



The New Messenger
May Edition 08MY24



Message from Sharon:

Dear Friends,

Did you know?

The feast of Pentecost stands alongside Christmas and Easter as the three most important celebrations of the Church year. So, what has happened? At Christmas we gather our families around the tree, exchange gifts, sing carols and devour an enormous meal. Easter brings bunnies, coloured eggs and another extended family feast. Then Pentecost comes and we . . . ?

We may assume that the problem arises because the feast of Pentecost usually falls on the May long weekend—when many people are heading north to open up the cottage. But we have time off at Christmas and Easter too, don't we?

I suspect that the reason we don't celebrate Pentecost so much is that we don't know **how** to celebrate the feast! So I offer some suggestions:

- Gather the clan. Invite family, friends, and/or neighbours to join you, wherever you are.
- Wear red. Pentecost is about the Holy Spirit giving us a burning desire to share the good news of our salvation. So we wear red to show that **our** hearts are on fire.

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- If you are lucky enough to have children present at the celebration, do something special for them: fly a kite, make paper windmills, design Pentecost greeting cards.
- Plan a special dinner—barbeque & salads or Pot Luck. Whatever works for you. Perhaps you would enjoy strawberry shortcake for desert!
- End the evening with a bonfire, and toast marshmallows.

Whatever you do, have fun. Make it a special day. Celebrate with thanksgiving this wonderful gift that God has given us—God’s own Spirit dwelling in the midst of us, leading us faithfully into God’s future,

P.S. This year the feast of Pentecost falls on May 19!

Sharon+

Staff chances

Barbara is retiring.

Barbara started with us in 2016 when she took the position of Parish Administrators. She has shown her dedication to St. Matthew’s by having the weekly bulletins ready for Sunday service, her assistance at our bazaar by taking the electronic payments, looking after upgrading the office computer and keeping the copier going as it is wearing out, looking into its replacement. There were many other tasks Barbara has done/completed.

Please wish her well on this new phase of her life’s journey.

All the best Barbara on your retirement and especially when at the cottage. From all of us at St. Matthew’s.



Tricia our new administrative person

Tricia joined the church in 2022 first as a parishioner then as the Sunday School teacher. When Barbara announced her retirement Tricia offered to take on the job.

So please offer her your congratulations when talking to her and support her as she goes forward in this new position.

Welcome Tricia from all of us as you take on this new endeavour.



Save the date: June 14th.

For a Parish Family Friday Dinner, arrive at 5:00pm for dinner at 6:00pm.
Details to follow in the near future.

A message from the wardens

St Matthew's Anglican Church Oshawa

Stewardship Report

March 5, 2024

Committee Members –Natalie Hempstead, Harry Hester, Tom and Marie Hodgson, Cheryl Gargal, Eileen Mainwaring, Carolyne Willoughby

Time frame – January 17th to February 25th, 2024

Increase in givings – 14.78%

There was no cost to this campaign

Number of parishioners contacted – active 63 inactive - 28

Number of respondents – 32

We recognize the challenges we face however the number of new parishioners is growing. Our members have shown a desire to continue to worship at St. Matthew's and connect with the community of faith.

Increasing your financial support of St. Matthew's is ongoing no matter how small.

Thank you for your enthusiastic response to the Stewardship Campaign The positive response by the parishioners of St. Matthew's is something to be proud of.

This campaign demonstrates we are the Church with Heart.

Submitted by

Cheryl Gargal

Cheryl Gargal, Rector's Warden

Carolyne Willoughby

Carolyne Willoughby, People's Warden

1. *What did Daniel tell his real estate agent?*

Answers to the jokes are on page 16.

St. Matthew's Poinsettia Bazaar/Craft Market 2024

We have had a great start to the year with 11 work parties to create new crafts for our Fall Bazaar. We have had between 10 and 12 enthusiastic volunteers (not always the same people) out each week to share their creativity, learn new skills and to enjoy fellowship with other parishioners. Our busy workers have created greeting cards and gift tags, Fabric Christmas Trees, Baked Potato Bags, Fabric Bookmarks, and Teacup Gnomes. We have several other ideas up our sleeves and we will continue our work parties in the fall to produce more new items for the Bazaar.

