



# The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener

# ON EAGLE'S WINGS

April 21, 2024

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

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## Ministry and Sustainability

*Ken Hull*

The Rector and Wardens have appointed a committee to consider future ministry directions alongside ways of ensuring the congregation's ongoing financial viability, taking into account the benefit and burdens associated with maintaining a large, older building. This new committee is called the Ministry and Sustainability Working Group.

The context for our work is two-fold. First, our five-year Mission and Ministry Plan for the years 2018-2022, which was approved by Vestry in 2018, has now run its course. During that time the plan helped to guide many decisions about our congregational life together. Some recommendations were taken up, some were not, and others lost their relevance during these years of change (including COVID) for St. John's. It seems time once again to consider the direction of our future together.

Second, there are questions about our continuing financial viability as a congregation. We continue to end many fiscal years with a deficit, and we occupy a large, older building. What changes might we need to make our life together at St John's financially sustainable in the coming years?

The tasks of the MSWG are to gather information, consider options, and make recommendations to the Rector and Wardens. As part of that information gathering, we will be coming to the congregation over the coming months to ask about our hopes, dreams, and concerns. We plan to meet with the congregation in smaller groups and to circulate at least one questionnaire. We also plan to communicate regularly with the congregation through Sunday morning announcements, the bulletin, newsletter and *On Eagles' Wings*.

The members of the MSWG are, in alphabetical order:

Casey Howard

Ken Hull, Chair

André Lavergne

Temisa'n Odeka

Dave Sapelak

Claire Smith

Charles Stuart

Henriette Thompson

Please pray for us as we undertake this work on behalf of the entire parish.

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The next issue of *On Eagle's Wings* will be available on  
May 19th, 2024.

## National Red Dress Day – Sunday, May 5

*Henriette Thompson*

May 5 is Red Dress Day, a national day to remember and honour missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and 2SLGBTQQA+ peoples (MMIWG2S+).

Join Anglicans across Turtle Island (aka Canada) on the ongoing journey of listening, truth-telling, repentance and healing with Indigenous Peoples. There is an urgent need to further healing and justice-seeking across the land.

True reconciliation involves right relationships, and right relationships involve getting to know one another, preferably at the local level.

Watch the for information about local May 5 events to remember and honour those whose lives were taken from them. Check [The Healing of the Seven Generations](#) webpage or [Facebook page](#); see also <https://uwaterloo.ca/events/events/red-dress-day> . Or, contact [Henriette.thompson@gmail.com](mailto:Henriette.thompson@gmail.com) closer to the date.



Credit: UWaterloo.

### Interfaith Breakfast

7:00 a.m.- 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at Bingemans

Click on this [Eventbrite Registration Link](#) or visit Erb & Good Family Funeral Home, 171 King St. S, Waterloo to get your tickets

This year's program features a panel of speakers reflecting on **Belonging**.

For more information, contact [InterfaithCommunityBreakfast@gmail.com](mailto:InterfaithCommunityBreakfast@gmail.com)

# Support for a Just Peace in the Middle East

*Alicia Batten*

Several members of St. John's have expressed their horror at the intensified suffering that people in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem have been facing since the attacks of October 7<sup>th</sup>. Many church groups around the world are advocating for a permanent ceasefire and for a just peace for all in Israel and Palestine. If you are interested in learning more or becoming more involved, here are a couple of opportunities.

## 1) Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage: Canadian Churches for a Just Peace – Kairos Canada

All who yearn for peace are invited to walk, pray, and to join national church leaders as they converge on Parliament Hill, May 22-23<sup>rd</sup>. If you cannot go to Ottawa, you can still walk or roll whatever distance you can manage and in so doing, contribute to this ceasefire pilgrimage. There are also other alternative actions that you can take. For details, please see: [https://www.kairoscanada.org/gaza-ceasefire-pilgrimage?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=2024-04-11&utm\\_campaign=Anglican+Church+of+Canada+Update+for+April+11+2024](https://www.kairoscanada.org/gaza-ceasefire-pilgrimage?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=2024-04-11&utm_campaign=Anglican+Church+of+Canada+Update+for+April+11+2024)

## 2) Sabeel

Every Thursday, I join a group of approximately 100 people from around the world for ecumenical worship led by Palestinian Anglican priest, Rev. Dr. Naim Ateek. In 1991, Rev. Ateek founded Sabeel, which is a Christian ecumenical Palestinian liberation theology centre (<https://sabeel.org/>) in Jerusalem that promotes understanding, peace, and justice. Chapters of Friends of Sabeel have sprung up around the world, including in Canada.

I have found these worship meetings to be some of the most profound that I have ever experienced. Each week a different person gives the homily. Some speakers are church leaders while others are lay people. They may be in Palestine, or somewhere else in the world. There is time for questions and comments about the homily, and during the latter part of the meeting, people can share news of what is happening, particularly in Gaza, but also in their own countries.

If you would like to register for the weekly Zoom worship/meeting, please do so at this link: <https://zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tJAkdOCTqT8oH9Hj6noeoJPop264vDN-kAaA#/registration>

## Senior's Fellowship

*Jennifer Uttley*

The next gathering of the Senior's Fellowship group is Wednesday May 8th. We are going to St. James Anglican Church in Fergus to join their delicious homemade community lunch. They offer lunch every other Wednesday. There is no fee to attend but donations are greatly appreciated. Following the lunch, we are going to visit their butterfly garden.

We will be car pooling and will need to leave by 10:45 am. To help with planning, if you would like to join us, please contact Jennifer Uttley ([acw@stjohn316.com](mailto:acw@stjohn316.com) or call 519-578-6052) as soon as possible so that we can let St. James know how many to expect.

