



The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener

ON EAGLE'S WINGS

November 29, 2020

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The Choices We Make

Elaine Duncanson

Albus Dumbledore is one of my favourite literary characters, right up there with Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy. Dumbledore has a calm demeanor and an understanding manner when leading Hogwarts students in their growth through adolescence. At the end of his second year, Harry is still uncertain that he belongs in Gryffindor rather than Slytherin.

Dumbledore reminds him why he was put in Gryffindor and Harry sounds defeated when he replies that it was only because he said "not Slytherin". Exactly! Dumbledore tells him that is what makes him different from Tom Riddle who became Lord Voldemort. "It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."

Harry could have been an obedient student and gone back to Gryffindor tower when it was discovered that Ginny Weasley was in great danger. He could not leave his friend Ron's sister to her fate and risk having the school closed for good.

Harry and Ron went into a washroom and with wands opened a gaping hole in the floor and descended to the slimy depths below. After numerous obstacles, Harry fought off the dreaded Basilisk even though he was wounded. He killed the beast when the Sorting Hat came to his aid bringing the sword of Godric Gryffindor because he showed great loyalty to Dumbledore. The phoenix, Fawkes, came in and shed tears on his wound and saved his life. Getting Ginny, Ron, and himself out of that dark place was a challenge but Fawkes was strong enough to pull all of them to safety.

Harry had the intelligence to solve the problem and the courage to follow through and rescue an innocent first year student. He chose to disregard the rules because no one else was ready and able to act.

In the novel *Pride and Prejudice* both Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy are products of their upbringing. Mr. Darcy was trained from early childhood to take on the responsibilities of a wealthy landowner. The estate was passed down from father to son along with the family history and many traditions. The family had great status and was respected by all who knew them. He was expected to choose a wife from among the wealthy families of similar status.

Elizabeth Bennet was very close to her older sister, Jane. A new neighbour, Mr. Bingley, thought Jane was more beautiful than an angel. Indeed, he paid so much attention to Miss Bennet that the neighbours were expecting him to offer for her. Mr. Darcy noticed his friend's attentions and prevented him from making an offer. Jane was heartbroken and Elizabeth did her best to console her.

By coincidence, Elizabeth was visiting her friend Charlotte when Mr. Darcy paid his regular visit to his aunt, Lady Catherine de Bourgh. This meant that they saw more of each other than they had expected. Mr. Darcy's admiration of Elizabeth grew even stronger while her opinion of him became even lower. One evening when she was particularly avoiding him he came to call. He explained the struggle he had faced since her status was lower than his and her family, aside from herself and Jane, were not

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the sort he could associate with, yet he could not overcome his feelings for her so he was offering to marry her.

She was furious and told him that he was the last man she would consider. When challenged, he did not deny that he had separated Bingley from Jane. Elizabeth would not accept a man who had ruined the happiness of a most beloved sister. His status and wealth could not persuade her. As well, a militia officer had told her of his misfortunes using a few facts embellished with 'fake news' details. This had won her sympathy and Mr. Darcy was blamed for the hardship that followed.

Elizabeth was the daughter of a gentleman of modest means and had a very small dowry so her chances of marriage were limited. She valued her sister's happiness above her opportunity for a comfortable life. Throughout the exchange both Darcy and Elizabeth are each convinced that they are solidly in the right and the other is wrong. Both are breathing fire and white hot with anger. Yet neither resorts to name calling, to foul language, to personal attack.

Darcy is incensed that his reputation has been tarnished by lies and gives Elizabeth a letter explaining the very personal facts so she may put the whole story in its context. Both of them are articulate and reflective. Both consider the incident from the other side and understand why the other was upset.

Just this week a man made a choice that is in the news. Small businesses are closing because of the shutdowns. Too many people have lost their jobs and have little or no source of income. Politicians have a steady income that is higher than most people. There is real concern for the economy with the government freely spending but fewer taxpayers left to pay the bills. Adam Skelly chose to defy the restrictions so he could earn a living and maintain some employees. Some politicians chose to stop him.

The police have spent the day watching a growing crowd who quietly milled around, sometimes chanting, sometimes singing O Canada. That leaves the bank robbers and the drug dealers more freedom to do their thing. When Adam was arrested, more than two thousand people contributed to a fund to pay for his defence. The media has hours of video should his lawyer need them for support.

