

HONEY & LOCUST



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

Church Services

Reverend Paul Woolley+ will preside over a virtual video [Ante-Communion service](#) this Sunday, January 31, that will include parish members. The video will be posted to our Facebook page and sent to parishioners via an email link to Dropbox/YouTube on Sunday morning. This will be Paul's last service with us during the initial phase of Father Shaun's medical leave. Thanks very much to Paul for bringing his loving ministry and local roots to us as well as his strong technical/IT skills, which have helped those of us bringing you virtual services.

We continue to pray that Father Shaun will heal and return to work. Per previous communications, we are in the process of

contracting an interim priest for 6 months beginning in February.

The last page of this edition of Honey & Locust (after the warden signatures) has the service schedule up until February 7.

We are still in lockdown with Lambton Covid numbers showing some improvement, please continue to wash your hands, Stay Home except for essential excursions, wear a mask if you are in public, socially distance and continue to be kind to yourself and others– we are in this together.

The status of church building access remains as outlined in the [January 15 edition](#) of Honey & Locust. Essentially only one person/Covid-bubble pair in the church at a time, with 3 people permitted for a virtual service.



Above is Reverend Dave Hewett+, as he presided over the 8:30 am Zoom service on January 24. Later that morning he also presided over our 10:30 am Facebook Live service.

Given it was Dave's last Sunday with us during Father Shaun's initial portion of his medical leave Dave got reflective. He indicated he really liked Zoom (even more than Facebook Live) – it provided good connection with people during this time of Covid. He would come, set his water bottle on the rail, position himself off to the corner of the desk slightly so folks could see the cross over his shoulder, and just enjoy the service and the conversation and faces of parishioners before, during, and after the service. Blessings.



The four motions as published in the [January 15 edition](#) of Honey & Locust passed with all in favour. Minutes to the Vestry meeting will be e-mailed to parishioners after our Council meeting in February.

Vestry Meeting – January 17

Our Vestry meeting on January 17 went well! Even with Zoom being a new technology for most parishioners 36 individuals (from 27 families) participated in the meeting demonstrating both Zoom literacy and meeting etiquette. 26 families joined via computer and one family joined by telephone – some are pictured adjacent. Very impressive! Congratulations All!

Chairperson Kristen Aikman, Archdeacon of Lambton – Kent, closed the meeting with a prayer...after which many of us pined for and commented that we sure missed the potluck lunch that usually precedes a vestry meeting. Potluck – 2022 blessings.



P.S. Thanks for chairing, Kristen!

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Hello from Marsha Agar!

Marsha Agar says "hello". She tends to go to the 10:30 am service and sit about 3 pews from the back (in front of the Mann's, behind the Foubisters, and next to her good buddy Karen Kelly) ...as a Sunday School teacher I came to know her as Meredith Haney's grandmum (hi Meredith).



Marsha and Gerry Agar moved from London, Ontario to Sarnia in 1983 when Gerry worked for Provost Trucking. They lived in Bright's Grove and other locations in

Sarnia, spending about 18 years on London Line between Brigden and Waterworks roads. About 9 years ago they moved to Wyoming to be closer to 4 of their 5 grandchildren.

Marsha and Gerry have two children...Kelly and Andy, and five grandchildren, all seven are girls. They moved to Sarnia when Kelly was about 14 and Andy about 10. Gerry has retired about 10 times. Now he trucks local to Southwestern Ontario and parts of

Michigan. God bless truckers, especially these days, they sure are essential workers.

Marsha volunteered at New Hope School working with children with disabilities and worked as a nurse with Comcare doing homecare, particularly with medically fragile children. This is where she met Karen Kelly.

Marsha's daughter, Kelly Haney, was looking for a church after she had Meredith and in 2002 Karen, Marsha and Kelly attended the St. John in the Wilderness's Christmas Eve service. Marsha says the people were so friendly that they started attending regularly.

Here are Gerry, Meredith, and Marsha at Meredith's Grade 8 graduation (Meredith is now in Grade 12 at Northern)



Marsha says Meredith used to ask if MacKenzie (my daughter) was going to be at Sunday School ... Kenzie was a great young teacher at 12 years of age or so (I try to fill her shoes still!). Meredith (or her mum Kelly) also tried to convince Brenda Clingersmith to put off retiring from Errol

Village School in Camlachie and teaching one more year so Meredith could be in her class...but bless her, Brenda was destined to retire (although she is still active here at our church.... Blessings, Brenda)

Marsha babysat her grandchildren prior to them going to school and has volunteered for a number of years at the school which four of her granddaughters in Wyoming go to.

Marsha sews...something I so admire (I do duct tape and a stapler) ... a regular Christmas gift includes lounging pajama pants for her granddaughters...one such set sewn by Marsha is pictured below – nicely done, Marsha...such fun!



From left to right: Harper, Marsha, Meredith, Jorja, Zoey, Gerry, and Kennedie. Also...hello Zoey...I recall you would join Meredith at Sunday School sometimes!

Harper is Marsha's youngest grandchild at 9 years old and Meredith is the oldest at 17 years old. Marsha indicates Harper says "the minute this Covid is over I am moving into your place for a week."

