

Jacob's Ladder

A newsletter from St. Mark's Anglican Church, Port Hope



Poet's Corner

Read the fine work of Les Robling on **page 6**

Among Friends

See what St. Markers have been up to in this busy season. **Page 2**

Walking the Camino

The Rev. Ann Smith shares her experience on this famous pilgrimage route. **Page 9**

AMONG FRIENDS

Compiled by Claire Mowat

On April 2nd a joyful celebration was held in TCS Chapel to celebrate the 60th wedding anniversary of **Tom and Pat Lawson**. They were married in this chapel in 1956 – only the third couple to wed there since the chapel was built in 1951. Fr Don Aitcheson presided over this gathering of family and friends, some of whom had known Pat and Tom since their wedding day. A festive luncheon followed at their home “Fairmont” where Pat grew up and where their four children, **Molly, Philip, Pippa and Graeme** also grew up.

April 23rd was the date of the happy celebration of Holy Matrimony when **Canon Graham Cotter** wed **Margaret Baily** here at St. Mark's. Both Margaret and Graham have large extended families and a great many friends so our church was full of smiling people who came to witness this beautiful, traditional service to which the bride and groom had added their own tributes and thanksgivings.

Many St. Markers volunteered to make this wedding and reception a great occasion. We wish our newlyweds a long and fulfilling life together.

We mourn the loss of **Sandra Nyanokeeshik** who died March 14 after a brief illness. Her funeral was March 21, with a reception in our parish hall. Sandra and **Joe** were members of this church for many years. They were originally from Dryden in north-western Ontario and Sandra's ashes will be interred there.

Sandra had asked Joe, a retired long-distance trucker, to drive her ashes back to Dryden on the front seat of his vehicle, right beside him, where she had often kept him company on his long, cross-Canada journeys.

Many happy returns to **Elmer Bogyay** who turned 80 on April 17th.

Helen Kennedy, who sings in our choir, recently had two paintings on display at the Engine Gallery on Walton Street. Her mother, **Wilhelmina Kennedy**, is also an accomplished painter..

St. Markers on the move: **Frank and Jill Walkingshaw** travelled to England in late January to attend a family wedding. They noted that spring flowers were already in bloom.

Anne Finlay and Evan Legakis and their daughters **Sarah** and **Kate** visited Italy for two weeks in March, mainly in Florence where Anne studied for a year as part of her course at the Ontario College of Art and Design University.

Ian and Nola McDonald travelled to Nice, France in February and March and enjoyed exploring the many attractions along the Mediterranean *Cote d'Azur*. They were delighted to be able to worship in the thriving Anglican Church in Nice on three Sundays in Lent.

Suzanne Lawson has recently been awarded The Anglican Award of Merit, our Church's highest honour for lay people. Suzanne is a member of St. Peter's Cobourg but she grew up here in St. Mark's. Her late husband, the **Rev. Art Lawson**, was also a member here when he decided to give up his teaching career and study for the Anglican priesthood. Congratulations to Suzanne for her lifetime of dedication to the Anglican Church of Canada.

Marion Thompson recently joined St. Mark's when she moved from Pickering to Port Hope. She is originally from Montreal and she has also lived in England. Marion holds a Master of Divinity from Trinity College, University of Toronto, which included courses with the Rev. Patrick Gray. Marion preached the sermon here on April 10th. She is the founder of a choral group called the Marion Singers who have performed throughout Ontario. **They will be singing here at St. Mark's on Saturday, June 11th at 7:30 p.m.** For more information see *Randy Mills'* report on page 4.

A photo of our Rector **Fr Randy Murray** is featured on the front page of this month's *Anglican Journal*. Last summer he undertook his "guerilla ministry" in downtown Toronto. He says it was the most "amazing, surprising, eye-opening, jaw-dropping" experience in his life as he sat on a park bench, wearing his clerical collar, and listened to many people – sad people, troubled people, curious people and also friendly people – many of whom had a faith but had never found their way into a church. Fr Randy says he hopes to establish a similar ministry in the summer here in this region.

In honour of Queen Elizabeth's 90th birthday **Randy Mills'** postlude on April 23rd was a variation on God Save the Queen. Many of us stood up once we recognized what we were hearing. There is controversy as regards the origin of the tune, whether British or American, most scholars favouring the former. We may, however, see this composition as an American variation on *My Country 'Tis of Thee*. But to a Canadian ear it sounds exactly like one of our two national anthems.

