

The Spirit of St. John's

Easter 2016

Every issue of the **Spirit of St. John's** is published with the hope that we can bring readers both inspiration and invitation to participate more fully in the life and work of St. John's. In the next few issues, you are invited to read about some of the people in our midst. These are bits of the life and work of the people we sit beside, or have shared conversation with as the people of God. If you would like to share your story, you may do so by emailing communications@stjohnsunited.ca

Heroes in our midst.

Edward (Ted) James Kersey, 92, joined the Canadian Army in 1943 at the age of 19 and served as a dispatch motorcycle rider with the Royal Canadian Ordnance Corp. Recently, during a Sunday afternoon ceremony at Glen Abbey United Church Ted was officially awarded the rank of Knight of the French National Order of the Legion of Honour. Ted is among approximately 1,000 Canadians who will receive the award over the course of a campaign by the French government to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Allied landings in Normandy. While Kersey appreciates his recognition by the French government he's not sure the term hero is appropriate for him. "Our freedom was threatened by a madman. Somebody had to stand up and why not me?" he said.

"I don't think there was anything heroic about it. I just wanted to do my bit." Rev. Kersey moved to Oakville in 2003, and is now living at Delmanor Residence in Glen Abbey. The full article, written by David Lea can be found at www.insidehalton.com



Basil Hermanus, 80, was recently presented with a "Heroes in the Home" award from the Mississauga/Halton Community Care Access Centre. Basil and his wife Naomi have been married for 61 years, and in 2012 Naomi was hospitalized for 84 days. Since her hospitalization, Basil has served as her primary caregiver, even during his own cancer treatments. Basil does not consider himself a hero. "To me, it's a great pleasure to be recognized for the little I consider I do for my wife. I realized what the working woman has to do. She did all the cooking and looking after the family. Now that I'm doing this, I say, My gosh, look at what she had to go through. This is so very important for men to understand".



St John's Trust Funds some points to ponder from the Chair of Trustees, Ross Huchison

The returns on our invested Trust Funds are critical to the continued strength of our programs. Estates today have escalated significantly. Appreciation in our residences has been dramatic. Add to this the invested retirement funds many of us have and estates are much larger than we would have considered possible. Contributing corporate shares can be a very tax effective approach. You avoid capital gains tax, get a full value tax receipt and St John's also receives full value.

Review your will today. Contact your lawyer or create a simple codicil to update your bequest. Rather than bequeathing a fixed amount, you might consider gifting a percentage of your estate to St. John's. Bequests of \$500 or \$1,000 are not in line with the times, whereas a bequest of 2% to 3% of the value of your estate can result in a meaningful donation and barely impact the amount you pass on to your other heirs. For more information access the Trust Funds information on the St John's website.

LIFE & WORK OF ST. JOHN'S

Holy Week Reflection and Worship :

Our focus this Holy Week will be on the cross. There will be time provided during the week for reflection on Holy Week – music, readings and an opportunity to make crosses to leave at the front of the Church.

On Maundy Thursday there will be a large cross lit with tea lights which people will be invited to extinguish during the last hymn, then the Christ candle will be carried down the aisle, leaving behind all of our crosses and darkness.

On Good Friday as people leave the service in silence each person will be invited to “take up their cross”, choosing one of the crosses that has been made during the week.

On Easter Morning the darkness of the week will be left behind, beautiful flowers will enhance our sanctuary and we will dance our way to the new life and light offered by the resurrected Christ.

We hope you will choose to walk the pathway of Holy Week with us.



Welcoming of New Members: Are you relatively new to St. John's and feeling you would like to formally make this your Church home? Maybe you've been here for years but have never formalized your membership. or maybe you don't even know if you are an official “member”! On April 17th we will be welcoming new members and we really encourage people to take this opportunity to formalize their relationship with our congregation. If there is interest, a membership information evening will also be held. Otherwise Sheila is happy to answer any questions you might have. We look forward to formally welcoming you to our congregation!

