Available online at StJohn316.com/0EW

### **Going Through Disorientation**

Dave Sapelak

**September 30, 2018** 

Here at St John's we are still in a period of transition. Some of us are voicing our frustration and confusion, wondering what is going on with Bishop Linda, the Selection Committee, the Wardens, Parish Council, etc. Where is our new Rector? Why do we only have an Interim Priest? Is the parish on track? What is happening?

As chair of the Selection Committee, I've been reflecting a great deal about the parish and the selection process. As you know, the work of Selection is cloaked in secrecy conforming to the cannons of the diocese. So I can't tell you what is happening. But I can say that the Selection Committee has its ear tuned to the Parish as we patiently carry out our mandate.

What I can say is this: according to Scripture, in the dis-orientation brought on by the last three years there is a promise of an exciting future. Every major development of the people of God is accomplished in a three-part sequence: a period of orientation, then a period of dis-orientation, followed by a period of re-orientation. This is pointed out by Old Testament scholar, Dr Walter Brueggermann.

A period of orientation is characterized by being established in normality, in certainty of the reliable and trustworthy. This is a condition we are all comfortable with. It is orderly and predictable. There is solid faith in the reliability of God. In life, we enjoy the periods of orientation because we feel rooted in the routine of the ordinary. Spiritually, it is a comfortable place where we feel connected to God who loves and cares for us, our families, and our faith community. We are content.

Disorientation gets our attention, and takes us out of our comfort zone and challenges the normal. It is uncomfortable because things seem upside down, in turmoil, and unpredictable. Our whole culture trains us to strive for a controlled and stabile life. But real life isn't like that. It is disturbed by interruptions and the unexpected: illness; broken relationships; loss of a job; the effects of aging; death. In disorientation we seem to have hit fog, darkness with an unsure future and a lost path.

Our parish received an intentional transitional priest three years ago. He led us in self-reflection, and uncomfortable conversations about re-definition and renewal. Also, the bishop demanded long-term balanced budgets, and a clearly defined mission and ministry plan. Our building is finally demanding some extensive attention. And some people have left the parish. Uncertainty dominates and can be oppressive. There is pain and loss.

Orientation and disorientation are completely opposite states with examples from the Bible. The best is the ministry of Jesus. The twelve were orientated to the new realm of God. It was a picture of a different social order where the first will be last and the last, first. There were miracles. Jesus was with them. But then the disciples were plunged into disorientation during Passion Week. They ended hiding behind locked doors, unable to imagine the future, and expecting the worst.

Out of disorientation, God promises a re-orientation. Out of crucifixion came resurrection. Followers became leaders with a new boldness. The lessons of orientation were re-directed through new understanding by the filling of the Holy Spirit. Who would ever have expected that?

But before re-orientation, the dis-orientation can be very difficult. We are a resurrection people. We know the end of the story. Week-by-week, we gather giving thanks (Eucharist) for the dis-orientation of the cross. We stand to confess the faith of our baptism saying, "I believe..." because in dis-orientation there is hope—hope for where God will lead us, hope for the priest God will send us, hope for the kind of people we will be, reaching out to our community.

Already there are the seeds of this re-orientation. We have established goals for the future. We have committed to plans in response to the Bishop. We have committed funds for the renewal of the building. We are moving forward, in faith, in greater commitment to one another and to God.

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together...but encouraging one another..." Hebrews 10:23-25 RS

The next issue of On Eagle's Wings will be available on October 28th.

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### **Nurses Notes**

Elsie Millerd, Parish Nurse

### **Caring for our Neighbours**

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' Luke 10:27

One of the questions with which our parish is grappling at the moment is how to love our neighbours who use our property as a place to use drugs. There are many concerns around this complex issue. The one which I would like to address is that of caring for the unconscious drug user.

For some time we have had a Naloxone kit hanging in the narthex of the church on the Automatic External Defibrillator (AED). If you do not know where these emergency supplies are, I would encourage you to locate them next time you are in the church building. They are there as sources of possible help **after you call 911** while waiting for the arrival of Emergency Medical Services (EMS). Another resource you should locate is the telephone which is available up the stairs and to the left off the narthex. There are also telephone extensions outside the Fireside Room in the basement and in the upstairs kitchen off the Upper Parish Hall.

