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From the Pastor

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

Hello to my St. Matthew's family,

Pentecost is an amazing season during which we remember the Holy Spirit's work in and around us and how this work leads to renewal and new life.

You might remember such biblical moments as:

- The Spirit hovering over the face of the deep - the uncreated and unordered cosmos - soon to join in God's work to create order and life. (*Genesis 1:2*)
- The artist and craftsman of God's dwelling place - the Tabernacle - was inspired by the Holy Spirit moving in him. (*Exodus 35:31*)
- The 70 elders of early Israel join Moses in leadership as the Holy Spirit gives them voice to prophesy. (*Numbers 11:25*)
- God breathes his Spirit of life into a field of dry bones where all seems to be empty, lost and dead. (*Ezekiel 37:10*)
- As Jesus ascends into heaven, his Holy Spirit descends like fire and a mighty wind dwelling in his disciples. (*Acts 2:2-4*)
- The disciples move out across the world, inspired and empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the work of God in magnificent and splendid ways. (*The Book of Acts* and others)

This collage of biblical examples gives us an impression of how God's Holy Spirit works and how He wants to move in us. The Holy Spirit is the breath of God, His invisible presence which creates order, and the breath that gives us life. The Holy Spirit has the immense capacity to orient everything towards life, creativity and order, which is what He wants to do in us.

We, as a church, are praying for Spiritual Renewal, something we know that God is already working towards because he wants to have a relationship with us. We also know that our prayers are effective when they join in the work of God and, what's more, we have heard that if we ask for anything *IN JESUS' NAME* it will be given to us. We are asking for Spiritual Renewal, ultimately, because we want Jesus' name to be known and shared. We want the world to be transformed by the order, life, creativity and love of the Holy Spirit so that all our hearts might be changed by

From the Pastor *(continued)*

Jesus' heart. Spiritual Renewal refers to everything we see in our snapshot of Biblical passages: it means a world changed for good. We and the world desperately need this.

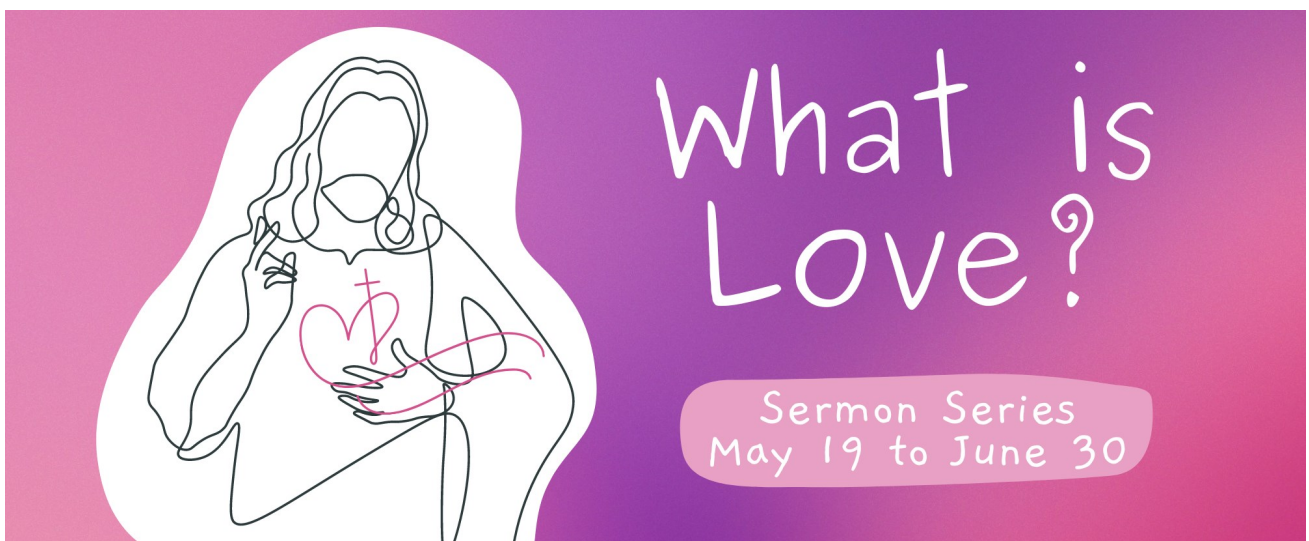
It is my challenge to each of us to continually pray for Spiritual Renewal. If you don't know what to pray, feel free to repeat, "Come Holy Spirit, come." Of course, the effort goes deeper than this. We also need to make space for the Holy Spirit! Prayer is a part of this, PLUS: taking times of purposeful rest meditating on the Holy Spirit; walking with the Holy Spirit on your mind; leaving space in our daily lives for Him to act, speak and guide; and speaking of Him to others. All these examples are already ways we make space in our lives for other people, but making space for the Holy Spirit is far more important, especially if life, creativity and order are bound to him. What follows as we come to know the Holy Spirit is a courageous and faithful engagement into what the Holy Spirit is already doing.

