



# The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener

# ON EAGLE'S WINGS

September 17, 2023

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

## From Cell to Cathedral: Julian of Norwich and Ecumenical Dialogue

*The Rev'd Canon Dr Preston Parsons*

It's not every day that you get a letter from the General Secretary of the Anglican Communion. Well, I shouldn't speak for everyone. It's not every day *I* get a letter from the General Secretary of the Anglican Communion. In fact, the letter I received about three years ago now was the first, and only, letter I've received from that particular office.

According to the opaque, arcane, obscure and mysterious inner workings of the Anglican Communion, the letter invited me to sit on what would become the International Pentecostal-Anglican Commission (IPAC), an ecumenical dialogue group where Anglicans from all over the world would meet with Pentecostals from all over the world to work out, over five years, a shared statement about where we find agreement, disagreement, and what we can share with one another.

One of the benefits of being on such an international commission is that you get to travel to exotic places. Last year, for our first meeting, we went to South Dakota—perhaps exotic for some, but not for a Winnipegger! This year, though, was a bit more exotic, especially for the Pentecostals. This year we would meet in Canterbury.

And so, taking advantage of the flight being covered by the Anglican Communion Office, I went over early to take a week of study leave in Cambridge and Norwich. I continued my reflection and writing on repentance, and began afresh some reflection and writing on English mystic and spiritual writer Julian of Norwich. It was quite something to read Julian, in her original Middle English, in a retreat house just feet away from where she lived and wrote. Reading her in her own words was illuminating! Middle English looks a lot like our English, but different enough that I couldn't rely so easily on my own thoughts and ideas. To also spend some time in her cell, where she wrote and offered spiritual council to pilgrims, was deeply moving.



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The next issue of On Eagle's  
Wings will be available on  
October 19th, 2023.

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After that rather intense week of writing and reflection, I made my way to Canterbury for the IPAC meetings. This was intense as well, but in a different way. Ecumenical dialogue means listening to people who may speak in ways that are very similar to your own, but on closer attention, the meanings of words can be very different. Other times, you simply don't understand what people are on about. And other times, especially after listening closely, you can begin to plumb the depths of a shared faith. In fact, listening to ecumenical dialogue partners is a lot like reading Julian of Norwich in her own Middle English. Sometimes you think you understand when you don't, other times you are baffled by the language, and on some deeply moving occasions you find someone expressing for you something you couldn't express for yourself.

Last year, a number of us were paired off to work on a particular topic together. So for the past twelve months, I have been meeting regularly with Pentecostal theologian Glenn Balfour and talking about sacraments, sacramentality, and holiness. This led to a presentation by each of us, on that topic, from our different perspectives. Others did the same, and the discussions that arose from our presentations will lead to a shared statement about our work so far (I've been tasked, this year, to work with Jacqui Grey, a Pentecostal Biblical scholar, to prepared this shared statement). Year after year, until year five, we will repeat that process, until we have a 40-50 page document that speaks to our convergences, divergences, areas of agreement, and what we can receive from one another. This will be published by the Anglican Communion Office, and shared by Pentecostals in their worldwide networks as well.

I am very glad for the support that you've given me—along with the support of Bishop Todd and the National Office as well—to be part of this project. It is challenging, but also fruitful, and not just for the Anglican Communion Office. My ministry here is benefitting from this work. I hope with confidence that it will also benefit others in both worldwide Pentecostal and worldwide Anglican networks when the work comes to conclusion.

## Bales

*Rosemary Cliff*

We are again looking for donations of gently used (**men's only**) warmer/autumn clothing for the migrant workers in the Long Point area. We need hoodies/shirts/sweaters/pants and warm jackets. In lieu of clothing monetary donations may be made by cheque payable to

**The Church of St. John the Evangelist, ACW** with 'bales' written on the memo line. A tax receipt will be issued for donations of \$20/more. These can be left in the collection plates. Clothing etc. should be left in the bins in the Narthex or the gym. Last day for donations is Sunday, October 1. If you have any questions please contact Rosemary Cliff – [cliff.rosemary@yahoo.com](mailto:cliff.rosemary@yahoo.com).



