



# News From The Pews

St. George's Anglican Church, Guelph, Ontario

## From the Rector

Dear Parishioners,

By the time you receive this newsletter it should be Spring, but as I write this in early March we are still in the lingering grasp of the tentacles of a winter of ice which just doesn't seem to want to let go. The last month or so has had the feel of living in an icebox because there is so much ice everywhere from the snow/thaw/freeze/rain/freeze pattern we have had this winter. Like many, I want it to go away. There have been teasers of spring but followed by reminders we aren't there yet. The other morning I woke to a few centimeters of new snow covering all the dirty half-melted ice berms on my street. I felt "ugh" as I took my dog out for her early morning walk. Then a remarkable sight unfolded in the early dawn light. The new snow covering the ice piles glistened in a beautiful light which displayed how the refrozen half-melted ice berms had crystalized into an amazing latticework of nature's sculptures. Truly a spectacular sight which emblazoned a hope-filled thought on my mind ... "there will be new life here!"

It also reminded me of our parish theme of "Thanksgiving" – the art of living thankfully, of living in thanksgiving. I have a tendency, as we all do sometimes, to reflect on the half-empty, the negative, the challenges

instead of the emerging possibilities and inherent blessings of the rhythms of life.

As we move into these latter stages of Lent, supported by the warming new life of the earth around us in spring, we need to look and see that "there will be new life here!" Once again we prepare to walk with Jesus in Holy Week through the city of Jerusalem ... a city for all ages, a city of power, but a city in crisis. It was a city filled with the tragic marks of our age – conflict, intolerance, hate, mass murders based on religious and ideological intolerance. To this we add our additional contemporary crises of global warming and the mass extinction of so many species. It can all seem so overwhelming. But it is in the midst of crisis, confusion, and the challenges to "holding faith" that the gifts of God's salvation hope are expressed. It is in the radical love of Jesus's passion, death and resurrection that we find the deepest meaning and power of these gifts of hope.

I pray that you will set aside time to gather with your family in Christ – the Church – to pray, meditate, and celebrate together in worship during this holy time. In this newsletter, you will find a list of the public services we will be offering as we close Lent and move into Easter. This is a good time to invite those we know from circles outside our Parish to come, discover, and experience what our faith is all about. It is also a good time to proclaim, "there will be new life here!"

In Christ's Love

The Reverend Canon Ralph T. Blackman  
Rector

### Our MISSION at St. George's:

- to make Jesus Christ known

### Our GOAL is to make St. George's a place of:

- prayer and seeking after God
- faith where Christ and the Gospel are proclaimed
- outreach to those in need
- engagement in the issues that confront us today
- love where all find a warm welcome



# Warden's Report: Looking forward to the year ahead

As your People's and Rector's Wardens, Nancy and I are excited about the year ahead at St. George's. We are also joined by our new Deputy Wardens Laura McDonald & James Walke and past wardens Maria Fage & George Adams.

We began our term with the Vestry Meeting held on Feb 24, 2019. It was well attended by many parishioners.

The Annual Report for 2018 included topics of Governance, Pastoral Care, Worship Music and Faith Formation, Parish Life, Outreach & Social Justice and Finance, Operations & Communications. We reviewed the 2018 Financial Statements and 2019 Parish Operating Budget. We will continue our focus of Thanksgiving as we embark on 2019.

I am sure we are all happy to enjoy these longer sunny days with milder temperatures. But unfortunately, the end of February and early March brought us some icy weather which led to pooling of water on the flat roof above the ramp/staircase between the church and the parlour. We are on roof repair duty! Please be careful when using this stairwell.

Lent & Holy Week began with Ash Wednesday on March 6. Please join us for eucharist on Sundays and Thursdays throughout Lent, Palm Sunday and holy week, ending with Easter Sunday on April 21, 2019. Please use your Easter offering envelope for any donations.

Happy Spring!!

Blessings,  
Rani & Nancy  
Wardens of the Day

## Holy Week at St. George's

### PALM SUNDAY

8:30 am Holy Eucharist

10:30 am Palm Procession & Choral Eucharist

### MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY

Noon Holy Eucharist

### MAUNDY THURSDAY

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

6:30 pm Sung Eucharist for the Institution of the Lord's Supper with Foot-washing

### GOOD FRIDAY

Noon Good Friday Liturgy

2:30 pm Stations of the Cross

### EASTER SUNDAY


6:30 am Easter Vigil Sunrise Service

8:30 am Holy Eucharist

10:30 am Choral Festival Eucharist



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# Welcome to our new wardens

