

# Matt's Media – Lent/Easter 2019

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## From the Rector

*"While he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate."*

~Luke 15:20-24



One of my favourite customs in the tradition I grew up in was the practice of people sharing their 'testimonies' during the Sunday evening church service. The pastor would open the floor to anyone in the congregation who wished to share what God was doing in their lives. You could feel the energy in the room as people courageously spoke up: sharing about how God was with them during their recent surgery, a family crisis or other challenge, and even in the mundane tasks of everyday life. Everyone present had their faith strengthened as they sat and listened to one another's stories.

The passage cited above is part of the story of the 'Lost Son' and it is read this year on the Fourth Sunday of Lent. It is one of Jesus' most famous parables, and one I've often reflected upon. I've heard the faith stories of those who identify with the 'prodigal son' due to the dramatic change Christ brought to their lives. I can certainly relate to the 'prodigal' in the times where I've let loved ones down or where I actively wandered away from God to pursue my own selfish desires. In recent years, however, I've also come to think more about the older son in the parable, the one who didn't leave home but was responsible and faithful to his father.

While the Father responded joyfully to the return of his lost son, the elder son couldn't join in the celebration. He grumbled and complained about his brother getting all the attention. He is unable to hear his brother's story, or his father's, for that matter, and remained outside while everyone else enjoyed the festivities. I wonder how often I am like this 'lost' son – where my busyness, failed expectations, and even bitterness have kept me from joyfully entering into God's story of redemption happening all around me?

continued...

Next publication for Pentecost Sunday, June 9, 2019

Please submit items to Kathie Oakden (416) 626-7781 or via email at [kathie.oakden@gmail.com](mailto:kathie.oakden@gmail.com) on or before **Wednesday, May 15, 2019**

Editor  
Kathie Oakden

Layout / Design  
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## From the Rector, continued

Lent is a time when Christians are invited to join the Ancient people of God, and even Jesus himself, in wilderness wanderings. It is a time when we may take on a new spiritual discipline or have a renewed interest in giving to those in need. This Lent, there are a number of practices St. Matthew's is offering to help enrich your spiritual life in this holy season.

Firstly, many of you have already taken advantage of picking up Rev. Merv's book, *Three Score Ten: Reflections on Aging and the End of Life*. We had a wonderful evening together celebrating its launch and gleaned wisdom from Rev. Merv. He has put together a companion guide to go with the book so that we may use it as a daily reader through Lent. The book and guide are available for \$20, with the proceeds going to the ongoing ministry at St. Matthew's.

Secondly, I'm encouraging folks to take a few moments, every day, to go through your home and see if you can find one item you can do without that can be donated to a special Lenten Drive supporting Indigenous Ministries. Lent challenges us to go without, and this could be a practical way to 'give up' items that could go towards helping those in need. Items can be dropped off weekly in the Narthex. A list of items needed will be published soon.

Lastly, we will be having a special Lenten Series on Wednesday evenings entitled, "*Testimonies from the Wilderness - Evenings of prayer and sharing of faith stories.*" Starting on March 13th, we will be meeting at 7:30 p.m. for prayer with songs from Taize, and will have a chance to hear the faith story of someone from our faith community. I believe this will be a soul-enriching time together and a great way for us to become closer as a spiritual family. It will also challenge us to be thinking about how we might learn to share our faith stories with those in need of hearing the good news.

And don't forget, we will also be **shifting our worship schedule beginning on March 17th**, so please plan accordingly! It promises to be an exciting Lent & Holy Week season! I'm looking forward to the ways God will work in us in the weeks ahead, preparing us for the Passion and Resurrection of Christ, and empowering us to be the Resurrected Body of Christ in our world!

God's grace and peace be with you all, and I wish you a holy Lent,

~Rev. Stephen

## HELP - The Chancel Guild Is Shrinking!

We are fishing for men and women. Allow yourselves to be caught!

Have you ever wondered how everything gets set up for the Service of Holy Communion? Sitting in the pews it's not something we think about. It just happens. But it's not magic! A group of women and men are in the church on Saturday morning giving about an hour of their time to prepare the Elements for the Clergy.

For various reasons, over a period of time the numbers in this group have dwindled. We are now desperately in need of new members to lighten the load on those already doing this job. It is not hard work. We work in pairs and are on duty about every four or five weeks and the more members we have the fewer Saturdays you will be required.

