



# The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener

# ON EAGLE'S WINGS

May 28, 2023

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

## A Sabbatical Update

*The Rector*

At our last Vestry meeting, in my charge, I suggested that we should take a sabbatical as a congregation. Our five year Mission and Ministry plan had run its course, but I didn't feel we were quite yet ready to prepare our next one. That, and feeling some pressure around the demands of our building, and sensing that we need a bit of time to imagine what our ministry will be like in our next stage together, I suggested a sabbatical—which would be, for us, a time of rest, research, and imagination.

So your Parish Council, since Vestry, has been taking advantage of this respite from a 5 year plan, and taking 20-30 minutes each month to do some imagining. A number of inter-related questions have arisen. Questions such as: How does our building limit us? What does it offer? How might we engage with the St. John's church community, and the other communities around us, to get a better sense of hopes and dreams for the present and future?

We are now about to embark on some research into our shared life as a church, and the life we share with the other communities around us. This will help us, as a Council and a congregation, to begin to imagine what might next for us. Importantly, this is not simply about a building—but what might be next for us in terms of ministry.

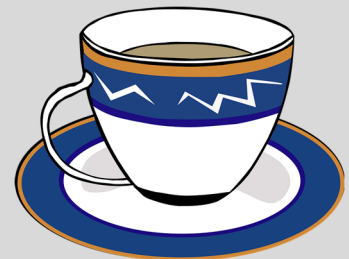
We are quite excited about this, and I hope you are too!

Preston



## Hat/Tea Success

Many thanks to all who made the Hat Auction and Afternoon Tea such a success. So many helped in so many ways raising funds for our outreach and the parish while having fun and fellowship. In addition to the hat auction profits of \$1500, the afternoon tea ticket sales together with additional



donations and after expenses realized a profit of \$1884.

The total of \$3384 will be distributed at the ACW June meeting.

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The next issue of On Eagle's  
Wings will be available on  
June 18th, 2023.

# Sunday Quiz

## *Altar Guild*

When we come to St John's on Sunday to worship, we enter a peaceful sanctuary prepared beautifully for us.

From the flowers on the Altar, the candles glowing and the vessels gleaming, all ready to serve us communion

Everything ready and waiting for morning service to begin.

This does not happen without a great deal of preparation by the ladies of the Altar Guild.

My question is this, How many of you know what the Altar Guild does behind the scenes to make our church the beautiful place it is?

Who prepares the Linens that are used: washing & ironing to keep them clean & fresh

Who Cleans & polishes the vessels that are used every week?

Who prepares the Church for baptisms, Weddings & Funerals?

Who cleans the brass?

Who decorates the church for all major festivals?

Who makes sure the hangings of different colours match the change of the seasons of the church calendar ?

If you answered the Altar Guild you are correct!

These are the unsung faithful members that work diligently to take care of so many things to prepare our church for worship.

The Team consists of Glady O'Hara (Convener), Jennifer Uttley, Mindy Hurley, Maxine Lindsay ,Nancy Chittick, Carol McNamee ,Pat Perron, Judy Shantz & Enid Emery (flower convener who orders the beautiful flowers for the altar and gives us the opportunity to place flowers in memory of our loved ones)

These ladies could use some more volunteers to help & learn about the duties that are needed to maintain our church.

Please give that some thought & if you see any of the team give them a thank-you for a job well done.

## National Indigenous Peoples' Day, June 21

*Henriette Thompson*

National Indigenous Peoples' Day is celebrated annually on June 21. This day was proclaimed in 1996 to be a national day to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

The Anglican Church of Canada commended June 21 (or the nearest Sunday) in 1971 to all dioceses and parishes as a "National Indigenous Day of Prayer." At St. John's we recognize this important date in the Prayers of the People.

St John the Evangelist church is on the Haldimand Tract (1784), land of the Six Nations of the Grand River and traditional territory of the Neutral, Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples.

We offer this [collect of the day](#) with all those praying across Turtle Island –

"Creator God, from you every family in heaven and earth takes its name.

You have rooted and grounded us in your covenant love, and empowered us by your Spirit to speak the truth in love, and to walk in your way towards justice and wholeness.

Mercifully grant that your people, journeying together in partnership, may be strengthened and guided to help one another to grow into the full stature of Christ, who is our light and our life. Amen."