We had a very generous community member donate several kits to the Bazaar for our use. Some of our crafters have taken them home to work on during the summer. If you are interested in what is available, please see me and I can share what is left. We also have some crochet thread that has been donated if you are interested in using your creative skills. We are always looking for craft items that you can no longer use. A basket is in the Narthex for donations or you can help yourself if you would like to make something for us in your own time. We have knitters and sewers working independently.

During the summer, we will have jam makers working in the kitchen at the church. Our jams were big sellers last year. Donations for supplies are always appreciated.

If you are decluttering your home and have some treasures that no longer have a place in your decor, please pack them up and consider donating them to the Bazaar in the fall. We will take your items as we get closer to Bazaar time.

Thank you to everyone who has been helping with all our crafts and sharing their amazing ideas. We have had a wonderful time with lots of laughs, sharing of ideas and positive fellowship. We look forward to having beautiful new items for our Bazaar on November 2nd.

Natalie Hempstead, The Bazaar Lady!



St. Peter's Food Bank update

Hello Everyone:

Please, if you can, remember to donate often to the Food Donation box. Summer is fast approaching and people will be away more often. 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 and hygiene items 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 our volunteers to St. Peter's Anglican Church on Cedar Street, Oshawa. Thank you to Andrea Williams and Thelma & Peter Martin for assisting in this ministry. St. Peter's doors are open most Tuesday evenings to people who are in need.

Recently Feed the Need Durham, who is a large weekly donator to St. Peter's, identified that over 2,000,000 pounds of food are distributed per year equivalent to 1,660,000 meals. The number of those experiencing food insecurities in Durham Region is huge.

Suggestions for donations are pasta, tea, instant coffee, rice, cereal, pasta sauce, canned goods (soups, fruit, tuna, salmon or beans, etc.), and crackers. On the personal hygiene side of things donations of body wash, soap, shampoo/conditioner, toothpaste or toothbrushes, baby wipes, diapers (sizes 5 & 6 or pull-ups) are always appreciated.

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

Faithfully,
Lynne Denniston

After reading Lynne's food bank update, it inspired me to take a trip to the food bank to see it for myself and bring back some photos of it.

When I arrived, there was already a line up to get in, I believe by the time I left there was at least 25 families there, and I left about 15 mins after they opened their doors.

While there I talked to the team leader Dean, we had a wonderful chat as I have known him for some time as we were servers at St. George's. While we talked, he showed me the different stations that the recipients would follow as they were given their items, he then introduced me to several of the volunteer's.

As I was getting ready to leave, he said he would send me some stats on the operation from there vestry report. I have picked a few points of interest to point out the need for donations.

They run a very efficient and needed program for the citizens of south Oshawa.

Job well done St. Peter's, keep up the good work and God bless you all.

Please find the info and photos below.

Inflation and Rent.

All of us have felt the effects of rising food costs. The rise in food prices particularly strike at homes where food insecurity was already an ongoing struggle. According to Statistics Canada, between 2019-2022 food cost have risen as much as 44%. Between 2022-2023 food prices increased by a further 5-8%. Although some food prices have recently stabilized Dalhousie University Agri-Food Analytics Lab estimates that in 2024-25 food prices will increase 2.5-4.5%. This is of little comfort to our food bank users receiving a social or disability income or to employed food bank users. Both of these groups have not seen an increase in income or wages to match inflation while at the same time confronting sky rocketing rents.

Food Bank Statistics for 2023

- 4436 visits made to St Peter's Foodbank in 2023. In 2022 there were 3233. An increase of 1203 total visits= up 37.2%
- 1281 individual people in 467 separate households came to the foodbank. In 2022, 858 people in 334 households. An increase of 423 people (49.3%) and 133 households (39.8%)
- 626 of those 1281 people are new to our food bank. In 2022, 343 new people. An increase of 283 people = up 82.5%
- 478 of our food bank users are 17 years of age or younger, compared to 304 in 2022, an increase of 174 or up 57.2%
- 56 of our adult visitors are seniors 65 years of age or older. In 2022, 46 seniors, an increase of 21.7%)
- 127 households are single-parent families. In 2022, 83 single parent families, up 44 families = 53%
- 43 households are employed, compared to 27 working households in 2022, up 16 or 59.3%

The above stats provided by St. Peter's.