Civil disobedience is not a good thing but, if the restrictions do not make sense, it may be a way to get the politicians to look at all the facts including those presented by people from a very different perspective. So far the presentation has been fairly calm. One can hope that the politicians will listen and think. The media showed pictures of the crowds at Costco where there is no limit. An Alberta MP referred to statistics on an Alberta website that caused a stir in the House of Commons today.

There is a solution somewhere that preserves health and gives people the dignity of a job with enough money to pay their bills and leave some for taxes. It will take intelligence and courage to sort through the statistics and the various perspectives. Our values should remain as we all reflect on the possibilities and make suitable choices.

The Journey

Bruce Wheatcroft

*This short piece was written to celebrate the 18 years that Bruce Wheatcroft and William (Bill) Hutton spent following their dream of establishing a space for the promotion of the arts in a country setting. Entitled **The Journey** the story begins in the year 2000. At the time of our move to our country home in early February of 2000, on the border of Ontario and Québec, Bruce was the Director of Music at The Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul in Montreal and Bill, Director of Music at the Parish of St. Andrew and St. Mark (St.Mark's) in Dorval, was very busy growing a wonderful music program. Our Journey spans a period of time filled with joy of countless sorts and of course some profoundly difficult times too. And so it came as no surprise that when we sold the business in 2017, we embraced our retirement with no regrets and moved to Cambridge to be closer to daughters Rebekka and Jane and their partners. Our first Sunday out, to get a feel for the Anglican Church in the area, led us to St. John's. We've been here virtually ever since.*



It is a cold and stormy day in the middle of February, 2000. We have arrived at our new home in the country; boxes need to be unpacked. The wind swirls through the massive gnarled and twisted black walnut trees that look so bleak and forlorn, still bearing the scars of the 1998 ice storm. Yet they stand proud and tall framing the entrance to the front drive that leads to the house. Their death to winter is only temporary because the promise of new life is affirmed with the lengthening light of each passing day.

The house has begged for a name; now is the right time to honour that. We have named it *Ashling*. It is a re-working of the Irish Gaelic *aisling* that means dream or vision. Part of that naming comes out of what we hope will be a home of our dreams and our vision for our future here. No less significant in naming the house is the journey of several years in the Doctor of Ministry program that held hope for dreams and a vision to be realized.

The house, built in 1913, was once a residential teaching convent named Maryvale Abbey. The Sisters of Providence and later the Sisters of the Holy Cross owned and staffed the school. In its day the abbey produced many scholars and

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was noted for excellence in education. First it was a residential school for girls, then coed as the decades ebbed away. Among others who passed through these doors was James J. Macdonell, appointed Auditor-General of Canada in 1973.¹

As I walk through the long high-ceilinged corridors and peek into room after room, I imagine the richness of the stories held secret in the present quiet of this grand old house. That quiet provides a richness of its own offering a safe place to think and write. It is a wondrous and welcome retreat from the hectic pace of work and life in Montreal.

The move to The Abbey coincided with some study-time leave from my post in Montreal. That gave me the time to wander and wonder. Life is full of quiet unspoken questions, many of which remain forever unanswered; perhaps that is best. The ones that do bubble to the surface and reach that state of requiring an answer, or trigger an investigation are, if not the most profound or important questions, the ones that continue to pester one's consciousness, making them all the more urgent.

The building, at first blush, had something of a romantic appeal. Justification and convincing ourselves came quickly and easily. "Well, all we have to do is..." All we have to do has been a steep learning curve filled with some remarkable high points and some dark moments that have challenged the "romantic" first glance. "The bones are good," the engineer reported, so there was something solid, something on which to hang the vision for The Abbey that was clearly there if not yet in reach.

As the first swag-warped ceiling tiles came down and the first layers of flooring began to be lifted to expose a "practical" rather than aesthetically-beautiful hardwood floor of birch, our excitement grew with the vision of the building, still untarnished. That first year was more than the glow of a new home; it was a year of coming to terms with the circumstance into which we had thrust ourselves. In truth, the vision was heavily weighted on the side of fantasy – you know – all we have to do is take out this wall and then,...and then... and then...

Reality soon gripped us with the blunt breathtaking brutality that would bring us back to the ground rules of what we really had to do to make this project even have an opportunity to work in today's world. It wasn't that we didn't *know* what we were *really* facing but rather had put that reality "on hold" while that first year of dreams and fantasy gradually lost its luster. We needed to take stock, stand back, look around carefully and then sit down and write out the first "five-year" plan. Where are we going? What do we have to do? What would we like to do? What, in fact, is our *actual* vision for this magnificent old building.

