



The New Messenger

January Edition 29JA24

Message from Sharon:

Dear Friends,

How quickly time flies! It seems as if it was just yesterday that I finished putting the Christmas decorations away. And now we are preparing for Lent. I am reminded that time is not only precious, but also sacred.

Traditionally, during Lent we spend time being more intentional about diet, prayer, bible study, and participation in Sunday worship services. Some things we give up; other things we take on. Yet rarely do we stop to think about our use of time itself. Indeed, many people feel as if they are held captive by time—needing more hours in the day to get all their tasks done.

So, what would happen if we decided to be more intentional about our use of time? How would we ever begin?

One of the things I do from time to time is to make a graph—7 columns (days) across, and 24 rows (hours) down. I always begin by using one colour of marker to block off time for sleep! Then I use another colour to block off time for morning and evening prayer. Moving forward, I use various colours to mark off work time, commuting time and other fixed obligations. Are there any blank spaces left? I hope so; if not, there is a problem!

Assuming that there are at least a couple of blank spaces, I ask myself what is missing in my weekly routine—exercise, family time, etc. And, importantly, is there a long-time goal that I am failing to honour. Is there a way that I could fit in at least a baby-step towards accomplishing that goal?

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The hard part, of course, is acknowledging the amount of time that I have been wasting. Surely there is something more interesting than watching a banal TV program!

This Lent I invite you to join me in thanksgiving for the time which God has given us. Let us acknowledge the sacredness of that gift and promise ourselves and one another that we will glorify God in our use of time. God grant that we will have a holy and fruitful Lent.

Sharon+

A message from the wardens

As a community of faith, we do not like to talk about money however we must reconcile to the fact that while the church provides worship and a place to practice our faith it is also a business.

Our numbers have been growing and there is a definite enthusiasm for sustaining worship at St. Matthew's. To this end we have launched a stewardship program which we initially did in 2015. It is a relay that requires each person to deliver an envelope to the next person on the list. We found in 2015 that people appreciated having the information to read and then decide what they wished to do financially. What works with this relay is that the response is completely confidential and there is no pressure.

It is our hope that you will respond whether it is time, talent or treasure to this stewardship program.

Cheryl Gargal

May Ho

Carolyn Willoughby



Please do not park in the center parking spaces marked by the red "X's" in the picture to the left, until all the other spots are used.

By doing this it makes it easier to park in the spaces next to the church or back lawn.

Thank you for your consideration.

Take Note.

Please mark your calendar for the Vestry meeting on Feb. 25th following the service at 11:30am.

St. Matthew's Poinsettia Bazaar/Craft Market 2023

We had a wonderful time at our Bazaar again this year. Many of our parishioners pitched in and worked really hard to make this year's Bazaar another huge success. Financially, we did extremely well. We had our big day on November 4th, continued to sell more items on November 5th and had a mini-Bazaar on December 3rd. With a few extra sales here and there, we made over \$8500. This was amazing and very helpful to the church financially.

Certainly, the financial component was very important for the church but there was an even brighter side to the event. Our parishioners came together in so many positive ways and the time of fellowship was priceless.

We shared our time, talents and treasures and we had fun doing it! Volunteers gave their time to come to work parties where we baked goodies, made crafts, wrapped gift baskets and Pick a Pocket prizes. People donated their crafts, their treasures that needed a new home and their time to set up for the Bazaar, to sell their goods and to clean up afterwards. Our local businesses generously gave us donations for our gift baskets (i.e. No Frills at Townline, Golden Gate Eatery & Takeout, Stone Art by Peter, Another Spin, Pizza Hut and Speedy Auto) and silent auction items (another Tom Hodgson original painting, the Canada wheelbarrow made by Bill Lamb and Stone Art by Peter). Our Country Store returned this year with wonderful crafts, jams and jellies, pickled beets, wooden crafted candles, fire starters and teacup candles. The Café served delicious biscuits with your tea and coffee in the morning and then a lunch with choices of Apple Squash Soup, Hamburger Soup and Pulled Pork on a bun. Our new menu was well received. Our amazing team met after the Bazaar to debrief our event and to make recommendations for next year. Yes, we are planning our next Bazaar and Craft Sale for November 2, 2024.

We are starting our work parties on Monday, January 22nd at 1 pm. We will begin by making greeting cards and will continue with our work parties doing other craft ideas on Monday afternoons. Please join us if you can help create items for the Bazaar but also to enjoy the fellowship with other parishioners. You don't have to come every week and we encourage you to bring new ideas for us to try. Everyone's time talents and treasures are important. We are a great team who enjoy working together and sharing the positive fellowship!