"What is Love?" is our newest sermon series. During Pentecost we are dwelling on 'God as love', with particular focus on how the Father's love for the Son is so profound and beautiful that it has an identity of its own which is the Holy Spirit. The 'Holy Spirit with us' is the Father's love for the Son that He has now extended to us. God's love, the Holy Spirit, is so powerful that it changes everything. Everything we see in the world will look different, because the Holy Spirit is making a new world. By the end of the sermon series, I hope that we will understand this love and know it intimately.

Summer is just around the corner and with it comes so much joy and peace (which in its true and lasting form is a fruit of the Spirit). As we make room and time to enjoy what God has given us, let us not forget His gift of His presence and His Love, The Holy Spirit, which upholds everything, dwells with us, and is always trying to draw closer. Let us put Him into our plans, into our habits, into our moments in between. We want nothing less than the renewal of the world and that starts with the renewal of our lives. So, we pray: "Come Holy Spirit, come."

Your brother in the love of Christ,

Rev. Philip Stonhouse



Wardens' Report

Karen Lee, Sharon Shao, Richard Farrar, Paul Lorimer

Spring has arrived and we welcome it happily as we also welcome this season of Pentecost! We hope that you and your families are keeping well.

Once again, the past few months have been full and busy at St. Matthew's. We are grateful and thank Rev. Philip for his spiritual leadership, Tyler Versluis for his musical leadership of our choir and worship bands, and the many volunteers who allow us to experience growth and enrichment in our spiritual journeys.

Your Warden team continues to be very mindful in keeping our 76-year-old facilities maintained as best as possible. The Spring cleanup of our lawn and flower beds has been completed. In the next weeks, flowers will be planted, and grass sod laid where needed. The sprinkler system will be activated by early June.

Review of our property maintenance needs is ongoing and each issue has been categorized as High, Medium, or Low. The repair of the lounge washroom floor/subfloor and new tiles was regarded as a high priority and has now been completed. There was also an urgent need to repair the west-side washroom caused by a serious plumbing issue. This was completed in March.

Clean-up of old church files cluttering the Warden's office is ongoing. These files are being sorted and, in accordance with Diocesan and Canada Revenue Agency guidelines, purged and shredded. Many thanks to Nancy Hurn for her continuing work on the organizing of the church archives.

In order to cover the costs of major repairs and maintenance which have already taken place and to provide a 'cushion' for expected future major repair and maintenance costs, a campaign named 'Living Water' has been initiated. We hope the campaign will raise \$25,000 which will be matched by an equal amount from our Legacy Fund. Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners, we are well on the way to achieving this target.

Just a friendly reminder to all parishioners who use our church for various events to please turn off lights, close windows and, most importantly, ensure that all doors are locked and secure. Thanks!

We wish you all a safe and relaxing summertime!

Financial Report: May 2024

Many thanks to the Parish for your continued financial support of our many parish ministries and operations and as well as for all the ways you support our community with your time and talents.

As you will see below, our expenses have been greater than budget, mainly due to repairs and an increase in utility costs.

Outlined below is the summary of our financial status as of April 30, 2024.

Operating Fund	2024 Actual	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Income	\$ 94,753	97,447	101,168
Expenses	\$ 116,427	106,871	105,024
Net Operations	\$ - 21,673	9,424	4,056

Richard Farrar, New Warden

Richard Farrar has been a member of St. Matthew's for 25 years. Richard and his brother were educated in England at Cranleigh School, an experience he looks back on with great pleasure as a young boy who loved sports. In 1956, Richard was conscripted for two years' National Service in the British Army, serving with the 1st Battalion Royal Sussex Regiment. After completing 10 weeks 'basic training' in England, he was deployed, on Active Service, to Korea for a year; and lastly to Gibraltar for his final six months. Following army service, Richard qualified as a Chartered Accountant, becoming a partner in an international firm of Chartered Accountants. He retired in December 2000.