# ***Building, Celebrating, and Strengthening Our Parish Community in A Season of Growth and Change Stewardship and Discipleship, 2023-2024***

*Dear St. John's Parishioners —*

Each fall, our Stewardship Working Group invites our whole parish community to spend a few weeks considering our response to the call of discipleship in Christ, especially as it relates to our life together as the people of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener. This year, we have set aside September 24 and October 1, October 8, and October 15 to reflect on the grace of Christian community as we experience it here at St. John's.

*As God's stewards, we are called to tend and care for our community of faith.*

*As disciples of Jesus, we are called to extend the blessing of Christian community  
for all who join in the work and worship of this parish  
and all who hunger for love, justice, and mercy in their lives.*

## ***1. Building and Celebrating Our Parish Community***

We are a growing community, a people who are growing spiritually, growing in number, growing in energy and commitment, and growing with a diversity of ages and backgrounds that reflect the wonder and gifts of the whole people of God.

To help build our community as it grows, we invite you to a special ***Celebrating Community Lunch***, following worship, on ***Sunday, October 1***. Bring your new name tags or make a temporary name tag, and over a light lunch enjoy the company of people you know and people you are meeting for the first time. We'll also have fun together as we mix and become better acquainted with people in our church community and hear their stories.

## ***2. Building and Strengthening Our Parish Community***

Faithful discipleship and the wise stewardship of our gifts are important threads in the fabric of Christian community. Neither of these things is in short supply at St. John's: both come about as the living Word of God takes root in our hearts and calls forth a gracious response.

If we are new to the Christian faith, seeking the grace of Holy Baptism can be our gracious response. It is in Holy Baptism that we are named disciples of Jesus and servants of the gospel.

*Our annual stewardship program provides an opportunity to affirm our call in Holy Baptism through financial support of our parish mission and ministry  
and through our participation in the many ministries we undertake as a parish.*

And so, throughout the four Sundays of this year's stewardship program —

- we'll reflect on our life together as disciples and stewards,
- we'll learn about our many ministries and how they bless so many, and
- we'll consider our gifts, including the gift of supporting this community financially, as expressions of faithful discipleship and wise stewardship.

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### 3. *A Season of Growth and Change*

The years 2020-2023 have been a season of growth and change for St. John's. Our love and care for all people have opened many doors in many ways. We have new people in the congregation, new programs and projects, new leaders, new partnerships, and a deepening sense of who we are as a faith community in downtown Kitchener. "Where might the Holy One be leading us?" we ask with faith-filled anticipation.

### 4. *Our Stewardship Working Group Invites You...*

...to journey together over the next four weeks as we find ourselves and lose ourselves in discovering anew the grace of Christian community here at St. John's. We invite you to prayerfully consider the love you hold for this community and God's love in Christ Jesus as it is proclaimed through the mission and ministry of this community. And we invite you to respond through your participation in and support of this community as faithful disciples and wise stewards.

Yours in Christ,

St. John's Stewardship Working Group, 2023

The Rev'd James Brown, John House, Karen MacLeod,  
Marianne Mellinger, The Rev'd Canon Dr. Preston Parsons

## Memorial Garden Update

*Laura Doric, Jocelyn Truscott, Ann Coughlin, Trustees*

After a few challenging years during which we were unable to find anyone willing to prune hedges and trees, we have finally had success. Dan Radoslav (Woodside Landscaping and Renovation) took on the replanting of the cross border hedges and has installed drip lines throughout the garden so that we can water that area effectively with little water loss to evaporation. Last year the heat was the reason that all our gardens were stressed – even with frequent watering. This year (August) the lack of heat and sun, and the abundance of rain, was stressful. Such is the challenge of a garden. Hopefully, the lower hedges and watering system will allow sunlight, warmth, and water to give the plantings their best chance to grow well and look beautiful in this special place.

Dan has now been retained to maintain the hedges and bushes in the whole Memorial Garden; we are so thankful for that.

Last weekend, we planted fall garden mums to give it a beautiful new look for the next few weeks. (Special thanks to Beatrice Orchard for joining in that effort!) As in the past couple of years, we shall plant a few more bulbs to augment the ones that are still buried, and which have been multiplying well!) so that we will look forward to a lovely display in the spring.

You will also notice that we have been working on the perimeter gardens inside the larger hedge, adding some rose bushes and lavender this year.



