

HONEY & LOCUST



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

Church 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 July 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.

2nd Sunday of July (12th of July) : 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.

The June 25 edition of Honey & Locust contains more information from Bishop Todd regarding the continued closing of Anglican church buildings in Ontario. Anglican churches in Ontario remain in Stage Red, with assessment on progression to amber/green to occur in the first half of September.

Peter Langille is leading the St. John in the Wilderness Executive team through completion of the Diocese's Stage Red Checklist for covid-19.

Thanks to the pastoral team; prayer chain; ACW; alter guild, Sunday school; maintenance, supply and yard-work teams, executive and council, a number of our parishioners, and of course our priest and spouse who are all actively supporting the parish so we may enjoy and support our community as a whole during covid.

Everyone, please keep washing your hands with warm soap and water, social distancing, and wearing a mask shopping and in social/work situations especially indoors (and regularly wash it if cloth/replace it if disposable)...we really can get through this if we keep working at it cooperatively >(((*)>

Sunday School – Summer Care Packages

The July Fun Packages are being placed on the porches of our Sunday School Children as this edition of Honey & Locust publishes. WHOO WHOO! ...a heartfelt thanks to Leslie Grieve for selecting items and putting these

together and to our St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church Women (ACW) for joyfully funding these.

Here is a link to a video introducing them and highlighting the shining of our kids and families.



<https://youtu.be/cpdgBhmE8y0>

Thanks to Leslie for enthusiastically writing this, Deb, Haley and Ken for having a little fun in front of the camera and Mikaela Macht for filming/directing and otherwise keeping us on track!

We hope the kids enjoy the video and fun packages and feel God's love as they play with the items – *send us some pictures and comments to share in the July 24 Honey & Locust or you can share them directly on our Facebook.* Rumour has it that the Langille's were already playing Bible Trivia, a card deck in their package.

Sandra Fraser championed the pocket prayer shawls; the note attached to them reflects our feelings as a congregation:

“As you hold your Pocket Prayer Shawl, you hold the Hand of God. May you feel His loving and comforting touch. The cross in the middle connects you to Jesus and His blessings. Know that He is always with you.

Made with love and prayers for you ...

By members of St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church”

Father Shaun is On Vacation for August

During the month of August, while Father Shaun is on vacation, we will be redirecting parishioners to other online worship services available from the Diocese and former Rector's of St. John in the Wilderness.

Bishop Todd's Service - go to the Diocesan website at <https://diohuron.org> and go to the bottom of the main page under What's New and you will find the most recent Bishop's Video.

Reverend Rob Lemon - go to the Facebook page of St. Mark's By The Lake in Tecumseh for his midweek YouTube video links.

Reverend Jenny Sharp - go to the Facebook page of The Parish of St James Anglican Church in St. Mary's for her Sunday live-stream services at 10:00am.

For emergency pastoral care (phone calls only) during this time, the Reverend Ray Jenkins can be reached (519) 869-8448.

Blessings.

Something from the Animal Side...

(Below is a touching article from Ingrid Schmid, a member of our Executive at St. John in the Wilderness, she works at VCA Blue Cross Animal Hospital. Thank you, Ingrid!)

Since the early days of the COVID pandemic staff of veterinary hospitals have worked tirelessly to continue providing for their patients and clients. As the list of services required to cease operations grew veterinary teams breathed a sigh of relief to know they would be considered essential and could continue to care for pets.

While able to provide urgent care needs, medications and food, veterinary teams had to quickly adapt to curbside service as clients were no longer allowed to physically enter the hospitals. This meant medical staff members spent the days meeting clients outside, no matter the weather, to safely admit pets into the hospital and discharge them back to pet parents waiting patiently in their vehicles. This allowed the Veterinarians to provide necessary treatments and consult over the phone with clients. Reception team members daily fielded overwhelming numbers of phone calls while also running medications and food outside to clients. Getting in those recommended 10 000 steps was easy!

Throughout all veterinary teams have been grateful just to be able to be there for pet parents and their beloved companions.