The Abbey is just shy of 10,000 square feet of internal space. The initial vision was to create a facility that would lend itself to retreats. That would mean meeting spaces and guest rooms as well as dining spaces and the kitchen facilities to support those needs and activities.

But before even the most rudimentary of renovations could begin in earnest, we required a building that was safe and secure, free from danger and put into a state of readiness to face the challenges placed on it and us as owners, the

¹Eleanor Macdonell, 1882-1982 St. Margaret of Scotland Parish, Glen Nevis, Ontario (Cornwall Ontario: O'Neill Printing (Cornwall) Ltd., 1982). In a handwritten note, stapled to the inside front cover of the soft cover book, Eleanor Macdonell writes to a neighbour, "You mentioned being interested in the history of your present home. I worked on the enclosed booklet with two other ladies of the parish and it does contain some historical references—you might find it interesting."

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numerous craftsmen and countless tradespersons. The long road to the goal of a successful outcome was set in motion.

There have been the usual delays and problems that face any renovation or restoration project; behind a wall the unexpected pipeline or a space requiring a completely new attempt at configuration because of structural issues and so forth. Through the entire process the community provided both support and inspiration as we met each new challenge head on. We made the conscious decision not to be dissuaded by naysayers and happily there have been surprisingly few. We are enormously proud of the fact that virtually all of the planning and contracting work and all of the materials have been provided or purchased locally – a personal mandate that we carry on to the present day and, with good fortune, into the future.

Two disabled elevators now make access to all levels of the building possible. And of the eight guest rooms that are now completed, six are with private ensuite and two share a bath. One of the six ensuite guestrooms is completely disabled friendly with a sliding bathroom door for easy wheelchair access, grab bars and lowered light and electrical switches.

In 2009 we were honoured by the County of South Glengarry with the award of Entrepreneurs of the Year. This honour has deep significance for us as we enter the final few years of completing the refurbishing of The Abbey.

There have been many high and low points on a journey such as this—it is the nature of the beast. Perhaps the most memorable event that is both sad and happily just right is the naming of The Abbey's "Great Room" Almost all of the work carried on there was done by the youthful and vibrant Shawn Robertson of Bainsville.

Literally thousands of people have now been through The Abbey for one event or s used for formal dining events, for concerts, teaching, masterclasses and if last, far from least, almost continuous arts shows mounted by renowned artist and art curator Gerald Swift of Apple Hill. But there is another reason that the Great Room has taken on a particular significance; Shawn Robertson had just finished work on the room and had even managed to create curved ceilings in the main floor hallways when we learned of his untimely death in a plane crash. The room went silent for some time but like the walls I had imagined more than a decade ago, holding in their silence so much life gone by for decades, this time we were part of the richness of the story. The Great Room now begged for a name. It was an easy call; with the permission of the family and to our great satisfaction Shawn Robertson's work is recognized with a plaque on the Great Room Door which reads: "The Shawn Robertson Great Room."

It is now January 2013. Nearly thirteen years has passed since reading the journal entries of our time here in Glen Nevis. Much thinking and writing has happened from then to now. Life at the house has moved forward. Countless students have studied and concerts have taken place—weddings are annual events and more than one thousand guests have dined in the Shawn Robertson Great Room or the sunny and bright breakfast room just off the large kitchen.

We have long since unpacked the boxes from our move and have been welcomed into our new community. Potluck suppers, the mid-or early summer annual church social with its spill over onto our lawns, the local *dépanneur* who knows what brands of things we use and the comforting waves from neighbours as they pass by have all become part of our experience.

And the house—Ashling Abbey—our home of "dreams" and "visions" has changed a bit too. Everyone we know just calls it "The Abbey."

DEANERY OF WATERLOO REFUGEE COMMITTEE Chronicle of 2015 – 2020

Part 4

December 2017

We were advised our 5th family would be arriving December 15th. Everything was coming together as it should. The shopping committee had found an Ethiopian grocery store and were planning to pick up prepared food for the arrival of the new family. We had arranged for a translator as well as transportation to the airport to pick them up. Furniture and household goods were being loaded onto a rental truck and then delivered to the new apartment. In the meantime, we were all involved with putting together Christmas baskets for our other refugee families. It was a busy time again but we were so very excited for the new arrivals.

