations

Paul Rathbone, Secretary-Treasurer

The congregation of St John the Evangelist, Kitchener paid 100% of their apportionment budget of \$56,016 for last year. The Diocese is apologetic for the mistaken receipt.

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