Richard and his late beloved wife, Bridget, were married in London, England, in 1967. They had attended kindergarten together in 1944/45 in Guyana. Bridget served St. Matthew's as President of Chancel Guild for many years, until shortly before her death in 2020. Her memorial tree is planted beside the west driveway. Bridget and Richard have a son (Mark), a daughter (Catherine), and two grandchildren (Kyle and Katelyn).



Winter Tea: Faith & Music





Easter 2024

Chancel Guild

Pat Currie

Thanks to all the Chancel Guild members and other members of the congregation who came out to help make the Palm Crosses. It was a great success and an enjoyable get-together for us all.

The church was beautifully decorated with flowers for the Easter Season. Thank you to all who donated the lilies and hydrangeas.

Extending a warm welcome and thanks to Vivien Knowles, Jane Mwangi, and Dorothy Sharp who recently joined the Chancel Guild. New members are always welcomed. For more information, please contact Pat Currie (647-998-7607) or Sandra Wilson (905-624-3786).

If any parishioners would like to provide cut flowers from their garden during the summer to beautify our church, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Sandra Wilson.



Easter Outreach

St. Matt's Outreach provided a small Easter gift to the homeless people who use the services of Holy Trinity Unity Kitchen/Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM). In past years, we have given this gift at Christmas. Each gift contained a combination of socks, cookies, shampoo, Rice Krispies square, chocolate, the Peachtree Benediction, and a \$5 Tim's card. 150 bags were filled on Wednesday March 27 at the Hurns' home. Thank you to all those who have supported this gift!



Food Cupboard

Noel Martin

We have a small but regular group of visitors to the Food Cupboard and it would be helpful to replenish the cupboard so that we can meet their needs during the summer months.

Donations of chunky soup; tinned meat and fish; pork and beans; oatmeal and other cereal; and canned fruits and vegetables or any other items with a good shelf life would be greatly appreciated.

The Rhythm of Life

Linda Harrison

Lent is a time for growth and personal reflection. The Lenten Retreat and Bible Study sessions and the Charge at Vestry for spiritual renewal and action connected so wonderfully. They all centered around the practice or catechism of our Anglican/Christian faith, which is outlined in the *Book of Common Prayer* as a 'Rule of Life' according to the gospel.

Lenten Retreat:

The *Rhythm of Life*, as the retreat day was called, defines our Christian faith. It is based on five spiritual practices or directions for living the Christian life. Worship, Discipleship, Evangelism, Outreach, and Fellowship. Rev. Philip provided outlines and ideas for each of the five spiritual practices. Time was given for personal thought/prayer to set goals in each of these areas and plans of action.

The retreat day also included learning and reflection on sustenance and sacrifice. Lisa Oppitz led a discussion on the connections between God, Creation, Self, and others. Tyler Versluis led a musical listening exercise to feel God's presence/emotion in music without words as a window into the soul/humanity. We had a prayer walk throughout the neighbourhood, stopping to reflect and pray as we went. We observed and reacted to the community and its needs. Another activity was "Viseo Devino," which had us observe a painting and look for God's direction through it.

The conclusion of the day was a candle-lighting to express our "God Sightings" which resulted from our activity and reflection of the day. This was followed by an informal planning and celebration of Worship.

The retreat day was a wonderful opportunity to set time away from our busy lives to reflect and refocus. Thank you to Rev. Philip, Dawn, Lisa, Tyler, and Karen for their preparation and leadership.

Bible Study:

The four Lenten Bible Study sessions continued with the spiritual practices of living a Christian life. Each week the same Bible passage, *Isaiah 55: 1-13*, was the focus.

Week 1: Joining what God is already doing – Evangelism – exciting faith

Week 2: Growing in our relationship with Jesus – Discipleship – commitment

Week 3: Living into God's abundant grace – Outreach – sharing

Week 4: Recognizing the greatness of God – Worship – adore

The sessions were very prayerful and thought provoking. There were directed instructions to think about our lives and how we can challenge ourselves to do more. There was Taizé worship at the beginning and end of each evening, time of silence, individual prayer for personal reflection/goal setting, small group discussion focused on the *Isaiah* passage and encouragement of personal action and growth.

It was a very awesome experience to use the same bible passage for each weekly focus. The focus for every session was a statement of constant encouragement for our Christian life.