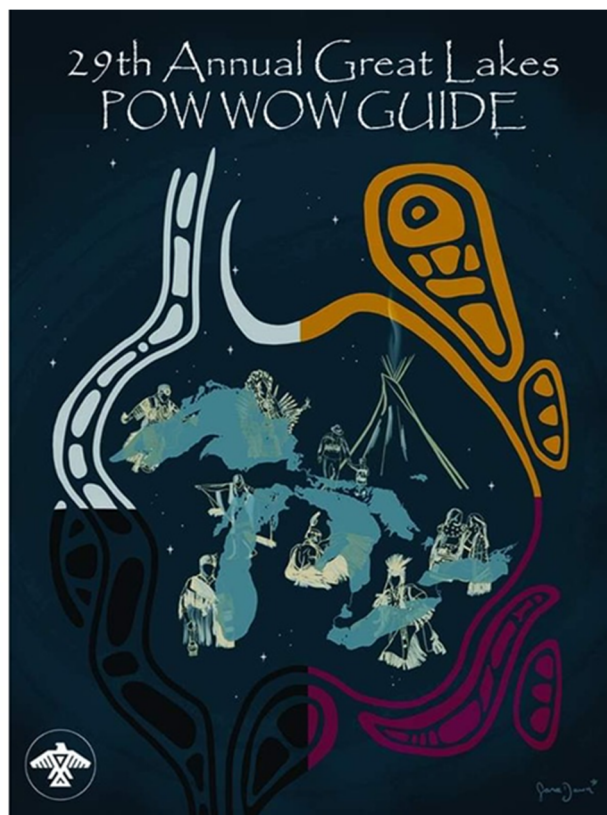
### **"Come and see, listen and learn"**

As you travel around Ontario this summer, you can use the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Great Lakes (Anishnabek) Powwow Guide to attend these celebratory gatherings. Dates and information are on pages 34--39 .

The 43rd annual Grand River (Haudenosaunee) Champion of Champions Powwow is planned for July 21 to 23 at the Ohsweken Speedway at Six Nations.

Listen to songs sung for generations, hear the beat of the drums, appreciate the skilful dancers, observe ceremonies, and enjoy the coming together of all nations in a good way. First time Powwow visitor? See page 33 for a glossary and tips on etiquette.

<https://www.anishnabek.ca/Flipbooks/PW2023.html?fbclid=IwAR1ZdcaILZJjBpBHVN2i65XbNvO1vSPf3k0M06z2XW4DzUj4Sbw9NmAeRCI>



## A Mother's Day Parable

*Anne Hopewell*

In a mother's womb were two babies. One asked the other:

"Do you believe in life after delivery?" The other replied, "Why, of course. There has to be something after delivery. Maybe we are here to prepare ourselves for what we will be later."

"Nonsense," said the first. "There is no life after delivery. What kind of life would that be?"

The second said, "I don't know, but there will be more light than here. Maybe we will walk with our legs and eat from our mouths. Maybe we will have other senses that we can't understand now."

The first replied, "That is absurd. Walking is impossible. And eating with our mouths? Ridiculous! The umbilical cord supplies nutrition and everything we need. But the umbilical cord is so short. Life after delivery is to be logically excluded."

The second insisted, "Well I think there is something and maybe it's different than it is here. Maybe we won't need this physical cord anymore."

The first replied, "Nonsense. And moreover, if there is life, then why has no one ever come back from there? Delivery is the end of life, and in the after-delivery, there is nothing but darkness and silence and oblivion. It takes us nowhere."

"Well, I don't know," said the second, "but certainly we will meet Mother and she will take care of us."

The first replied, "Mother? You actually believe in Mother? That's laughable. If Mother exists then where is She now?"

The second said, "She is all around us. We are surrounded by her. We are of Her. It is in Her that we live. Without Her, this world would not and could not exist."

Said the first: "Well I don't see Her, so it is only logical that She doesn't exist."

To which the second replied, "Sometimes, when you're in silence and you focus and listen, you can perceive Her presence, and you can hear Her loving voice, calling down from above."

– Parable from *Your Sacred Self* by Dr. Wayne Dyer

## Assembly 2023

*The Reverend Dr. Eileen Scully*

Normally every three years the national governance structure – the General Synod - of our church meets to conduct business to discern national leadership direction and to take care of the things that only that national structure can do. For roughly a week, beginning June 27, representatives of the Dioceses of The Anglican Church of Canada and of the Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada will gather in Calgary to meet for the second time ever in a national Assembly of our two churches.

In some ways, a General Synod is not unlike our annual parish vestry meeting. Committees that have been tasked to do things from maintenance to mission prepare and circulate their reports to all those who will be eligible to vote, and bring notices of motions for decisions that they will ask the General Synod to make. Members of synod pray together, holding the whole of the deliberations within a context of worship, have meals together, study, learn from each other in discussions, deliberate, make decisions, and celebrate major events.

All of the materials for this upcoming Assembly – both the preparatory materials for the Lutherans as well as for the Anglicans – is available online at <https://www.anglicanlutheran.ca/assembly/>. There you can access background information about what the gathering is, as well as all of the Reports and proposed Resolutions. Once the event begins, you will also see links there for daily livestream from the ‘floor’ and additional recordings that will be archived.