After the Bazaar, we did do some outreach to our community. Knitted hats, mitts and scarves were donated to the Salvation Army, Clara Hughes Public School, David Bouchard Public School, Pierre Elliott Trudeau Public School and the Ignite Foundation at the Durham District School Board. These items were well received by all and were greatly appreciated. Some of the shawls and blankets have been added to our Prayer Shawl Ministry which has been revived.

Thank you all for the support that you provided to make this fundraiser such a wonderful experience. Your efforts were greatly appreciated. Thank you to Rev. Sharon Melvin for all her support and presence on the day of our Bazaar. We loved having you there as part of our team. A very special thank you to Lynne Denniston, my Co-Convenor who did so much to make the event a success. We look forward to another great Bazaar again this year.

Natalie Hempstead, The Bazaar Lady!

Food Bank update ST. PETER'S

Hello Everyone:

Please, if you can, remember to donate often to the Food Bank. Your contributions are always appreciated and can be placed in the wooden chest at the back of our Church. With the high cost of groceries this ministry is so important.



St. Peter's Food Bank continues to be a source for those in need of basic food and supplies.

Our donations are taken by a group of volunteers to St. Peter's Anglican Church on Cedar Street, Oshawa. Their doors are open each Tuesday evening (except the 5th Tuesday of the month) to people who are in need.

Most requested food donations are pasta, peanut butter, tea, instant coffee, cereal, pasta, canned goods (soups, fruit, meat, beans etc.), crackers, pasta sauce. On the personal hygiene side of things donations of body wash, toothpaste or toothbrushes, diapers (sizes 5 & 6 or pull-ups) are always appreciated.

Thank you all for your support to this much needed ministry.

Faithfully,
Lynne Denniston

If you know anyone in our congregation that is dealing with food insecurities, please contact either Rev. Sharon or Lynne Denniston. This will be confidential and handled discreetly.

Sunday School

I would like to welcome all ages of children to Sunday School at the back of the church. Also, we are looking for any parents that would like to volunteer to help out with the ministry of Sunday School, this would be much appreciated.

Thanks
Tricia

News from the Men's Coffee Group

A small group of men continue to meet weekly to share stories and have a few laughs. We meet in the church hall most weeks except the last Thursday of the month when we visit a local restaurant for breakfast. If you are interested, please join us. We meet Thursday mornings at 10:00 am. Fresh coffee is made. If you have any questions, please contact Chris Hempstead (905) 579-1729.

News from the Altar Guild

Hello Everyone:

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes?

Well, here is an opportunity to find out!

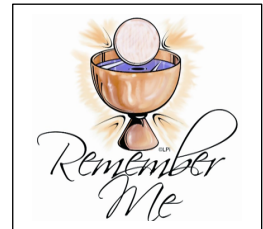
The Altar Guild is in need of your help.

Do you think you could spare two hours on a Friday or Saturday morning to prepare for Sunday services and a half hour after service on Sunday once a month.

We have an amazing group and would like to grow our teams. It is a rewarding way to offer your talents and time.

This opportunity is open to all men, women and youth.

Please contact Lynne Denniston if you can help or just want more information – 905-723-6494 or notsinned@rogers.com.



Appeal for Readers

Hello, my name is Frank. I'm in charge of scheduling readers, intercessors and side persons schedules. Once again, I am recruiting volunteers for all three positions. The side people work in pairs passing the offertory plates and then bring them up to the altar where they are placed on the alms basin. They then wait until after the prayer over the gifts is done. If you are interested in volunteering for one or all three positions, that would be great.

We need more people for coffee hour too. If interested, please speak to me or any member of our hospitality ministry. I can be found in the narthex before service and also at coffee.

Frank
Perish Rep., Reader and side's person scheduler.

Great news:

We now have a new and updated web page, check it out at:

stmatthewsoshawa.ca

Synod Report

162nd Regular Session of Synod

Held Nov 17th and 18th at the Sheraton Parkway Richmond Hill Ont.

I attended both days of Synod. It was my first opportunity to attend in person. Last year it was virtual. It made a big difference. I enjoyed all the booths that we set up with displays. The sessions offered to participants to attend were varied.

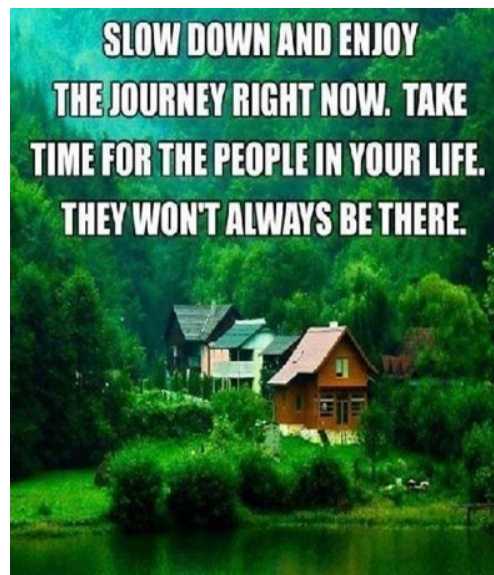
I attended the session on property.