## So What's Up with the Bulletin?

*The Rev'd Cannon Dr Preston Parsons*

Over the past number of seasons—pre-COVID, COVID, and now post-COVID—the bulletin has seen a number of changes. All those changes have been according to circumstances, each season bringing its own demands and necessary solutions.

Beginning with COVID, and now post-COVID, the bulletin has become more and more an Order of Service than a bulletin, reflecting the diversity of faithfulness we find at St. John's in 2023. And so, considering the ways we are growing in faith in the present, what you hold in your hands each Sunday does look quite different than it did four years ago. Because it has become so different, I thought I might take a moment to explain the principles and the constraints that have led us where we are now.

The first principle has to do with Anglican Book Juggling—and the intention for there to be as little Anglican Book Juggling as possible. So what you find now, is that you (usually) have all the speaking parts you need in the Order of Service. This means that you should have no need (for the most part) to open the green Book of Alternative Services most Sundays. All you need for the liturgy is found in the Order of Service and one or two hymnals.

There are two reasons for no longer expecting you to open the BAS. The first is that we actually have many more options for the liturgy than are in the BAS. Since its printing in 1987, lots of additional liturgical supplements have been approved by the General Synod or by the bishop. Printing the Order of Service in the way we do allows us to do more than the BAS on its own would allow.

The second reason for minimizing Anglican Book Juggling is that it makes it easier for newcomers to St. John's, newcomers to Anglicanism, or newcomers to Christianity to follow along. Though there will always be some liturgical learning for newcomers, the intention is that our Order of Service makes that learning as straightforward as possible. This is one way that we can extend our hospitality beyond coffee hour and into the ways we worship.

An important constraint, considering the intention to open liturgical options and to increase the Order of Service's ease of use, is that we also want to keep paper use to a minimum. If we were to print all the parts we hear in the liturgy—perhaps the whole Eucharistic Prayer, or to print all the Scripture readings\*—we would end up making the Order of Service so long that we would have to print more pages than we do now. Paper is a highly renewable resource, but we still don't want to use more than we need, and so we do our best to keep the Order of Service and announcements portion to three folded pages.

Each of these principles and constraints are ways of being faithful, and the Order of Service is a reflection of the diversity of faithfulness in our community. Some of us would want all things printed in the Order of Service, even if this would mean using more paper, because it would make things that much easier for the newcomer; some of us might not like liturgical revision at all, and would want to stick with the BAS only (while some might like us to throw the BAS away entirely!); some of us would want us to reduce our paper use almost completely. In a community of varied concerns, though, we balance these concerns as best we can.

The Order of Service, in this sense, is much more than a liturgical aid. It is an example of the way a diverse community can find a way forward in faith, keeping ourselves open to liturgical revision, open to liturgical hospitality, and open to environmental responsibility. By balancing all these faithful concerns, we are both freed, and constrained,

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by the faithfulness of others in our community.

\* An additional note: one of the ways a community is faithful is through making adaptations for others, as needed. For this reason you should find, if you need them, a small number of copies of the readings, and some large print orders of service, by the Duke Street entrance or in the narthex.

## Deanery Refugee Committee Update

*Ann Coughlin*

Many thanks to all who have contributed from all of our churches to the spring/summer fundraising. St John's has contributed the \$1000 budgeted for Deanery projects, and has raised an additional amount of over \$2,900! We have achieved the goal of having the funds that will enable us to meet the needs of our family for their first year in Canada. As you know, although costs for housing, groceries and other basic needs have risen substantially in the past few years, the level of support (similar to Ontario Works) has not increased since 2018. Then, the cost to support a family of four was about \$24,000. Now it is between \$40,000 and \$45,000.

In the prayer for refugees which we use at the beginning of every meeting, and which I shared in a previous OEW, there is a line that says **"hands will reach out ...working for justice in the lands where they seek safe haven."** Generosity, sharing our monetary resources to secure their needs, is one way we do this.