Our primary contact for the family from Kenya would be Jim Stirling with the commitment of committee members to step up and provide additional support. It was not usual for us to have just one contact person for a family but we had faith given our recent experience and knowledge that we could do this.

Family # 5 – Arrived December 2017 – The group will assume full responsibility for settlement and shared financial support for 12 mths. Support ends December 2018.

The family consisted of Jemal and Zubeida, Milkesa and Maimuna.

Primary Contact: Jim Stirling



The welcoming committee at Pearson Airport.

Jemal, Zubeida and Milkesa and Maimuna. (with the wagon for easy airport transport!)

January 2018

The committee continued to receive updates on the families we had supported since coming together in 2016 even though our commitment to them of 12 months support had past, members of the committee remained in touch just to ensure things continued to go well. For the most part people were doing well and adjusting to the way of life here in the KW area. Many were still attending English Language training and actively looking for work. Children were

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making friends and they were quick to learn and speak English very well.

Our most recent family from Kenya was struggling a bit with the cold weather and snow. Fortunately, we had many donations of warm coats and boots, however I don't think the mom warmed up until early summer that year!

Like most of the newly arrived men, Jemal was anxious to obtain his driver's license here. Despite the fact none of them had cars when they first arrived, a license seemed to be a sign of independence and well being. It wasn't long before 3 of the families had a driver's license and access to a vehicle. It certainly made integration easier and enabled them to go out as a family to do shopping and participate in events. Travelling by bus with a number of young children, minimal English skills and unfamiliar landscape can be a struggle.

Volunteers were providing families with a taste of the Canadian way of life. Summertime was filled with trips to cottage country, beach visits and city festivals. There was opportunity to relax and really get to know one another. Memories from home, of farming, swimming and just normal living was shared as they drove through the countryside in Ontario. There were real benefits of having this down time. As the committee became more comfortable in knowing what needed to be done and when and how we needed to act, there was less anxiety and a more relaxed time to appreciate the relationships and build an understanding of what brought us all to this place whether it was volunteering or someone seeking asylum.

December 2018

This was the end of our 12-month commitment to family number 5. There was much to celebrate and typical of our group we wanted to share that with everyone we had supported up to this time. There were plans for Christmas celebrations as well as Christmas baskets from the congregations for each family. We promised ourselves to take a look at where we needed to go in the coming year but for now we all thought a bit of a rest would be a good thing.

January – May 2019

We met regularly to review how we were doing as a group and whether or not we wanted to move forward with another family. It was a good time for volunteers to ask themselves if they wanted to stay or move on or change what they had signed up for. Our team was much smaller now. We had a strength of about 25 people who attended meetings. After a bit of a break and a review of finances we approached churches to see if we could afford one more family. We knew we could do it when we heard back from our shout out for more money. We asked Jane Townshend to do another application for our 6th family. This request was for another small family from Africa. It wasn't long before we heard they would be coming in the fall.

June – August 2019

Committee members organised themselves again, reviewed what needed to be done. Lois Hayden stepped forward to act as primary contact. Accommodation was secured in Cambridge this time and we were ready with furnishings to make this all happen.

September 28, 2019

Family # 6 – Arrived September 2019 – The group will assume full responsibility for settlement and shared financial

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support for 12 months. Support ends September 2020.

The family consisted of James and Esperance, Ariane and Cedric.

Primary Contact: Lois Hayward & Susan Grenville



They are here!!!



Modelling their new wool caps

June 2020

As I write this, I am reminded that it won't be long before the 12 months will be up and we will be stepping back from assisting James and Esperance. I can't quite believe the time has passed so quickly. What an experience this has been for them. Who knew they would be living through a pandemic shortly after they arrived here in Canada. This family was full of surprises for us. First, they spoke very fluent English and Esperance had owned her own fashion design company while living in a camp. It took no time at all for them to settle in. Before we knew it, Esperance was attending classes on Entrepreneurship and James was attending English classes with a goal of pursuing the trades. Both children were doing well in school and the transition here was not difficult. I have included Esperance's webpage for you to see what life was like for them before Canada. It is well worth the time to view. <https://www.bbc.com/news/av/world-africa-48925982/tabisha-esperance-the-fashion-designer-cutting-a-future-after-war>

They continue to surprise us with their drive and motivation to make things happen. It is undeniable this family is well on their way to having great success. We are all blessed to be part of the experience.