Marsha has been learning to quilt over the last 5 years...she does small items at this point she says.

When I asked Marsha if she had a favourite childhood memory...here is what she fondly recalled: "My mum's dad worked for the London Free Press before moving to Toronto. When we were kids, when we visited we had to sit quietly and wait for him to finish reading his paper. Then he would stand up from his chair and my sister and I would spring into action to find the change that would have fallen out of his pockets into the cushions of the chair." [It made me think of Pappy Morris when I was a kid...not a reader but had a chair and candies beside the chair.]

Blessings to and from Marsha!

....Deb Walker

P.S. Marsha ... Shalleen Hunt, when she found out this week from me that you quilt, said for you to come over and say hello to the quilting folks at church post-Covid ... come quilt or just come chat! Shalleen quilts smaller items like potholders and wall hangings with Ann Hitchins and Maggie Brownridge doing big bed quilts.

Share Your Joy/Journey in the Honey & Locust

If you have a paragraph or two you would like to publish in Honey & Locust, perhaps a hello/profile of a parish member, an update for a church/community group you are part of, a favourite project or memory or prayer you would like to share, a family update ...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

And Heaven and Nature Sing!

Huron Church Camp (HCC) has a new name and a new look! The Rev'd. Gerry Adam+ spoke to Diocesan Council in December to report on the updates to our Diocesan church camp. HCC has been renamed **Camp Huron** with a fresh, new website. We were told at the time that registration would begin in February for this coming summer however, due to the rise in Covid-19 that has been changed to TBA status.

In 1946 Anglicans with a vision set apart Huron Church Camp (now Camp Huron) as a joy-filled place for children and youth to live and play together, learn, grow and develop leadership skills, all while immersed in the beauty and wonder of creation. The campers participate in sessions like sports, games, arts and crafts, Journeys (our Christian education component), beach, archery, gaga ball, nature, and outdoor adventures! Campers live in cabin groups of

up to eight with at least two counsellors, most of whom have been raised at Camp Huron, (some coming themselves since they were six years old) and who want to give their young charges the fun, life-changing experience they were given. The staff are chosen for their experience, qualifications, sensitivity, and commitment to making each camper's stay a memorable one. They are supervised by a senior leadership team whose members have experience and education in such fields as outdoor recreation, theology, and child-care.

Due to the cancellation of camp last summer the camp suffered a bit of financial tension that was relieved by gracious donations. At minimum, at least one of our parish's families that was able donated their registration fee to the camp when it was returned to them. Well done!

Camp Huron is best described by campers in a video produced in 2016. It's worth the three minutes to view it at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXI5iJ3ta4&feature=emb_logo.

The name and site look have changed but at the very heart of Camp Huron are our young ones who return summer after summer to live and learn and grow into the wonderful people God dreams them to be! You'll be informed when registration for Camp Huron opens and in the meantime the camp may be viewed at <https://camphuron.ca/>.

.... Janice McAlpine

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.

Thank You, Evan Iacobelli!

This week Evan donated to the River City Vineyard (the old YMCA which was converted to a shelter on Mitton south of London Road). His mum, Carolyn, in her volunteer work at the library, learned how meaningful it is for some of the folks to enjoy a shower at the shelter (we all know how nice a shower can be). Evan is going to be 13 years old in February. He spent a month collecting personal hygiene items and snacks for those who wait for showers. He used money from summer lawn mowing and bottle collection.

Adjacent is a picture of Evan outside the River City Vineyard (taken by his sister Lanna) and a second picture taken two or three years ago with his sister (just so you can see Evan's face – Hi Lanna and Evan!)



Evan says he learned about the River City Vineyard from his mum – they drive by the shelter on their way to the Farmers market each week.

.... Deb Walker and Carolyn Iacobelli

P.S. from Deb: Thanks for the wonderful conversations Evan and Carolyn (exciting that you are supply teaching a couple of days a week and have learned Google Meet, Carolyn). Carolyn commented that the following was in Lanna's schoolwork this week sound and meaningful:

"Be present with and listen to the experiences of the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed in our society"

Thank you, Evan.

Nice to be stewarding and sharing God's creations with the neighbourhood.



Pollinator Garden

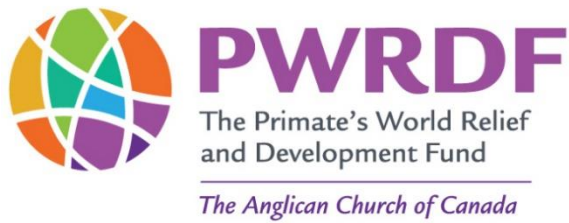
Just before the really cold weather set in, we got pictures of the new trees in our pollinator garden behind the church– put in place late in the fall season by Nick Alexander of Return the Landscape company

The taller tree with the bamboo brace is the Redbud which Janice McAlpine asked to be purchased with memorial funds in loving memory of Mike McAlpine. (Thanks, Janice for bringing along the flowers to help our imaginations...looking forward to summer!)

The shorter tree is the Serviceberry donated by Susan and Bob Halliday.