Everyone is happily back in school. The summer was full of activity: they used the YMCA 3 month free membership for the children to take swimming lessons and to participate in a one day a week day camp – both very much enjoyed. As well, the family spent many hours bicycling – all four bikes being donated by people from our churches. They are very involved with their own Eritrean church community, having made friends and feeling "at home" in their new home, Canada. They have become quite adept in using the transit system to get where they want to go and Binyam is working hard preparing to take his drivers' test, knowing that a license will be a skill that he could use for work. Although there were no formal English classes during the summer, they found and used an on-line English "school" specifically for Tigrinya speakers, proudly showing Jane Townshend and I how it worked. They are a lovely family, hard working, hopeful, and so very thankful to all of us, their Christian brothers and sisters, for welcoming them to Canada.

## Some observations on Musical Communion

*Bruce Gremo*

A few months back when I performed a movement from the Claude Bolling Suite for Flute and Jazz Piano Trio with music director Angus Sinclair and bassist Bruce McGillivray, someone asked - with welcome curiosity - "Is this the appropriate music for a service prelude?" I answered something like; "Whatever one may mean and whom ever one might refer to by communing, in a church service it is likely to be a form of 'emotional knowing. Music - with text or without, and perhaps especially without - warms up the 'heart,' readies one for empathy, removes whatever stress one came into the church sanctuary with, awakens curiosity through wonder, *and a warmed heart makes the mind more receptive.* If this has happened, then the music has worked and is certainly, appropriate."

Communion. I mean musical communion. What is that? I believe one knows divinity through the heart, more so than through reason. Music facilitates this. Musical communion is the sharing of this emotional knowledge; communing with others ones communing with a greater living presence.

In this way music, can make many places into a sanctuary; where such musical communion happens, a sanctuary of sorts is created. In a church, all the better as the space already resonates from its history of listening, meditating and praying. It is common practice that music is a prelude for whatever else follows in a service. Musical performance at the outset 'warms and prepares the heart.'

Does every musical content warm and prepare the heart? Can any musical genre suffice? Whatever the musical narrative - meditative drone, exploration through variation, a drama with or without resolution, dissonance and/or consonance, in principle I would say yes, they all have a place. It is debatable, but I believe our music director Angus would agree, judging by his diverse musical selections. I would pursue this a little further. What counts more than the specific content is the delivery. Well composed music can deliver the goods even with a lack-luster performance. But when such music is delivered through a genuine communion on the part of the performers - with each other, with focused musical intention, with a force of catharsis - not much more can be expected from the musical platform. That is not the only thing that makes a performance optimal. The musicians need the attention of the audience; when the audience contributes their focus, their interest, their thanks, then musicians are propelled and inspired further by this engagement. They play with more intensity. It is a positive feedback loop. If we are in fact surrounded by the Divine, then at some point even the angels pipe in. Revelation? Well, there are heights of musical knowing. But perhaps with greater modesty one might at least say, it is an exercise in generosity of spirit, of immediate emotional knowing and sharing of that knowing. The direct and usually fleeting moments of connection with the divine through the heart do not need explanation. I believe such instances are the basis of faith for most people, the basis for their confidence in a greater presence and purpose. Music helps.

It takes practice. Skill in listening, and also in recognizing what one feels, takes time, repetition, and seems always to have a new horizon. Ever a preparation.

This short letter is an opportunity for me, a musician, to share what I understand about musical knowing and sharing. It happens not only in service preludes; it can happen whenever we are audience members at a concert. Any place which is already a sanctuary is an opportunity in advance. I believe the sanctuary of St. John's is such an opportunity. I anticipate there will be more and more concerts here. When such concert dates appear, I expect with greater frequency, I hope that you will join us, and perhaps help spread the word. Musical communion; one of numerous ways in which St. John's is already active in our community. I am grateful to be a part of it.

## Lu Muoi --- Cam-Ying, born August 15th 1928--- died August 28th 2023

*Enid Emery*

On a cold winter's night in 1980, cars pulled up to St. John the Evangelist Anglican Church in Kitchener and out stepped nine people—six teenagers and three older ladies. These people were part of a family of twelve who had left Viet Nam in the exodus of the 'Boat' people to escape the communists who were fighting for control of the country. It



would be another year before the final three members of the family arrived in Kitchener.

Introductions were made, but the youngest of the ladies said that we were to call her Cam-Ying, not Muoi; this was a pet name for her in her family of eight children we later learned.

St. John's was not alone among the area Churches in sponsoring members of this wave of refugees. For most of the congregations, as with St. John's people, this was the first time we welcomed people who had been driven from their own homes and countries in such numbers.