"If God is already working, then it doesn't matter what we think we can't do because God is already doing it! We have been recognizing the amazing reality of God's work and we have an opportunity to join it."

Thank you to Philip, Dawn, and Tyler for your preparation and leadership.

What's Happening

Sat June 1	Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. Contact dave.oakden@gmail.com Messy Church: 4:00 p.m.	Sunset Grill 1510 Dundas St. (Miss.) In person (Gym)
Sun June 2	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m. (Volunteer Appreciation Sunday)	In person & online
Wed June 5	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sat June 8	Newcomers BBQ: 2:00 p.m.	In person
Sun June 9	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m. BCP Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online In person & online
Wed June 12	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sat June 15	Living Water Fundraising dinner: 5:30 p.m.	In person (Gym)
Sun June 16	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m. (Indigenous Sunday) BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Indigenous Sunday)	In person & online In person & online
Wed June 19	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sat June 22	Club Matt Pizza Party: 5:30 p.m.	In person
Sun June 23	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m. (Graduation Sunday led by children & youth)	In person & online
Wed June 26	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m. (last Wednesday service before summer break)	In person
Sun June 30	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m. (Beginning of Summer Worship)	In person & online
July & Aug	Unity Worship each Sunday: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online
Sat July 8	Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.	Sunset Grill
July 29-Aug 2	Camp Matt: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.	In person
Sun Sept 8	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m. BCP Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online In person & online

Men's Breakfast

All men of the parish are welcome to attend the monthly breakfast held at Sunset Grill, 1510 Dundas St. E., Mississauga, ON L4X 1L4. This is east of Dixie Road, in the plaza with Costco and Walmart.

It occurs usually on the first Saturday of each month at 8:30 a.m. However, if this weekend involves a holiday, the date is likely postponed to the following Saturday.

For more information, contact Dave Oakden at 416-626-7781 or dave.oakden@gmail.com.

The next Men's Breakfast will be on June 1.

Living Water Campaign



With the reality of plumbing repairs at the top of the maintenance list for 2024 your Warden/Clergy team approved of our fundraising initiative, “*Living Water*” *St. Matt’s Maintenance Appeal*. Given the age of our building many water systems are not running properly or are experiencing blockages or need full replacement. Thus, the hopeful goal of the *Living Water Campaign* is to receive \$25,000 from parishioners and then match that sum with \$25,000 from our legacy funds.

Currently we have reached \$16,811.

The timeline we have set to reach this goal is June 16th. We give thanks to all of you who have generously donated to this project and if anyone can contribute any amount, via etransfer, cheque or cash it would be greatly appreciated by the Warden team.

FUNDRAISING DINNER: JUNE 15

Join us on June 15 at 5:30 p.m. for St. Matthew’s Living Water fundraising dinner and enjoy fellowship, food, fabulous raffle items, and a silent auction. Dinner is \$25 per person. Tickets are available at the church on Sundays, through the office, or at the door.

We’re looking for donations of NEW items of any size and type to make into themed baskets or for the silent auction. Gift cards, tickets for entertainment or sporting events, services – all are welcome and appreciated. Questions? Please contact Katie at wardkatielpa@gmail.com or 647-668-5661

Magnetic Name Tags

If you would like to order a church name tag with your first name on it, please email the office or fill out the form in the Narthex. The cost of the name tag is \$15 payable by cash, cheque, or etransfer. The magnets are very strong. There are no pins to harm your clothes.



Club Matt Children's Program

Lianne Thompson

Are you as happy as the children that Spring has arrived? Here are some words about this glorious season (no surprise that these quotes are from writers of books loved by children):

- “If you look the right way, you can see that the whole world is a garden.” *Frances Hodgson Burnett*
- “Some old-fashioned things like fresh air and sunshine are hard to beat.” *Laura Ingalls Wilder*
- “Nothing ever seems impossible in spring, you know.” *L.M. Montgomery*

But how wonderful to read the truth of new life springing from the very pages of our bible:

- “This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!” *2 Corinthians 5:17*

Easter and the Pageant

This talk of Spring is a great intro to a recap of Club Matt's Easter programs, when the children spent time talking about new life and love and sacrifice. From Palm Sunday to Good Friday, they walked with Jesus – from parading with palms, to building a cross together and carrying it to the altar. And then on Easter, exploring the Empty Tomb, learning how Easter eggs symbolize new life and then painting their own glorious crosses.



