



The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener ON EAGLE'S WINGS

January 31, 2021

Available online at StJohn316.com/OEW

Are You Afraid Yet?

Elaine Duncanson.

The government sent out cheques to people who had lost their job because of the virus and had no way to provide for themselves. Most people thought that was a good thing because those folk were hit by something beyond their control and should not face hardship in order to protect the rest of us. As one might expect, a number who did not qualify also signed up for this “free” money.

Then there was concern about those who could not pay their rent or mortgage. It would not be fair to evict them simply because they were not permitted to work or had no work to go to. The lucky people could work from home and save the trouble and expense of a commute. We all thought this would last for a couple of weeks, perhaps a little longer.

A year later we are worse off than before. Whole industries have been shuttered. A woman who spent more than two decades as a waitress and knew no other line of work is unemployed. The owners of the small restaurant could no longer maintain it and closed permanently. She is too young to retire and has nowhere to turn for another position.

Another woman, a former executive with Husky Oil in Alberta, lost her position when the company reduced staff. Without income, she was unable to pay her mortgage and the bank was about to foreclose. As she was clearing her possessions out of the house, someone called the snitch line. The bylaw officers walked past the movers to give her the summons for a “social gathering” during lockdown. They shrugged off her explanation.

Anyone who has listened to the news knows that the government has paid out a mountain of money to citizens, lots more to consultants and contractors, and more to suppliers for the PPE and vaccines and other equipment. That is necessary but, with a dwindling pool of taxpayers, how will the debt be repaid? With hundreds of businesses closing, where will people be employed? One day the pot will be empty but many social needs will still exist.

Charities have always contributed in places where government has left gaps. Now the gap has become a chasm. We have been concerned about the homeless population. As more people lose their homes that group will grow. Some who have rarely or never gone camping will be thankful for a tent and someone to show them how to put it up and settle in. If there are children in that tent, where will they plug in the laptop to continue with online lessons?

Some people are pinning all their hopes on the vaccine. It will certainly help but it is not a magic cure. Some very frail people in nursing homes can not tolerate the injection because of the side effects. There should be a consultation with the family and primary physician about the risks and benefits when the person is naturally near the end of their life. It seems that it takes a bit of time after the second dose for the vaccine to be fully effective.

We have been following the story of Roberta Place in Barrie. Maria's former home shared a back fence with them. The residents fed the squirrels and the neighbours cleaned up the peanut shells and other refuse. My brother-in-law was the clergy visitor every Thursday. He is a charmer and must have been the weekly sunshine for any who were lonely or wished to talk. Now, half of his friends are dead.

There has been so much loss. Lives. Jobs. Homes. Possessions. Relationships. People are lonely. Children are not progressing with their education. Young people have no access to entry level jobs that help them learn about life and find a direction for their future. So many businesses will not return when the dust settles. That means fewer jobs, fewer people employed, fewer taxpayers.

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Wings will be available on
February 28th

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We are not “all in this together”. If you have noticed, the richer are getting richer. By a lot. The average citizen and the poor have been getting poorer. Anyone with a knowledge of history begins to think of times and countries where a similar situation turned out badly. France and Russia come to mind. Recently, people have been demonstrating in Spain, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Toronto has seen a regular gathering of unhappy citizens near Doug Ford’s home. Then there is Trinity Bible Chapel.

Being Canadian, we are quite polite about our frustration. Most of the time. Still, we need straight answers about plans for re-opening the economy, getting people back to work, students back to class, help with the escalating mental health problem, restructuring LTC homes so infections do not race through the whole population.

Some countries have opened up at least in part. Brazil started with ten percent in any business that wished to open. They had all the expected restrictions and have progressed well. Maria gets news from her friends about their various sports activities and their work. Friends in other parts of the world are also active. When someone in India was asked about their economic activity the reply was, “the virus is a medical problem not a political one”. Hmm. Think about that for a moment.

Every newspaper and every news source on the radio, TV, and internet has more about the virus, the vaccine, the shutdown, the economy, how people are coping, and how many are losing the battle to stay afloat. We can not make the necessary changes ourselves but we can write, phone, email, or text those who have the authority and ask them what plans they have made. When will the changes happen? “After everyone has the vaccine” is not a good answer.

