

HONEY & LOCUST



St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church, Bright's Grove

Welcome to the second edition of Honey & Locust – a biweekly news and church business letter from St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church in Bright's Grove.

We have been blessed with a wonderful picture tag from Jim Mayer (above) symbolic of the honey & locust that our namesake, John the Baptist, lived on when in the wilderness (Matthew 3:4; Mark 1:6)

Church Services – 8:30 am Zoom Addition – Welcome!

In addition to our 10:30 am Facebook Live service, Father Shaun, at the request of a parishioner, is going to try doing an 8:30 am Zoom Service on the second Sunday of each month – *Sunday June 14th will be the first*

service – Alleluia for the return of early service (virtually)!

To be a part of this revised Book of Common Prayer worship service at 8:30am on June 14th, please email Father Shaun+ at shauneaton@diohuron.org and he will send you an Zoom e-invite for the service.

If you do not have an account yet, go to <https://zoom.us> and create your free account. Follow along step by step for this free service and make sure your video and audio are connected

You can use your computer and it's camera and mic, or you can download the zoom app from your app store for your phone or iPad. Set up your free account and get ready to worship on June 14th!

Please try to get your Zoom account set up in advance of the service. If someone in the congregation is good with Zoom set-up, we would welcome a volunteer to help folks with this. For now, If you have any difficulties getting Zoom setup or using it, please contact one of your wardens, Deb Walker (debwalker@cogeco.ca) or Peter Langille (langille5@bell.net) and they will try to help walk you through it.

Note, per Bishop Todd on June 8 as well as our Metropolitan, The Most Reverend Anne Germond, our Anglican church buildings will remained closed during the summer and we will reassess this in September.

<https://diohuron.org/bishop-todd-townshend-a-message-to-the-diocese/>

Sunday School

Leslie Grieve and Deb Walker are thinking of changing up our virtual Sunday School for July and August. More to come as we mull. Missing all you kids!

Bee Pollinator Garden Progress

Bob Halliday indicates that our bee pollinator garden is in the schedule for Return the Landscape company to dig and plant in early July. Doug Winch indicates beehives will come later in the year once we have had a chance for the garden to settle in a little and for Doug and team to interact with community neighbours on the beehive. We hear folks are keen!

Bob Halliday sent Deb and Doug the following whimsical note that captures the joy of this journey:

“We have a very similar pollinator garden to what the church one will be. Last night a swarm of bees arrived and took up residence in a knot hole in an old Manitoba maple about 20 ft from the garden. About the same distance from our front door also. A worrisome sound but they have settled down and as Doug Winch would say ‘You’ve got a bee tree’. Just wondering if eventually we could attach a spigot to the trunk and have honey on tap.”

Thanks very much to the AFC for providing the grant to fund this.



Church Yard Summer Care

Thanks to all the volunteers who are mowing, gardening, and pruning this summer. The e-mail version of this note has a schedule attached for mowing.

Durham Langille and Doug Winch are pictured here after giving our over-grown yew shrubs a much-needed buzz cut...the shrubs are already greening up in this hot humid growing season yet no longer block light in the windows. Note, Doug is in his bee shirt and Durham in his College Pro shirt. If you need your eves, windows or siding cleaned you can help Durham pay for his Engineering schooling at Guelph University by giving him a call at 519-328-7524.



St. John in the Wilderness Mission and Vision

Given this time of reflection and change Father Shaun reminded us that it is good to keep our vision and mission statements in front of all of us in the congregation as we progress and evolve through this pandemic. Some of us needed to go to the church to see it on our wall, a committee developed it a number of years ago says Dave Hains; they are:

Our Mission

To Love God and to share His love with others.

Our Vision

To show a welcoming, visible sign of Christ in a growing community, and to strive to meet the spiritual needs of everyone in a facility which is accessible, safe, environmentally friendly, and addresses the space requirements of all.

We Are Volunteering Again at the Inn of the Good Shepherd – Nice to Help!

Per our Facebook pictures and post of June 6, thanks very much to the cooks and take-out boxers for helping at The Inn of the Good Shepherd. We feel blessed to be able to help. So far, how this is working is we have 4 or 5 cooks making meatloaf, baked potatoes, veggies etc and 4 prepers/boxers.

The Inn folks were specific in asking for 4 prepers/boxers at The Inn.

The cooks prepare the meatloaf and baked potatoes and deliver it either to a prepers/boxer home or to them at The Inn itself. Then the prepers/boxers cook veggies, gravy and this month they put meatloaf, baked potatoes, veggies, some cheese, a pickle, butter, gravy and sour cream in the boxes then gave the boxes to Inn staff to give to clients along with a juice box at the front door of The Inn. Extra food was then delivered to the women's shelter and used to help feed folks being housed in motels during covid-19. Thanks to all who helped....we next volunteer July 4 – Thanks to all who are offering help.

Bluewater Triathlon/Duathlon and Ironkid – Cancelled for 2020 – Looking Forward to 2021!

