

SIGNS OF LIFE

why church matters



During the season of Lent, our Regional Ministry will engage in an excellent study entitled ***Signs of Life: Why Church Matters***, developed by The Society of Saint John the Evangelist (SSJE), and Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary. During the five weekly sessions, participants will be invited to engage with the elemental aspects of liturgy and scripture: Light, Water, Food, Shelter and Community. Each session will help participants connect the Signs of Life to their own spirituality, Christian worship, and a spiritual practice. The rich signs of Christian worship speak to us day by day. As we explore the layers of meaning these symbols carry, and enter more fully into their truth, we learn to pray what we live and live what we pray. Each session will include a short video, prayer, discussion, and a short period of worship. *Please consider this your personal invitation to join the group discussion.*

Sessions will take place at both St. Paul's (on Monday evenings at 7) and St. John's (on Thursday afternoons at 2). We are offering both an afternoon and evening session for your convenience, and hopefully to fit your schedule.

“Worship engages our deepest human needs and has the power to transform our lives. Join this study group in exploring the signs and symbols at the heart of Christian worship.”

“This five week offering encourages individuals to explore the riches of our worship traditions, liturgy and sacraments, and the art and architecture of our worship spaces, revealing the full meaning of these signs, deepening our experience of Christian vocation and guiding us toward ongoing conversion.”

Session	St. John's at 2 PM	St. Paul's at 7 PM
1. Light	Thurs, March 5	Mon, March 9
2. Water	Thurs, March 12	Mon, March 16
3. Food	Thurs, March 19	Mon, March 23
4. Shelter	Thurs, March 26	Mon, March 30
5. Community	Thurs, April 2	Mon, April 6



LIGHT

Where is the light in your life?



WATER

What keeps you afloat?



FOOD

For what do you hunger?



SHELTER

Where do you feel most at home?

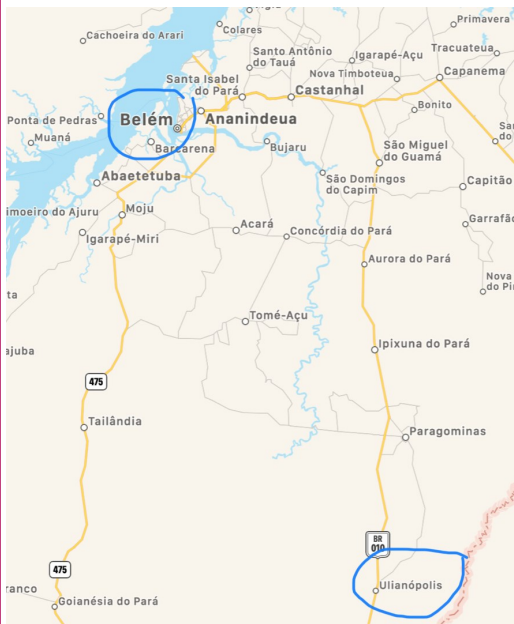


COMMUNITY

Who is your community?

Building Relationships with Diocese of Amazonia

The Dioceses of Huron and Amazonia have been companions for a number of years. Huron and Amazonia have been exploring ways that we might work together. The Deanery of the Saugeens has discussed options, and expressed a desire to partner with one of their communities. The Diocese of Amazonia encompasses a huge geographical area in Brazil. They must be very careful with the modest resources at their disposal. Each of their church buildings is filled to capacity, but the cost of expansion is prohibitive for them. Our partnership would



open up new possibilities for the Divino Salvador mission congregation, in a small but growing community which is located in Ulianópolis, several hundred kilometres away from Balem (see the

map). Their mission is primarily focused on serving young families and children in their city. A group of volunteers is currently offering after school programming for local children. The Rev. Claudio Miranda (the mission priest) and Bishop Marinez have a dream of expanding the church building to create a safe space that can accommodate 100 children. It will enable them to welcome and support more children in their community. The financial goal for this project is a modest \$15000. It was originally thought that our Deanery would raise the necessary funds over the next three years, and for-

ward the funds to them in 2023. However, we wondered why we should wait three years. The Deanery has negotiated a three year, interest-free loan from our Diocese, allowing us to launch the project now, and watch the progress that develops over the next three years. It is the deanery goal to collectively raise the \$15000 in creative



and fun ways over the next three years. **Can you think of ways that our Regional Ministry might band together to help out in this fantastic mission project? Put on your thinking caps, and bring your ideas to Rev. Carrie or the wardens. Thank you for your consideration of entering into this new relationship with our companion diocese!**





Messy Church: Roll Up Your Sleeves!

