



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

October 20, 2024

Available online at StJohn316.com/OEW

You're invited! Fall 2024 Friday night climate vigils

Henriëtte Thompson

Friday night climate vigils are powerful opportunities to gather with others to reflect on feelings from dread to hope as the climate crisis moves closer to home. And to imagine how we can encourage all those at the November UN climate conference (COP 29) in Azerbaijan to redouble efforts to value and defend the world and all its inhabitants from experiencing the worsening effects of extreme weather.

On Fridays 8 – 9pm (Oct 4 – Nov 29) in Waterloo Public Square, speakers (young and senior) share their thoughts and hopes, music accompanies our silence, and, calls to action enliven our commitment.

Hopefulness is hard-earned, makes demands upon us, and can often feel indefensible and lonely. It is a gift to be received and shared by faith.

Hope to see you on Friday night! Dress for the weather!



A New Name!

Henriëtte Thompson

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund aka PWRDF has a new name -- Alongside Hope/Auprès de l'espoir.

PWRDF's ethos has always been to partner with others in Canada and around the world -- to increase food security, champion gender rights, support agriculture training, and create income opportunities.

The team tasked with identifying a compelling name were repeatedly drawn to the story of the road to Emmaus. As Jesus came alongside the grief-stricken disciples, and then accepted their table hospitality, their eyes were opened and they recognized him.

For more information about PWRDF's new name, Alongside Hope, please go to <https://pwrdf.org/our-new-name/>



Alongside Hope

Anglicans and partners working for change
in Canada and around the world

Crafts

Jean Wright

Starting the first Sunday in October until March, there will be crafts of mine laid out for purchase. Hats, mitts, dolls, baby clothes, blankets and afghans. A percentage of sales will go to the church.



The next issue of On Eagle's Wings will be available on November 17th, 2024.

Stewardship

Alicia Batten

As part of this year's Surely the Lord Is in This Place stewardship program, we asked parishioner Alicia Batten to reflect on how she and her spouse Terry Rothwell find supporting St. John's financially to be a natural outpouring of their gratitude for our parish's mission and ministry. Alicia gave this reflection at worship on October 13 (Pentecost 21 / Harvest Thanksgiving).



Thank you for the opportunity to share some of the reasons why I appreciate St. John's, and why I think, in whatever way we can, we should all seek to be good stewards. My spouse, Terry Rothwell, and I have been coming here for a number of years. While writing this I consulted with Terry, so consider what I have to say as coming from him as well.

First, I appreciate the fact that St. John's is a place where people are invited to think critically about faith, about the church, and about a whole range of social issues. I am someone who struggles with faith, and I need to be in a place where questions, even very hard and controversial questions, are welcome. Part of the reason why we started attending here more regularly was because of the late Reverend Paul Kett, who through his preaching and book study sessions consistently invited people to grapple with all sorts of questions. As well, various conversations with parishioners, both people who have been coming here for many, many years, and newer faces, has made it clear to me that members of St. John's want to ask questions, whether it is about the Bible, about creeds and doctrine, or the liturgy, or ethics. St. John's is a place where people may not all agree, which is fine, but at least they are invited to think and question.

Second, Terry and I strongly value St. John's support for things such as the safe injection site across the street, for the homeless and St. John's Kitchen, for refugees, for migrant workers, and for local groups that use this place such as the Social Development Centre and the Community Kitchen. I appreciate all the fundraising efforts that so many members of St. John's engage in, from baking, to the pudding factory, to knitting and crafts, caring for the Memorial Garden, as well as organizing community meals. No doubt, I am leaving out many things, but such activities are all means of community building and of putting love into action.

Thirdly – and I am repeating what is often said of St. John's – the beautiful musical traditions associated with this place are treasures. Whether it is the weekly liturgy, choral evensong, or the wonderful concerts that occur, all contribute to an atmosphere and culture that values beauty for all – not only for people who can pay for it. The late Irish poet and philosopher John O' Donahue once said that nothing can replace music and that "music is what language would like to be if it could." Music can express ideas and emotions no language can convey, and we are blessed with so many musicians, and musical enthusiasts who sustain and nurture the wonderful musical traditions here.

So thank you again for the chance to share a few reasons why we value this place and the people who form this community.