# An Angel in Harlem

*Margaret Hendley*

During the early sixties, when I was in my second year as an idealistic undergraduate at a women's college located in New Rochelle, New York, I became interested in a New York City based group called Panel of Americans. The purpose of this group was to go, (by invitation), into areas of the city and its suburbs where there was unrest due to prejudice concerning religion and/or race. Each panel, composed of five post-secondary students, included a person representing each of the, (at that time), major religions in North America, ie. a Jew, a Catholic and a Protestant, as well as one Black person and one person of Puerto Rican descent. At every meeting each panelist was required to make a brief presentation after which questions from the audience were encouraged by our moderator. The concept behind this programme was that by opening up discussion on areas of concern and prejudice, we would lay the groundwork for at least tolerance and at best some understanding of others.

I applied to this programme and was accepted. I then spoke to the Dean of the College and received permission to leave campus at various times during the week, (necessary in those days of the "loco parentis" policy common at women's colleges), as well as arranged that I would stay overnight after any evening event with my aunt who lived in the city. Since there was frequent train service between New Rochelle and New York I anticipated no difficulties in getting to and from the meetings and would miss a minimum of time from my classes.

So one Saturday morning in the fall I traveled into New York City for my first training session to be held at Columbia University. I was both quite excited and a bit apprehensive about this because I was on my own, as no-one else at my college was interested in being involved. I left Grand Central train station in New York and confidently moved on to the subway station where I was to catch another train to take me to the Columbia Campus. Although I was a relatively frequent visitor to the Big Apple since I was a child due to my aunt's hospitality, I greatly overestimated my ability to travel about on my own. After waiting what seemed like a long time for the proper train, I decided, for some unknown reason, to get aboard the next one that arrived, thinking that they all seemed to head out in the same direction. After riding for 20 or 30 minutes I decided it must be time to get off. And so I did.

I emerged from below ground to find myself in the middle of Harlem with no idea where Columbia University might be. I had been raised in a small town in Connecticut, where, although it had its fair share of eccentrics, everyone looked more or less like me. This, obviously was not the case in Harlem. All my confidence in my ability to find my way in new surroundings drained from me as I looked around at such unfamiliar territory. I'm sure I appeared panicked as a very large black woman approached me. "What you lookin for Girl?" she asked me. I told her that I was trying to find Columbia University and did she know where it was. She pointed across the street and told me it was "A ways beyond Central Park". Being a country girl, I had no fear of a long walk and started to cross the street. At this point she grabbed me by the neck of my dress and yanked me back to the sidewalk. I stood there quaking when she yelled at me saying "No way a girls goin walk alone through that park!" She then asked if I had any money, which frightened me even more. With a shaking voice I responded "A little." This woman then strode out into the middle of the street, whistled down a taxi, returned to the sidewalk and seized me by the arm. At this point, with several on-lookers chuckling as they observed this little dramatic scenario, she hustled me into the street, opened the door of the cab and shoved me, none too gently, inside. She then, in a very authoritarian tone of voice, told the rather startled taxi driver, "You take this Baby out of here and get her to Columbia University!"

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As we drove on I tried to recover my equilibrium. We finally got to the campus and I did manage to find the building and room where the training session took place. But, as one of the group of new recruits going through the various role playing and other sessions, I couldn't help but keep thinking about my most recent experience. Here I was, supposedly learning how to encourage people to acknowledge their prejudices and learn tolerance. But the example I had just been shown was that of a woman, with, I am sure, no "training" in such matters. Yet when she saw me standing there on her familiar street she viewed me not as a white interloper in her black neighbourhood, but as a young and rather naive woman in distress. She then went into action and dealt effectively, if abruptly, with the situation. I realized to my shame that my first thought when she asked me if I had any money was that she might be trying to rob me. In retrospect I believe if I said I had none that she would have reached into her pocket and given me a bill for the cab. And to my even deeper shame, I remembered that I never even thanked her.

I did listen to our trainers that day and, when eventually I became part of a Panel, tried hard to put their advice to good use. But mainly when I stood up in front of a group of unfamiliar people to give my brief presentation I would look out and think of my Harlem Angel who acted with such compassion to the stranger in her midst. And although I never knew her name, I still remember her kindness to me all these many years later.

## **Musical Flora A concert series at St. John the Evangelist in Kitchener**

*Bruce Gremo*

Every concert is as a flower, a bouquet, a garden, a place for musical communion, contemplation, exposure and pleasure.

The series updates a tradition which begins at the time of Frescobaldi (17th century), for example with his *Fiori Musicali*, of extended works - or in this case a concert series - which represent a diversity of musical forms. Today that diversity is far vaster, vast enough to include non-western classical traditions, popular genres, ancient and new, experimental music, computer music, improvisation ... .

### **Concert 3 May 5. A Bach Offering in c minor**

J.S. Bach Passacaglia and Fugue in c minor Peter Nikiforuk

J.S. Bach Trio Sonata from the Musical Offering. Bruce Gremo flute, Judith Souman baroque violin

Angus Sinclair piano

### **Concert 4 June 16. Bada is Bruce Gremo, multiple flutes + interactive computer composition**

Bruce Gremo on multiple flutes (flute, glissando flute, alto flute, bass flute, shakuhachi)

Structured improvisation and application composition, Bruce Gremo

### **Concert 5 June 30. Autumn Debassige and Angus Sinclair**

The art of popular song, and the pop of art song.

Autumn Debassige soprano

Angus Sinclair piano and accordion