If you would like to know more about the work of the Chancel Guild and/or would like to volunteer your time, please talk to Rev. Stephen, or with Bridget Farrar (416-622-0417).



## Wardens' Words

2018 is officially over and we are into 2019. 2018 was a good year with lots to celebrate at St. Matthew's, most notably the 70th Anniversary of St. Matthew's presence in central Etobicoke. Celebrations included:

May 12 ~ 70th Anniversary Celebration in Music and Word, led by Thomas Gonder and Nancy Hurn

September 23 ~ St. Matthew's Day with Bishop Jenny Andison, Ministry Fair and Barbeque Lunch

October 27 ~ Hymn Sing & Reception, narrated by Rev. Stephen Blackmore, accompanied by Thomas Gonder

December 2 ~ Family Reception of present and past clergy and parishioners

We want to acknowledge the contributions of Nancy Hurn for so capably managing St. Matthew's archives and bringing to our awareness the parish's 70 years of history and memories. Thank you Nancy!

We are grateful and thankful to our clergy, staff, and volunteers who make it possible for St. Matthew's to offer worship services four to five times a week which include Sunday Eucharist at 8:00 a.m., Interactive Family Service involving Club Matt and the Youth Group at 9:30 a.m., Choral Eucharist at 11:00 a.m., Wednesday BCP Eucharist and four Saturday Messy Church events. Parish fellowship events including weekly coffee hours, Pancake Supper, Lamb Supper, Church Picnic, and the Christmas Pageant and Luncheon continue to be integral to life at St. Matthew's.

St. Matthew's is also fortunate to have many dedicated volunteers who are passionate about our Outreach activities, which this year included support of programs for the Indigenous People, the continued provision of the Out of the Cold Program (along with our neighbours from Our Lady of Peace), and providing support for our refugee Ridwan Ali who successfully completed the qualifications for Physiotherapist Assistant.

2018 saw some staff changes as we bid farewell to Cole and Amy Hartin and family, and welcomed Seth Enriquez and family as our Club Matt and Youth Coordinator. We also welcomed Lisa Tait as our Parish Administrator, replacing Lydia Cordie.

Paving of the north end of our parking lot was required at a total cost of \$39,295. As a result of an oversubscription to the organ fund, we received direction from several donors to transfer their gifts to the Pave to Park Fund. With donations of \$21,325.99 received to-date, and a transfer from the organ fund of \$15,000, the outstanding balance for the paving is \$2,785. We hope to be able to retire this debt in 2019.

Operating financial challenges continued in 2018, however at year's end, due to the generosity of our parish family, income and operating expenses broke even! Thank you so much!

A summary outlined below compares actual numbers in 2018 to 2017:

- Envelope, PAG and PayPal Givings were down 6%
- Total Revenues were up 1%
- Total Expenses were up 3%

Thank you to David Oakden, Treasurer, and Anita Wakeman, our Accounts Administrator, for their input and advice in putting these documents together. We also want to acknowledge the ongoing work of our envelope secretary Noel Martin and assistant Mary Gleeson.

The Wardens wish to thank all those who have contributed to the various Ministries and events at St. Matthew's in 2018 and thank you for allowing us to serve in this role.

Your Warden Team,  
Karen Lee, Stuart Watt, and Shantelle Hampton

## Etobicoke Church Celebrates 70 Years — by correspondent Bob Macnaughten

Recently I was asked to cover a church's birthday party, and I somewhat reluctantly agreed to accept the assignment, not expecting much more than a "rose-glasses" look back at the events of the community's life over that time. It was all of that, but it was also much more. As I explored some of the first photos of the St. Matthew's community, it became clear that its history was really in many ways the history of Etobicoke. The central area of Etobicoke in those days was the Etobicoke of fields and lanes, of farming and even home-steading. It was into this context that a burgeoning Anglican Church of Toronto spread its influence and established many neighborhood churches such as St. Matthew's, part of the beginning of Etobicoke itself.

St. Matthew's itself began humbly, gathering its people to meet first in a basement church and only after some years expanded to a spacious, modern facility. As the new building was built with its high arcing ribs put into place, one had the sense of the developing pride the people felt as they watched St. Matthew's take shape for years to come. The church's identity also became more firmly established and the community grew over time quite substantially. As couples established their lives in this part of the city, families grew and St. Matt's Sunday School found itself bursting at the seams, often likely to number in the hundreds.

