

## HONEY & LOCUST



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

### Loving Our Neighbours – Virtual Church Services for the Summer

St. John in the Wilderness will continue to meet, celebrate, and share our Lord's love via virtual means this summer. The services include:

All Sundays: 10:30 am Facebook Live. This service is also recorded and placed on a Vimeo platform and distributed by e-mail to parishioners as well as placed on our Facebook site for folks to see anytime. Sermons are posted on our website as well.

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month: 8:30 am Zoom service. Father Shaun has a list of folks he invites (the early service people mainly), if you want an invitation please send the church an e-mail so Shaun may include you on the list.

**Bishop Todd** has published several notes on progress towards Anglican churches in Ontario reopening. Given all the concerns, Leaders of Anglican churches in Ontario ask that we all take the summer to re-energize and renew; with church buildings essentially closed until September – read Bishop Todd's note referred to in the paragraph below for further information should you want it. As Archdeacon Tanya Phibbs said: "there are many wonderful examples of the Church being the Church—worshiping, caring for one another, and reaching out – this is very heartening".

Bishop Todd's June 17 2-page note contains a succinct 1-page template for stages of reopening; the stages are endorsed by the provincial house of bishops. His note is on the Diocese of Huron website and is also attached to the e-mail that this Honey & Locust was distributed with. Anglican churches in Ontario are in Stage Red, with assessment on progression to amber/green to occur in the first half of September.

The Executive and Council at St. John in the Wilderness support this approach. We feel blessed that many of us can gather virtually and we are connecting as well with those of us who do not use computers.

Father Shaun held his first Zoom service on June 14 – Thank You Fathers Shaun and Rishi! We had about 8 participants (which is normal for the early service). This is a

good number for Zoom. With the small number it can be more interactive and folks got a chance to read along and pray together aloud....hearing each other. As Betty Johnson said: "Just like in Zoom jazzercise classes, you have to get used to the delay, so you need to talk really slowly; when you cannot get together physically it sure is a great way to all get together and hear each other, worship and pray aloud together!"

## Sunday School – Summer Care Packages

Leslie Grieve and our wonderful St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church Women (ACW) are putting together fun care packages for our Sunday School children. Since March, kids have been receiving a weekly Sunday School lesson hardcopy in the mail...*WELL HELLO SUMMER*...instead during the week of July 6 and the first week of August a fun care package, one per family, will be placed on your front porch by Lyn Kidd, Deb Walker or Leslie Grieve. We hope the kids enjoy them and feel God's love as they play with the items. We may even figure out how to post a video or two to say hello to the kids!



## Benjamin Eddie – 100 Nights of Bag Piping to Embrace Our Spirits

Benjamin Eddie, from our Sunday School, blessed the community with 100 nights of bag piping to thank front line workers and boost all our spirits during the spring phase of Covid 19 – Thank you, Benjamin!



Each evening, at 7 pm in his driveway in Bright's Grove, Benjamin played his bag pipes, dressed in tartan. And it really helped folks. Deb Walker thinks of him as the Julie Andrews of WWII who sang to folks in the underground London subway during the London blitz.

Now that summer evening sun is here, Benjamin is hanging up his pipes to enjoy the evening sun with the rest of us....you

can see the Eddie's often cycling around Bright's Grove – Emily, Christian, Benjamin, Lucas and Grant. Smiling with folks and chatting at a social distance.

9-year old Benjamin got his first paid gig last week. He played 7 songs at a small backyard graduation ceremony and was thrilled and honoured to both play and be paid. Scotland the Brave, Skye Boat Song and Bonnie Dundee were 3 of the songs he played.

Benjamin is a third-generation piper. Emily's grandfather, from Scotland, and father both were pipers as is a cousin and uncle.

Benjamin's grandmother, Susan Halliday, is our organist at St. John in the Wilderness, Bright's Grove.

Ken Walker recently got a chanter (portion of bagpipes) and is learning to play, and young Benjamin looked Ken seriously in the eye (from 6 feet) and said "when Covid is over you need to go to the Sarnia Legion and get lessons".

Thanks very much, Benjamin!

## Growing During Covid-19

Many of us find ourselves learning new skills during Covid-19. Be it learning to bake, learning all that IT to do things virtually, learning more about our families and how we interact together, learning the bagpipes et cetera. Here are some wise words that Tara Fraser posted on her Instagram from another source:

**"Comfort zones are beautiful places, but nothing ever grows there."**

Janice McAlpine smiled and said, "what a polite and joyous way to look at what some people call 'growing pains.'"

## Hello, Craft Group!



I bumped into Carol Ryan while walking in The Grove this week. I have spoken with a number of folk from our craft group over the last couple of months and although they are not gathering as a group many are very active with their crafts and they fondly talk of each other.

Carol just finished a large afghan for her hubby. She says a wistful yet joyous hello to her fellow crafters at St. John in the Wilderness: Sue and Jim Mayer, Mavis Schmid, Shirley MacKenzie, Patricia Green, Ann Hitchins, Fran Taylor, Jean O'Neil Norma Hains, Pauline Walsh and Leslie Grieve (who attends occasionally to chat over coffee). The July 10 Honey & Locust will have a little more from this group.

Deb Walker – June 23

## Sunday School in the 1950's - Memories from Lyn Kidd

Did you go to Sunday School? As a "cradle Anglican", I still have vivid memories of my early years at All Saints Kingsway in Toronto. We began in the Sanctuary with our families, were invited to a brief children's message from the minister (in my time it was Arnold Wilkinson – a wonderful man, a great friend of our family for many years.) A children's hymn was sung as we processed downstairs for classes. Usually, it was "Jesus Loves Me", "Jesus Bids Us Shine", "God Sees the Little Sparrow Fall", or "All Things Bright and Beautiful", but there was one that just didn't make sense to me – "When Mothers of Salem" (#689 in the old hymn book). The words "Suffer little Children to come unto Me" had me totally confused! How could Jesus ask children to suffer? I learned later that it meant "allow" or "invite" them to approach and be blessed.