During this unprecedented time there has also been levity and laughter. Early one morning, before the hectic rhythm of the day commenced, we spotted a Mama duck and her brood traversing our parking lot and heading toward a busy city street! The staff quickly corralled these darling ducklings in a laundry basket and safely 'burritoed' Mama in a towel. Our team then took them safely across the road to a stream where Mom quickly paddled away with her kids in tow! It was a wonderful way to start the day!



Craft Creation – Cathartic Fun!

Creation can be quite cathartic...and the folks from Bright's Grove and St. John in the Wilderness who like to craft are feeling and acting on the creative spirit. Many sent Deb Walker marvelous notes and pictures after publishing the update from Carol Ryan in the June 25 Honey & Locust.

Shirley MacKenzie summed up her feelings to share with this beautiful, cathartic note:

“When I heard from Carol Ryan regarding our craft group, in a desperate attempt to stay true to my crafting roots I decided to take pictures of the birthday cards I made for my grandchildren out west. I have struggled with finding the drive to work on activities that kept me in touch with fellow scrapper/crafters. Not sure why! Oh, I tried in the beginning to busy myself with various crafting projects; from completing my water paint pictures, to finishing a pair of knitted socks begun at least 25 years ago (I couldn't find a check mark anywhere) so 👍 I did it, to knitting squares in an effort to make worry blankets, probably need one myself.

But the days go by quickly. My day usually starts off with an online workout either with my daughter Stephanie or Marg Stewart both personal trainers. Afternoons are spent enjoying my latest passion, biking. My Aunt Wynn is the recipient of my efforts. I have a wonderful time social distance chatting with her for a couple of hours most days of the week. These times spent with my Aunt are very precious and although she would say that I do it for her, I will tell you secretly that I do it for myself.

I have a beautiful relationship with my Mom's only surviving sibling. It is a relationship of mutual admiration. I offer life's problems and she provides sage advice.

My Sarnia grandchildren are now making visits. Thankfully, my husband, Gordon and my children respect my need to remain cautious and for this I am very appreciative. I will come around in time but in the meantime I am enjoying my self imposed bubble.

Be safe. Be Happy. Be Thankful”

Here is a picture of Shirley's birthday cards to her grandchildren – fabulous! And, her family ties and cycling muscles are shining brighter in covid, how magical.



Fran Taylor has been painting – here is her painting of Longwoods Gardens in the Fall. Longwoods is at Kennet Square, Pennsylvania. Beautiful colour and painter!



Norma Hains is getting ready for outdoor winter play come Christmas. Love the colours and the flowers!



Jim Mayer has been blessing us ever since he came back from Florida (a little early due to covid...like Norma and many of you). On about 5 days notice he generously created the Honey & Locust tag picture. He is pictured below, holding it by his tool/craft outbuilding:



Jim's granddaughter, Kennedy Verhoeven, just turned 8 and is a pretty good painter. Jim saw a bunch of scraps of walnut in his shop and made a cute array of tiny houses for her to paint. Once Kennedy added beautiful colour to the houses, Jim secured them to a fancy little board for her to display them. Jim says "Few scraps are ever wasted in my shop" His words and skill are integral to being a carpenter artisan!





Jim also has completed another long-term project during covid as part of that cathartic creative drive many crafters have; says Jim:

“This project was completed during the covid lockdown! It was started 5 years ago (or maybe 15 years ago) and because we wintered in Florida not much work got completed on it! Decided I now could devote lots of undivided attention and enjoy the fruits of my labour.



Turned out quite acceptable for me! Just don't have anyplace to display it since all the windows have some glass work in one form or another. But it's in a completed state and that is all that matters!”

It is wonderful to see all the creative hard work during covid. An artist is making startling progress on their Terracotta Warrior that they are carving from an old Oak trunk/stump on Old Lakeshore Road between Helen and Waterworks.

Blessings to this artist, Jim, Fran, Norma and Shirley and all you folk who are engaged in production and/or enjoyment of the cathartic creativity and skill shining all around us.



