



# The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener ON EAGLE'S WINGS

January 27, 2019

Available online at [StJohn316.com/OEW](http://StJohn316.com/OEW)

## Deanery of Waterloo Refugee Report

*David Whitfield*

Since December of 2015 parishioners of the 13 churches in the Deanery have been involved with financially sponsoring three refugee families and assisting two other refugee families. We have financially sponsored two families from Syria and one from Ethiopia (who lived for four years in a refugee camp in Kenya before coming to Kitchener). We have also assisted two other Syrian refugee families who settled into KW. The Refugee Committee is made up of about 25 volunteers who with other volunteers from our churches take on an assortment of duties such as: finding accommodation, furnishing the accommodations, stocking the apartments with food and supplies, finding doctors and dentists, helping with grocery shopping, getting the children registered in schools and other programmes and a group of volunteers who drive the families to school and appointments and where they need to go on a daily, weekly basis. We also have three volunteers from our churches who act as primary contacts for each of our sponsored families for the year of sponsorship. Our committee members and volunteers are simply there for the families.

Since 2015 the parishioners of our 13 churches have contributed the generous amount of \$87,000 for our families. This includes the \$5,000 that was raised by Simon Guthrie at our church for Simon's Ride. We have also received a grant of \$8,618 for dental needs for our families.

Our Committee is going to sponsor another family. We are expecting our new family will be arriving in August. We are estimating that it will cost approximately \$20,000 to support our new family plus an amount for basic dental care expenses. Presently, we have approximately \$7,000 remaining in our fund and a generous parishioner at one of our churches has pledged \$5,000. We are \$8,000.00 short of our needs.

Stay tuned for news about how St. John's can help this family.

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## From a Different Perspective

*Elaine Duncanson*

Have you tried looking at things from another direction? Or upside down? Sometimes you see the oddest things. Or you see something quite new. At times the problem is words. Some are neutral, some derogatory and some are inflammatory. Perhaps the ideas are not understood in the same way by both sides.

I often think of Miller's law which says that every statement is a true statement but sometimes we must discover what it is true of. Politicians give us prime examples to work on. If only they would "walk a mile in the other person's moccasins" they would discover more common ground and make less fuss.

Several years ago in the Writing Group in Fredericton, I presented a snippet from the newspaper which told of an incident where one of Princess Anne's dogs bit one of the Queen's dogs. Then each member of the group rewrote the story from the point of view of one character involved.

The big dog thought the little one was too pampered, the Queen and the Princess knew who was right and who was wrong, Prince Phillip had an opinion, the footman soothed the injured dog and cleaned the wound but felt it was not his place to

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

# A story of grief, loss and a gift of life

Barbara Shaw

My sister has a long-time friend. This is an account of what happened to the friend's daughter and her family, last October.

This family had two boys, ages four and two. Cooper was age two. The mother was expecting a baby in November and it was to be a girl. Suddenly, Cooper became very ill around the middle of October. The parents took him to emergency at the Belleville Hospital. He was sent home as they could not discover what was wrong with him. The next day the parents took Cooper to the Children's Hospital in Ottawa. There he underwent several tests after which they discovered that the boy's kidneys had failed. They did not know what had caused this as he was always a very healthy, happy child.

On October 22, 2018, the mother was with her son lying on his bed in the hospital room.

They were alone at the time. The mother said to Cooper; "You are going to get better and come home with me and daddy."

Cooper placed his small hand on his mother's cheek and said; "No mommy, not this time."

"There is a man in the room."

Cooper died that day. Despite their overwhelming sorrow the parents donated their son's heart and lungs. What a wonderful gift for the parents of the 3 children who may have died without the organs.

On October 24<sup>th</sup>, the mother was induced and the family now has a healthy baby daughter.

"Be Not afraid, I go before you, always."

"Come follow Me and I will give you rest."

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## World Day of Prayer

Enid Emery

The service for the World Day of Prayer will take place at St. John the Evangelist church on Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 11.00am. It will be followed by a light lunch in the Upper Parish Hall.

St John's is the host church for the downtown churches in 2019.

This year the service has been written by the women of Slovenia.

All are welcome.

### What is World Day of Prayer?

In 1918 some ladies in Saskatchewan came together to found *The Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada*. This is a national ecumenical organization which encourages Christian women to work together in prayer and action. Today's mission for WI-CC is to empower all Christians to pursue justice, peace and reconciliation by prayer and action. World Day of Prayer grew from this council and now takes place in 170 countries around the world. Because of the political situation in Europe, Slovenia was only able to hold their first services in 2000.

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comment, and the reporter who wrote this up just rolled his eyes. The group had a merry discussion about how the story changes when told from a different perspective.

When we were away in Ireland we had a different view of the world. The Irish are proud of their country and their products but in a quiet, pleasant way. The milk carton assured us that the special weather helped produce the finest milk. The cheese had exceptional flavour and the slip from the grocery store indicated how many Irish products I had bought.

In Fredericton I was a volunteer usher at The Playhouse. One time I agreed to usher for the Christmas service of a community church on December 23<sup>rd</sup>. Children dressed in their best filed through the lobby followed by parents and grandparents. I knew no one in the crowd and had never been to their kind of service before.

