

THE LOOP

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St. James' Anglican Church Newsletter March 2025



As we approach the beginning of March, we are leaving the liturgical season of Epiphany behind us. The following excerpt taken from Reverend Colleen Lissamer's blog (St. Matthias Anglican Church in Victoria BC) very aptly summarizes the journey that parishes in the Diocese of Huron and across Canada have also been on.

"We're reminded on this Feast of the Epiphany that we too are on a journey, and that the church is not so much an institution as an expedition.

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Many legends have grown up around this story of the three kings, one of which is that they actually were three kings. The gospel account does not say there were three of them...or five or ten or thirty. The idea of three kings came when the three gifts were given: one each. Names and personal descriptions have even been assigned: Caspar – young, beardless, ruddy complexion; Balthazzar, a bit older, dark-skinned and bearded; Melchior, old, grey hair, long beard. But really, we have no idea. In truth, they probably weren't even kings.

Matthew calls them "wise men from the East" – MAGOI in the Greek, from which we derive the word MAGI. They were more likely astrologers which explains why they would have noticed and then been so excited about seeing something unusual in the sky. As they would later say to Herod, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

This was not unheard of at that time; the idea that heavenly signs marked the births and deaths of great leaders was widely accepted. What they saw excited them, enough to make them drop what they were doing and follow the star.

But what does that mean for us? It is a reminder that we too are a people on a journey, a people who are searching and always on the move. We are reminded that the church is less of an institution and more of an expedition. We too are given signs and circumstances through which we are called to seek the presence of Jesus and go wherever that searching takes us. This means being attentive to what's happening in our lives, in our world, and yes, in our church. If we aren't paying attention, we may miss the signs. "

Let us not miss the signs here at St. James' Ingersoll as we move into our next liturgical seasons of Lent and Easter.

Your Editor- *Veronica*

From The Desk of The Reverend Marty Keatings



FROM THE RECTOR

A boy of elementary school age lived with his grandmother. One night the house caught fire while the boy lay asleep upstairs. The grandmother was overcome with smoke. A crowd quickly gathered about the burning house. The boy's screams could be heard above the crackling of the blaze. The front of the house was a mass of flames and it appeared there was no way to rescue the boy.

As the people stood watching, a stranger rushed through the crowd and circled to the back of the house where he saw an iron pipe attached to the house that extended to the second floor. Hand over hand, he climbed the hot pipe, reached the upstairs window, disappeared for a few moments, and then reappeared with the boy in his arms. Amidst the cheers of the crowd, he climbed down that hot pipe as the boy hung around his neck.

Weeks later a public hearing was held in the town hall to determine in whose custody the now-orphaned boy would be placed. A farmer in the community spoke first and said, "I have a large farm. Every boy needs the wide-open spaces." A woman said, "I'm a teacher. I have a big library. The boy would receive a good education with me." Others came forward to state why the boy should be given to them. Finally, the richest man in town spoke and said, "I'm wealthy. I could give the boy everything. I would like him to live in our spacious house."

The chairman asked, "Anyone else like to say a word?" From the rear of the room rose a stranger who had slipped unnoticed into the hall. As he walked toward the front with his hands in his pockets, deep suffering showed on his face. Reaching the front, he stood directly in front of the boy whose custody was being decided. Slowly the stranger removed his hands from his pockets. An audible gasp was heard throughout the room. The boy's eyes had been focused on the floor, but now he looked up. The man's hands were scarred terribly. Suddenly the boy uttered a cry of recognition. Here was the very man who had saved his life. His hands were scarred from climbing up and down the hot pipe. With a leap the boy threw himself around the stranger's neck and held on with both hands. Slowly the crowd dispersed, leaving the boy with the one who had won him without a word. The scars spoke far more than words could convey.

It really is not such a stretch of the imagination to say that the season of Lent, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday are intended to help us arrive at Easter and throw our arms around the neck of the Risen Lord and hang on for dear life. We may give ourselves to any number of rescuers in this world, but only one will always be there and will never let us down. We will proclaim that One again this Easter with the most glorious shout ever to be given, or heard, "Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!"

Marty+

Faith is trusting God, even when we don't feel Him, holding on to Jesus for dear life like a drowning person to a life raft, trusting He is good even when He does not seem to be.

PETE SCAZZERO

Vision Committee News

Our easement application was heard on February 6th at the Oxford County Land Division Committee meeting. The APPROVED decision was made public on February 13th beginning a twenty day appeal period which ends on March 4th. If there are no appeals by March 4th, our legal counsel will proceed to register the easements on the appropriate property titles. Proof of registration will then go to the Town of Ingersoll where our general building permit will be issued.

In conversation with PK Construction, we proposed to divide the renovation project into two parts:

1. Construction with a value of the majority of our secured funds.
2. The remainder factored back in as we are financially able and as required for an occupancy permit.