Club Matt Children's Program *(continued)*

The pageant, held on the Sunday after Easter, brought the full story to life. A cast of thousands (well, lots!) included our great youth and children in the roles of Jesus, narrators, the disciples, Mary Magdalene, guards, angels, and Pontius Pilate. As always, we are grateful to Reverend Philip for his wonderful leadership, Vanessa James-Locke for coordinating this year, all the moms and dads who helped prepare their little ones, and the Club Matt and Youth leaders for making it all happen. Not to mention the glorious music from Tyler, Michelle and the pageant cast.



Spring Programs

Throughout April and into May, the children explored the Eucharist – all about how God's people continue to gather around the Lord's Table.

They have learned how God is with us as we *celebrate together*, learning about the elements and meaning behind this simple meal that Jesus and His disciples began thousands of years ago.



The final unit of the academic year (May and June) is focused on prayer; we will be exploring that topic with stories of amazing events and people from the early church (Peter, Paul, Cornelius, Philip and more!).

Coming Soon: Summer!

This year, Club Matt's special summer program is called *Learning About God with Science!* Each week, the children will take part in a fun science experiment that is linked to a bible story – it's going to be exciting! Stay tuned for more info and join us for the children's program during the 10:30 Sunday service each week (July 7 to August 25).



And finally...as the end of another academic school year comes speeding toward us, we give thanks for the blessing of all the Club Matt leaders who give of their time to teach the children about God's love: Dawn Mercer, Jenna Wukasch, Linda Dickson, Diana Lewis, Sophia Lorimer, Tatiana Saliba and Vanessa James-Locke.

Messy Church

Linda Dickson

As we come to the end of our 2023/2024 season of Messy Church I have so many great memories.

In March, Easter was the theme. One of my favourite memories was having the children walk on a towel with play sand on it. This was representing the journey on Holy Week. The idea was that the children's feet would then be sandy and they would wash each others' feet. I became aware that a few children kept going back to the sand and washing their feet over again. The children then went to the lounge for the Last Supper, on to the church that was the Garden of Gethsemane and finally to the altar where Jesus asked them to wait for him when he went to pray. It was very moving to see the children take this journey.

In April we were dwelling in the Mystery: magic tricks were done, Kaleidoscopes made, and we decorated cupcakes with a mystery inside. We have begun to have a great group of youth join the team of leaders. They are becoming experienced in helping to teach how the activities are done. We are always looking for people for set up and meal clean up. If you are interested in joining a wonderful time with the Messy Church family, please contact me, Linda Dickson.



We are grateful to Katie Ward for making the meal for Messy Church, and to the youth for helping with setting tables, and setting up and stacking the chairs.



Join us at the next Messy Church on June 1!

Then... 2024/2025

Mark your calendars for the end of September when we start our next year of exciting new Messy Church programming.

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Know you Advise you Guide you

St. Matt's Youth

Bryan Tran

The YOUTH ALPHA Program was a great opportunity to dig deeper into our faith and explore some of life's big questions together. Each episode offered a good dose of awkward humour, moving testimonials, and beautiful scenery as we were led on a journey of understanding who Jesus is and what we can learn from his life. The youth enjoyed the program so much that even though the program has ended, they have decided to continue meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m., where we will host a Morning Prayer service followed by a bible study on the Sermon on the Mount. But don't worry, you will still see the youth at our monthly Unity services, and many of us are also part of the worship team that leads on the third Sunday of the month.

It always feels strange to speak about the Winter Radiate Retreat when it feels like summer outside, but we did take a trip to Ontario Pioneer Camp this winter! Although there wasn't nearly as much snow as last year, we all had a good time as we learned how to recognize and cultivate more Joy in our lives. As always, the food was excellent, the local youth worship band did a great job, and our team (yellow) won the competition this year! (we were a very close second last year).

Recent youth events included a volleyball night and a movie night, and we look forward to hosting outdoor activities as we enjoy the warmer weather.



Summer Camp

GROWING TOGETHER

July 29 – August 2
9 am – 3 pm



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St. Matthew's M.A.I.D. (MAID) Discussion

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

Prompted by many personal inquiries and events over recent months at St. Matthew's, a time was set aside to discuss what we know about the Biblical Foundations for reflecting on Medical Assistance in Dying (M.A.I.D./MAID).

With two sessions averaging around 30 people in which we had a lot of discussion, it is clear that this subject is very important to our people. It is intertwined with life, suffering, death, and hope.