2021 instead of 2020 will be our church's 28th year of bringing the Bluewater Triathlon/Duathlon/AquaBike and Ironkid to Bright's Grove. The event, which was started in 1982 by Polysar Corporation, is cancelled this year due to covid-19. It was a hard decision made by Race Director Ken Walker.

Shirley MacKenzie summed up feelings for this in a note to Ken:

"I am vey sorry to hear this news however, I believe it was expected. The

Triathlon/Duathlon is much more than a fundraising event for the church and a sporting event for athletes. It is the consummate outreach program. It provides all of us with an ultimate sense of community seldom experienced. Your devotion and dedication to this event is unparalleled. This year was to have been extra special as it offered winning Duathletes a path to Worlds and this must have made the decision to cancel all the more difficult. We, the community at large and the athletes will miss the homegrown hospitality offered at this unique Bluewater Triathlon/Duathlon event.

Shirley”

For those of you on our BWT Facebook...athletes and community folk made lovingly clear that they are really going to miss our volunteers, the smiles at the corners, the baking and the cooking. *Thanks to all of you – what a great congregation....and looking forward to 2021 with you.*

L.A.R.C. Refugee Update



2896 Old Lakeshore Road
Bright's Grove, ON
Telephone: 519-869-2403
E-Mail: stjohninthewildernesschurch@gmail.com

Our Lambton Anglican Deanery is sponsoring a family of 12 Syriac Christian refugees from Nineva Province, Iraq. This YouTube provides good info on this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NwXY1SwwKkg>

In 2014 all the Christian families of their region were driven from their homes by ISIL. Their community was scattered – the Neasan's ended up as refugees in Jordan. They have no hope of ever returning to their homeland, have no long-term future in Jordan, and deeply desire to make a new beginning in Canada. To do this **the Deanery need to raise \$47,000** more (we already have \$28,000 in hand) in order to sponsor them – preferably by July they indicate. LARC indicate they cannot submit their application to sponsor the family until they have the \$75K in hand. **The Deanery will also need many volunteers.** The Deanery indicated that to give to this ministry, make your donation to your parish (so that you may get a tax receipt), marked “Refugees.” To Volunteer: contact Sue Brouwer mama@brouwer.ca 519-869-4775.

Dave Hains, our treasurer at St. John in the Wilderness, indicates that:

Cheques are to be made payable to St. John in the Wilderness, with reference to “Refugees” in the memo line.

E-transfer (Interac) is acceptable and again on the message line insert “Refugees”.

We hope that these donations are over and above parishioners regular giving's.

www.facebook.com/groups/524453119787144/
www.stjohninthewilderness.com

Gift Card Fundraiser – Give it a Peek

Migration to Fundscrip on-line as a fundraiser has been slow. The e-mail this newsletter is attached to contains a short procedure on how to sign up and many of the benefits it brings both the church and parishioners.

January to March (in person at church) we had earnings of \$373.89. Since April (on-line) 9 people have signed up, 6 have placed orders with an earning of \$97.06.

Please do consider participating, for example perhaps for your main grocery store and pharmacy. It is very nice to not have to touch a PIN machine with these – just have them scanned at a distance at the store.

Wardens Looking for IT Volunteers

Covid-19 has challenged us to become more IT savy – so we can stay connected and experience and do great things as a church community. Peter and Deb are looking for folk who are good with things like software for connecting folks or music mix hardware etc. If you have a talent you would like to share by setting up IT and helping parishioners access and use it...Peter and I are all ears (with only limited IT capability between us)...please contact us!

Father Shaun's Corner

One of my favourite prayers is the 'Anima Christi' (Latin for "Soul of Christ"). For centuries, the Anima Christi prayer has helped bring people closer to Christ to meditate on His Passion and pray for His guidance. It has been of great comfort to me and I hope that it will be for you too.

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.

Body of Christ, save me.

Blood of Christ, inebriate me.

Water from the side of Christ, wash me.

Passion of Christ, strengthen me.

O good Jesus, hear me.

Within Thy wounds hide me.

Separated from Thee let me never be.

From the malignant enemy, defend me.

At the hour of death, call me.

And close to Thee bid me.

That with Thy saints I may be Praising Thee, forever and ever.

Amen

Share Your Joy/Journey

If you have a paragraph or two you would like to publish in Honey & Locust, perhaps an update for a church group you are part of or a favourite prayer you would like to

share...whatever is on your mind that might be meaningful/joyous for your congregation to hear...please craft the words and send them to debwalker@cogeco.ca



Yours in Faith,

Peter Langille, Deb Walker and Fr. Shaun
Wardens & Priest
St. John in the Wilderness, Bright's Grove

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Hello from Hazel Millholland!

Deb Walker delivers hardcopy sermons and Honey & Locust to about 7 parishioners each week. Deb says "It is one of my joyous tasks as typically I get to see at least a couple of folk out on their porch and say hello. I love the chives in bloom at Karen and Charlie Dally's – they pass on Marlene's hardcopies (Blessings to you Marlene!). The violas at Hazel's step reflect the overall joy of Hazel – Blessings Hazel!")"