The former Primate, Fred Hiltz, was fond of reminding us that the General Synod wasn’t created for the sake of bureaucratic expediency or to manage the pension fund; it was created by the four Ecclesiastical Provinces (Rupert’s Land, Canada, Ontario, BC-Yukon) it was explicitly for the purposes of sharing resources across the church in order to further the mission of God and the spread of the Gospel in Canada. You can read about the business of General Synod in the “Convening Circular” following the link given above. Some items on the agenda might be of interest to folks at St. John’s.

Our Churches have for decades been strong in solidarity with Palestinian Christians and faithful in support of their witness and ministries in a war zone. There will be a major call for further support to be presented, in a resolution being put to both Churches in Assembly. These are difficult things to hold in balance with our commitments to stand against anti-Judaism in theology and anti-semitism in behaviour. On the one hand we recognize the Jewish people as the People of God’s Covenant and deplore antisemitism in all its forms. This General Synod will also see ‘second reading’ of a prayer for repentance on our part for our attitudes and actions of the past, and for reconciliation with the Jewish people, standing against ‘supersessionism’ (the false Christian argument that Christianity supplants, or replaces, Judaism as a superior revelation and essentially that God’s covenant with them basically no longer applies in the order of salvation). But the tensions are real, and lives are at stake. How to hold and bear faithful witness to the suffering of our brothers and sisters in Christ (the Anglican hospital in Ramallah and other agencies of the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East have been shelled by Israeli forces repeatedly, as just one example), speaking truth critical of the State of Israel whilst keeping from falling over into anti-semitic or anti-Judaic attitude is hard. This is one item on the agenda for our two churches to learn more about, and to hear presentations on, and then deliberate and vote.

Of the things that fall within the national purview on a regular basis are our formal ecumenical relationships with other churches. As we celebrate 22 years of full communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada – a

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relationship that has fed us deeply here at SJE – both of our churches together are preparing to welcome a third member to that life of ministry interchangeability and common witness: Moravian Church Canada. The roots of the Moravian Church are in Central Europe – truly a sister church whose life and witness Anglicans and Lutherans are able to recognize as true proclamation of the Gospel and proper administration of the sacraments with ministers in whom we see enough of ourselves to be able to say: we're close family.

Of particular importance is the need to support local collaborative efforts in mission in which Anglicans might work together ecumenically, and a growing number of Ecumenical Shared Ministries (local congregations made up of several denominations, and officially recognized by each denomination). I recommend that you read the Report of the Anglican Mennonite Dialogue – here in Waterloo County we're in company with a couple of other regions in Canada where Anglicans are vastly outnumbered by Mennonites and most of us are in some sort of friendly relationship with Mennonite neighbours, co-workers, and neighbours.

The Assembly is gathering under the theme "Let there be greening", with images from the Book of Revelation calling us to care for creation and for the flourishing of justice in the land. There are several proposed resolutions relating to the climate crisis, and others around dismantling racism and challenging us to live better our baptismal promises with respect to the dignity of every human being.

Since 2001, the growing, self-determining Indigenous Anglican Church has been present within General Synod with increasing strength and beauty. Major portions of the agenda will be given over to the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) for presentations about the issues and realities on the ground in First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities, about the ministries happening in those communities, and the common life they are building as Indigenous people from Nations as different from one another as Mohawk and Innu, Salish and Cree, work together for the Gospel. Bishop Chris Harper will be installed formally as National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop.

There are also a number of liturgical items coming to General Synod. There has been need for a pastorally sensitive rite for deconsecrating parish churches, and so that's one new text; we're proposing some longstanding ecumenically agreed texts that we should have adopted along with the Book of Alternative Services (but they came out just after we published the BAS). A creative and courageous bit of work from the past three years, *Pastoral Rites for Journeys of Gender Transition and Affirmation* will be brought for authorization. These are liturgical resources developed under the guidance of a group of Anglicans, clergy and laypeople, who are transgender and gender non-binary. The Anglican Church of Canada has since the mid-1990s affirmed, nationally, the rights of "LGBTQ" (the original acronym from those days) people in the life of the church, and this is one way of us working out what it means to actually be pastorally supportive.

There are lots of things that we don't yet know about the agenda, in terms of which items will be debated when. Though there is a broad brush strokes agenda set out for the whole of the gathering, it will be necessary to check the "Orders of the Day" issued each morning to see what's coming up on the floor for presentation, discussion, and debate.

Please pray for the Huron delegates to Assembly/General Synod. Former Primate Michael Peers used to be fond of reminding people in his opening remarks at a General Synod, "you came as delegates; you are no longer *delegates from* – you are *members of This General Synod* and you are here not for the particular interests of your diocese but for the good of the whole church." May they be filled by God by what they need to care for and to tend to the good of our whole church in all its diversity and in its struggles to preach the gospel and to witness to God's grace and justice. And if you have any questions about Assembly or General Synod, I'm happy to have conversation!