We welcome **Brian Donaldson** who has added his splendid tenor voice to our choir. Brian has sung in several choirs over the years, most recently at St. George's Cathedral in Kingston for twenty-five years. Brian and his wife Rosemary retired to Cobourg.

A new junior chorister is **Charlotte Patterson**. Charlotte attends St. Anthony's School in Port Hope and studies piano with **Marnie Bickle**. Charlotte's Dad is head of mathematics at TCS.

We bid a fond farewell to **Marilyn and Terry Moore** who have been faithful faces at our 8:00 a.m. Eucharist for many years. They will soon be moving to Chatham, Ontario. We wish them health and happiness in their new home. They will be missed.

Emily Kedwell has recently learned of her acceptance into the MScN program (nurse practitioner designation) at McMaster University, Hamilton. She has been awarded a \$5,000 scholarship for this two-year study commencing September 2016.

[From her proud Dad. Peter Kedwell]

In summer theatre news in our community, **Peter Kedwell** will be "treading the boards" in the Capitol's version of the Oscar-winning drama *On Golden Pond* for 17 performances in June. Peter has won the part of Charlie Martin, the pond's mailman by boat and whose long-time interest in Chelsea, the Thayers' daughter, sees him drop in often to the family cottage

The Sacrament of Baptism

On the Day of Pentecost we welcomed three young children into the Christian family.

They are **Parker**, son of **Fiona Walker** and **Greg Derkx; Bennett**, son of **Caitlin** and **Brandon Duck**, and **Eleanor**, daughter of **Stephanie** and **Matthew Jackson**.





FAITH WORKS 2016

In May we started our annual request to parishioners to support **FaithWorks**. As the annual appeal of the Diocese of Toronto, **FaithWorks** is one vehicle through which we respond to Jesus when he asks, "Do You Love Me?" (John 21:12-17). Through your efforts, and the generosity of many, many people, **FaithWorks** has raised more than \$25 million since it was created in 1996.

FaithWorks supports 18 Ministry Partners. These Ministry Partners include a variety of agencies in our diocese, which help at-risk women, youth and children; provide outreach to the homeless and prisoners; help refugees and new immigrants; and provide home based hospice and spiritual care for the terminally ill. **FaithWorks** also supports the work being done around the world and in Canada's North by the Anglican Church of Canada and Primate's World Relief and Development Fund.

In 2015 we at St. Mark's church raised \$14,605 for **FaithWorks**. As a parish, we were able to retain 15% of these funds (\$2190.50), which was donated to Greenwood Coalition and Food 4 All, 2 agencies here in our own community.

There are a number of ways that you can make your donation to **FaithWorks**. You can make a one time donation with cash, a cheque or a credit card. Another option is to make a monthly donation. You can do this through PAR (pre-authorized remittance) or by credit card donation. Even a modest contribution of just \$5 a month adds up to \$60 a year!

You can receive more information about **FaithWorks**, or make a secure on-line donation by visiting www.faithworks.ca. If you do decide to make your donation on-line, please advise us, so that we can get an accurate accounting of contributions by parishioners of St. Mark's Church. If you want more information or have questions, please contact Sue Essig at 905-885-9733. **Sue Essig**

Music Notes

Submitted by Randy Mills

Concerts in June and August

This summer we will host several added music events, as has been the custom here at St Mark's. Please mark your calendars, and join us for an hour of lovely music!

Sat. June 11, 7:30pm – Marion Singers Final Concert

This chamber choir was instigated by St Mark's own Marion Thompson. Singing for the love of music, and offering its support for any and all charities, it will hold its *final concert* here at St Mark's, as their conductor Tony Browning retires to the west.

\$10 admission – generously offered to support our annual trip for the Junior Choir

Mon. June 20, 7pm – Teen Bellringers Return from Missouri

They were here in 2011, and have asked to return – the Carillon Handbell Ringers from Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church, St Louis, Missouri. Offering a workshop for area young ringers in the afternoon, their evening concert will combine popular tunes and original works for handbells. **\$10 admission** – with half of the proceeds going to our young singers and half to our guests.