Cam-Ying was always very appreciative of everything that people did for the family, and she and Lang and Quon were always very quick to express their thanks. Cam-Ying was the only sister who mastered the language, although the two older ladies could understand it with help from ladies from the congregation who went to visit in the afternoons expressly to converse with them.

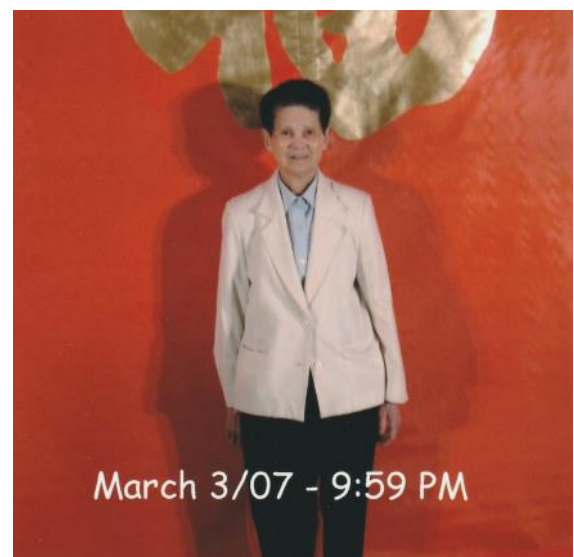
The following is an open letter from Cam-Ying expressing their thanks for being in Canada and for all the people who helped them get settled here.

The following is a letter written by Cam-Ying and found in her papers:

### A LETTER FROM OUR BOAT PEOPLE

My name is Muoi-Lu (Cam Ying). Although I was born in China, I was brought up in Vietnam. I have eight brothers and sisters. One of the reasons why I have never married is because I have always enjoyed the blessings of being in such a large and happy family. I used to live in Vietnam. I had initially planned to leave Vietnam in 1978 but my mother's untimely death put a delay to my departure. A year and a few months later, I left Vietnam with my two sisters, the older one and the one who is crippled.

I used to be a teacher, teaching in a class of seventy to ninety students. Although my schoolwork took up most of my time, I often found time for my students. On my days off I would travel



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with my friends to take pictures. Those days are memorable. When I left Vietnam, I left everything behind, including my close friends and relatives.

Canada is one of the most advanced countries in the World. I know that I will have many opportunities in this new land. Now that I have settled down, I hope to become a constructive force in this country. I hope that the cold Canadian climate will erase all the political and economic unrest which I have left behind.

When I first arrived at Toronto Airport, I received a warm welcome from the charitable people of the Church of St. John The Evangelist. They provided my brother's family with all the necessities. My two sisters and I are sponsored by the Government, but we too have benefited from the kindness and generosity of the congregation, many of whom have become our friends, although there are many more whose names I do not know. All these kind people have been visiting us frequently during our first few months here, when we have felt so lonely. We really appreciate their hospitality and especially all the young folks from the Church.

Our greatest problem has been the language barrier. We thank the Government for their effort to solve this problem. Betty Webber from Manpower has been very helpful to us and I will be eternally grateful to her. I remember how lost and lonely I had felt on my first day at school; my teacher for the beginner's class was Mrs. Velinga. The first time when I entered the classroom, she took my hand and expressed joy at seeing me. As I leave school now, I acknowledge all my teacher's labours. When these teachers stand in front of the blackboard, the chalk powder settles on their hair. In time, the whiteness of their hair will no longer be from the chalk. By then, all their students who hail from countries all over the World will have established their career and they will then acknowledge their gratitude to these teachers, who have devoted so many years to their profession.

The teachers are like gardeners nurturing their plants with love and care and waiting for the day when these plants will bear sweet fruits. I too was a little plant, striving to grow up from the teachers. I have absorbed water and sunshine. For six months, the teachers have given me courage and advice and I have developed many friendships. The little plant has to be moved into another garden. I recall the moment when I had to leave school. I was so sad and when my teacher Mrs. Jackson hugged me, we cried together. Those tears will always be in my heart. Since Thanksgiving is near, I think it is time for me to express my gratitude to all Canadians, all my teachers and all the friends from the Church of St. John's.



## Focus on Truth and Reconciliation

*Henriette Thompson*

Anglicans and Lutherans continue to encourage, indeed urge, members to press ahead in the work toward reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in the church and across the land.

