

The Anglican Regional Ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth

“Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth! ... tell of his salvation from day to day.”

Psalm 96:1-2 (ESV)

Dear friends in Christ,

As we leave March behind and enter into April, I sense within myself a bubbling up of anticipation and excitement. Part of my excitement comes from longer days, warmer weather, open-toed shoes, and a shedding of winter wear. The sky is bluer, the winds gentler, and the grass is making a valiant effort to appear. If you look closely, the trees are beginning to thicken up with buds, and hues of red, green and yellow can be seen in the woods as new growth begins. The world around us is getting ready for its springtime transformation, and I sing to the Lord my delight.

Why do I love spring? I love new life! I love that sense of renewal and fresh starts, and I love the glorious reawakening of God’s slumbering created world around us. My eyes open with a smile when birds sing outside my window, announcing a new day. The smell of fresh cut grass causes me to inhale with utter gratitude and exhale with praise. My spirit soars and my inner child delights in playfulness as it thrives on the evidence of spring.

At that very first sight of spring flowers pushing through the earth, something inside me bursts open. I become an avid spectator and boisterous cheerleader for the flowers that have fought the miraculous fight – growing out of hard seeds and

withered bulbs in deep and dark places, forcing their way up through cold soil, eventually tasting the bright rays of sunshine, and blooming in all their glorious colour. I wait in anticipation to announce, “Another spring is here. The flowers are blooming again. Look at the wonder of God’s creation all around us! It is more glorious than ever!”

With Easter just a few weeks away, I am reminded of what Martin Luther King once said; “*Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.*” I would boldly suggest that the promise of resurrection has also been written in our hearts and souls, and it is that deeply planted promise that responds to and delights in the wonders of creation around us, in the deeply meaningful relationships we are blessed with, in the desire to reach out to help our neighbour and to gather together in worship.

I invite you to gather with us over the next few weeks as we journey together through the remaining days of Lent, into Holy Week, and to the glorious joy of Easter. Whether your attendance is at Bible Study, Lenten Suppers and Study, Morning Prayer, our Lenten Retreat or Sunday Worship, we would love to have you as traveling companions. Come as you are and find a place of welcome and wonder!

The risen Christ is celebrated in every opened flower, in every beam of nourishing sunlight, in every humble patch of green beneath our feet. May you feel the bright, joyful blessings that God has to offer you during this Lenten and Easter season.

Yours in Christ,

Carrie+



St. Paul's Celebrates 160 Years of Christian Witness in Southampton!

The first services were held in 1859, with the first service in the original St. Paul's in 1861. The current church build-

ing was built in 1887 to replace the original church, destroyed in the Great Fire of Southampton on Nov 4, 1886. Our anniversary service is scheduled for Sunday, July 7. The Bishop will be with us on this day of celebration. Please mark this date on your calendar! Plan to attend!

What's Happening in Our Regional Ministry?

St. John's:

On this beautiful sunny day I am sitting here thinking how quickly 3 months go by (even in winter). These three months have seen lots of activity and a few changes at St John's. Our Robbie Burns night in January was a great success, even though the weather didn't cooperate. Good food, poetry, toasts, singing, fun and fellowship, beginning and ending with the bagpipes expertly played by Steve Wolfe, made it a night to remember.

We said goodbye to our organist Ron, and are blessed with the musical ministry of Barb Young and Sheree Lake, who are filling in until we hire a director of music.

In February a construction job was taken on by Rob and his crew of Jim, Chuck, and John S. They built a storage cupboard/ counter in the hall to store the extra tables and chairs, and also a closet for choir gowns.

March arrived and we held a very successful pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday.

Although we have had some bad weather this winter, the worship and fellowship we share at St John's, helps to make the months fly by. Thank you to everyone who works and participates in all our activities. We are a safe harbour, even in a winter storm on land.

Christ Church / St. Paul's, Chatsworth:

Joint services were held throughout the winter months in Tara. The Valentines Day Tea was a huge success and completely sold out again!

St. Paul's, Southampton:

In spite of Winter's worst weather, activities continued at full speed at St. Paul's. We were delighted to worship with our brothers and sisters at St. John's for the Regional Ministry Epiphany service on January 6.

Sunday services moved into Bevan Hall, beginning on January 13, while renewal activities proceeded in the church. After completion of the re-wiring, painting, staining, floor refinishing, carpeting, and cleaning, it is hoped that we can move back into the church on Palm Sunday. The newly reconfigured choir area will make the space much more versatile and user friendly.

A huge thank you is extended to Christine Saunders and Joan Myers for their musical leadership during this time.

Marmalade production was completed once again, in preparation for the Marmalade Tea and Bake Sale on Saturday, May 4. Get there early to ensure your purchase!



Book Talk:

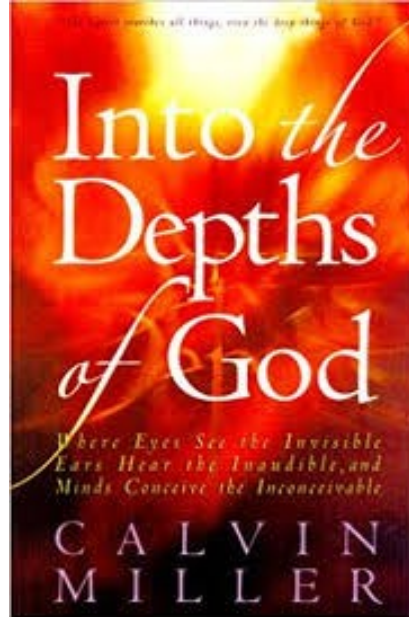
Calvin Miller: Poet, Pastor, Theologian, Painter

Our resource library has in its possession four books written by this versatile author. "The Singer Trilogy" consists of three illustrated books of allegorical poetry in the tradition of C.S. Lewis's Narnia series. They parallel the story of the Gospels and the Book of Acts. The trilogy was published in the 1970's, and "though the binding cracks and the pages start to yellow" (Dan Fogelberg), they are yet a delightful read. The pencil sketches are detailed and innovative.