As a community, we hold many different beliefs about this very sensitive subject. In our discussions, it was, and will continue to be, a priority to listen with open minds and hearts, especially to what God is saying. Most of us have a deeply personal relationship with MAID, so strong feelings and convictions are not surprising, but it is more important that we wrestle together to discern what Jesus' love, hope and faith are directing us to. We do not expect everyone to believe the exact same thing, but our hope was to move closer to God, together.

We invite you to discern prayerfully these topics, as we did in the original discussions:

1. What Bible Passages, Bible stories or Biblical ideas relate to the realities of M.A.I.D.?
2. What is M.A.I.D.? Is "medical assistance in dying" still an adequate way of describing it?
3. What are some of the reasons that people choose M.A.I.D.? We simplified these to three general reasons: Suffering, Control and Burdens. What does God say in Scripture about Suffering? About our lack of Control? About being a Burden?
4. What is God's hope for these issues?
5. What is the hope in death that God gives believers?
6. How do Jesus' life, suffering, death, resurrection, ascension and his future coming again, to judge and make right the world, give us ways we should relate to M.A.I.D.?

Because a few people have requested a third session, we are considering when this might be possible. I am also always open to hear what you are still struggling with and questioning.

A Personal Reflection by Tanya Marcon Moore:

We recently had a two-evening discussion on M.A.I.D. It was an intense, deeply respectful discussion. I came with a firm belief in how I felt, but also wanted to look at Scripture and see what God would think or feel. On a personal level, I have seen deep, terminal illness, suffering and pain, and mental health suffering; so I thought I knew where I was on this issue.

Looking at Scripture, reading and understanding God's words, and feeling God's Presence in those words, I saw something different. Even though God's words were written in a different time, a time without technology and a time without advanced medical care and intervention, His words still spoke of the human soul, the willingness, faithfulness, and wholeness of his love for us. God's words are as relevant today, when we are talking about 21st Century illnesses, social demographics and mental health issues, as they were then in 4-6 BC.

This was enlightening for me, as I believe God does not want us to suffer. God does not want us to see suffering. God wants us to trust Him, trust that He knows us, trust that He sees us, and comforts us in and through our turmoil and pain. But does God want us to give up? To let go? To give in? I don't believe he does! I believe God has given us this opportunity to ask: why do we want to give in, give up? And what can we do instead of choosing to die with assistance? Ultimately, are we failing as a society when people are seeking death over their own life?

In Hope of the Resurrection

Tyler Versluis

In 2023, the Canadian government passed Bill C-7, creating one of the world's most relaxed and fastest-growing medical-assistance-in-dying programs. Despite massive amounts of criticism, a pitiable amount of public support and lack of hard data, this bill passed through our legislature while our country was largely concerned with recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Perhaps most concerning of all, the MAID program expansion is happening while Canada experiences a rapidly aging population, a crumbling health care system, a cost-of-living crisis and a severe lack of housing and mental health support. All these problems drive people to lose hope, and in that despair to seek ways to end their lives prematurely. In 2022, 4.1% of deaths were attributed to MAID, which makes the practice roughly the fourth or fifth leading cause of death in Canada, after cancer, heart disease, accidental death, and COVID.

Even more gripingly sad is the lack of strong moral opposition to these practices from Canada's churches. In Benjamin Crosby's profoundly moving 2023 article for Plough, "Where Are The Churches in Canada's Euthanasia Experiment?" he writes, "In their refusal to combat the culture's discipleship of their members, the United Church and the Anglican and Lutheran churches have abandoned both public witness to those outside the church and the exercise of the teaching office to those within it. Instead, in the name of nonjudgmental pastoral presence, the churches are choosing to baptize the same values that have led to MAID's continued expansion and an ever-rising death count over the continued concerns of disability rights groups who rightly see the dignity and very lives of disabled persons under attack."

If you are Christian, it appears there is much to lament about this progress in our country. In a previous Matt's Media article, I noted that as Christianity fades away from the West, that our society would largely shift to a new paganism, a culture ruled by disorder, superstition and cruel "natural law", a society completely unwilling to transcend its own sin. I was not expecting Canada to become so pagan so quickly, that we are now finding "moral" ways for people to choose to eliminate themselves from society if they perceive themselves to be unworthy of living. In typical Western individualist fashion, any horrible act or sin can become acceptable if it is performed under the pretence of free choice and "maintaining one's own dignity": this includes both choosing to end one's own life and allowing a member of the medical profession to administrate this process. In the past, suicide and murder were always condemned as both sinful and unlawful. What gives us the hubris to decide that this is no longer true?