There are various leaflets etc. from the different booths available if anyone wishes to look them over.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Ricketts Synod Rep

Somethings to think about.

One of the best feelings in the world is knowing that your presence and absence both mean something to someone.



In the end, we only regret the chances we didn't take, relationship we are afraid to have, and the decisions we waited too long to make.



Thanksgiving



Three of these pictures are shot from a different preceptive, they are shot from an overhead view.



1. Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?

Answers to the jokes are on page 12.

Lunch for Tony



Bazaar 2023





Christmas



Baptism of Christ service



Circle of Friends

Murder Mystery at St.
Matthews



The Circle of Friends met at the Church on Monday January 15, at Noon. 15 members were present. We brought our brown bag lunches, and while we were eating, we were able to discuss upcoming events for our group and make plans.

An inspirational reading was read by Marlene Owen
Elizabeth Cameron and her daughter Slina Rawe were the hostesses of a Murder Mystery Event. The theme was a Mardi Gras. Masks, jewellery and food were supplied by the ladies. A fun afternoon was had by all.

Thank you, Harry, for joining we ladies. Hopefully we will have more gentlemen join us in the future.

Next Month Helen Bajorek will be doing a presentation on Ukraine, and we will make postcards to send to the frontline soldiers.

All are welcome.
Marlene

Music Director's Note



MESSAGE FROM THE ORGAN

CHOIR, CHURCH, AND THE COMMUNITY



CHURCH CHOIR: As we continue to grow our choir as a church to enrich our services and worship experience to God, may we continue to use our gifts and talents in worship to give every worshipper a meaningful experience and have an encounter with God for good health, peace, joy, and love. **You are all welcome to join the church choir!** We pray that God will continue to supply all our needs according to his glory in Jesus' name Amen.

CHOIR REHEARSALS: Every Sunday morning from 9:00 am – 10:00 am before the service begins.

MID-WEEK SERVICE: See you every Wednesday at @7:00 pm.

See you there! PRAYER In the name of the Father the Son, and the Holy Spirit We pray healing for Rev. Ian Martin and his family and Peace, Love, Joy, and Good health for all of us Amen.

Yours in Christ,

Abraham Ogunmola,
Director of Music@ St. Mathews Anglican Church, Oshawa

The funnies



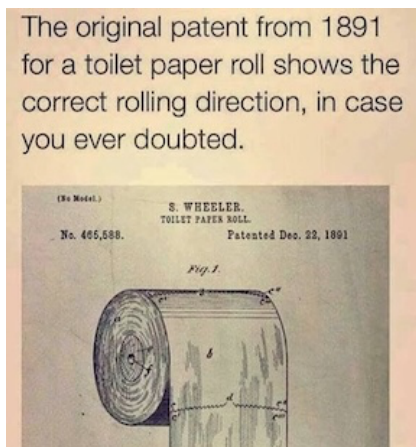
MOSQUITO:
An insect that makes you like flies better.

TOMORROW:
One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

COMMITTEE:
A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.



INFLATION:
Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.



Answers to the Jokes.

For the bikers in the church

- 1 *Nope — just an apple.*
- 2 *Just a little before Eve.*
- 3 *Yes, but He prefers “fruits of the spirit” to “religious nuts!”*
- 4 *They create many jams.*

Phone numbers
you may need.

St. Matthew's Anglican Church

135 Wilson Road South
Oshawa, ON L1H 6C1
905-725-9841

www.stmatthewsoshawa.ca

Contact Information

Wardens

Carolyn Willoughby
Cheryl Gargal
May Ho

905-435-5255
905-723-0599
905-668-5009

Sexton/Maintenance

Harry Hester

905-242-0621

Parish Administrator/Secretary

Barbara Horsburgh

905-725-9841 office@stmatthewsoshawa.ca



Religious Word Search



BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

V D V P R U T H G J
D J H F J L U K E O
E Z R A O P A B J H
G C U D B H U T E N
X V H J H O S E A T
L S U X B F G D C J
O J O N A H W N T M
D H Q Q R W W H S A
M D A N I E L W F R
N A O N T Z I F M K