Dear Friends at St. Matthew's,

Thank you so much for your longstanding generosity in supporting St. Peter's Food Bank. It is so greatly appreciated and so needed as the rising food prices directly impact our vulnerable community in South Oshawa already dealing with issues of food insecurity. Thank you for all your help and Kindness. May God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you all.

On behalf of St. Peter's Food Bank Team,

Dean Rose



Here is just three of the volunteers that work at the food bank.

Tracey on the left, Dean in the center, Gail on the right

I hope after reading and seeing our food donations will increase, I know the cost of food is high but one can of meat or one soup or one stew or a box/bag of pasta would go a long way once all added together. Let's go St. Matthew's.

Harry



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!

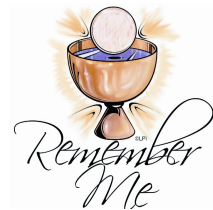
The Altar Guild is in need of your help.

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.



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 appreciate it.

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, here is a list of a few of the places we have visited:

Coco Frutti, Bridgette's, Quick Flame, Halibut House, Sunset Grill, Eggsmart and East Grille. 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.

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

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.

Circle of Friends

Writing postcards to the Ukrainian military on the frontline, was a privilege and honor. 25 people attended the event and not all were Circle of Friends members. Over 50 cards were written, to be sent to Ukraine by Helen and her husband. An emotional event, when one realizes what these people are enduring in Ukraine.

Circle of Friends had decided to donate personal hygiene products to St Peter's Anglican Church along with our regular food donations. St Matthew's congregation was very generous with the amount of donations. Hopefully we've made a difference in many peoples lives.



Palm Cross making

Palm Cross Preparation 2024

A huge thank you to those who helped make the palm crosses on Thursday, March 21st. We had a very enthusiastic group of volunteers who made about 150 crosses to be distributed during the service on Palm Sunday. Thank you to everyone who joined us as either a “newbie” or an “experienced” worker. Ray is still our expert and shares his skills willingly.

The jelly bean bags were also put together for Easter Sunday. Thanks Cheryl Gargal for organizing these treats.

A time of fellowship was enjoyed by all.

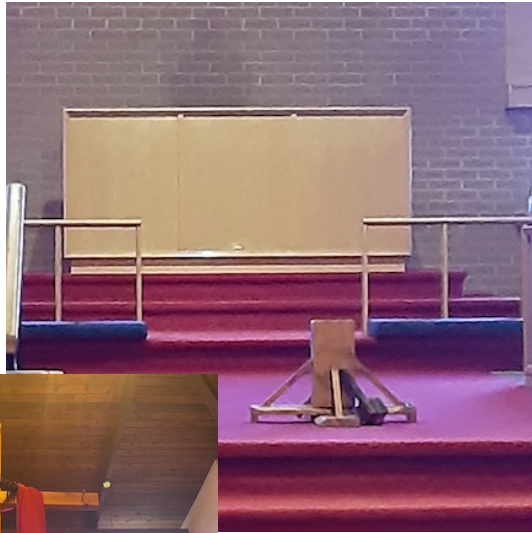
Natalie Hempstead



Palm Sunday



Good Friday



Easter



Concert



The AbZolutely choir put on a great concert that was enjoyed by all, we then went downstairs for some light refreshments and fellowship.

Thank you, AbZolutely Choir.

Barbara's Lunch



Barbara hosted a lunch for her counters and other parishioners that she works with though out the year. Little did she know they had a retirement gift for her.



1913 Cadet Corps Flags

The 1913 Cadet Corps Flags have been removed from the church to be put under glass and the hang in St. George's which is the regimental church at some later date.



A couple things to remember



Please remember to put the blue hymn books back on their side as they are taking damage when placed upright.

For your info the book of memorials.

The books and I thank you.

Something to think about

It has been said that one man wrote the Bible, if he did write a book that articulate, he would be considered the greatest composer the world has ever known.

Now read the info below.

This is a graph of all cross references in the Bible.