Naloxone can prevent death or brain damage from lack of oxygen during an opioid overdose by restoring normal breathing and consciousness within 1 to 5 minutes. Signs of opioid overdose include:

- Can't wake the person
- Breathing is very slow, erratic or has stopped
- Deep snoring or gurgling sounds
- Fingernails are blue or purple
- Body is very limp
- Pupils are very small

Here are five steps toward saving a life:

- 1. SHAKE shoulders and SHOUT name if you know it
- 2. CALL 911 if person is unresponsive
- 3. INJECT NALOXONE 1 ampoule (1 ml) into arm or leg muscle through clothing if you believe the person has been using an opioid drug
- 4. If not breathing, give CHEST COMPRESSIONS or full CPR and /or rescue breathing as trained
- 5. IS IT WORKING? If no improvement in 3-5 minutes, repeat steps 3 & 4
- 6. STAY! Stick around until EMS arrives in case they still need help

RECOVERY POSITION: Put the person in recovery position (lateral recumbent or three quarters prone position) if

- Unconscious and breathing
- You have to leave the person unattended



If this all sounds a bit overwhelming, I would be happy to provide a tutorial in the narthex after service. Please ask. You may also realize that it is time for you to update your Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) training at this time. A class in this is available on Saturday, October 20<sup>th</sup>. See details below in the "Coming events." This course includes training in the use of the AED.

Who is our neighbour? In Luke 10 we hear Jesus' response in the story of the Good Samaritan. We, too, may have opportunities to be Good Samaritans as we worship at St. John's. Our legal system respects the Good Samaritan with Good Samaritan laws. Good Samaritan laws offer legal protection to people who give reasonable assistance to those who are, or who they believe to be, injured, ill, in peril, or otherwise incapacitated. On May 4, 2017 the Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act became law. Being a Good Samaritan is an expected role in our society. It is being a good neighbour.

### **Coming Events**

The first two events are presented by Christians Together Waterloo Region (formerly the Kitchener-Waterloo Council of Churches). Although the issues arising from the legalization of pot and the rising number of opioid overdoses are quite different, both realities touch us as individuals, as families, as congregations and as citizens.

### **Marijuana: Some Perspectives for Consideration**

This event will deal with the various uses of cannabis, the pros and cons of use, and how to talk to our young people who may become users after legalization comes into effect this year.

October 17, 2018, at 7 p.m
Parish Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes Church
173 Lourdes Street, Waterloo

Presenters: Dr. Peter Kuhnert and Brad Wilton, a counsellor at the Delton Glebe Counselling Centre

To reserve your place (free) go to https://www.eventastic.com/events/25132 (cut off date Monday, October 15 at 9:00 p.m.). You will receive your ticket by e-mail.

### The Opioid Crisis: What's Happening and Why

November 21, 2018, at 7 p.m. Parish Hall of Our Lady of Lourdes Church 173 Lourdes Street, Waterloo.

Presenters: Dr. Michael Beasley and the Rev. Dr. Brice Balmer

To reserve your place (free) go to https://www.eventastic.com/events/25142 (cut-off date Monday, November 19 at 9:00 p.m.). You will receive your tickets by email

### CPR and AED Training

This course is good for both basic training and refresher in Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and use of the Automatic External Defibrillator.

Saturday October 20, 2018 9:00 am to 12 noon W-K United Mennonite Church 15 George Street, Waterloo Cost about \$25 (confirm with Karen) Contact Karen Watson, Parish Nurse

519-578-0660 E-mail: parish.nurse@wkumchurch.ca

LIVING the Dementia Journey: an award-winning, evidence-informed training program for those who support people living with dementia.