As the church grew in size and personality, so its vision of being a place in which Jesus' vision was made tangible developed. The vitality of the community grew to the point where it could see its work reaching beyond its Etobicoke limits. At one point, it responded to overseas needs by sacrificially raising the funds to buy cows to be sent to Africa. Interestingly, this was recently echoed by the current community's providing cows for Africa, providing a further mark of the parish's ongoing vitality.

The current community's faith life is expressed in its commitment to an Out of the Cold program which serves the street community of our own city as well as a deep sense of caring for those in its own midst that are in need.

As with any church birthday, there were appearances and comments made by clergy leaders about their times at the helm of the St. Matthew's community. Each of them spoke fondly about their history at the church – one had the sense that it had been a time of great significance for them as they shaped their own sense of ministry. The reminiscences were capped by the current rector and the warmth he felt as a leader at St. Matt's. Quite rightly, he helped the people look ahead to what was to come in the near future. How, he asked, could the parish be all it was called to be and how could it fulfil its place in a new Etobicoke with new challenges.

All in all, it proved to be a great celebration and this correspondent turned out to be thankful for the opportunity to encounter the story of St. Matthew's, Islington.



Photo: Three generations of St. Matthew's Rectors: Rev. Canon Bill Kibblewhite, Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford, Rev. Stephen Blackmore.

## Thank You to Our Local Vendors

We offer heartfelt thanks to our local vendors who kindly contributed door prizes for our 70th Anniversary celebration reception on December 2nd:

Canadiana Restaurant, Six Points Plaza

M&M Food Market, Six Points Plaza

Pet Valu, Six Points Plaza

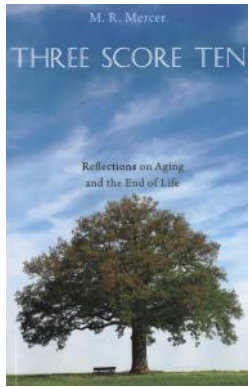
St. James's Gate Irish Pub, 5140 Dundas Street West

Starbucks, Six Points Plaza

Turner & Porter Funeral Services



## Three Score Ten – The Book Launch



On Saturday, February 23, 2019, St. Matthew's hosted the launch of *Three Score Ten: Reflections on Aging and the End of Life* written by M. R. Mercer, aka Rev. Merv, our very own Honorary Assistant.

To quote the book's jacket, we are invited "to reflect upon life, death and Christian faith in the latter portion of our lives." Many brief Reflections are organized alphabetically in chapters, and as our Rev. Stephen Blackmore stated in his review, they "are steeped in [Rev. Merv's] sturdy but flexible Biblical faith, and brought to light through poignant imagery and everyday experiences."

A companion booklet of daily Lenten studies on single Reflections, *A Lenten Companion to Three Score Ten*, was complimentary with each purchase of the book (\$20).

Are you puzzled by the title? Here are some clues:

Psalm 90:10; a score equals 20 like a dozen equals 12;  $3 \times 20 + 10 = 70$ .

About sixty people were treated to Rev. Merv's reading and reminiscence of several Reflections. A delightful wine and cheese reception followed, allowing everyone to mingle and meet the Mercer family, and to chat with Rev. Merv while he graciously inscribed and autographed their copy.

There are a number of books available for purchase in the Church Office.

Rev. Merv is generously donating the proceeds from sales of the book to St. Matthew's Church.



## Vestry 2019

In addition to the information in the Vestry Report made available a week before the meeting, the following items were discussed and motions were passed. Please obtain a copy of the Minutes, to be released shortly, for fuller information.

1. Automated External Defibrillators (AED) procurement, with fundraising by volunteers selling beer at the Annual Firefighters' Hockey Tournament, organized by the Hurn sisters.
2. Worship Schedule Motion to return to two Sunday morning services, to include an 8:00 a.m. BCP Eucharist and one 'Family of God' service.
3. Social Justice Vestry Motion:
  - 1) Increasing our direct outreach activity by researching and pursuing options to expand our outreach to our neighbourhood, with a report on results to the 2020 vestry.
  - 2) Increasing our advocacy by:
    - collaborating with groups and coalitions working to establish a minimum income threshold (whether through basic income or an increase in social assistance rates) and essential health benefits
    - standing in solidarity with Indigenous people whose treaty and other rights are under threat, and working to support justice for them
    - collaborating with groups and coalitions that are using evidence-based approaches to address food security issues.
4. Proposal for a Digital Sign by Florence Thompson. A new digital sign will make a major impact, showing that our Church is available to the neighbourhood and to passing traffic. The sign will have the ability to change messages about services, ministries and upcoming special events as well as what goes on in our wonderful facility. (Please read the Vestry Minutes for more information.)