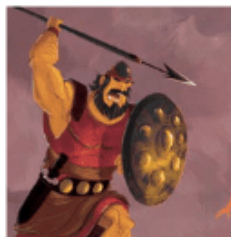


WORD LIST

ACTS	JOHN
DANIEL	JONAH
EZRA	LUKE
HOSEA	MARK
JOB	RUTH

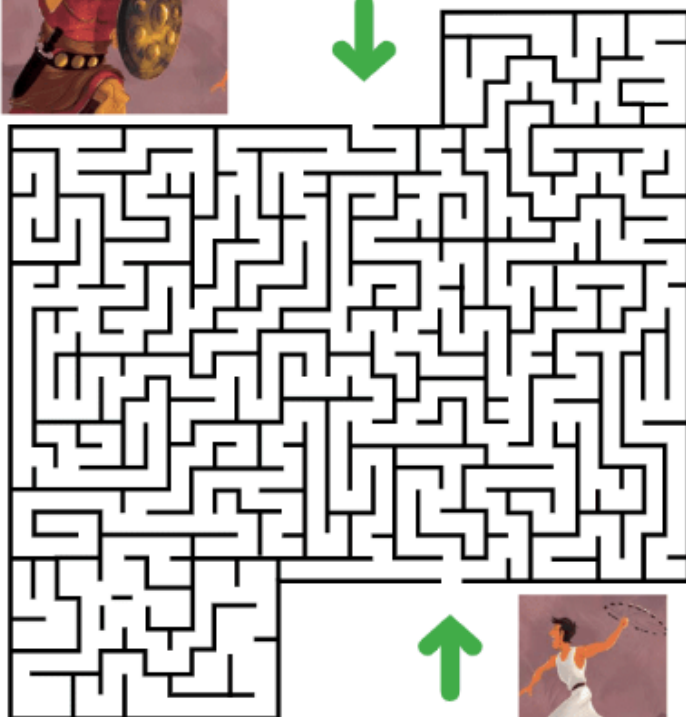
Homemade
GIFTS MADE EASY

*For the kids or the
young at heart*



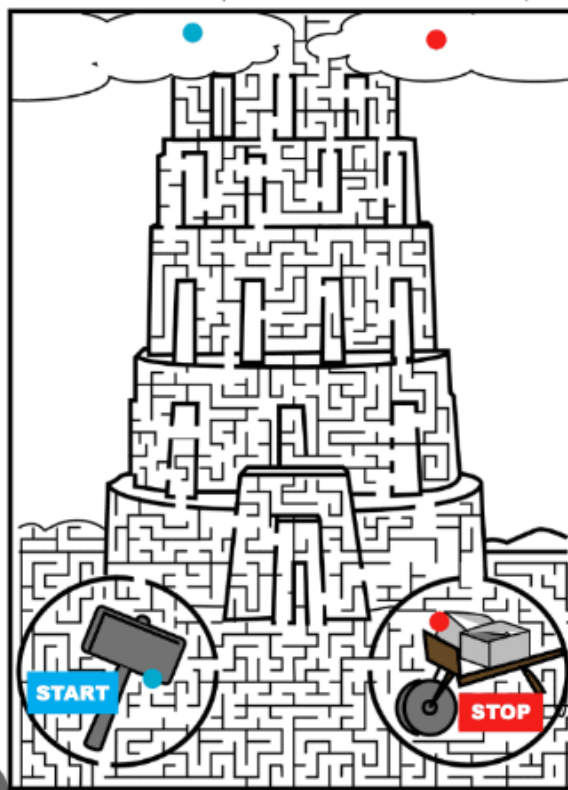
Maze for David and the Giant

Help David to meet and do battle with the Giant.



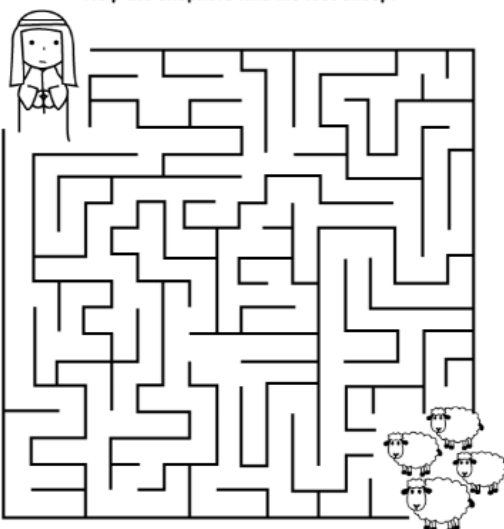
Tower of Babel Double Maze

There are two separate mazes to complete here. Help the workers take the tools from the bottom of the tower to the top. Then take the bricks from the bottom to the top.