Study Group on The Trinity: Many of you have been following the story of the United Church Minister who no longer believes in the Trinity. For many of us it has raised the question of what it is essential for us to believe about God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, as Christians. How has the Church's understanding changed through the centuries and where do we, as individuals, fit on the theological spectrum of beliefs.

Join Sheila for three sessions on **Tuesday evenings, April 19th, 26th and May 3rd at 7:00 p.m.** Each session will begin with a presentation followed by what, I'm sure, will be an animated discussion!

Faith and Fellowship: The third in our series of services welcoming the changing seasons, we will gather in the garden on Sunday March 20th after our soup luncheon to welcome Spring. We know everyone is anxious to embrace the warmer, longer days so be sure to join us for a short worship service to give God thanks!

Breakfast at Dawn continues every other week on Friday mornings at **7:00 am March 18, April 1, 15 and 29, May 13 and 27.** Deep discussion on spiritual questions and timely topics—and is a wonderful way to share breakfast and ideas in a comfortable and relaxed setting. All are welcome.

Food & Fellowship: Friday night Community Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm on May 27, punch and fellowship begins at 6:00 pm. Full course home cooking with dessert and treats for only \$15, children under 12 eat free. Tickets are available in advance after church, or at the door, but we appreciate a call to the church if you haven't gotten a ticket in advance. It helps us plan for everyone!
Wednesday April 13 at 6:00 pm will be another A+ Dinner, great food and entertainment for seniors and guests.

New ! Euchre Nights at St. John's

March 8, April 12, May 10, and June 14, join in for Euchre, prizes, and refreshments all for only \$6/person starting at 7:30pm the second Tuesday of every month. New players are welcome, and all proceeds benefit the life and work of St. John's United Church.



FAMILY, YOUTH & CHILDREN MINISTRIES



Messy Church -Jonah and the Whale!

Bring your entire family, join a family, come on your own, ALL are welcome!

We are excited to try a multi-generational FAMILY, weekend long retreat this coming June. Join us Friday June 3-5, 2016 at Ryerson United Church Camp near Turkey Point, Ontario. The weekend will include games, worship, family time, food, campfires, archery, low ropes, and more (including indoor plumbing and heated showers)! You are welcome to stay in one of the cabins at Ryerson...or pitch a tent...or haul a trailer and use it there. We hope you will join us for the entire weekend but arrangements can also be made for a one-night-stay too. Sunday morning worship will be happening at BOTH Ryerson and St. John's on Sunday June 5. More details and registration forms will be coming out soon but be sure to book the date now! The cost per person for the weekend, which includes all food, accommodations, and programming, is \$45.00. It will be such an exciting weekend spent on the beautiful site, overlooking Lake Erie, a wonderful place to worship and celebrates God's creation.

Vacation Bible School - this year July 4 to 8th save the dates!



Our next Messy Church Worship Event will be a fishy story: **Jonah and the Whale!** and is happening on Friday April 15, at 6:00 pm. Everyone is welcome for hands-on activities, worship, fellowship and a fishy dinner! It will almost be like a mini Vacation Bible School for ALL ages and we really hope you'll join us! Please RSVP to Kim at kim@stjohnsunitied.ca, or sign up on the Family Ministries Board in the lobby so that we can be sure to have enough supplies for everyone. Come and join families of all ages and stages to share in this exciting worship event.

Ryerson Camp Weekend Retreat



Another awesome adventure is about to unfold the first week of July! Watch for sign up sheets coming soon on the family ministries board for supplies and volunteers. This year we are expecting more than 50 campers, so are in need especially of older youth volunteers as group leaders, a great way to earn hours required for graduation. Spread the word! Camper registration forms will be available soon, but please speak to Kim, or email at kim@stjohnsunitied.ca for more information, or to sign up. Let's follow Jesus together!