Deanery of Waterloo Refugee Committee

As the summer of 2020 approaches and we are beginning to venture out with our masks and sanitizer it may be difficult to keep in mind all the wonderful ministries we have all been involved with in one way or another. Our hope in preparing this chronicle is to recap our story from the beginning in an attempt to keep it alive until we are able to continue. Government policy and recommendations for immigration currently are in flux. We don't know when borders will open here or internationally. However, as we wait, it's an opportune time to prepare by increasing our list of volunteers. If you are interested in knowing more about what we do or think this might be a ministry you would enjoy being part of, please reach out to your parish rep or anyone else from the committee. Each and every one of us has something to offer in the settlement of newcomers.

Altar Flowers

Enid Emery—Flower Convener

As most of you will know, Leslie Ormston the long-time Flower Convener for the Altar Guild passed away earlier this year. I have taken on the job as convener and I will shortly be calling those of you who regularly give memorial flowers in memory of your loved ones to set up the calendar for 2021.

I would like to remind you that we are no longer putting flowers on the Altar during Lent, which means that there will be no flowers needed from Sunday, 21st February 2021 until Easter Sunday, the 4th April: at the end of Lent we will be asking for memorial donations as usual towards the Easter Flowers.

Unfortunately, as you will know, our church has again been closed down for in-person worship due to the corona virus. At the present time, the rector is planning on broadcasting from the Sanctuary at 10.00am on Sunday mornings, following the rules of five people in the building at one time. This service will now be televised on You Tube in real time.

At this time we are uncertain what will be happening at Christmas. Providing the televised services can continue, we will be doing the minimum amount of decorating in the Sanctuary area and there will be flowers on the Altar.

Anyone who is not on the list and who would like to donate memorial flowers in 2021, please call or e-mail me at 519-896-0637 or davidemery@rogers.com

Shortbread Cookies

Jean Wright's beautiful and delicious shortbread cookies are available again this year for Christmas! \$5/dozen with all proceeds going to the ACW to help those in need. They are placed on decorative plates, ready for gift-giving. Call Jean at 519-390-0213 to place your order and arrange delivery. Thank you Jean!



Contact Tracing

Here, resting on his desk
lies this abandoned book
open at page 96
at Exodus he had his last look.

There is the empty street
Silent in the deepening dusk.
He'd walked there, his daily beat
But facing covid, too great a risk, he did retreat.

In these rolling hills outside of town
We find a worn out bench built by an ancient hand.
He must've sat here all alone
Gazing across the undulating land.
Forest, field and panoramic view.
Spring flowers bursting from the frozen land
Of his thoughts and dreams he left no clue.
No trace at all of his last stand.

I knew him well, and so his thoughts retrieve.
Surely he last said, "I believe".

Richard J. Hobson
August 2020

Collecting Stamps and Spectacles

Enid Emery

In this strange year we may all receive more Christmas mail than usual. Please remember to save all the postage stamps from your Christmas letters and cards. For many years these have been collected by the A.C.W. and sent to the Canadian Leprosy Mission--- now re-named "effect hope": there they are sold to stamp dealers to raise funds for those suffering from this disease---- yes, we do get cases of Leprosy in Canada and they can be treated with a battery of drugs, the healing takes a while but people are no longer isolated from their families and can continue working. With our help it is no longer the scourge that it once was. It would be appreciated if you could trim the paper around the stamps to ¼ of an inch—otherwise we will do it for you.

Please also remember to save your old spectacles; these are re-cycled through the Lions Club to third world countries. Our glasses are taken by an optician to Guatemala; because of the corona virus and the ban on foreign travel this did not happen this year, however we are asking you to keep saving them as I am sure the need will be even greater once the virus is defeated.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about either of these projects. Enid Emery 519-896- 0637 or davidemery@rogers.com

Bales

Rosemary Cliff

For many years, each January, St. John's has packed boxes of gently new and used clothing to be shipped to Kenora. We do this in conjunction with other churches in our Deanery. Kenora is located close to the Manitoba border. Our clothing boxes are shipped free of charge by Home Hardware. In Kenora, the clothing is delivered to a shop called Twice Is Nice which is operated by St. Alban's Cathedral. While the store is located in Kenora, clothing is also delivered to surrounding First Nations Communities. We will begin collection of clothing in late December and early January so please put aside any items that you wish to donate. Any clean, gently used, washable clothing is accepted but especially needed are warm, winter items. Shoes or boots are accepted as long as they are in good condition. We will announce drop off details for the items in the bulletin. Volunteers will be needed for packing which will take place in the upper parish hall between 10:00 and noon on Saturdays Jan. 9, 16 and 23. Volunteers will also be needed to load the boxes into cars and to deliver them to St. Jacobs on Jan. 27 or on a date to be determined. If you are willing to volunteer or have any questions, please e-mail Rosemary Cliff at rosemarycliff@rogers.com. Clothing will be collected until January 23.