## Messy Church

Saturday, January 19, 2019 was a snowy day! Many events were being cancelled, so Deborah Hurn took a telephone survey asking who would be attending Messy Church. Surprise – 40 people came!

The theme was “The Bible: Books of the Old Testament, and Books of the New Testament.” Where did familiar characters and stories appear? A huge stretch of paper on the wall became a timeline populated by paper figures and drawings to show the order of the stories.

And a Bible was given to each child who chose a version which appealed to her/himself. There was a “treasure hunt” designed so everyone could explore their own Bible. A variety of activities helped children become more familiar with the Bible that they hear about each Sunday, including Bibles in different languages and Greek too.

Dinner was a taco buffet: fill-your-own soft taco ‘boat’ with taco meat, chopped tomatoes, salsa, peppers, cheese, and sour cream. Dessert was ice cream sundaes: chocolate ice cream (Old Testament) or vanilla ice cream (New Testament), sauce, and sprinkles.



Congratulations to everyone: the families who came; the committee of Dawn Mercer, Linda Dickson, Emily Crump, and Seth Enriquez; the cooks Deborah and Nancy Hurn; the helpers; and Rev. Stephen.

Future dates for Messy Church are March 2, April 27, and June 1 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. You're invited! Come and see what it's all about. And bring your family and friends too.

## Club Matt—Seth Enriquez

Now that we're into 2019, we're revamping the three-year curriculum “Faith, Hope, Love” that we created over the summer of 2018 and launched this past fall. As you will remember, our goal is to learn that faith is relationship more than faith as a system of propositions or faith in our ability to master truth. Therefore, we have endeavoured to learn the story of God, learning about how God has reached out to humanity for lasting relationship, and how we have rejected God and ended up alone, and how God didn't leave us lonely but has come to us in Jesus and made us his family, the Church.

I ask that you continue to pray for us as we look to serve the children at St. Matthew's in winsome and credible ways. Pray that we may share the love of Jesus with each child, that we may share the stories of God's love for us in the Bible in ways that the children will understand so that their faith will grab hold and grow. Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

## Youth—Seth Enriquez

Our youth continue to meet on Sunday mornings, and we're just wrapping up our latest youth learning series on “MEANINGFUL FRIENDSHIPS.” The goal has been to look at scripture to learn God's wisdom on how to choose friends and how to grow friendships in ways that honour and glorify God.

We have also begun our Youth Confirmation Classes, which have been full of great conversations and much food for thought and prayer as we go through the learning material together. I ask that you pray for our Youth, that they may grow in the likeness of Jesus as they seek to love and honour God in their studies, friendships, family life, and the decisions that they make as they prepare for the future.

## Property Report

A full review of Property Issues in 2018 is documented in the 2018 Vestry Report. The recent quarter activities are summarized here:

1. The repaired fire escape stairway railing awaits a new coat of paint to spruce it up. Volunteers are needed to paint. Please speak to Ted.
2. The re-paved rear parking lot has cast concrete parking curbs, upgraded from mass asphalt.
3. The locking mechanism at the front entrance was upgraded and re-keyed to make life easier for the operators and to enhance security. It is now a simple task to operate these locks.
4. A new lock-set was installed in the Club Matt room to eliminate the possibility of a child becoming locked inside the room via deadbolt. The other door to the room has sustained significant damage and may need to be replaced, at which point another new lock-set will be installed.
5. The Rectory roof came under raccoon attack and they created a number of holes in the roof that led to water damage inside. A repair was performed including adding new flashing to problem areas and sealing of the entry point which raccoons might find attractive. The interior damage will be repaired in the spring.
6. The Rectory furnace blower-motor gave out after 12 years of service and was replaced with a new, efficient two-stage unit. This, of course, happened during a cold snap and Encore heating was able to provide temporary heating until the new unit could be installed. Thank you to Stephen and family for handling the situation with grace.
7. During the period of furnace downtime and to complicate matters, the main fuse blew at the Rectory. Thankfully we were able to source and install a new fuse the same day.
8. The Rectory chimneys will need to be rebuilt in the spring. We were unable to have them repaired before the weather passed the point of no return.
9. A leak sprung in the overhead pipes in the hall next to the Fellowship kitchen. To complicate matters, the pipe insulation covering these pipes may contain asbestos. We engaged an abatement contractor to remove the necessary areas of insulation, submit bulk samples to the lab and to certify the air quality post removal. After the abatement process the plumbers from Anta were able to come and repair the leak which was due to a pinhole opening in the side of the pipe. Some water damage was sustained but is repairable.
10. A number of the bathroom drains rusted through and had to be replaced with new metal and seem to be functioning adequately.