Worship

Sunday March 13

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Proverbs 15: 1-9, Psalm 67, Luke 21: 29-33

Baptism Sunday

Sunday March 20, Palm Sunday

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Isaiah 50: 4-9a, Psalm 31: 9-16, Luke 21: 28-40

Soup Lunch following worship

12:00 pm - Welcome to Spring - in the garden

Thursday March 24, Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm Rev. Sheila Murray
Prayers and reflection on the Last Supper

Friday March 25, Good Friday

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Liturgy of the Cross
9:45 am Fellowship & Hot Cross Buns in Lusk Hall with Knox Presbyterian

Sunday March 27, Easter Sunday

Communion-traditional

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Acts 10: 34-43, Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24, Luke 24: 1-12

Sunday April 3

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Proverbs 3: 27-35, Psalm 146, Luke 10: 30-37

Sunday April 10

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Proverbs 14: 21-31, Psalm 30, Luke 11: 5-8

Sunday April 17

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Proverbs 6: 1-11, Psalm 23, Luke 12: 16-21

Soup Lunch following worship

Sunday April 24

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Proverbs 27: 18-27, Psalm 148, Luke 13: 6-9

Sunday May 1

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Psalm 67, Luke 13: 18-21

Sunday May 8

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Proverbs 15: 15-22, Psalm 47, Luke 14: 16-24
Christian Family Breakfast, 9:00 am

Sunday May 15, the day of Pentecost

10:30 am Rev. Sheila Murray
Acts 2: 1-21, Psalm 104: 24-34, John 14: 8-17, 25-27
Communion-intinction

Weekly at St. John's

Tuesday:

Prayer Group, Terry Chapel 10:00 am

Thursday:

Henderson Bell Choir practice: 6:00 pm

Chancel Choir rehearsal: 7:00 pm

Youth Group: 7:30 pm

Faith and Fellowship

Breakfast At Dawn:

Friday mornings 7:00 am

March 18, April 1, 15 & 29, May 13 & 27

Women's Fellowship Group:

Wednesday afternoons at 1:30 pm

April 6, May 4, June 1

Study Group on the Trinity:

Tuesdays at 7:00 pm-April 19, 26 and May 3

Community Communion:

Delmanor: 2:00 pm-March 29,
April 26, May 24, June 28

Kensington: 3:30pm-April 26, May 24, June 28

Churchhill Place: 2:30 pm-April 28, May 26, June 30

Trafalgar Lodge: 3:30 pm-April 28, May 26, June 30

Food and Fellowship

Soup Lunch - March 20 & April 17 following worship

Community Dinners- Friday May 27, 6:00 pm, tickets in advance or at the door.

A+ Dinner - Wednesday April 13, 6:00 pm

Events

Euchre Tuesdays -March 8, April 12, May 10, 7:30 pm

A "Whale" of a Messy Church! - April 15, 6:00 pm

Board Meetings - March 30 & May 25, 7:30 pm

Team Leaders - April 23, 10.00 am - Noon

Musikay Concert - April 16, 7:30 pm

Oakville Chamber Orchestra - April 30, 7:30 pm

Photo Directory Portrait Sitzings - May 4, 5, 6 - 2:30-8:30

Saturday May 7 - 9:30 am - 2:30 pm

Parents & Kids Clothing Bazaar May 7, 8:30 am

Annual Rummage & Plant Sale - May 21, 9:00 am

THE POWER OF ONE



Cob's Dough Raiser Program

Thanks you to those who have been mentioning St. John's when they purchase items at Cob's Lakeshore Store. Once again we will be taking orders for Hot Cross Buns prior to Easter. Regular, Cranberry Orange or Chocolate Chip are available. You can order now for delivery to the church on Palm Sunday, March 20.