Being Christian means always believing in hope, in the wonderful things to come to us if we are faithful. But what action does this hope spur us to? Should not our faith in Christ and hope for the redemption of this world move us to believe in a place where suffering is overcome and redeemed, instead of one where life is unnaturally terminated and cast aside because this suffering seems unbearable? Do we seize the fate of our own bodies, or do we believe what the Scriptures say, that our bodies belong not to us, but are on loan to us from the Father, who promises new life? As for the fear of suffering and loss of dignity, do we not have a perfect paradigm of humility, suffering and dying in our Lord Jesus Christ, and to believe in the redemptive power of suffering, and how it can heal the soul and be a witness to others? And do the Scriptures not implore us to delight in caring for others, so that they do not despair?

I almost did not write this article because I was too worried about putting myself on "one side of the fence" on this subject. But what is the point of maintaining silence about something like this? Considering MAID both within and outside a Christian framework, I see nothing but the devil working to undermine our hope and our souls.

Book Review: Partnership as Mission

Kathie Oakden

The title of this book, *Partnership as Mission*, identifies the remarkable redirection of their Mission goals by the Anglican Church of Canada. No longer are goals dreamed up. Instead, they are what other cultures want, what they need, and what we can supply, i.e., Partnership!

This radical awareness was implemented by Dr. Eleanor Johnson, a Social Anthropologist by training and employed by the Anglican Church in Mission. "As a result of Settler awareness of Injustices to Indigenous culture and persons", when she realized "that racism is sin" (p. 108) ... she became instrumental in re-orienting "the attitude, goals and delivery for Mission by the Anglican Church of Canada."

This collection of essays by Anglican staff co-workers, and by family, relate personal experiences while working with Ellie. My interest was piqued by the editor, Kenneth Gray, who attended our GIFT group in January, as a guest of the Hurns. I went to the book launch with Nancy & Deborah Hurn and Dawn Mercer held at St. Simon's Anglican Church in Oakville which was the home parish of Elli Johnson. Many of the contributors were present and spoke about their experiences with Ellie Johnson.

Being oblivious about Ellie, I chose the shortest essay to read first. It was written by Esther Wesley, an Indigenous Christian woman, a good friend and colleague of Nancy Hurn, who has visited St. Matthew's many times. (p. 106, "*Ellie in the Storm: A Reminiscence*"). From "the statement made by the World Council of Churches (WCC) [in Durban], that "racism is sin" ... "{Ellie} came to see how racism...attitudes...words impacted people. ... {S}he began to understand that racialized people talk about racism from the impact of racism on their life. It's not just a word."

Next, I read Nancy Hurn's essay, p. 93. "*Ellie Johnson and the Residential Schools Settlement Agreements*". It is a detailed, factual account written with precision and first-hand experience while being the Archivist for the Anglican Church of Canada as well as an attendee at many Truth and Reconciliation discussions.

I did read the whole book and agree with the many reviews published at the front. One is written by Rev. Jim Boyles, retired General Secretary of the Anglican Church of Canada, and parishioner in his youth at St. Matthew's. To quote him, "This is a good book."

To quote Dawn Mercer, "The book invites us into the vision and ministry of a faithful Anglican lay woman/leader. We don't often get such a privilege."

There are several copies available at St. Matthew's. *Partnership as Mission, Essays in Memory of Ellie Johnson*, Edited by Kenneth Gray, Maylanne Maybee. Foreword by James Boyles.



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Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage

Nancy Hurn

On Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12, a Kairos-led 'Gaza Ceasefire Pilgrimage' across Toronto followed Bloor Street and Danforth Avenue. The ecumenical walk to promote peace in the Middle East began Saturday morning at Bloordale United Church. The first stopover for prayer and refreshments was welcomed by Rev. Phillip Stonhouse and Nancy Hurn at



St. Matthew's. The walk continued along Bloor with various greetings by the Toronto Bishops beginning with Bishop Ryscilla Shaw in the west end. More than 30 people participated in the two-day walk which concluded Sunday evening 41 km east (the length of Gaza) at the Rouge Hill GO station in Scarborough! A letter from Bishop Andrew Asbil about the walk and situation in the Diocese of Jerusalem can be found on the Diocesan [website](#).