We look forward to another great year and will strive to improve the facility as much as possible this year. Feedback and volunteers are always welcome and appreciated.

~ William (Ted) Hampton & Al Thompson



## Growing Healthy Stewards

**“We love /give /share because God first loved us.”**

St. Matthew's is now well into its second year of the Diocese of Toronto's Growing Healthy Stewards program. This coached program is a stewardship education program that does not leave personal stewardship to chance. Our stewardship is a part of how we live out our discipleship—essentially our call to be fully committed followers of Jesus Christ. As stewards, we commit to a life of generosity in all aspects of our lives with the generous giving of our Talents, Time and Treasures. The program spans a period of three years and its success is measured by fourteen best practices.

During Lent we will be launching our Joyful Giving Campaign. All parts of the Joyful Giving Campaign are founded in scripture. It will be a time for individual reflection to consider what we are able to contribute from our means to the financial health of the parish. A Joyful Giving package, which includes our story in the form of a Narrative Budget and Intention Cards, will be distributed to all parishioners in mid-March. The campaign concludes on Easter Sunday.

This spring, we will be highlighting a variety of St. Matthew's ministries, through presentations during our Sunday services by folks who are involved in the various ministries. Please feel free to contact any member of the team should you like information about any of the ministries, which are listed below:

- \* Worship & Music
- \* Pastoral Care
- \* Outreach
- \* Parish Life & Fellowship
- \* Education & Faith Formation
- \* Evangelism

Should you have any questions about the Growing Healthy Stewards program or would like to become involved with the team, please contact Rev. Stephen, Rev. Merv, Karen Lee, Sandra Wilson, Richard Farrar, Stuart Watt or Iain Shao.

Let's Keep Growing!

## Food Cupboard

Although the Food Cupboard was well utilized, the numbers of recipient visits and food donations were down significantly from 2017. No one requesting food was turned away. We are grateful to all those who support this ministry, including members of the parish and Kingsley School.

We are thankful for donations of cash or gift cards which Reverend Steven Blackmore distributes at his discretion to anyone in need.

Our records for 2018 are:

Items received	420 (down 390 from 2017)
Items distributed	347 (down 463 from 2017)
Items removed - past Best Before	5
Bags of groceries distributed	25 (down 2 from 2017)

~ Sally & Noel Martin, Lois & John Armstrong

## St. Matthew's Indigenous Issues Group (SMIIG)

SMIIG Activities have been:

- Support for the Clinic and Community of White Dog, Ontario
- Christmas 2018, gifts to Toronto Urban Native Ministry (TUNM)
- Christmas 2017, 100 gift packages for the Feast and distribution by the Toronto Police Services during the walkabout with Rev. Andrew Wesley
- 2018 Woman's coat drive in support of TUNM
- Blanket Exercise to provide a deeper understanding to our Parish of Indigenous issues
- Discussion of curriculum development with the Kingsley School for a children's program
- 2019 Coat Drive: Coats were sent after January 31 to support the Parish of the Anglican Church of the Ascension in Inuvik, NWT. Cash donations assisted with the cost of sending the shipment

The next meeting of SMIIG will be Wednesday, March 13th at 2:00 p.m. in the parlour. Everyone is welcome to attend to learn about indigenous issues, and to work toward reconciliation. Regular meetings occur on the second Wednesday of each month.

If you would like more information about this, please contact Nancy Hurn at 905-625-7848.

## Look What We Can Do Together!

St. Matt's collected items for the Toronto Native Urban Ministry Christmas Drive.



## Let's See What Else We Can Do: Lenten Loonie Toonie Drive 2019



This year our Lenten Loonie-Toonie Drive will go to support Indigenous Ministries.

The jars will be available in the Narthex, commencing Sunday, March 3, 2019. Please take one, fill as able and return to the church on Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019.

Thank you for your support of this wonderful Outreach project!

