



Good-bye...

The time has come, as we knew it would, for us to say "Good-bye and God bless!" It has been a full and busy year at St. John's, with new experiences of many facets of parish life and faith.

St. John's Administrative Assistant, Brenda Vassallo, asked why there are changes during an Interim time, especially when a new Rector will bring more changes. Such changes serve to acknowledge that differences are inevitable when a new rector comes into a parish. (Consider the challenge of following 50 years of ministry by only two Rectors, the second trained from childhood by the first. That was my assignment when Bishop Ralph appointed me as Rector of a Hamilton parish – and I was their first woman Rector! It was an "interesting time.") Interim is a time of a focused consideration of the parish's past, present and future that provides a healthy self-assessment to guide a community of faith into hopeful anticipation of new possibilities that might have seemed merely pipe dreams, even impossible, without such a process. As we have been exploring his will, God has been drawing us on in his love and challenge!

Now my work here is fulfilled: June 8 will be my last day with you, and on June 9 your new Rector will begin her ministry at St. John's. I cannot begin to name everyone I would like to thank for their support over these months, but special gratitude goes to the Wardens, to all who share leadership in any way, especially in worship, and to Brenda Vassallo whose wisdom guided me through the year. I will carry many fond memories of our almost-year of sharing Christian life with you week by week, season by season. (Jim has really enjoyed being a member of the Wednesday morning work group!) We both wish you and your new Rector every blessing as you go adventuring together into the future God has in mind for you.

So it is "good-bye", which comes from an old greeting, "God be with ye!" – my prayer for you all. Fran D.+

Following Fran's last service here on Sunday, June 5, please participate in a pot-luck lunch in the Parish Hall.

...and Hello!

Peace & Greetings in Christ!

I look forward to sharing in ministry together very soon! Before that, a little about me:

I live in Burlington with my husband Dirk and our two boys, Josh and Jake, both of whom are in the midst of university programs. You may see them occasionally at church functions, especially if there's food involved! Some of my likes include: being outdoors, campfires, Sudoku, martinis (and perhaps other Christian beverages of choice) and travelling. Some of my dislikes include: damp weather and gossip.

I was ordained in 2012 after completing the Master of Divinity program at Wycliffe College, University of Toronto. Since that time I've been ministering at St. John's, Winona. Prior to God calling me to ordained ministry, I worked for TD Canada Trust as a financial advisor. I enjoyed my career at the bank because of the relationships I built there. One of my great passions in ministry includes social justice issues, especially care for creation and the diocesan refugee work. Most recently I've been privileged to work as part of the 'Refugee Working Group' which I will share more about in the months to come.

In the meantime, I look forward to our discerning together, what God is calling us to, and where the Spirit will lead us!

Yours in Christ,

Leslie

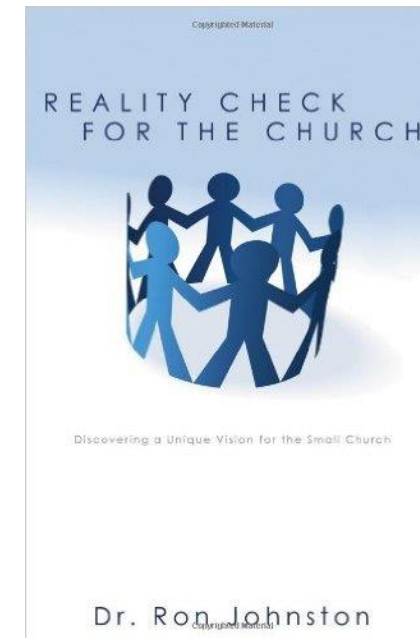
OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S REALITY CHECK FOR THE CHURCH

Saturday, June 4, from 11 AM to 4 PM, at St. John's,

Dr. Ron Johnston will present and lead a discussion of his book, *Reality Check for the Church: Discovering a Unique Vision for the Small Church*.

Our Don Stewart met Dr. Johnston at the recent Diocesan Visioning Day, and has arranged for his visit to our parish. Dr. Johnston discovered the importance of an

honest look at the reality of life in small churches, "the foundational task of determining who they really are and what makes them unique from the other churches around them." He "brings his blend of practical experience, academic study, and international involvement to his current work with small churches around the world."



For a mere \$20, you will hear Dr. Johnston's exciting ideas for St. John's, receive a copy of his book, and enjoy a good lunch! Please talk to Don today!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



- to offer leadership in worship...
 - by welcoming others, reading lessons, and offering prayers.
- Perhaps it's your turn.

Questions? Why not ask someone who offers these ministries to and for God and the rest of us?
Or please talk to Barbara Freeman
or call her at 905-635-8028.

WHAT ELSE IS NEW AT ST. JOHN'S?