Father Shaun's Corner

Resilience

During these trying times I've been reflecting on the quality of resilience. Resilience is the quality of being able to adapt to stressful life changes and "bouncing back" from hardship. Resilience is a response to tragedy, crisis, or other life-altering changes that allows us to move on despite the loss. Showing resilience does not mean that a person is unaffected or uncaring about the life change. Resilience is the human heart's ability to suffer greatly and grow from it.

Resilience is the biblical norm for Christians. The Bible contains many admonitions to press on (Philippians 3:13–15), overcome hardship and temptation (Romans 12:21), and persevere in the face of trials (James 1:12). It also gives us numerous examples of people who suffered greatly but continued to follow God's plan for their lives. Proverbs 24:16 could be seen as the theme verse for the resilient: "Though the righteous fall seven times, they rise again, but the wicked stumble when calamity strikes."

Proverbs 3:5–6 is a good passage to cling to whenever we can see only disaster ahead:

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct your paths."

Choosing to trust in the Lord rather than rely on what we understand is the best way to stay resilient and grow during trying times.

Yours in Christ,

Father Shaun

L.A.R.C. Refugee Update



Our Lambton Anglican Deanery is sponsoring a family of 12 Syrian Christian refugees from Nineva Province Iraq. See the Honey & Locust from June 25 for more information. Vicars Hodge from the Deanery plans a fuller update soon, here are a few words from him on status now:

"Our family, the Neasan's, remain in Amman, Jordan. They are rather stuck because they cannot work or settle permanently in Jordan — there is no path for them to become citizens there. They cannot return to Iraq — their homeland is really destroyed and the Christian minority

that they are part of and all the people who speak their language (Syriac) have been scattered. So they patiently await our efforts to bring them to Canada. We have raised about half of the \$75,000 needed. We received a cheque for \$2500 last week from St. Bartholomew's, Sarnia.

We have heard from the Catholic Church that they intend to support this work. So we are underway — though the process of raising money is a bit slow. We are hoping that as soon as it is possible, that Anglican Congregations will hold some sort of event to raise awareness (and money.). If you already have this on your website, hooray. If not, please do that when you can.

Blessings,

Vicars

Treasurer's YTD Financial Update

Parishioners contributions are 100% of budget and we thank you for your continuing support during this challenging time. Our expenses also are in line with the budget approved at vestry. However, having to cancel our fundraising events means our projected total revenue shortfall at year end will be in excess of \$12,000.

Seven parishioners placed orders with FundScrip this month bringing our year-to-date total money raised to over \$1000. We

continue to encourage everyone to take advantage of this easy and simple fundraiser to help the church meet its financial obligations and goals.

Share Your Joy/Journey in the Honey & Locust

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

Thanks for Supporting the Inn of the Good Shepherd July 4

Thanks to the cooks and boxers of food for our dinner of July 4 at the Inn of the Good Shepherd. Logistics remained the same as described in the June 12 Honey & Locust. Pictured here are some of cooks Brenda Clingersmith, Mavis Schmid, Sandra Fraser and Fran Taylor; delivery fellow Bob Clingersmith; and boxers at the Inn Lori Kolano, Ken, Haley and Deb Walker (who shops also).

A number of cooks have indicated that assuming covid continues as it is (sort of under control) they would like to shop for their own meat and potatoes in the

future...Deb will contact folks mid-July to enable this.

We all feel very blessed to be able to help as a congregation.



IT Volunteers for Our Church

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.

Nicky Grieve has generously offered to help folks with Zoom via telephone and email consultation. To contact her just email the church and leave a message with your contact information. Thanks, Nicky!

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!

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.

New Zealand Blessing

Pastor Michelle Collins Wongkee would end our services with this blessing – we thought it would be nice to share it here:

May the God whom Jesus calls Abba embrace you in love forever.

May God the Servant bear your burdens with you.

May God the Beloved Companion, grant you life in one another.

So may the blessing of God, Abba, Servant and Companion rest in you now and always.

Yours in Faith,

Deb Walker, Peter Langille and Fr. Shaun Eaton

Wardens and Priest