### **Workshop Details**

1-day interactive in-person training

For community members, family care partners, team members at home care/service organizations, and those providing support at long-term care and retirement homes

### **Learning Objectives**

- Be introduced to the six program modules
- Have an increased understanding of dementia
   Be introduced to strategies to support the well-being of people living with dementia for Workshops

### When:

November 1, 2018 (8:30 AM - 4:30 PM)

#### Where:

Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA) 250 Laurelwood Drive Waterloo, ON, N2J 0E2

### Workshop Fee:

\$300 per person

For more information and to register go to <a href="https://www.livingdementia.ca">www.livingdementia.ca</a> or call 519-904-0660 ext. 4115

## Aging as a Natural Monastery: Spirituality in Later Life

Thursday November 15, 2018 4pm. Steinman Mennonite Church

1316 Snyder's Road W., Baden

Presenter: Bill Randall, MDiv, EdD, Prof of Gerontology

Considers aging as an inherently spiritual process, a time of growing in insight, understanding and compassion.

4 pm presentation 5pm Light Supper Pay \$20 cash at door.

Contact office@smchurch.ca or 519-634-8311 by Friday, November 9 to reserve your spot.

# Spirituality, Aging and Narrative: The Sacred Art of Story Listening

Friday, November 16, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm Great Hall, Conrad Grebel University College 140 Westmount Road, Waterloo

Presenter: Bill Randall, MDiv, EdD, Prof of Gerontology

Registration Fee: \$60 (\$30 for students and those 65+)

Provide your own bag lunch or eat in a local restaurant

Register online at grebel.ca or contact Sarah at 519-885-0220 x24264 by Friday, November 9<sup>th</sup>.

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### A Sense of Entitlement

#### Elaine Duncanson

Last weekend we visited family in Toronto and watched as Tim cleared many branches from the back yard, including a huge limb. He dragged or carried all of this to one spot where there was a break in the trees. Kristi was pleased when he told her it was all blocking the path from the ravine. They mentioned having a disconcerting number of trespassers come up the steep hill and wander through their property.

Not long after, Tim broke off in mid-sentence and went swiftly to the door. We turned to see an older man and two others who were probably in their thirties strolling along one edge toward the house. They were admiring the setting and may have been headed for the table and chairs in the barbecue area since one had a pizza box in his hand.

When Tim spoke to them, they seemed surprised and saw no problem with making use of his yard. One said bluntly that there was no sign to indicate it was private property so the fault was Tim's not theirs. There had been a sign but one of the previous trespassers didn't like it, tore it down, and threw it away so it would not be an obstacle to other people. They had left the known trail to climb a steep and challenging path from the ravine and then had fought their way through the pile of branches.

There was more arguing as Tim insisted they go back the way they came and walked closely behind them. There was no apology, no explanation of a mistake, just a brazen assumption that what they wanted should be fine with everyone else. We were shaken by their attitude and conscious that they or other intruders could be scoping out the site, looking for an easy point of access or things that could be removed and sold.

The news has many stories of those who think they can do as they wish with no thought for the feelings or rights of others. Or even legal consequences. The young swimmer who won many medals, gained a scholarship to a prestigious university, and then assaulted a young woman was presented as a victim since he had lost the scholarship and was removed from the university.

Poor lad! His future was blighted. He would finish his education at an ordinary university and have a record that would limit his employment, all because of twenty minutes of poor judgement. The young woman's victim impact statement was so powerful that it was printed in its entirety and earned great praise. Her present and future had been changed dramatically in that twenty minutes too.

Recently we have been hearing of a "great man" with an "impeccable record" who has been "smeared" by two or perhaps more women because of antics in his youth. Why should that prevent him from being promoted to high office? He seems to treat the accusations like the buzzing of a mosquito – annoying but nothing serious.

As a small child I was taught to treat others as I would like them to treat me. I was expected to think of other people, their needs, their feelings, their rights, and put all that before my wants. Has that teaching gone out of style? Too old fashioned for today's world? Or does it only apply to women since the examples I have been aware of lately have all been men?

It seems that those who possess power, or wealth, or social status, often see their wants as more important and urgent than the rights or feelings of those who have less. Where is the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, loyalty, gentleness, and self-control? Have they never heard of these attributes? Or do they think, like Lord Voldemort, that only the weak would think and act that way? Some of the strongest people I have ever met use that list to guide their life. They are also a pleasure to know and they make the world a safer place to live.

# ACW (Anglican Church Women) Outreach

Nancy Chittick

Now that the busy fall season is underway at St. John's, we want you to be aware of the outreach projects for this year.