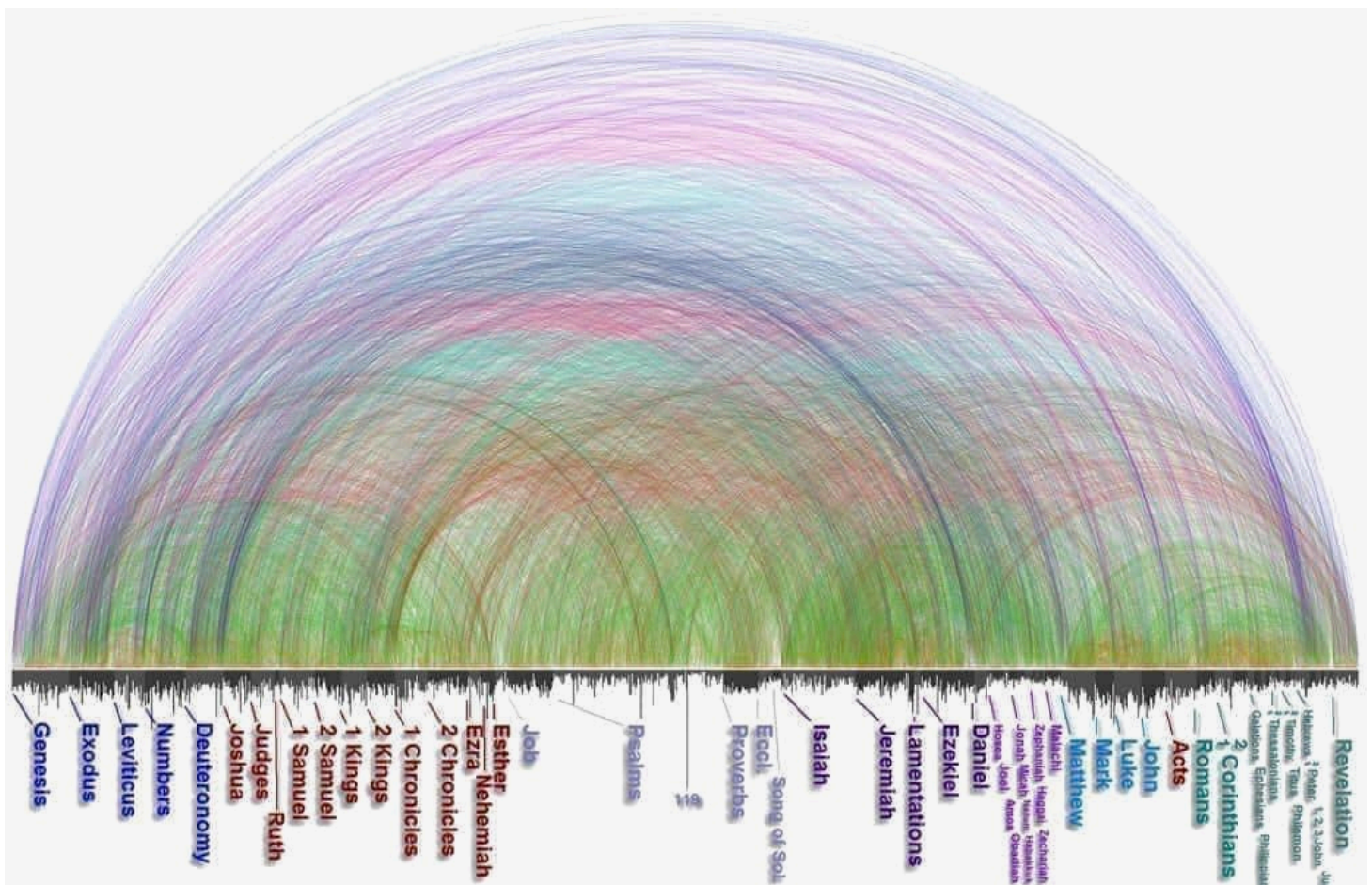
A total of 63779 cross references.

It was written by 40 men, most of whom never met each other. It was written in 3 different languages, on three different continents and over a period of 1500 years.

Without divine inspiration that's impossible.

The Bible isn't just a book, it's 66 books that man wrote under the divine guidance of the Holy Spirit. It's the living Word of God! Read it, study it, and apply it!

Now do you think one man wrote the Bible?