## Nancy McPherson-Ball, Rector's Warden



A life-long Anglican, I grew up in Toronto going to Christ Church Deer Park and Grace Church on-the-Hill. After graduating from the University of Toronto the world was open. I've lived in Kingston, Montreal, Bellport, Long Island and Ithaca, New York, before moving to Guelph in the 1970s. My work life has

taken me from Queen's to McGill University Library to co-founding the Ithaca Montessori School. In Guelph I taught swimming at the Y, did market research for agricultural consultants and worked at the University of Guelph as a manager in Non-Credit Programs, Conferences and Co-op Education. I enjoy swimming, sailing, yoga, travel, camping and walking. As a wife, mother and grandmother my life has been full and continues to be so. I've been coming to St. George's for nearly 25 years. In general, while Sunday church attendance is at a low right now, social justice, outreach and doors open in our community are more important than ever as the city grows. I look forward to working with you and for you.

## Laura McDonald, Deputy Rector's Warden



I began my intentional spiritual journey with St. George's in 2014, joining the choir at Gerry Manning's invitation. I was baptised, confirmed and raised a member of the United Church, the only one in my family — I come from an Anglican background — so now I quip that "I have seen the

light and have returned to the one true religion!" I have made it a priority to belong to a church community in the places where I have lived, singing in choirs, leading services, teaching youth and adults, participating in social

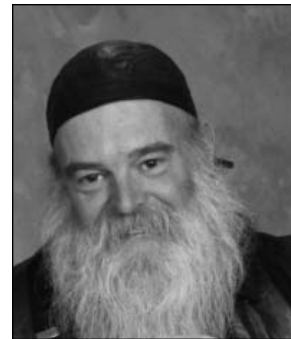
justice activism, pastoral care, ecumenism and serving on various committees at every church in which I have been a member.

Currently I supply teach at St. John's-Kilmarnock Independent School (where my husband Terry teaches in the Upper School), am training to become a Therapeutic Touch practitioner, am a qualified Pastoral Care visitor in the United Church and have been a member of the Guelph Chamber Choir since 1997.

I am honoured to serve the parish of St. George's in the capacity of Deputy Rector's Warden, and look forward to collaborating with my warden colleagues, clergy, staff, and congregation over the next three years.

## James A Walke, Deputy Peoples' Warden

When I came to St. George's in 2012 I was rather



broken after the breakdown and dissolution of a 28-year relationship. I knew I needed to find something out of the house and outside of work to balance my life. I chose St. George's because of the fantastic music program and I stayed because of the people. The congregation of St. Georges was most welcoming

and saw me through my open heart surgery in 2014. The support given has been unparalleled. I am very pleased that I was able to participate in the Pantomimes and at the Saturday Night Suppers - which offer deep insight into the challenges life can offer. Being a 'recovering Catholic' I very much appreciate the progressive attitude at St. George's. I think the social outreach is very important in keeping this valuable institution operating from the food pantry to the Saturday Night Suppers to all the fabulous concerts that take place. I look forward to having the opportunity to work behind the scenes (and in front) to make St. George's even more valuable to the neighbourhood and surrounding community.

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# Treasurer's Report

Thank you to everyone who attended the financial Q&A session just prior to the Annual Vestry Meeting in February. This lively discussion was very encouraging as it showed us that there is a real desire to better understand the health of our finances, as well as how we can be active stewards of our resources. As such, we have added a section to the noticeboard called "ThanksLiving in Action" where, in the coming months, you will be able to see the current state of our financial health. We will also be trying out new ways of showing you some of these figures in the bulletin regularly. This noticeboard should illustrate our "Why". Recall the Simon Sinek quote:

"People don't buy what you do; they buy why you do it. And what you do simply proves what you believe."

We have an aspirational budget because we believe we can do more than simply keep the lights on. And sometimes that means we need to change the way we do things and retire things which have been around for a long time to give time, space, and energy for new things to develop. It means thinking beyond here-and-now, thinking about how we can connect with each other and our wider community through ThanksLiving in Action; gifting of our time, talent, and treasure.

We will feature how we, as a community, are making a difference in the lives of each other and in the wider community. You will see some good news stories such as photos from the Saturday Night Suppers or figures from renting the parking lot – where connections are being made and new ventures are succeeding. In order for those good news stories to continue happen, we need to meet our aspirational goals. To achieve those goals, we need to remind ourselves of our progress and hold ourselves accountable to our personal commitments. One of the simplest ways to help meet our financial goals is to use Pre Authorized Giving (PAG) for regular contributions. We would love to see more than 30 per cent of regular givers participate through PAG. You can read more about PAG and other ways to give in the new Ways to Give brochure available through the church office or on our website. We need to remember why we set these aspirational financial goals and find the courage to step up and say "Yes" to our "Why".



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## Regular Office Hours

Monday - Thursday  
9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Friday  
CLOSED (except by appointment)

## Contact us:

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