HAVE YOU SEEN THE CROSS?

No, it hasn't disappeared! But the beautiful brass Cross that has graced St. John's Sanctuary for years has been professionally cleaned and restored. It now rests on the sanctuary step in front of the Altar, where it gleams a blessing upon us all.

AND IN THE GARDEN...

A pollinator garden is being established at St. John's, to support essential insects such as bees and butterflies. Sustainable plants such as Bee Balm, Asters, Milkweed, Foxgloves and Coneflowers will add beauty and hope to our corner of the planet. Your questions and/or donations of

plants or money will be very gratefully received by Peter and Rosalind Jones.



THE QUESTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS BOX

"Why did Jesus say to the two thieves, 'Today you will be with me in Paradise,' when he descended to hell?" To be honest, this one had me stumped! Even our Cathedral Dean didn't have an answer. But here's the best I can do with it: according to Luke, Jesus said that to only one of the thieves crucified with him, the one who acknowledged his own failings but affirmed Jesus' innocence. (Luke 23:39-43)

The Gospels were written decades after the events they describe. Stories were passed on by word of mouth for many years before they were recorded on parchment, and were inevitably innocently altered. Also, theologies arose around those stories as the infant church tried to sort out how Jesus so greatly affected those who knew him. This story, and the "Harrowing of Hell" are probably two such instances, created by early church leaders to explain Jesus' life and death, and its aftermath.

Modern scholarship, and investigation of ancient documents found at Qumran and Nag Hammadi, for example, are revealing ancient realities and understandings and opening exciting new ways of thinking about our faith. These are not threats to our tradition, but enrich and expand it, bringing new hope and faith to those willing to join the explorations!

AN URGENT REQUEST! Poverty and Hunger Don't Take Vacations!



All food banks experience a serious reduction in supplies in summer, and Partnership West Food Bank is no exception. As one of the founders of Partnership West, St. John's Church is asked to help. In summer, children don't get school breakfasts and lunches, often the only nutrition they may have on school days, and may even be left to fend for themselves while adults try to earn enough to pay rent.

Can you please try to bring
at least one non-perishable food item each Sunday?
Special requests are for juice, white rice, dry soups, canned tomatoes and meats, crackers, "Side Kicks," cake mixes and baby food.

St. John's first responsibility has always been juice – what you see in the bell tower is almost all the food bank has to give out for the entire community.

Please be generous!

He didn't say,
"As much as you do it for the least of these,
you do it for me."
He did say, "You do it to me."



SPRING INTO SUMMER CRAFT AND GIFT SHOW

This year we held a new fundraiser: Artisan Sale "Spring Into Summer Craft and Gift Show." Saturday, May 14th brought approximately 30 high end vendors from around the area to showcase their crafts at St. John's.

We were also thrilled to have Zig Misiak, award-winning author and educator, launch his newest book with a book signing session. He was a great asset to our show and he enjoyed visiting with everyone.

St. John's bake table was successful as always, and compliments also go to those who worked in the Bistro, preparing and serving great food that was enjoyed by all. Special thanks to our parking lot attendants, church historian and greeters who were great ambassadors for our church.

The weather had been beautiful all week but that wasn't to continue on the day of our event. Unfortunately, due to a dreary day and it being a first event, we didn't see the number of attendees that we had hoped for.

Thank you to all church members for your support of this event, whether it was baking, lunch room donations, assisting or attending. Many compliments were received for the organization, friendliness and the setup of the event, and many vendors commented that they would be very willing to come back next year, if we hold the event again.

Linda Frape



WALK FOR THE A.E.D. (AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATOR)

The AED was purchased, and donations were coming in, when our parishioner Mona Tam proposed a fundraiser walk to cover the cost and maintenance of the equipment.

After much planning and training, the big day arrived. The sun was shining brightly on Saturday, April 16th when everyone arrived at Spencer Smith Park to begin the walk. A cool breeze was blowing off Lake Ontario, but Mona, her regular walking group, her family, and other parish members and their families were eager to get started.

After prayer at 8 o'clock, the walk began. The walking group hoped to complete a 1/2 marathon, their turnaround point at Wild Water Works in Confederation Park, Hamilton.

Others just wanted to see how far they could go, with the hopes of at least crossing over the lift bridge at the canal.

Five water stations were organized along the route and parishioners waited eagerly to cheer on the walkers and to provide them with refreshments and healthy snacks.

The refreshments and the happy greetings were greatly appreciated by all of the walkers and great fellowship was enjoyed by everyone. The event ended for everyone with big smiles, warm hearts and many stories to be told.

Everyone is to be congratulated on a very successful event, both for the funds that were raised, but more importantly the camaraderie and fellowship that was enjoyed by everyone. Great Job!

Linda Frape