Learn the history of Indigenous peoples in Canada, find resources for study and use, build relationships at the local level, and read about different ways that you can practise reconciliation in worship and by taking action -- <https://www.anglican.ca/resource-category/truth-reconciliation/>

Two upcoming events will soon be publicly commemorated across Canada.

Saturday, September 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation — a day which has also been commemorated as Orange Shirt Day since 2013.

This federal statutory holiday honours the survivors of residential schools and their families and communities. Action 80 of the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission's](#) (TRC) [94 Calls to Action](#) called for this day to "ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process."

On Wednesday, October 4, Sisters in Spirit Vigils will be held across Canada to honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, support grieving families, provide opportunities for healing, and create movements for change.

A few weeks ago on September 5, Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and United church leaders joined the call to search the Winnipeg landfill for the remains of Morgan Harris and Mercedes Myran. Lutheran bishop Susan Johnson said missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls is an issue all of the churches feel strongly about. In life, and now in death, thousands of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two-Spirit people have been denied the dignity and respect that they deserve. The churches wouldn't be holding themselves to reconciliation without speaking out on this issue, she said.

Bishop Susan was accompanied by National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Chris Harper and the Rev. Canon Dr. Murray Still (Peguis First Nation); Presbyterian Moderator, the Rev. Mary Fontaine (Cree); and United Church Moderator, the Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne (Heiltsuk).

## 2024 Church Calendars

*Enid Emery*

There has been a slight delay in printing the Calendars, however I understand they should be available by the end of this month. If you would like to order our e-mail is [davidemery@rogers.com](mailto:davidemery@rogers.com), or telephone me at 519-896-0637, or see me in Coffee Hour. Thank you.

# Senior's Fellowship

*Jennifer Uttley*

Following up after our successful Senior's Eucharist Service and Lunch in June, I distributed a survey asking if there is interest in a fellowship group for seniors. Following the lunch, many had mentioned how great it was to be together.

I received 20 responses to the survey:

- 16 Yes
- 1 Perhaps
- 1 Yes but not once per month
- 1 No but maybe twice per year for Eucharist and shared meal
- 1 No but thanks for asking

For meeting location, most preferred a location that is accessible with parking but 4 preferred St. John's – 2 of those were "Perhaps" and "maybe twice per year" and one was on a Saturday.

For meeting time: Monday 3, Tuesday 1, Wednesday 9, Friday 1, Saturday 2

Those included in Wednesday were flexible T/W/Th so I chose the middle day. One reason was that we have a location that is accessible and has parking and Wednesday works best for them.

St. Columba Church on Lincoln Road has offered their space for us to use. Their office is open on Wednesday so the building will be open and their priest will be there simplifying opening up. We are thankful to have use of a lovely, bright hall with kitchen together with use of their sanctuary. If we want to show videos, the Sanctuary is equipped with a large screen and computer hookup. There is an opportunity for members of St. Columba to join us providing a time for fellowship beyond our small group.

We will meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 1 – 3pm. We hope to have good speakers, videos etc. with particular help for seniors and other activities. Many topics were suggested in the surveys which we will use to plan the program. By far the most were interested in speakers, music, and outings.

Our first gathering is Wednesday October 11<sup>th</sup> for musical entertainment with New Horizons Grand River Band. A member of our parish suggested their concert band and one of our members belongs to the band. They are a group of seniors with previous experience in a high school band or orchestra. They meet weekly to learn and make music together while having fun. Visit their website at <http://grandriver-newhorizonsmusic.org/>

At the first meeting we will also have time to talk about the future plans and will look for feedback. We hope that our group will enjoy the friendship and fellowship of each other and will be happy to welcome new members to our group. Of course, there will be refreshments.

Future thought is needed for how to provide fellowship for those who can't meet during a week day. Their interests include speaker, games, music, outing, and socializing. Please contact me if you might be interested in a social group as a starting place to find out how many might be interested in more.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Uttley by email [acw@stjohn316.com](mailto:acw@stjohn316.com) or phone 519-578-6052 or speak with me during Coffee Hour.

# Weekly PRAYER CONCERNS and PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*André Lavergne.*

Dear friends,

Grace and peace to you.