In view of the current pandemic all of the above is subject to change notice of which will be put in the weekly Bulletin.

TIME FLIES: ACW Bales Ministry Ongoing!

Archdeacon Ken Cardwell

Just recently while helping out at Our parish book sale, I had one of those conversations which brought back memories of experiences tucked way back ...years ago. Jennifer Uttley associated with our ACW Outreach Ministry and I got talking about the bales that we send out each year to Kenora in N.W. Ontario. I remarked that I thought it was very cool for me to be a member of a Parish that sends bales each year to St Alban's Cathedral, because years ago in the 1970's I was part of the process receiving and distributing the bales throughout what was known as The Diocese of Keewatin in those years.

Ordained a priest in 1968 in Hamilton, Diocese of Niagara, I was invited to join a Team Ministry at The Cathedral of St. Alban's, Kenora, Diocese of Keewatin in the mid 1970's. Sarah & I headed north in our VW Beetle , and I joined The Cathedral Team consisting of Dean Ron Lundy, curate Ron Riesly , and myself as Assistant Priest As well as assisting with the daily life and ministry of the Cathedral, I also helped with nearby St James Church , Town of Keewatin , and also provided priestly ministry as needed to other parishes reached by road in the southern part of this far flung Diocese. My wife Sarah also soon became the Cathedral Organist. The northern part of the Diocese was reached by our Diocesan Aircraft ministry of two light planes (skis in winter, floats in summer) under the direction of our flying Priest, Archdeacon Gary Woolsey (originally from Brantford). Often as I did a sometimes 3 day circuit of visiting parishes and congregations in places such a Rainy River (USA border), Piney Manitoba, Red Lake, and White Dog, I would have my Beetle packed with articles from the bales that had reached Kenora. Upon arrival at the communities that I visited, teams from the local communities would then see to the distribution of the bale items. Likewise Archdeacon Woolsey would convey bale items to congregations in places such as Trout Lake, Norway House, and Gillam Manitoba. I recall that these communities kept in touch with the Diocesan Centre in Kenora by a 2 way radio system donated by St George's, Guelph: the radio system worked... when the Northern Lights allowed it.

As I reminisce, I feel blessed to have experienced in my life both the sharing in the distribution of bale items in Keewatin and also being part of the church community of SJTE that has undertaken over the years to gather and send these bales.

Thank you A.C.W. St John The Evangelist for being part of this Outreach!



Organ enthusiasts Rupert and Ruby get a hands-on experience at the Kney organ.

Photo submitted by Jonathan Malton.

Christmas gift for our Newcomer family

Once again, St John's has said yes to providing a gift basket for our latest newcomer family: James and Esperance and their two children Cedric and Ariane. Some of you may have met Esperance and the children at Pancake Supper earlier this year (before everything closed down)

Exciting news for them is that James has a job in Cambridge at Permacon and that they are expecting twins in April!! (They have found a three-bedroom townhouse for January in the same area, so kids will not have to change schools!)

Our plan is to provide a couple of gifts to be wrapped, but mostly to give them gift cards that they can use as most needed.

If you would like to contribute to this, your donation can be sent to the church (cash or cheque) marked clearly for "refugee Christmas gift". Cheques should be written to The Church of St John the Evangelist and "refugee Christmas gift" put on the memo line. This way you will get credit for your tax receipt and we will easily be able to get the money to purchase gift cards.

OR Contact Syd Reginato (reginatosyd@gmail.com 226 988 3627) or David Whitfield (davidswhit@gmail.com 519 579 5543) for more information on how you can contribute to this gift.

Many, many thanks!