"Into the Depths of God" was written more recently by Calvin Miller, the theologian - although his poetic nature also graces this serious exploration of prayerful intimacy with God. "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor. 2:9) is the scripture that frames the content of this book. Miller assures us that deep spirituality is not some distant thing for which we must struggle. It is, in fact, the opposite because God is near. We have access to the vast ocean of his presence, yet too often content our-

selves with snorkelling in the shallows. Prayer, says the author, is the "gleaming doorway to the depths". It is about relationship, rather than about telling God what to do or demanding that he tell us exactly where our lives are going. "God is to be met with and listened to, not sat down and talked to". There is both suffering and joy in our

faith pilgrimage, found between the seeking of Christ and the finding of him. Jesus is our calling, our life, our all in all. According to Miller, "his adoration is the only worthy passion of our lives". This comprehensive book merits a studious reading.



Respectfully submitted by Becky Peters (who is excited to report that Barb Willner and Paul Dost have joined the resource library team!)

Holy Week Services / Events

Monday, April 15:

Lenten Retreat at St. Paul's from 9:30 am -1:30

Tuesday, April 16:

Morning Prayer & Bible Study at St. Paul's at 10:00 am.

Wednesday, April 17:

Morning Prayer at St. John's at 10:00 am.
Lenten Study, beginning with a simple meal, St. Paul's - 5:30 pm.

Maundy Thursday - April 18:

Maundy Thursday Service at St. Paul's at 7 pm

Good Friday - April 19:

Cross Walk beginning at Port Elgin United Church at 10:00 am.

Ecumenical Service at Tolmie Presbyterian Church at 10:30 am.

Saturday Vigil - April 20:

Great Easter Vigil Service at St. John's at 7 pm.

Easter Sunday - April 21:

St. Paul's, Southampton - service at 9:00 am

Christ Church, Tara - service at 9:30 am

St. John's, Port Elgin - service at 11:00 am

St. Paul's, Chatsworth - service at 11:30 am

Lenten Retreat

Living as the Beloved: Taken, Blessed, Broken, Given

Monday, April 15, 2019

9:30 am – 1:30 pm

(including soup and bread for lunch)

Facilitator: Becky Peters

Reflections based on Henri Nouwen's book "*The Life of the Beloved*"



From the Priest Assistant's Pew

All my life I have been a firm believer of doors opening for us in life when we least expect it. Okay, so sometimes we have to gently nudge them open a little bit before they will swing wide to allow us to see the opportunity beyond the edge. As I reflect on my first year of ordained ministry I cannot believe the number of doors that have literally been swung wide for me to walk through. Sometimes I didn't even know there was a door there! The opportunity to journey with many in our area that are finding life a bit more challenging than they anticipated, the joy in celebrating the Eucharist in beautiful spaces, the blessing of having little ones at service in Tara who, though they can't talk quite yet, have the spirit give them the right "words" to say at the right time and being humbled by knowing that so many are praying for each other in our bible study and Pastoral Care Visiting Team meetings. It is more than what I could have asked for or imagined.

In our Regional Ministry we have 4 really quite distinct buildings but there is no distinction in those that worship there. That may come as a surprise to some. It may even cause concern, but I can tell you that the joy and love of the Lord is



apparent in each and every one that I meet and it's when we come together to worship or share a meal or listen to music that the label of "I'm from St. Paul's (either one) or Christ Church or St. John's doesn't matter. It's the fact that we're part of a whole. It's that we come together to bring our love and learning of our own Christian journey to each other and, hopefully, share it with the surrounding community. We have an opportunity to open our doors and welcome everyone in. We have an opportunity

to go out through those doors and be who we are in our neighbourhoods. Those opportunities are so special and shouldn't be taken for granted. We have been given a gift that we need to share and that's of a loving community that cares.

If you had asked me a year ago what I hoped to accomplish in my first year of ministry I couldn't have told you. I, surprisingly, didn't have any goals set as is my usual practice. I can tell you that my first year has been filled with "firsts", new opportunities, new ways to be who I am and new ways to work in partnership with some very skilled, loving and creative children of God. For all of this I am incredibly grateful and blessed. So, thank you!

Shalom,

Rev. Ann Veyvara-Divinski

Pastoral Care Visiting Team

Each month your Pastoral Care Visiting Team (Doug Goar, Becky Peters, Marilyn Stewart, Arlene Windsor and led by Rev. Annie) meet to pray, reflect and do some learning to nudge our growing edges in this ministry. Our Regional Ministry covers a lot of ground and it is so helpful to know that this team is available for conversation and prayer. The team has also been instructed and commis-

sioned to offer Home Communion if that is requested. Please contact any of the team members if you are aware of someone who may need a visit. It might be a visit to the hospital, a cup of tea at Timmy's or for a walk in the spring sunshine. Wherever it is, the team is most willing to journey with you and looks forward to the opportunity to do so. Sometimes, although our burdens are heavy, as a team, they can be lighter.

St. Paul's Anglican Church, 248 High Street, Southampton, ON, N0H 2L0 519-797-2984

St. John's Anglican Church, 516 Mill Street, Box 1059, Port Elgin, ON, N0H 2C0 519-832-5757

Christ Church, 56 Bruce Road 17, Tara, ON, N0H 2N0

St. Paul's Anglican Church, 57 Toronto Street (Hwy 21), Chatsworth, ON, N0H 1G0

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