The people were attentive as it began. After a while I noticed that participation in the singing was minimal. Interest revived when a group of children came on stage to sing. When they left, interest flagged again. Then another group of children came on to give the adults a reason to pay attention.

Readings and the pastor's message filled in more time. The choir, made up of young people and some adults, sang quite a few times. During this I had ample opportunity to reflect upon the service I would be attending the following evening. I began to feel disappointed that so many people seated there would have nothing more than this for Christmas.

In the lobby they had seemed happy and glad to see each other. But as I looked over the full rows I saw some snoozing, some looking bored, and some were looking for friends or relatives. Few seemed to be mentally participating.

Days later I was asked by a choral conductor what I had thought of it. One of her students had described it in teenage superlatives and exclamation points. I glanced about to be sure no one could overhear my response. I replied that it sounded as if the choir sang fifty-seven verses of the same song – all Fast and Loud. She understood what I meant.

I had a Christmas service with moments of quiet for reflection, time for joyous, hearty singing, readings that were familiar and a message that brought together the words and music with insights to lighten my darkness. As I looked from the choir stalls, I could see people engaged with the service as it progressed.

Not everyone would be happy with Anglican services since we are expected to make responses, change position if we are able, and sing. Some would not be comfortable with moments of silence or quiet music to emphasize readings. For them, a community church that offers Fast and Loud may be all they want. Minimal response required.

The young chorister had worked with a group of friends to learn the music and being on that stage is definitely a thrill. It is a pity her enthusiasm did not reach the audience and motivate them to respond.

## Last chance!

The ACW has a few 2019 calendars left. If you'd like one, please talk to Gillian Westwood or Sarah Guthrie.



# Nurses Notes

Elsie Millerd, Parish Nurse

## Healing Ministry of the Church

What, may you ask, does healing and health have to do with the church? After all, we have sophisticated medical centres which provide health care. Are we not duplicating services by having a healing ministry in our church?

Society and medical health centres now tend to consider people healthy if they do not have a physical illness. Similarly, they are considered unhealthy if they have some physical disability. Yet, the original English word "health" meant wholeness, a concept which incorporates the fullness of human experience (body, mind, spirit, relationships, environment). In the Hebrew scriptures we find this concept of wholeness in the word *shalom* which is translated in English as wholeness or salvation. Biblical illness is any disruption (dis-ease) in this wholeness: a physical ailment such as blindness, skin disease or fever, an emotional illness such as anxiety or loneliness, or a spiritual ailment such as shame or guilt. Many passages help us to understand that these illnesses can be interrelated. See Luke 5: 17 – 20 where Jesus says to the paralyzed man "Your sins are forgiven." Health in the understanding of *shalom* is not so much about a "cure" but about the person finding a sense of wholeness or well-being. It is "*dwelling at peace and in harmony in all relationships: within oneself, with God, with other people and with the created natural world.*" (Quoted by Miller, 2004, from Evans & Small, 1989 and Tubesing & Tubesing, 1983).

In Luke's gospel we read that Jesus begins his ministry by announcing that he has come to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, and to let the oppressed go free (Luke 4: 18). Jesus' ministry is one of salvation/*shalom*, a healing ministry of body, mind, spirit and relationships. We, as the Church, are called into this ministry.

During the induction service of our new rector, Preston Parsons, he was presented with signs of ministry. One of these signs was a little jar of oil. As presenters we said "Use this oil and be among us as a healer and reconciler." The priest's response is "May I be an instrument of God's peace." Alongside our priest we, too, can be instruments of peace to the people in our midst. Through prayer, pardon and presence we provide a way to *shalom*.

In what ways do you yearn for this peace/*shalom* in your life? What would *shalom*/wholeness/well-being look like in our church? At every service we have an opportunity to experience the elements of prayer, pardon and presence and share them with each other. At the 10 am service on Sundays there is an opportunity for individual presence and prayers for physical, mental, spiritual or relational healing for oneself or others. This is provided in a quiet and confidential manner in the back left corner of the church after you have shared the Sacrament of the Eucharist. If you are not taking part in this ministry yourself, you can quietly pray for those who are. We can also have the whole congregation pray for specific needs through the prayer list which is found in our bulletin each Sunday. A book to record these needs, with permission from the one for whom the request is made, can be found on the prayer desk in that quiet prayer corner.

It is our faith in Jesus as our healer which makes the healing ministry an integral part of our communal life in the church. It may require a bit of a cultural shift for some of us to feel comfortable to bring our health needs to the church as well as to the medical profession. Yet, as we learn to be instruments of peace and wholeness to one another, we may see our ministry of healing bear good fruit not only in our parish but also out into our community and world.

Resource: Miller, Dr. Lynda W. (2004). *Faith and health: A framework for Christian nurses*. Victoria, BC: Trafford. pp.25 – 27.

**Reminder:** If you are hospitalized or have health needs, the only way that the church can know and support you is by letting us know. Please call or have someone call the church office, rector or myself if you would like us to be involved in your healing process through prayer, presence or any other practical ways.