Alice Croft

Thank you, St. John's people, for being my friends and companions for more than 12 years. Many of you know I've spent the past couple of years caring for my dear, infirm, now departed, husband, Harold. Last June I took a photo of him on our deck ready to dig into the St. John's picnic. (This was the second of two meals we shared as a congregation, keeping safe, every family at their own home.) I didn't catch my sweetie smiling, but I did get close.

Thank you, everyone, for your prayers, cards, and -- those of you who could -- visits to the funeral home and funeral. Thank you, too, to all of you just for being my family, sisters and brothers in Christ --

Alice



The Community Kitchen Co-Operative Kitchener Waterloo Inc.

Al and Ann Coughlin

Report to Our congregation at St. John's November 2020

St. John's has supported many initiatives of the Community Kitchen Co-operative established in 2016. Through our charitable partnership and use of the commercial kitchen, upper parish hall and storage space, there have been many activities that we have embarked upon.

Through the Co-op's partnership with Food Not Bombs and St. John's since March 2020, we have provided a meal and fresh donated food to the unsheltered and food insecure families right outside our doors next to City Hall. Friday afternoons and evenings, we have cooked together, received and stored food, packaged meals, and then distributed that food on Saturday afternoon.

We have made successful grant applications to The City of Kitchener, The City of Waterloo, The Anglican Foundation, and The United Way. St. John's has been our charitable partner on several of these grants.

Last year, the Kitchen Co-op cooked and hosted several community meals in Waterloo (at Emmanuel Church with The Wayside Café) and at The Rockway Community Centre. We also held several workshops at both St. John's and Rockway.

Covid has meant we are delaying implementing the Anglican Foundation grant through which we will have a community dinner and follow up workshops focusing on Cooking for Climate. Care for our planet and environment is part of our baptismal covenant and fits within our Marks of Mission as well.

We received grants from both cities again this year, and are proceeding with modified cooking workshops – some on line through videos, and some in person with limited numbers. The Waterloo grant has as partners LSPIRG (Laurier Students Public Interest Research Group), Emmanuel Church, The Seminary at Laurier and CKCKW. LSPIRG will recruit students to cook alongside our kitchen coordinator, using donated food; the prepared meals will be cooled, packaged, and refrigerated, then distributed to students outside the seminary on Thursdays. [LSPIRG's mission is "to provide support and advocacy by and for campus and community members marginalized by systemic violence by cultivating meaningful relationships, political education, and anti-oppressive organizing."]

The United Way gave us a substantial grant (again with St John's as the charitable partner) centred around A Better Tent City at Lot 42 on Ardelt Avenue. Our work with A Better Tent City began in the late summer. We cook 3 times a week at the location. Our group has been able to contract the improvement of an on-site kitchen with stove, dishwasher, double sink and under counter cupboards. We have hired two contract kitchen personnel to lead the cooking. As well, several volunteer cooks help in preparing food.

A second United Way grant, with the partnership of The Kitchen Co-op, St John's Anglican Church, Sanctuary Refugee Health Centre, The African Women's Alliance of Waterloo Region, and African Wellness Community Initiative, will be used for cooking workshops spotlighting the cooking of different African cultures, led by women from those cultures.

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We have recently purchased both a commercial freezer and commercial fridge to be able to store the food donated by the Food Bank, Central Fresh Market, Whole Circle Foods, and other local donors. We have purchased shares in two community gardens: Young City Growers in Waterloo and The Working Centre’s garden at Hacienda Saria.

The kitchen co-op has stepped up to oversee the cleaning of the 3 church kitchens. We also take care of the green bins, clean surfaces and ensure supplies are replenished. We do this as members of the Civic Hub housed at St John’s with the Social Development Centre. They are also involved with The Unsheltered Campaign, reaching out to people not at Lot 42, but who are experiencing homelessness and food insecurity in both Kitchener and Cambridge. We share some of the food with them too.

If you are interested in learning more about any of these projects, or want to know how you can help, call either Al or Ann Coughlin (519 897 5449 or 519 897 4479.)

The African women gathered to prepare the food for distribution:





Non-Pudding Pudding Factory

Each year, the St. John's Pudding Factory provides most of the revenue for ACW outreach projects. Because the pandemic prevented us from holding this vital fundraiser this year, we are looking for help to fund important Church activities.

Please consider donating the money you would normally spend on Christmas puddings to the ACW. Tax receipts will be provided for donations over \$20.

**Cheques can be made out to St. John's ACW,
23 Water St. N., Kitchener, ON, N2H 5A4.**

Thank you for your continued support!