Throughout the year, please remember to save any **USED POSTAGE STAMPS** that may come your way. They don't need to be separated from the envelope. The stamps are sent to effect:hope (The Leprosy Mission Canada) who then sells them to stamp collectors. The Leprosy Mission has worked to support education and research as well as those with this disease for over one hundred years. Stamps may be put in the marked box downstairs on the shelf outside the choir practice room. Before the stamps are sent away, they need to be trimmed to a specific requirement. Enid Emery would appreciate some assistance with this. Please speak to Enid if you're willing to help her.

**USED PRESCRIPTION EYEGLASSES** are collected and sent via the Lyons Club for use in third world countries. The collection box for these is also downstairs on the shelf near the choir practice room.

We will also be supporting **MONICA PLACE** this fall. We will be collecting items for the young moms and their babies. Watch for announcements coming soon.

During the early winter months, watch for announcements regarding **BALES**. We will be asking for donations of gently used or new clothing. The items are packed and sent to Kenora where they are donated to a shop called Twice Is Nice. The shop is run under the auspices of St. Albans Church. Customers pay a small price for their purchases. Anyone who can't pay is given what they need.

In late spring, we will be asking for craft supplies to donate to **HURON CHURCH CAMP**. This summer camp has been run by the Diocese of Huron for over 70 years on the shores of Lake Huron.

# The Passionate Senior to His Love

Elaine Duncanson

The Writer-in-residence at UNB was a poet and she challenged our writing group to try several exercises.

One was to use a well known poem as a beginning and create something of our own in the same pattern.

Come live with me and be my love
And we will all the pleasures prove
That pensions, bonds and stocks will yield
When we our annuities will pool.

And we will sit upon a bench
When half the distance we shall reach.
To catch our breath and check the pulse.
Perhaps to eat a little dulse.

Stiffness and arthritis in my arm
To you, my dear, will do no harm
For thy leg also has pain aplenty.
We do not dance as we did at twenty.

Advice we have in abundant store For those who care for days of yore. And tales of exploits and disaster Before we ourselves did master.

Thy pills must take, white, green and blue And my red ones I will share with you. If these delights thy mind may move, Then live with me and be my love.

With profound apologies to Christopher Marlowe For lack of rhythm and suspect rhyme.

Always watch for our ACW announcements in On Eagles Wings and the Sunday bulletin. If you ever have any questions regarding our Outreach projects, please speak to Nancy Chittick or Sandra Roy.

## A new granddaughter

Rev. Canon Christopher and Carolyn Pratt are happy to announce the birth of their granddaughter Vivian Elise on September 2. Big brother Adrian is 2 years old. All are doing well, and the new grandparents have been enjoying spending time in Ottawa with them. The parents are David and Claudia.



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# St. John's 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Pudding Factory Begins November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2018

### Help us celebrate 70 years making Christmas Puddings!

The ACW asks all members of our church community to mark your calendars for the Annual St. John's Pudding Factory which begins on Friday November 2<sup>nd</sup>. While the ACW provides the leadership, we need the support of all in the Parish to make it a success. It is always a great time for fellowship and getting to know other members of our Parish.

The proceeds support the parish operating budget as well as outreach.

### PUDDING ORDERS TAKEN DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Our goal this year is to produce and sell 2,000 pounds of puddings. Our traditional puddings are made with all natural ingredients from a cherished secret recipe. We need your help by asking friends, family, neighbours and co-workers to place orders. Order forms are available on the narthex table at St. John's during October. If you do not have an order form, you can place an order by contacting:

Wilma 519-578-0175 OR Email acw@stjohn316.com

### **VOLUNTEER TIMES:**

We hope that you will sign up to volunteer to help make the puddings. Please bring a friend or other family member. Carol Thurnell is our volunteer co-ordinator and she will have lists for you to sign up at the coffee hours and in the Narthex during October. It is important that even the regular volunteers sign on for the times they will be here so that Carol can tell when more volunteers will be needed.

A list of tasks with descriptions and volunteer needs is available with the signup sheet. Shifts are available throughout each day.

Friday Nov. 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 9 a.m. to clean fruit

Saturday Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 9 a.m. to move and setup the equipment Monday Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:30 a.m. and running all day and evening Tuesday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 a.m. and running all day and evening Wednesday Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 a.m. and running all day and evening

Thursday Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> starting at 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

REFRESHMENTS are available each day. Please bring your own lunch if you can stay.