## Out of the Cold

The 2018-2019 season commenced Sunday, November 18th, 2018 and will run until Sunday March 31st, 2019. This period includes 20 Sundays in total. A big thank you goes to all the volunteers who give up their Sundays for this ministry.

This year we have been operating at capacity, which is twenty-seven beds. People attending for dinner only number between ten to twenty guests served. Our shower and laundry service is also functioning well with between 12 and 15 showers and loads of laundry being done each evening. We were forced to purchase a new laundry pair after the existing units finally gave up the ghost. Thankfully, our friends at the Kiwanis Club were able to make a special donation to cover the cost of the replacement unit.

We give a big thank you to the BLD Group whose large choir of carolers was very well received. We have satisfied an abnormally large demand for winter jackets, winter boots and large back-packs this year. We thank everyone who donated clothing and other items this year. **At this point in the season, we would appreciate donations of Men's Jeans, Winter Jackets and T-Shirts.** Please keep us in mind when editing your 'Men's' wardrobe.

The Out of the Cold Ministry is a joint venture between St. Matthew's and Our Lady of Peace. Additionally, we continue to enjoy strong co-operation with several parishes in the community including St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Royal York United, Humber Valley United, BLD Covenant Community, St. James United, Martin Grove United and St. Martin-in-the-Fields, all of whom contribute financially and with volunteers to the ministry. Special mentions go to St. Martin-in-the-Fields parish which held many fundraising events, including a carol service; St. Andrew's Presbyterian parish who generously and consistently donate four times a year; and the Kiwanis Club of Kingsway Humber who came to the rescue when the washing machine broke down.

We thank all the parishes, individuals, and organizations who have provided Sunday evening meals and lunches this year including the St. Matthew's Youth who cooked many beautiful lasagnas about which our guests raved. We also thank St. Benedict's, St. Martin-in-the-Fields, St. Clement's, BLD - Toronto, BLD - St. Francis Xavier Mississauga, Knights of Columbus, Our Lady of Peace, St. Gregory, Catherine Mercuri, and Rose and Jared.

We are fortunate to enjoy the continued support of many other community groups and businesses including but not limited to: The Etobicoke Rotary Club, The Kiwanis Club of Kingsway Humber, The Knights of Columbus, Starbucks, Maple Lodge Farms, Weston Bakeries, Winpack, The 333rd Beaver Group, Robert Holloway, and many other individuals. We are most grateful to these and many others for their ongoing and generous support of this ministry. The ministry is 100% reliant on donations and accepts no subsidy from any other agency.

We would like to thank St. Matthew's for the support and facilities without which the ministry would not be possible.

~ William (Ted) Hampton & Chris Orzel

## Men's Breakfast

On the first Saturday of each month, all men of the parish are invited to Breakfast at the Montreal Deli at 2055 Dundas Street East in Mississauga. This has become a social gathering; not many formal topics are covered. Contact Colin Hall for information: 647-401-6514. Next breakfast: Saturday, April 6th at 8:00 a.m.

## Good News Post-Script to the M25:40 Report to Vestry

Ridwan Ali, our "chosen" refugee, has found permanent full-time employment as of January 28th at a factory in North York. He works there from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily with about a 90-minute commute each way. He is learning new skills with a diverse group of co-workers, most of whom do not speak English as their first language, so it is an interesting lesson in communications!! He continues with his weekend jobs (Bayshore Home Health Services and also in a restaurant) so is a very busy young man indeed.

Ridwan is supporting himself with these jobs as the financial contribution from St. Matthew's ended in 2018. He is a determined young man who will successfully make his way in a career in due course. The challenge now remains for Ridwan to find full-time employment in his field. He is in the same position as many young graduates, where each job to which he applies demands a year of related work experience before hiring. One cannot get that experience without the opportunity to work ... a vicious circle.

Ridwan is extremely grateful to the entire Parish for the support that has been given to him as he settles into his life and routine in Canada. Those of us who have had the good fortune to share in Ridwan's journey and the "ups and downs" along the way have received so much love and trust from him in return. We are truly blessed.