New Hope Oakville Project

We have named our Syrian Family sponsorship New Hope Oakville, as we pray that it will provide hope for the Mulham family. Lina, Jouma, and Jad welcomed their new daughter and sister on Feb. 18th. Her name is Aleen. We are hoping that we will be able to welcome them to Oakville within the next few months, and will do our best to keep you informed on the progress in doing so. The process of sponsorship is moving along with the documents having been sent to the family to approve, sign and return to us so that they can go to The United church Refugee Department and then to the Government for approval. We are starting to meet with the various Settlement Teams and are hoping if you would like to be involved that you contact any member of our co-coordinating team -Sue Raynor, Wendy Merson, Tom Preston, Richard Andrews or Leslie Adams. As we discover the needs for setting up a home we will let you know so you can donate items. Monetary donations are of course greatly appreciated, please mark your donation for the Mulham family. One of the fundraisers being planned to support the initiative is a classical piano concert on April 8th at St. John's. This event is being hosted by Joyce and Gerry Stephenson's grandson and a friend who are accomplished pianists. Please plan to attend this fundraiser, in support of our New Hope Project.



Modern Miracle Spaghetti Dinner

This year our dinner took place at Maple Grove United Church. everyone had a good time, good food and good fellowship! We made an estimated total of \$3,200.00 for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank. Half will go to our partner and half to Maple Grove's partner. thank you to all of those who volunteered, attended and contributed to or bought at the silent Auction! All proceeds go to The Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



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EVENTS UPCOMING

A New Photo Directory for St. John's: It's long overdue. On May 4, 5, 6 and 7, IPC Canada will have professionals on-site at the church to take family photographs for our next photo directory. We want you to be part of it! In the next few weeks you will have an opportunity to sign up for a portrait session for your family. St. John's families are dynamic, and pets and grandchildren can be included! Everyone who sits for a portrait will receive a copy of the new directory when published. Your pictures, and your family will make it a success!

Parent to Parent: Kids Clothing Bazaar: A new initiative this year, similar to a garage sale, parents are invited to buy table space to sell their gently used kid gear to others. Help will be needed the first weekend in May for set-up and crowd control. If you would be willing to assist, please contact either Cindy McCuaig or Dagmar Wilhelm through communications@stjohnsunited.ca.

Annual Rummage and Plant Sale: Coming up soon on Saturday May 21st. Keep us in mind as you embark on your spring cleaning. We will gladly accept your donations of gently used home and garden decor items, small electronics and appliances in working condition, clothing and shoes in good repair, housewares, dishes, china and collectibles. If you are a gardener, we will also gladly accept your divided perennial plants. Your donations can be brought to the church after May 15. We also will need your help, if you would be willing to sort, price, and set up on May 20, or work the day of the sale we will be asking for volunteers to sign up in the first week of May. Please speak to either Shirley Krug or Cindy McCuaig if you have any questions.

Let's get Together and **Build Community!**



We need everyone to participate to make our new pictorial directory complete

Each Photographed Family Receives a FREE DIRECTORY.

Tips on preparing for your portrait session:

- ✓ A rich, color co-ordinated wardrobe will complement your portraits
- ✓ Wearing long sleeves will re-direct the attention to your face
- ✓ Always dress for a full length portrait
- ✓ Your hair and grooming are an important part of photography
- ✓ Pets are welcome (with church approval)



All Photography & Viewing Is Done In One Convenient Appointment At Our Church

At the time of viewing, IPC Canada's friendly and knowledgeable Portrait Consultant will assist you to custom design a portrait package to meet your needs and budget. An adult family member must select the directory pose. Portrait session is approximately 30-45 minutes.

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Our new and improved website has now launched. Bookmark in your browser www.stjohnsunited.ca, and look for regular updates on events, worship services, links to recent sermons, readings and reflections. There is also an on-line calendar feature that will help you keep track of what's going on! We are also on Facebook – like us at [stjohnsunitedchurchoakville](https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsunitedchurchoakville).

262 Randall Street (at Dunn), downtown Oakville L6J 1P9

Reverend Sheila Murray - sheila@stjohnsunited.ca

Kim Belanger, DLM - kim@stjohnsunited.ca

Svetlana Kotliarenko, Director of Music

Ruth Staple, Administrator - office@stjohnsunited.ca

Ken Plante, Custodian.