Homemade Soups

The Welcome Committee has a supply of homemade frozen soups available at the church for parishioners who feel the need for themselves or others. Contact the office or Deborah Hurn.

Church Records

Deaths

Pearl Gill
February 24, 2024

Percy Jordan
February 27, 2024

Evelyn Fulton
May 2, 2024

Ron Landry
May 4, 2024





Christ Church St. James Anglican Church

The Rev. Lyn Youll-Marshall, Interim Priest in Charge

194 Park Lawn Road, Etobicoke, ON M8Y 3J1

Tel: 416 251 8711 * Fax: 647-694-1617 *

Church Email: christchurchstjames194@gmail.com

April 19, 2024

St. Matthews Anglican Church
3962 Bloor St. W
Etobicoke ON M9B 1M3

Dear Congregants of St. Matthews Anglican Church,

On behalf of the Christ Church St. James Refugee Committee, I want to thank you for your generous donation toward the Emergency Refugee Kit ministry that supplies much needed personal and household items to the ever-growing numbers of asylum seekers and refugees coming through our doors, asking for help.

Each kit per family supplies everyday personal items such as soap, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, face and bath towels and deodorant, amongst other things. Basic kitchen necessities are also included: dishwashing soap, scrubbers, potholders, dish towels, plates, cups, cutlery, can opener, small casserole dish, small cutting board, scissors and sewing kit. These items were discovered to be essential for the refugee families, since in their one-room shelters supplied by the Canadian government, they only have access to a small bar fridge and microwave, with no cooking or serving dishes to serve their family any meals. Early last year, we found out that these families could not even utilize most food supplied by our Food Bank because they could not cook anything, nor even open canned products, since they had no tools to do so.

While we carefully purchase items for these kits in the most economical way, it still costs \$130.00 to fill each one. From January 7th, 2024 to last week (April 7th), we have supplied 17 kits for the new families that came to us from the Queensway Motel shelter. This represents over \$2200.00 for these past 4 months alone. As you are no doubt aware, this need will only be increasing, so you can appreciate how grateful we are for your generous and thoughtful donation.

God bless you for your kindness,

Sandra Fawcett,
Chair, Christ Church St. James Refugee Committee
Christ Church St. James Anglican Church
194 Park Lawn Rd.
Etobicoke ON M8Y 3J1

Pastoral Care: Pastoral visits can be offered over the phone, by email or via Zoom. If you would like to arrange for home communion, please contact Rev. Philip or the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.

Partners in Prayer: Should you desire prayer for yourself or for another person, please make details known to Bob Holloway at 416-253-4909 or rholloway@sympatico.ca. If necessary, the request can be transmitted through the church office.

Cycle of Prayer: “Beloved, pray for us.” This is Paul’s way of asking the Thessalonians to pray for him (5:25) and it expresses the genuine need for believers to support one another through prayer. Each Sunday, we will be praying for individuals and families of St. Matthew’s in the Prayers of the People. Each week, a few names will be mentioned in our prayers and we will have the opportunity to support one another through prayer. Please take the time to remember these people during the week in your own prayers as well. If you do not wish to be included in our “Cycle of Prayer” please let the office know and we will be sure to keep your name off the list.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Prayer Shawls are provided to those who need the warmth and comfort of God and St. Matthew’s. If you would like a shawl for someone, please contact the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca. If you are knitting shawls for this ministry, please contact the office to arrange to drop them off.

Join Us

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. BCP Service
(no service in July & August)

Messy Church

Next Messy Church dates:
June 1, 4 p.m.
September 28, 4 p.m.

GIFT Groups

Contact the office for information



Sunday Services

9:30 a.m. Casual (in person & online)
followed by Coffee Hour in gym

11:00 a.m. Classic (in person & online)
12:10 p.m. Coffee Hour

10:30 a.m. Unity Worship replaces
9:30 and 11:00 a.m. worship
(generally first Sunday of each month)
Please check saintmatts.ca

Summer Worship (July & Aug)

Sundays: 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9:30 - 3:30

416-231-4014
office@saintmatts.ca

Summer Hours begin June 26

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday
9:30 - 2:30



The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Incumbent
416-231-3060 / philipstonhouse@hotmail.ca

The Rev. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant
Dr. Tyler Versluis, Music Director and Organist
Bryan Tran, Youth Ministry Associate
Tom Travaglini, Sexton
Grant Dunbar, Verger
Lisa Tait, Administrator

3962 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9B 1M3

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