PARKING passes are available for those who stay for several hours. We encourage sharing the drive, taking public transit, or parking at the City Hall.

For further information contact Carol Thurnell <a href="mailto:cathurnell@hotmail.com">cathurnell@hotmail.com</a> or telephone (evenings) 519-725-9022.

### **PUDDING PICKUP:**

The puddings will be packed on Friday ready for pickup starting on Saturday morning. For the 2018 Pudding Factory, orders can be picked up on:

Saturday November 10<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday November 11<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m. to Noon
Saturday November 17<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday November 18<sup>th</sup> 8:30 a.m. to Noon



### **PWDRF A new logo on its 60th Anniversary**

Jim Mighty

In churches across Canada, stained glass windows tell the stories of the Gospel. Light streams through colourful pieces of glass to illuminate a whole picture. These beautiful storytellers were the inspiration for PWRDF's new logo, designed by Floating-Point Designs in Belleville, Ontario.

The vibrant, colourful shapes represent the many partners and people in PWRDF's programs. They are tied together by white lines forming a globe. The lines are not



the dark lines of lead that hold stained glass together, but rather are open, to let in even more light.

"I love the openness of it," said the Primate of Canada, Fred Hiltz, who is also a member of the Board of Directors. "We can think about the possibilities between the lines as we try to be a ministry of our church, committed to a truly just, healthy and peaceful world. What a beautiful image of the world: bright, beautiful, colourful, diverse and open."

PWRDF's rebrand also extends to its website. The new site is fully secure, mobile responsive and adheres to Level AA of the W3C Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0. "Coinciding with our 60th year, we've also redesigned our online World of Gifts guide using the trusted Shopify platform," said Will Postma, PWRDF's Executive Director. "The online ordering experience on the refreshed site will be much easier and more enjoyable."

# Calling all crafters and vendors

Sarah Guthrie

As part of our first pudding pickup day, the ACW would like to incorporate a craft/vendor sale on Saturday, November 10th. We hope to



raise additional funds to support the church and our outreach projects.

If you are able to donate crafted (or other) items to the Gift Case, would like to have a table of your own to sell your own items, have suggestions, or would like to help organize and run the event, please contact Sarah Guthrie (sarah.guthrie@gmail.com).

# Waterloo Deanery ACW Gathering

Jennifer Uttley

St. George's New
Hamburg ACW is hosting
a Fall ACW Deanery
Gathering on Saturday
October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm.
All of the ACWs in our

Deanery have been



invited. The afternoon will begin with Gail Cuthbert Brandt speaking about notable indigenous women followed by prayer and afternoon tea and conversation. Please join us for time to get to know one another and exchange ideas. To help with planning, please RSVP by Wednesday October 17<sup>th</sup>. There is a signup sheet in the narthex or contact Jennifer Uttley at juttley@sympatico.ca.

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### **A Refugee Miracle**

### **Ann Coughlin**

Last week was a very exciting one!! It began with a challenge, an opportunity, and ended with a response that both exceeded our request and made a strong witness in government circles! Praise to God.

I wanted to share the story with you all – in the way that I experienced it.

The Deanery Refugee Committee met on Wednesday evening, August 22. (I was not able to attend, but received an email in the morning from Rev Margaret Walker.) Jane Townshend spoke of an urgent issue and asked for help. Our committee voted to offer \$2000 - \$5000 from the funds we have in hand. Below is the email that was being sent out to the whole diocese.

### **Urgent Help Needed for Child Refugee**

Recently, the Refugee Committee has become aware of a serious problem with one of our cases, for whom we started the sponsorship about eight years ago. This family is made up of both parents, two grandparents and four children. They are refugees from Myanmar. The twelve year old daughter, Ku Paw, has heart issues and they were to come to Canada last week but at the last minute, the child was deemed unfit to travel, even with a medical person and oxygen accompanying the family. This is the third time over the years the family have been unable to travel because of this daughter. What amazes me is that three people in the Immigration Department in Ottawa have desperately tried to get government funds together to help this child but they have not been successful. They see many horrific cases but they worked very hard to find a successful outcome for our family. If we do not raise the money, the file will be closed and this family will never have the opportunity to start a new life in Canada.