The Sunday school classes were segregated by age and gender – my uncle said how much he wanted to teach the "little guys" instead of the seniors, because the big boys just wanted to discuss the previous night's hockey game! Each class prepared a presentation for a Church season. All of the younger children were envious of the seniors, because their costumes were always spectacular. We did lots of memory work, too – the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm is still totally imbedded in my brain.

In those days, we walked to church. Women and girls always wore hats and gloves. Those white, hard leather dress-up buckle shoes hurt, whether they were new or old. All of my dresses had a special pocket in which there was a very well-bleached and ironed handkerchief. I always had to look after my nickel for the collection plate. In the summer, after school was out, the rules were relaxed a little, and the white gloves stayed at home until Labour Day. Church is a lot more fun for kids these days – we didn't really "suffer" at all, except for the shoes...

Lyn Kidd (far left in picture)

Thanks very much, Lyn, for this piece of magic....we hope others of you are inspired to share your memories, accomplishments and or joys here in Honey & Locust – just e-mail them to the church or call us.

Lyn is in the altar guild and arranges our flowers. Her daughter and son-in-law, Heather and Greg, attend St. John in the Wilderness along with their 4 young children Meron, Lorelai, Helena and Sully – “Hello and God bless” from your Sunday School Teachers!

## Wardens Looking Your Help as 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. For example, you might be able to use Zoom and be able to help parishioners use Zoom by talking with them if they have questions over the telephone et cetera. 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

### Where Does Your Treasure Lie?

The use of wealth is the major topic of Luke 16. Wealth can be a blessing or a curse, depending on whether it is used as a means to exercise power, a tool of self-indulgence

or a resource to serve others. Wealth's danger is that it can turn our focus toward our own enjoyment. Money is a tool. It is an excellent resource when put to the right use. It can help to build many things of use to others. But to possess money is also to hold a sacred stewardship. Our resources are not to be privately held, hoarded, or indiscriminately consumed but are to be used as a means of generosity, as a way of showing care for our neighbor, as the good Samaritan showed in 10:25-37 and as a restored Zacchaeus showed in 19:1-10.

Two parables unique to Luke make this twofold point about wealth. Between the two parables comes a short description of the two periods in God's plan, with Jesus' declaration that the new era demands faithfulness in our commitment to others, just like the commitment a spouse makes in marriage.

This Gospel story is probably the most difficult parable in Luke. Its point is clear enough--be generous and responsible with your resources--but how it makes the point is much discussed. The parable centers on a steward who is accused of wasting the master's goods. The description of the steward's activity is like that of the prodigal son in the previous parable (15:13). He has been scattering his master's resources. Such mismanagement requires a response.

In any case, the steward's reputation leads to his dismissal. The master calls for an accounting, but it is not to see if the charges are true. For with the accounting comes the steward's pink slip--he is fired. His accounting will be his last task for this master. Facing unemployment and having no marketable skills beyond being a steward, he is in a dilemma, since he does not wish to beg or resort to demeaning physical labor. He decides on a course of action of reducing the amount owing so that will bring him into his neighbors' good graces.

Possessions are a responsibility. Their use is a test of character, values and stewardship. The one who is faithful in little is also faithful in much. So also the other way around--to be dishonest in little things is to be dishonest in much. Faithfulness with the "little thing" of money indicates how faithful we are with the big things, the true riches of our relationships to God and to others. So if we have not been trustworthy in handling possessions that produce unrighteousness, who will trust us with true riches? The true riches in this passage are having a good relationship with God and with others. True wealth is faithfulness in serving God in all that we do.

The theme of responsibility continues as Jesus raises the question about being faithful with something that belongs to another so that later one can receive

reward for oneself. If someone is unfaithful as a steward, why should that person be entrusted with ownership? Handling wealth is a preparatory lesson for other responsibilities before God.

So Jesus warns that we cannot have two masters. In the end, when push comes to shove, we will choose to serve God or the wealth of this mortal world, to love one and hate the other. The implication is that we had best make the choice early. Choose God over wealth, prestige and power.

This parable is ultimately about the heart. Where our treasure is, there our heart is. Where is our treasure being stored? Jesus says, "Healthy seed reflecting God's desire is not planted in riches. Rather, it should penetrate the heart and be planted into people, especially people in need." Jesus warns that treasure invested for the self yields emptiness, while treasure invested for God yields compassion and love.

Yours in Christ,

Father Shaun

## L.A.R.C. Refugee Update



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](mailto: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.

## 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](mailto:debwalker@cogeco.ca)

## Fundscrip Fundraiser – Give it a Try

Migration to Fundscrip on-line (rather than in-person at the church) as a fundraiser remains slow but is picking up since our last issue 2 weeks ago – Thanks Parishioners! The e-mail this newsletter is attached to contains a short procedure on how you can sign up and many of the benefits it brings both the church and parishioners.

Please do consider participating in our Fundscrip fundraiser, 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.

## St. John in the Wilderness Mission and Vision

### 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.

## Thanks for Mowing the Grass and Hello from The Chadwick's



Harry, Emma-Li and Harrison made mowing the church yard a family outing. Thanks very much for your effort and for sharing a glimpse of the yard with the congregation!



Yours in Faith,

Deb Walker, Peter Langille and Fr. Shaun  
Eaton

Wardens and Priest