*Our M25:40 Committee who have guided Ridwan (Rev. Stephen Blackmore, David Hampton, Sue Hampton, Shantelle Hampton, Theresa Kane, Marguerite Locke, Rev. Merv Mercer, Helen Prankie, John Prankie, Sandra Watt, Stuart Watt)*

~ Marguerite Locke

## Communication at St. Matt's

How to put a notice:

*In the Sunday Church Service Bulletin and/or weekly email:*

- Take some time to introduce yourself to our Parish Administrator, Lisa Tait, either in person in the church office or by telephone
- Lisa works Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Submission deadline is Tuesday because the bulletin is printed on Wednesday
- Please submit your notice and contact information in writing or by email to Lisa
- Be specific as to the date(s) when the notice is to be published and whether you also want it announced or referred to at the services
- Lisa's email address is office@saintmatts.ca. The office phone number is 416-231-4014

*On the Church Bulletin Boards:*

- Place the notice in the "Communications" mail box beside Rev. Stephen's office door
- For more information speak to Cathy Cross

## Prayer Ministries at St. Matthew's

Do you know about these vital ministries? Do you participate? Would you like to be included?

**Partners in Prayer** – our “prayer chain” has operated, either by telephone or electronically, for 40 years. More than 30 present and past parishioners will regularly pray for you, your family, friends and acquaintances to provide support during periods of stress, anxiety, problems, and loss. If you have a request, or wish to be part of the chain, please contact me, Bob Holloway, and provide your email address or phone number.

**Intercessions – Prayers of the People** – Requests for prayers led by a team of faithful and prayerful Intercessors can be entered in a request form available on the Narthex Lectern. The given names entered are read aloud at the 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services. Along with those petitions, the names of all parishioners and families are read a few at a time in a progressive weekly rotation. At the 9:30 a.m. service, prayers are offered up, aloud or silently, in a circle around the altar as part of the Eucharist.

**Prayer Room** – established 16 years ago, this “Chapel” is located across the hallway from the Parlour. This lovely, peaceful, private, and quiet place is available for your use, and never locked, for those times when you need and want to sit alone to meditate or pray.

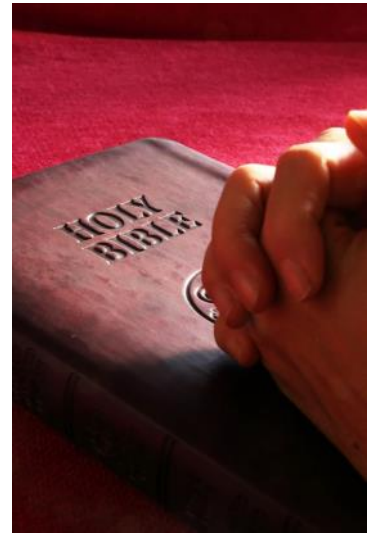
**Prayer Shawls** – This ministry began 20 years ago in the USA and has spread widely in the Christian church and other faiths. This quotation from one of the founding women is a fitting explanation of the ministry.

*"Shawls ... made for centuries, universal and embracing, symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving God. They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace, mother, hug, shelter and beautify. Those who have received these shawls have been up-lifted and affirmed, as if given wings to fly above their troubles..."*

At St. Matthew's, for several years volunteers have prayed as they knit shawls to be given to parishioners, family members, friends, and acquaintances who are in need of comfort. One parishioner has knit over 100 shawls. I received one while recovering from major surgery and treasure it highly, using it during my morning prayers. Shawls are available for personal or gift purposes at no cost.

**Anointing for Wholeness and Strength** – Five years ago this Ministry of Anointing began at St. Matthew's along with 30 other parishes in the Diocese of Toronto. Four Lay Anointers were trained and licensed by our Bishop and have been available at every 9:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m. service since establishment. To receive anointing and prayer, simply proceed to the Baptismal Font after receiving the elements. Anointing is personal for you and if you have special needs for prayer for yourself or others, please advise the anointer. Laying on of hands with anointing for healing may not be administered by the Lay Anointers. At the 8:00 a.m. service, anointing is provided by clergy.

~ Bob Holloway – Interim Prayer Coordinator - 416 253 4909 – [rholloway@sympatico.ca](mailto:rholloway@sympatico.ca)



## World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is a global ecumenical movement led by Christian women who welcome everyone to join in prayer and action for peace and justice. St. Philip's Lutheran Church hosted our area event on Saturday, March 2nd at 11:00 a.m. (a change from the usual Friday). This year the writing country was Slovenia. Consider going next year. For more information, please see <https://wicc.org/world-day-of-prayer>.