This approach keeps our costs more relatively fixed, especially with potential tariffs looming. It also allows us to start the project very soon while our easement process plays out. While work is progressing we'll be fundraising for our shortfall in financing.

Additionally, we can now be very certain St. James' will be in its new home this year. A revised contract was created and reviewed by us and our project manager then sent to Church House for their review. Archdeacon Tanya signed the approved contract on February 21st.

Our last exciting news is we have received a grant from the Ontario Government Anti Hate Crime Fund in the amount of \$7500 which we had applied for last year. These funds will be used for security systems in our new facility.

Submitted by:

Michael Watson,

Vision Committee Chair on behalf of V.I.C. members: Rev'd Marty Keatings, Pierre Beaumier, Margaret Burford, Veronica Jackson, Bob Welt.

To the left, required poster on front door at 130 Thames St.S for Easement Application



Parish Wardens' News

Turning the calendar page from 2024 to 2025 gives us the opportunity to recognize the following parish members -

- a) thank you to all Parish Council members who have remained on Council for the calendar year of 2025. We appreciate all that you do whether or not you have a specific delegated responsibility or are a member-at-large.
 - b) thank you to Pierre Beaumier for continuing in his important role as Deputy Warden and for his assistance and input every Monday; also we are thankful for his support in attending all Vision Committee Meetings
 - c) welcome to our new Deputy Warden, Jim Hunt. He has been on board every Monday at our meetings since our annual Vestry Meeting. It's terrific to have that support and additional experience brought to the table
 - d) welcome back to Rev'd Marty from his paternity leave and we are looking forward to an exciting year as he takes over the role again as our incumbent and spiritual leader. We were able to assist Rev'd Marty recently at the Nursing Home service at Secord Trails. The next outreach service is in April.
 - e) thanks to Amy Thistle, our office administrator, for looking after all the paperwork in the office both concerning the follow up Vestry reports and the preparation of the mail out of income tax receipts for 2024
 - f) thanks to Bob Welt for his outstanding work on the budget and his presentation of the financials at Vestry. Also we want to thank him for honouring us with the plaques for "Above and Beyond". You really did catch us off guard but it was a very special surprise. We know that you were the driving force behind the awards! (see more about our annual Vestry Meeting on pages 4 and 5).
 - g) finally, thank you to Deb Landon for stepping up to the table and volunteering to be the campaign chairperson for our Capital Campaign Committee. It is wonderful to have a person with Deb's expertise in this area to lead us over the next two years. All the Wardens are looking forward to working together and representing our parishioners over the next calendar year.
- Submitted by: *Veronica Jackson*
on behalf of the Wardens' Team

Vestry 2025

Vestry was held on Sunday January 26th - after our 10:30 am Worship Service at the Masonic Hall. Attendance was taken at the Vestry meeting and Rev'd Marty Keatings chaired the meeting. There were 38 present. Thank you to all for their attendance and support. The Vestry Minutes will be available to Vestry members later in March. Here are some photos that Kristy took at our meeting. Even Baby Ben was in attendance!



The St. James' Award of Excellence

(Formerly known as : The Bishop's Award of Excellence)

Do you know of someone who has received the Bishop's Award of Excellence in the past? Currently, Amy is collecting all the names of St. James' parishioners who received this award. The hope is to frame the names and place the collection in our new building!

As Bob Welt, our Treasurer, researched and discovered, this award no longer exists and parishes are expected to create their own way of recognizing outstanding parishioners. Not to disappoint, Bob rose to the occasion and created The St. James' Award of Excellence and awarded two at this year's Vestry Meeting! The 2024 Award Recipients were Wardens Michael Watson and Veronica Jackson in recognition of "outstanding and unrelenting energies in securing building needs (past, present and future) , securing financing (past, present and future) and upholding town bylaws of St. James' new home at 130 Thames St. S., while still maintaining their Wardens' Duties (et al) for St. James' ". The only thing missing at Vestry for them were capes!

Michael was speechless and quite moved and Veronica talked about how we all work as a family. A special thank you is being given to their families for allowing these two to take so much time away from home-life during these rebuilding and trying times!

Who will be the next recipients of this new prestigious award?

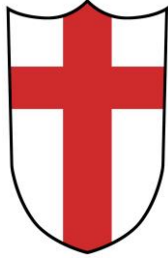
- Submitted by *Amy Thistle*



Veronica, Bob and Mike at Awards Presentation at Vestry

Congratulations

BAC News



The St. James' BAC continues to meet on a monthly basis, for breakfast, at Louie's Restaurant in Ingersoll. We average approx. 13-14 men attending each one of the breakfast sessions.

Next breakfast date will be **Wednesday March 19th** at Louie's at 9:30 am.