Before Ku Paw can travel, she must have surgery in Thailand and that cost is estimated to be approximately \$10 000. We have some funds in a special account at the diocese in case of emergencies but we need additional funds of around \$6 000. The government has only allowed us another week to raise funds otherwise the case will be closed and it will take time to get it re-opened.

If you wish to donate you can do it one of two ways. Firstly, you can make a cheque payable to The Diocese of Huron and mark it for Ku Paw. If you do that, please send an email to <a href="refugee@huron.anglican.ca">refugee@huron.anglican.ca</a> or <a href="pitowns@gmail.com">pitowns@gmail.com</a> so we will be aware of your donation. Secondly, you can make your donation by credit card by calling the Diocese of Huron at 519-434-6893. Any monies received over than the amount required in this situation, will be set aside for similar emergencies in the future.

Thank you for considering Ku Paw's situation as the Diocese of Huron continues its ministry with the many refugees from around the world.

Jane Townshend Vice Chairperson Huron Refugee Committee

### August 24, the whole diocese was sent this email:

Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of individuals and parishes, the diocese has raised sufficient funds to cover the cost of Ku Paw's surgery and we will probably not have to dip into our emergency fund. We also thank those who still wish to give to the fund for future emergencies. Late yesterday afternoon, I was able to email directly to my contact at the Immigration Department in Ottawa and tell them to make the arrangements for the transfer of funds. They found it hard to believe that it happened so quickly and they were thankful that Ku Paw will have her operation and with our continued prayers make that flight to the Diocese of Huron. I do not find the response so unbelievable as I know what the power of the Spirit can do. I am just extremely thankful for your faithful response and for my Anglican Family in the Diocese of Huron. I Plane Townshend

Later the same day, I received this email from Jane that was sent to our committee:

We made our target in less than a day. The Spirit was moving. Thanks for being the first to respond.

"The Spirit has moved – Anglicans are alive and well!! The little girl will have her surgery."

The ongoing challenge is to be able to meet these kind of situations confidently – having money in hand. So, if you feel so moved, please consider a donation to the Diocesan refugee committee's emergency fund. Contact Jane at the email above to let her know that is what you want to do, and mail your cheque made out to The Diocese of Huron, marked refugee emergency fund.

#### What about our committee?

We are nearing the end of the sponsorship/support of the fifth family – Jemal and Zubeida, Maymuna and Milkasa who arrived last December from a camp in Kenya where they had been for about 5 years after fleeing Ethiopia. They are doing very well and are a delight to spend time with.

We still have some funds on hand, and are wondering about applying for a 6<sup>th</sup> family. To do that, we need new people to get involved on the front lines. People from all of our churches have been helping the families already brought, and in many cases continue to be involved as friends. Those who have been actively involved on a weekly basis over the past year – helping with shopping, medical appointments, driving, etc. and especially the "prime contacts" who are the people the family could call when they need some help – now need a breather!

The committee will be meeting September 12 to consider what to do. Please give us your prayerful consideration. Although I am away in September, I will have email access. Dave Whitfield is also active on the committee and could answer questions.

This is certainly a way in which we respond to Jesus's call on us to welcome the stranger in our midst.

I love the prayer we use at the beginning of each meeting – it is the best way I can think to end this message to St Johns:

### A Moment for Grace - a prayer for refugees

God of our Wandering Ancestors,

Long have we known that your heart is with the refugee:

That you were born into time

In a family of refugees fleeing violence in their homeland,

Who then gathered up their hungry child and fled into alien country.

Their cry, your cry, resounds through the ages: "Will you let me in?"

Give us hearts that break open

When our brothers and sisters turn to us with that same cry.

Then surely all these things will follow:

Ears will no longer turn deaf to their voices.

Eyes will see a moment for grace instead of a threat.

Tongues will not be silenced but will instead advocate.

And hands will reach out—working for peace in their homeland,

working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven.

Lord, protect all refugees in their travels.

May they find a friend in me

And so make me worthy

Of the refuge I have found in you. Amen

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## The pictures tell the story: New roofs take shape