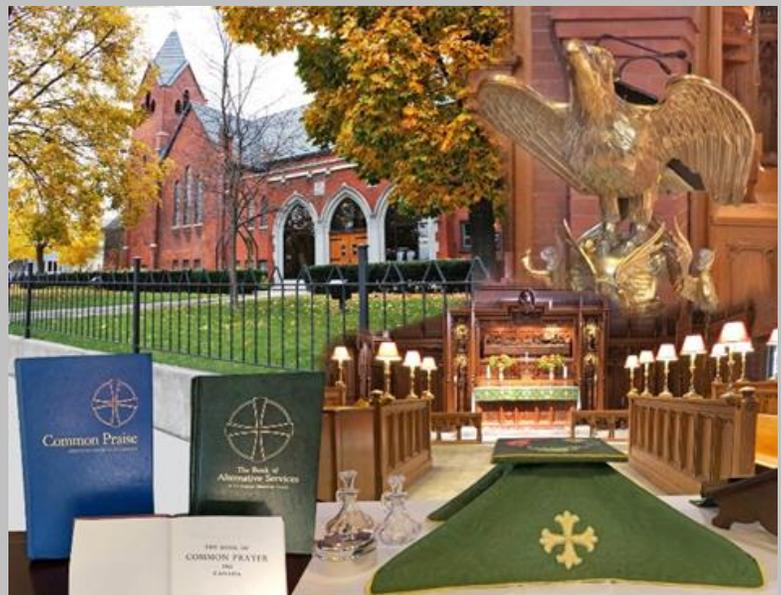
We need some action now. Making posters and marching in the street is one way to protest. Another way that is more appealing and probably more effective is to make the politicians aware of our concerns for our neighbours. If no one speaks up, the politicians will make plans that suit them whether that helps the people in need or not. Everyone deserves the dignity of a job, a home, food on the table, and a sense of security.

St. John’s Note Card

Jennifer Uttley

St. John’s ACW has a new hasty note as shown in the image. The collage shows the exterior of the church, the chancel, service books and the eagle. Use them as thank you notes or to send a note of encouragement to you haven’t seen in a while.

A package of 5 for \$10 can be purchased from St. John’s ACW by email acw@stjohn316.com or by calling Jennifer Uttley (519-578-6052).



A recent email to Preston re: I Samuel

Brian Hendley

Preston,

Inspired by your excellent sermon today (Jan.17), I reached for my Jewish Study Bible to see what happened to poor old Eli in I Samuel. Well it seems that the Philistines have routed the Israelites in battle and the Israelites have brought the Ark of the Covenant into their camp to raise morale. Then they are routed even further and the Philistines capture the Ark! When Eli is told of this (he being 98 and blind and heavy), he falls backward, hits his head, breaks his neck and dies! Luckily the Lord was still on their side so He "wrought havoc" among the Philistines and struck them with — wait for it — hemorrhoids.

The Ark remained among the afflicted Philistines for 7 more months and they tried to get rid of it by preparing an indemnity. And that, of course, was to consist of "five golden hemorrhoids and five golden mice." "You shall make figures of your hemorrhoids and the mice that are ravaging your land; thus you shall lighten the weight of His hand upon you and your gods and your land." They are warned not to harden their hearts as the Egyptians and Pharaohs did, (likely not their first concern when dealing with the hemorrhoids). Finally, they are to get a cart, two milk cows, place the Ark on it, next to a chest with the golden objects, and send it off. Sure enough the milk cows bring the Ark and the chest with the golden objects straight back to the good side. The Israelites rejoice and set all of this on a large stone and make burnt offerings, (ah, those hemorrhoids come to mind once again).

This is a lot to ponder. Some scholars translate the words as "tumors" but I find it far more gripping a tale as "hemorrhoids".

Cheers, BH

Altar Flowers

Enid Emery

We will shortly be in the season of Lent when we do not need flowers for the Altar. However, I have completed the list of donors for the remainder of the year and we have quite a number of Sundays which are still open. If anyone is considering putting flowers on the Altar in memory of a friend or family member, please let me know. I can be reached at 519-896-0637 or by e-mail: davidemery@rogers.com.



A Thank You Note from our Newcomer Family

A heartfelt thank you to our Parish family for generously donating \$600 for the purchase of a Christmas Gift Hamper for our Newcomer family. We were able to buy a few gifts for the children (Cedric and Ariane), and gift cards for Esperance and James.

We received the following lovely thank you note from them:

Hello St John's Church Kitchener

Hello Everyone from Esperance, James, Cedric and Ariane.

We are here to say thank you for all kind of support and friendship that St John's church members are showing us. We are so glad to have you as part of or family here in Canada.

Thank you for the help and support you've given us during the hardest time of our lives while we are working so hard to settle in Canada.

For giving to my kids the happiest Christmas gift.

My words can not describe how grateful we are to you but you guys are a blessing to us.

May you keep doing that for other refugee families.

God has always a way to repay kindness that we do for others.

We love you so much

From The Bahavu's family