My name is André Lavergne. I am a retired Lutheran pastor who, together with my wife, Barbara, has made a home in the community of Saint John the Evangelist. For the community of Saint John's, we are both very grateful!

(FYI, I'm the guy who wears suspenders and hangs out in the third pew from the front on the right-hand side. I can often be seen holding a red binder and, occasionally, I get to read or pray or preach. Barbara, for her part, has Roman Catholic roots and sings in the choir.)

As our community emerged from the pandemic, Preston invited me to organize our cadre of readers and intercessors for worship. It has been an unfolding and rewarding effort of growth and development. In the last decade of my formal work life, I came to see my work and ministry as more diaconal than priestly. That is not an unusual eventuality for people who serve in the ecumenical and multi-faith work of national and international church life. So, it seems right, that in retirement, my participation in church life might continue to evolve in this direction. Every few weeks, I circulate an updated ROSTER and ROTA to our Readers and Intercessors who number in the twenties. Every Sunday, they are some of the folks who bring God's word to life and life to God's word.

In general, as people come up for an assignment, I endeavour to reschedule them somewhere down the road such that as one assignment is completed another one is in the works. At the same time, our reading and praying at worship are resilient to the realities of work life and family obligations. All sorts of changes can occur on the fly. Emma, our parish administrator, does a good job of keeping up with these changes from her desk in the church office!

Recently my efforts have moved in a slightly new direction. On an interim basis, I have taken over the *preparation* of the weekly PRAYER CONCERNS, for publication with the *Sunday Worship Leaflet*, and the PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE which our intercessors pray each week. For as long as I've been here, Pastor Paul Kett has been doing this work. Latterly, his health has been precarious, and he and Kathleen have recently relocated from their current digs. We wish them well in transition and look forward to seeing them at worship soon. For the time being, I'm honoured to be continuing this work.

I want to say something about how we construct the PRAYER CONCERNS.

These intentions—they are not complete prayers—are composed of material from four areas. 1. the calendars of the *Anglican (Communion) Cycle of Prayer*, the *Diocese of Huron Chain of Prayer*, and the *Canadian Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer*. 2. Contemporary global, societal and social concerns which include such recent examples as regions of conflict, famine, and weather catastrophe. Each Monday, Henriette Thompson, a member of our Parish Council, provides me with ideas and suggestions regarding these items. She is an expert on such things, and I am grateful for her partnership. 3. The names of people in our parish for whom prayers are needed/requested. Christian names are inserted into the list by Preston and Emma. 4. Timely pieces from a variety of parish and other sources.

When all is said and done, I weave the material together under three broad headings: We pray for *our neighbourhood and community*. We pray for *people and communities beyond our own*. We pray for *people and communities of special concern*. From week to week, some of the material changes while some remains the same.

With respect to the PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, I endeavour to reflect ideas and words born of the readings together with themes and turns of phrase I have captured from the preaching or from some aspect of, or emphasis in, our ministry. If you see me scribbling during the sermon, or making notes during the coffee hour, that's what I'm up to. Let me give you a couple of examples.

A few weeks ago (August 13), Preston preached movingly about a "world enchanted by God". I had never heard those words before. I wrote them down and turned them over in my mind. Thereafter, for a few weeks, I picked up his words in the intercessor's call to prayer at worship. "We live in a world enchanted by God and infused with God's grace."

More recently, these introductory words have changed to "In a wondrous and perilous world infused with God's grace, we are drawn together in the compassion of God." "Grace" has been—indeed, always is—a significant theme in Preston's preaching, but most especially while we've been reading from Paul's Letter to the Church at Rome.

And so, it goes.

One more thing. There is always a little or a lot more that could be included in the weekly PRAYER CONCERNS or the Sunday PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE. Such is the nature of a ministry as vibrant, deeply rooted, and diverse as that of the community of Saint John the Evangelist. Please know that I am always open to ideas and suggestions. I do try to give careful thought and consideration to what I hear.

I also try to have our cadre of readers and intercessors be as broadly representative of our community as possible. If you would care to read or pray or would simply like to talk to me about it, you'll find that I would welcome our conversation.

Thank you for reading this introduction to the *Sunday Worship Leaflet* PRAYER CONCERNS and to the Sunday liturgy's PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE.

All blessings.