BAC members have contributed \$540 to the St. James' Building Fund over the past few months.

Submitted by *Scott Naisbitt*

Prayer List

Prayers of the People, By the People, For the People

St. James' prays for our families, friends, and loved ones who are ill or recovering from illness or are in need of prayerful support. Grant them healing and strength. May they find Peace. Lord, we pray for:

Garnet, Little Jack, Murray, Clara, Nickolas, Matthew, Jo, Mark, Anne Catherine, Elizabeth, Anne, John, Janey, Judy, Eleanor, Susan, Little J.J., Deny, Linda, Douglas, Matthew, Caitlin, and Elise.



Dorothy Margaret Thacker
Warren Butterworth
Dorothy Gewndolyn Griffin

Romans 14:8

If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Please let Amy know if you have a name for our Prayer List

Needle and Craft Group Report

Needlework , Crafts & Outreach



Since our November, 2024 Loop Report the Needle and Craft Group have had a very busy time. With the much appreciated help of congregational members the Group held a Christmas

Cookie Sale at the Annex on December 14, 2024 under the very capable leadership of Rosemarie Brokenshire. Total net funds raised were \$2,033.76 which were equally shared by St. James' Church and the Needle and Craft Group. The Group's share is being used for community outreach programmes. e.g. Cycles of Life received \$300.00 in January for gift cards for the homeless to enjoy a warm meal while in a warm environment.

On January 25, 2025 a Scrap Book Event was held at the Senior Centre under the very capable leadership of Sharon Gillett and Jeannie Lee. Jessica Lee (Jeannie's daughter) was the talented hostess for the Event. Needle and Craft Group members volunteered with meals with supper meal under the leadership of a volunteer chef, Monica Pollock . The hard work by all was rewarded with a net profit for the Event \$1,925.05 to help community outreach projects.

In the month of February the Group is taking a well earned rest between fund raising and we are working on individual projects while enjoying fellowship with much laughter. Also during our fellowship we are solving the world's problems!! A group of industrial ladies can move mountains!!

Join us Tuesdays at the Annex between 1:30 - 4:30pm for fellowship and, if you wish, crafts.

Submitted by *Margaret Burford*

Deep Roots New Growth

St. James' Church Ingersoll Capital Campaign 2025

The Capital Campaign Fundraising Committee at St. James' Anglican Church, Ingersoll is excited to announce our upcoming campaign – “Deep Roots New Growth”! Our goal and mission is to raise \$400,000, over the next 2-3 years, to cover expenses associated with the renovations; to create a space of worship, fellowship and community. The community needs to know that St. James' Anglican Church, Ingersoll, is investing in the spiritual, emotional, mental and physical needs of its citizens through worship, education, outreach programs, third party program space, and advocacy.

Nourishing the bodies and souls of the community within and beyond the Church walls is a priority. As chair of the Capital Campaign Fundraising Committee for St. James', I am honoured to have an amazing team to help lead us through this journey to our new home at 130 Thames St. South. They are – Trudy Groot, Vicki Hunt, Rev. Sue McCullough, Randy Naisbitt, Kendra Thouless, Wardens Pierre Beaumier, Jim Hunt, Veronica Jackson and Mike Watson, and our Rector Rev'd Marty. It is important for us to communicate with you regularly as we move through the campaign to ensure engagement and transparency. So you're probably going to see and hear a lot from us!

The first phase of the campaign will be a “Direct Ask” which involves the solicitation of our current and past parishioners to generously donate to this cause. We plan to host a Campaign Kick-Off on April 27th following the church service. Pledge packages will be distributed prior to the Kick-Off event which will offer options for donating. We graciously ask everyone to please support this new venture outside of their regular offerings. St. James' has a history of coming together and meeting the needs of our parish and we feel this campaign will show that continued support.

The next phase of the campaign will consist of major community fundraising events and activities which we will update you on as we become more organized. Our focus right now is to raise as much as we can from the generous and loving support of our own congregation through the Direct Ask campaign.

A long-time parishioner had suggested that perhaps people could donate their Ontario Taxpayer Bonus Rebate cheques back to the church, as they are able, as they were an unexpected gift from our local provincial government. Many of the members thought this was a great idea and committed to signing their cheques over to the church, or writing a new cheque if they already deposited it, to kick-start our capital campaign.

On Sunday, February 23rd, following the service, several members donated their rebate cheques back to the Church and we are pleased to announce that \$2,200 was raised! Thank you to those individuals!! For anyone who would still like to join in, please feel free to bring your gift to Sunday service, or drop off at the church office, in an envelope marked “Campaign”. This is definitely voluntary and we don't want anyone feeling uncomfortable or pressured. This is a personal choice and everyone's needs are different. Thank you to this wonderful parishioner for planting this seed.