## St. Anne's Ladies Group

St. Anne's Group is much warmer than our winter weather has been. Our first meeting of 2019 was held on January 21st with only nine members in attendance. Tiziana Abate of Toronto Fire Services presented an excellent video and presentation on Fire Safety in the home. Multiple hand-outs were given and everyone felt they benefitted from this program.

February featured Jasmine Dooh from the LAMP Community Health Centre in Etobicoke who enlightened us about LAMP and their need for cash donations. OHIP supports the Clinical Health Services, but LAMP also provides Community Support in many ways at four locations, including RAY Youth Space at Burnhamthorpe Collegiate for East Mall, West Mall and Capri Road neighbourhoods.

MacMillan's Frozen Products were again offered as a fundraiser. Delivery of Macmillan's products to the church will be on March 13th.

On Saturday, March 2nd, the World Day of Prayer was hosted by St. Philip's Lutheran Church, 61 West Deane Park Dr. in Etobicoke. Speak to Cathy Cross if you would like to know more.

On March 18th, St. Anne's will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the parlour. There will be a business meeting with the election of officers and designation of our annual donations to various charities. There will not be an official speaker for this meeting. Instead, our May Outing will be discussed, e.g., a boat cruise, etc. so bring your ideas.

Mark your calendar, ladies! Join us in the parlour on April 22nd for Claudette's Fashions' presentation of their Spring & Summer wardrobe.

I thank you for the opportunity of serving as President for the past six years. All good things must end and at the end of May my term will end. I will remain a member and will be happy to hand over all accumulated information. Would any person who is willing to take over this position please attend the March meeting or speak to me.

Our May Outing will be the final meeting for the season. Details about the destination will be forthcoming.

~ Bertha Anstey, President, St. Anne's Ladies Group

## Church Records



### Deaths

Barbara Clara Franklin  
December 17, 2018

Lyall Garth Martin  
January 16, 2019

Richard John Gallagher  
January 28, 2019



# Your Church Needs You!

- Furniture movers are needed to arrange and put away chairs & tables for church functions (funeral receptions, coffee hours, entertainment events). Contact Jeff & Jean Wright, 416-620-0586.
- The Chancel Guild would like more members. Many hands make light work. Speak to Bridget Farrar, 416-622-0417.
- Sunday Coffee Hour needs volunteers. Please see the sign-up sheet in the Parlour, or speak to Jeff and Jean, 416-620-0586.

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**Scott Millar, CFP**  
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**Need a ride?**

If you or anyone you know needs a ride to get to church please call Mary Gleeson at 416-239-9640 and she will do her best to find a driver for you. If you have an emergency getting to a doctor she will also try to locate a driver for you.

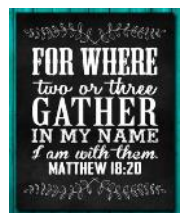


**Pastoral Care:**

We have a group of parishioners who are willing to make visits to hospitals. If you know someone who is in hospital or recovering at home and would like a visitor, please contact Rev. Gail Marshall at 905-602-4958.

**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. Matt'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** continues to need your help! Prayer Shawls are provided to those who need the warmth and comfort of God and St. Matthew's. If you would like to offer to knit a shawl, please contact Rev. Gail Marshall at 905-602-4958.



3962 Bloor Street West,  
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Email: [office@saintmatts.ca](mailto:office@saintmatts.ca)  
Website: [www.saintmatts.ca](http://www.saintmatts.ca)

**The Rev. Stephen Blackmore, Rector**  
416-231-3060 / [stephen.blackmore@me.com](mailto:stephen.blackmore@me.com)

*The Rev. Gail Marshall, Deacon*  
*The Rev. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant*  
*The Rev. Milton Dorman, Honorary Assistant*  
*Mr. Seth Enriquez, Discipleship Ministry Associate*  
*Mr. Thomas Gonder, Music Director*  
*Lisa Tait, Parish Administrator*  
*Tom Travaglini, Sexton/Verger*

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	BCP, Holy Communion
Sunday	9:30 a.m.	All Ages, Holy Communion
Sunday	11:00 a.m.	BAS, Holy Communion with Choir
Wednesday	10:30 a.m.	BCP, Holy Communion

*Please watch the bulletins and weekly emails for information about the shift in our worship schedule, beginning March 17th*



**St. Matthew's & Social Media**  
**Our Sermons are on-line! [www.saintmatts.ca](http://www.saintmatts.ca)**  
**Join us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StMatthewsAnglicanChurch](http://www.facebook.com/StMatthewsAnglicanChurch)**

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