This came for a Facebook post.

The funnies

How to recognize when Jesus has been in your grocery store.



The main function of your little toe is to make sure all the furniture in the house is in the right place.

Every morning, I get hit by the same bicycle.....It's a vicious cycle.

I've just finished reading a book about the world's greatest basement....It was a best cellar.

I thought swimming with Dolphins was expensive until I went swimming with sharks....It cost me an arm and a leg.

The Best Way To Pray

A priest, a minister and a guru sat discussing the best positions for prayer, while a telephone repairman worked nearby.

"Kneeling is definitely the best way to pray," the priest said.

"No," said the minister. "I get the best results standing with my hands outstretched to Heaven."

"You're both wrong," the guru said. "The most effective prayer position is lying down on the floor."

The repairman could contain himself no longer. "Hey, fellas," he interrupted. "The best prayin' I ever did was when I was hangin' upside down from a telephone pole."

Answers to the jokes.

- 1 "I'd prefer a house with no den."
- 2 "Hebrewed it."
- 3 "Grace."
- 4 "Take it or leaf it."



Religious Word Search



Believe, Born again, Comes,
Condemned, Council, Darkness, Done,
Earthly, Evil, Exposed, Hates, Heavenly,
Him, Jesus, Jewish, Kingdom of God,
Lives, Loved, Miraculous, Nicodemus,
Perform, Pharisees, Ruling, Save the
World, Snake, Son of Man, Sound,
Surprised, Teacher, Testimony, Through,
Understand, Verdict, Wherever, Wind

For the kids or the young at heart

THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES

Help the Christ Followers get baptized.



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

*Phone numbers
you may need.*

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**A Warm and Welcoming
Church with Heart**



Contact Information

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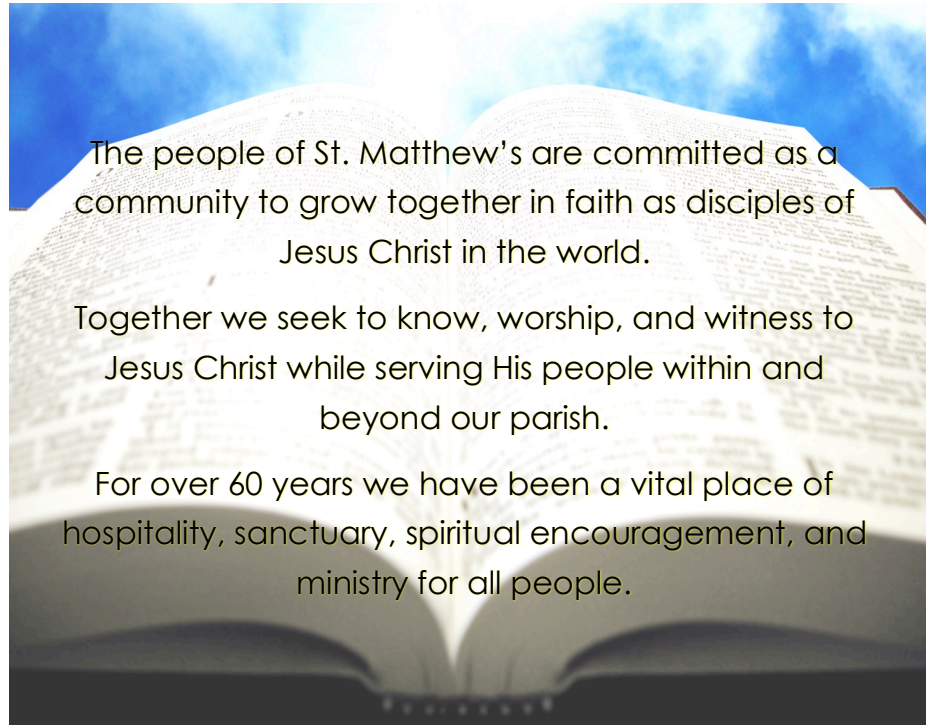
Carolyn Willoughby 905-435-5255
Cheryl Gargal 905-723-0599
May Ho 905-668-5009

Sexton/Maintenance

Harry Hester 905-242-0621

Parish Administrator/Secretary

Tricia Zoet 905-725-9841
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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.