Lost Sheep Maze

Help the shepherd find his lost sheep.



A note from the Editor:

At any time, you can submit an article for the newsletter, and it will be put in the next issue. As always you can do that at the following e-mail address or put it in the office.
hester633@gmail.com

Many Thanks. H

*Saint Matthew's
Anglican Church*

135 Wilson Road South
Oshawa ON, L1H 6B9

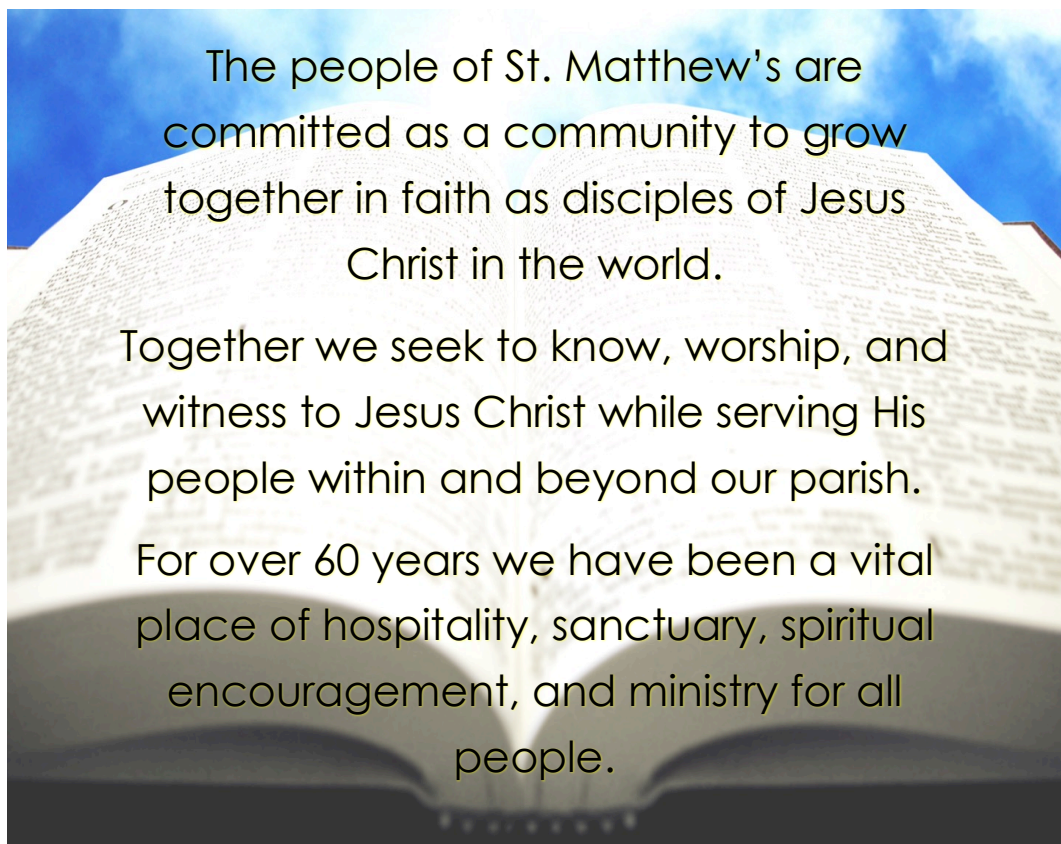
Phone: 905-725-9841

E-mail:
office@stmatthewsoshawa.ca

Website:
www.stmatthewsoshawa.ca

Visit us on Facebook

***A Warm and Welcoming
Church with Heart***



The people of St. Matthew's are
committed as a community to grow
together in faith as disciples of Jesus
Christ in the world.

Together we seek to know, worship, and
witness to Jesus Christ while serving His
people within and beyond our parish.
For over 60 years we have been a vital
place of hospitality, sanctuary, spiritual
encouragement, and ministry for all
people.

The St. Matthew's Messenger is a quarterly newsletter pertaining to the parish of St. Matthew's Anglican Church Oshawa. It is our hope that this publication be informative to the members of St. Matthew's and inviting to anyone who would like to participate in any social event, study, or service described in these pages.

As this publication is a reflection of the community of our parishioners, we invite any person or group at St. Matthew's to submit articles, stories, poetry or any other items of interest for future publications.

***Please have your submissions for the next edition of the St. Matthew's Messenger submitted by
To be announced***

***Submissions may be made in writing to Harry Hester, or by email to: hester633@gmail.com
or put it in the office. We sincerely hope you have enjoyed this publication and will want to share it
with your friends.***

Thanks H



*May God bless you,
and
keep you always.
Amen.*