Is This a Possibility for Us?

In her Vestry Report, Rev. Carrie mentioned the possibility of a Messy Church starting up in our Regional Ministry. The following information, gleaned from an Anglican Journal article, and a book entitled *Starting Your Messy Church*, gives us a little more detail on this possible ministry.

God has graciously and inexplicably chosen to work through Messy Church, drawing together teams of Christians who have suddenly found the opportunity through it to share His story and their own story of faith in a non-threatening way, drawing in families with no church connection, in a place where the kingdom of heaven has a space to grow within individuals and families, all to the glory of God.

Messy Church is a missional initiative of the UK's Bible Reading Fellowship and the Fresh



Expressions movement founded in 2004. This fast-growing ministry brings the gospel to families that are not churched or cannot attend formal services on Sunday mornings, building relationships with thousands of people outside the usual church context. Typically, its all-age sessions take place in a church hall on a weekday, and centre on Bible story themes. After refreshments, people do theme-related activities and crafts, then take part in a short worship celebration with prayer, music and story-telling. The sessions close with the sharing of a hot meal. Significantly, kids and adults work together in every aspect.

Often, a third of the participants are adults, some of whom say that Messy Church is their church, where they have found a spiritual home. Occasionally a family will start attending regular weekly services, although that is NOT the intended goal. It is designed to meet the needs of

families in the community. There are close to 3000 Messy Churches registered world-wide across a range of denominations. It was launched in Canada in 2007, and roughly half of the Messy Churches in Canada are Anglican. It is resourced, supported and enabled by Wycliffe College in Toronto.

In summary, the Messy Church model follows religious values, based on a play / worship / hospitality format. Keeping in mind the marks of mission, especially **proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom**, and **nurturing new believers**, if we want to share the love of God in Jesus in a way that's accessible to families, journey together with

others to come closer to God, model who Jesus is to those around us, and make disciples, then, perhaps, this is a model for us to follow.

Services and Events Throughout Lent and the Easter Season:

Lenten Study—weekly at St. John's and St. Paul's—see schedule in Signs of Life article

Wednesday, April 1: **Midweek Sung Eucharist** service at St. Paul's at 4 PM

Friday, April 3: **Palm Cross Making**—St. John's at 11 AM (no experience necessary)

Sunday, April 5: **Palm Sunday**—St. Paul's at 9 AM, Christ Church at 10 AM, St. John's at 11 AM



Thursday, April 9: **Maundy Thursday**—St. Paul's at 7 PM

Friday, April 10: **Good Friday**—Walk with the Cross at 10 AM, Ecumenical Service at St. Paul's at 10:30 AM

Saturday, April 11: **Easter Eve**—**Easter Vigil** at St. John's at 8 PM

Sunday, April 12: **Easter Day**—St. Paul's (S) at 9 AM, St. Paul's (Ch) at 10 AM, St. John's at 11 AM



Upcoming Events to Mark in Your Calendar:

Saturday, May 2: **Marmalade Tea** at St. Paul's: Come and enjoy our famous tea biscuits and jam, and purchase your supply of marmalade, jellies and baking. There will also be a jewellery table this year.

Saturday, June 13: Mark this Deanery-sponsored event on your calendars to spend the day with **David Fitch**, on the topic **Becoming a Missional Church** (the issues for the local church in mission—cultural engagement, leadership and theology)— at St. George's in Owen Sound. See poster for more details!

Thursday, October 1: **Bishop's Friends** will be sponsored by our Regional Ministry, and held at St. Paul's

Mark Your Calendars:

Plan to join your congregational family for any of the multiple events scheduled in our Regional Ministry

Every Tuesday: Morning Prayer at 10:15, followed by coffee and bible study /reflection on the following Sunday's readings, seeking meaning for our lives.

Midweek Eucharist—First Wednesday of the month (April 1 at 4 PM at St. Paul's)

ACW: 1st Tuesday of the month at 1:30 PM

Men's Breakfast: 3rd Sat. of the month at 8 AM

Choir rehearsal: Weekly on Sunday at 12:30 PM

Ecumenical Taize service: Monthly, rotating from church to church - Sunday, Mar 22 at Tolmie

Yoga - exercises for Seniors (including chair yoga) - (every Tuesday Jan - Mar), (every Tuesday and Thursday April—December) from 10 - 11 AM

See the weekly bulletin insert and monthly calendar for more details of life within our Regional Ministry.

Our Facebook page—SaugeenShoresAnglican

Our Website: www.BestEverAnglicans.com