PWRDF Reaching Out



As PWRDF Parish Representative I had big plans when I was appointed that fell flat with Covid. I had planned to address this wonderful agency in a sermon as well in bulletins but lost that opportunity. Honey and Locust gives me that platform.

We have seen the inserts in bulletins in the past but to refresh our memories, I offer this. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is the Anglican Church of Canada's agency for sustainable development and relief. With the support of Anglicans across Canada, PWRDF partners with organizations working to increase healthy pregnancies and births, reduce gender inequality, relieve hunger and break the cycle of poverty in the world's most vulnerable communities as well as Canadian disasters. At the two-year mark from the Fort McMurray wildfires, we are still offering support. People are still rebuilding their houses, negotiating with insurance companies or trying to settle in other places. Many more still struggle with the aftermath of trauma and the enormous stress of the evacuation and the ways in which it destabilizes many people's lives

emotionally, financially and in some cases, employment and even health. Last July, a lightning storm sparked wildfires in British Columbia that led to the evacuation of approximately 14,000 people. That included all 2,000 residents of 100 Mile House where we opened a Friendship Centre at St. Timothy's Anglican Church offering holistic support to all people in a welcoming, safe and inclusive environment. Against a backdrop of climate change, PWRDF also strives to address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

The main surprise that I encountered was when our ACW decided to donate to Australian Fire Relief because of our concern for not only the people of Australia but also the animals, environment and world climate. I contacted PWRDF regarding a donation to that cause and it wasn't earmarking funds towards that. Apparently, the policy is that a donation needs to be appealed for by the group, cause or individuals before it is given. I was directed to the Canadian Red Cross which had an appropriate fund and our offering was gratefully received.

There have been no formal meetings in our diocese since I accepted this position because of you-know-what but we meet nationally each Thursday via Zoom (yes, I comb my hair that day) for a prayer service and reflection followed by a chatty "coffee hour" where we discuss the needs of others and how we can assist both as an agency of

the Anglican Church of Canada and individually.

There are seven areas in which PWRDF directs donations and they can be found here: <https://pwrdf.org/give-today/>. Please consider if able.

Yours in Christ - Janice McAlpine

Lay Reader Janice Reflects

We have just completed the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity that ran from Monday, January 18 and ended on Monday, January 25. So, what's it all about? The 2021 theme—Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9)—called us to pray and to work for reconciliation and unity in the church, with our human family and with all of creation.

I participated in eight webinars that week and found that a bit busy; I think that I was feeling lonely when I registered for that many. This lockdown may be having that effect on others as well. All were interesting but I'll reference +Bishop Todd's. We were told that there are 29,000 different Christian denominations in the world, a shocker! 29,000 denominations indicate to me many splinter groups and somewhat of a lack of Christian unity.

I can't think of a valid reason for this "sibling rivalry" when we are called to stir up one another to love and good works as

well as encourage one another. There are 2.382 billion Christians in the world so imagine if we all came together to address and act upon the climate emergency, world hunger and love and care for all peoples. Christians have a tremendous opportunity for peace-making.

As Jesus said, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:34-35

Yours in Christ – Janice

Yours in Faith,

Deb Walker, Peter Langille, Janice McAlpine
Wardens and Lay Reader



Dave Hewett – Don't be a stranger... come visit us sometimes!

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St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove
Church Services
(January 28, 2021 Update)

A free phone line for prayer, reflections, worship and a reminder you're not alone.



1-888-229-5422

With love, from the Anglican Churches of Lambton-Kent

Option 2 for Reverend Gord Simmons' silly joke of the week 😊

Listen to the prompts for Archdeacon Kristen's sermon on the St. John in the Wilderness line.

Date			Church Service		Time	Location					Leader Presiding
Month	Day	Year	Name	Type		In-Church (1)	Facebook Live (2)	Zoom (3)	Video (4, 5)		
1	31	2021	4th Sunday after Epiphany	Ante-Communion or Morning Prayer	Sunday Morning				x	Reverend Paul Woolley	
2	7	2021	5th Sunday after Epiphany	Morning Prayer	10:30 am			x		Lay Reader Sandra Fraser	

Note (1) In-Church Services - please reserve via the evite you receive 2 to 5 days prior to the service. The evite will come either from the email of St. John in the Wilderness or Peter Langille.

Note (2) Facebook Live services...just join the Facebook Live service at 10:20 am (a little before 10:30 am) as folks like to chat together via the text commentary in Facebook Live.

Note (3) Zoom Services - Deb Walker or Peter Langille will issue, via email, an invitation to the Zoom service a few days before the service. These go to traditional attendees pre-covid as well as to people who request invitations (just ask Peter or Deb)

Note (4) A video on a Facebook Live day is a saved and edited version of the Facebook Live service recording. It will issue within 1 to 3 days of the service with a link going out via the church's email.

Note (5) A video for which the time is "Sunday Morning": a link to a video will be sent early Sunday morning so you can view it any time.

Please check your e-mail regularly to see if there are changes – this is a fluid time given both Covid and our interim priest needs.

Keep wearing those masks, washing your hands, maintain social distance, be kind, acknowledge Angst, and.....recognize Blessings;-)

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