As we move forward through this campaign, please do not hesitate to approach myself or any of the members with your questions or ideas. This journey is going to take our entire church family to be successful. I look forward to working with everyone to ensure we meet the obligations set out in our building budget.

Submitted by - *Deb Landon*, Chair “Deep Roots New Growth” Capital Campaign Committee

Sunday School News



Sunday School Teacher Pat Harrison assisting Addi and Charlotte

Since our last newsletter, our Sunday School students have been busy learning about many biblical figures. We have looked at stories from the Old Testament involving David, Daniel, Jonah, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, and stories from the New Testament about Jesus' birth, his life as a child, and parables that Jesus taught his followers.

As we move through the spring months we will be concentrating on Jesus' life as he journeyed towards the events of Holy Week in Jerusalem.

Our upcoming Sunday School dates for the next three months are – March 9, 23, April 13, 20, 27, May 11, 25.

All children 3 years and up are welcome to attend!

Pat and I are so blessed and pleased to have the assistance each session of our teens – Meryl, Ella, and Fiona.

Submitted by – *Veronica Jackson*



For Those Who Can't Make It To Church in Person



Our live stream of our worship service from the Masonic Hall at 10:30 am is available on our Facebook Page -
The link is below -

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064560229242>

Alternatively you can reach it from our "Online Services" page on our church website. <http://www.stjamesingersoll.com/online-services>

Nursing & Retirement Home Services

All parish volunteers are welcome to attend and participate in the worship service at the nursing or retirement residences.

Our next service is on **Thursday April 3rd at 1:30 pm at Gardens of Ingersoll Retirement Home**

Huron Church News

Click on the photo to the right to get access to the Latest edition of Huron's Church newspaper.



MARCH 2025

In this issue:

- Praying for strength and guidance in the time of renewal (St. Paul's Cathedral)
- Learning from Indigenous Church in New Zealand
- The blessings of bivocational ministry
- When CHURCH becomes your HOME, literally (A plea for compassion and community)
- LENT: A season of great hope and expectation
- Lord, have mercy (A note on provincial election)

Epiphany Party January 4, 2025



We gathered at the Masonic Hall for our second annual Epiphany Party. Once again, Rev'd Sue took the lead for organizing the party. We had a delicious pot luck, followed by lots of singing – both traditional Christmas carols and more contemporary songs. Carolin French was our pianist and choral director.

This was followed by an Epiphany/Christmas quiz created by Rev'd Sue. Multiple prizes were awarded and all were thankful that this year's quiz was much easier than last year's! Terrific prizes, Sue!

The Epiphany Party was a wonderful opportunity for all to socialize with our church family members. Thank you again, Rev'd Sue for setting up this event and to all who assisted with clean up and set up.



Lent and Easter Services Information



Two Services at The Annex on March 5th -

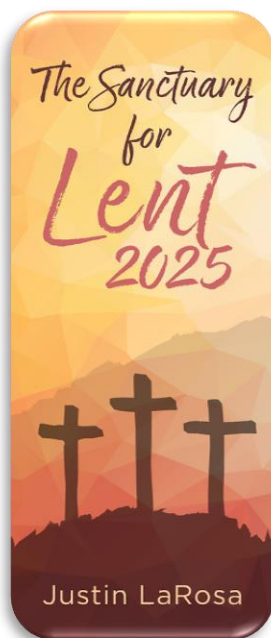
Morning Service – 10:30 am

Evening Service – 7:00 pm – families with children, and adults hurrying home from work, are invited to come by The Annex earlier at 6:30 pm to enjoy a slice of pizza before the worship service

Lenten Studies

Every Wednesday at The Annex at 10:30 am

Begins March 12th, continues on March 19th, March 26th, April 2nd, 9th, and 16th

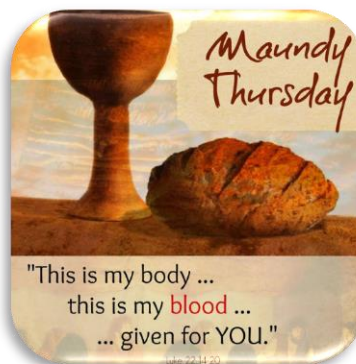


The Sanctuary for Lent 2025 contains brief readings for each day in Lent, from Ash Wednesday through Easter Day, including a suggested scripture, a short devotion, and a short prayer or practice—all based on the Revised Common Lectionary. Reverend Marty is also preparing other materials to read and discuss.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES



Sunday April 13th Worship Service
at The Masonic Hall at 10:30 am



Thursday April 17th Service
at The Annex at 7:00 pm



Friday April 18th Service
at The Masonic Hall at 10:30 am



Sunday April 20th Worship Service
at The Masonic Hall at 10:30 am