***For both of these concerts**, we are responsible for **food**, and **an overnight stay** for the bellringers. If you can help in any way, please, I would be glad to hear from you!

Wednesdays in August, 7pm

Please watch the Sunday leaflet for details of this year's summer Wednesday concerts, expected to occur in August. Several of our young singers will be featured, and I hope to entice Ellen Torrie to provide an evening of solo singing.

Junior Choir

Plans are being made for our annual singing excursion, with some thought being given to a visit to Quebec City. Details will appear in the Sunday leaflets as the event is finalized.

Gratitude

To all of our singers for a musical marathon during Lent and into Eastertide: **Holy Week** (including a moving evening of chant, Allegri and Willan for Tenebrae on Good Friday, joined by Elizabeth Barlow and friends from St Paul's Presbyterian Church), **Easter** (and several singers from St John's with us for the Vigil) and the **Wedding of the Millennium** of our own Margaret Baily and Graham Cotter (Margaret's choir attendance now shows some absences!).

Please join us for the **Loaf and Ladle lunch with Silent Auction and 5th Sunday Book Sale** on **May 29th** following the 10:30 service. Your \$15 ticket includes a variety of soups, cheeses, breads, relish trays, desserts, coffee, tea and a glass of wine. The **silent auction features** the 'time, talents, and treasures' of St. Markers. Sixteen items are being presented and you will not want to miss out on Carol Poste's offer of a pie a month, a Les Robling painting, Russ McBride's handcrafted cherry paddle or Nora Holmes' handmade quilt. The **Book Sale** format is 'bring a few, take home a few'. The auction and book sale will take place during the lunch.

This is our main spring fundraiser so please plan to attend. Tickets are available from Susan Abell, Gwen Duck, Peter Kedwell or the church office. Your advance ticket purchase will help the Events team plan appropriately for the amount of food and wine needed on the day.

Thanking you in advance for your support,
Susan Abell, Gwen Duck, Peter Kedwell,
Dorothy Potter and Sue West



St. Mark's Country BBQ

At Steve Poste's Property

492 3rd Concession Road W., Trent Hills

((for your GPS))

Beside Sandy Flats Sugarbush (approx ½ hour from Port Hope)

Sunday July 17th arrive after 12:00 pm

Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Salads, Dessert and beverage bar.

By donation – Proceeds to St. Mark's

Bring your lawn chairs and wear comfy shoes.

TWO THOUSAND AND SIXTEEN

Weep for Mother Earth in tears of shame,

For with mankind lies the sinful blame –

Of death, destruction, around the world,

Of hatred, massacre, fanatically swirled.

Weep for Mother Earth in tears of shame.

Shed streams of tears that spill to ground,

Cries for peace are all but drowned,

By terror, bloodshed, tumult and dread.

All this descends on mankind's head.

Shed streams of tears that spill to ground.

Bullets, missiles, bombs blast away,
Forbidding scenes every day –
A child, leg missing, an arm lost too,
A mother laments this vile to-do
Bullets, missiles, bombs blast away.

Weep for Mother Earth in tears of shame;
Weep, mourn for the departed and the lame,
Shed streams of tears that fall to ground,
For abhorrent acts that daily abound
Weep for Mother Earth in tears of shame.

Les Robling

ODE FOR DYLAN

Under Milk Wood, Cwmdonkin's fiction
[Cwmdonkin = Swansea park]
lying and eagerly drinking in the summer crowd
eating a picnic of pasties and crisps
as Swansea springs to boisterous life
overlooking the west wind and white horses
and finishing with a Woodbine smoke and all.

Then off to Mumbles for a dose of faith
where uncle, hated from his dandruff to his corns
presents God in an unrepresentable form
and Dylan should be put in a mad-house
while the trams run on and the fishing fleet
waits for the tide and God's guidance.

Under Milk Wood [ach-y-fi]and Captain
Cat =

Laugharne sea-splashed, sand-spattered
tales of peg-legs, pirates and child's Christmas.

All this and more; America too and BBC
fame, infamy and 'Vale of Death' ale
Celtic imagination running spirit wild
words to conjure up the might of a bardic
mad-man, even at cricket games, fair play; deary
me
I'd rather be a poet anyday and live on guile and
beer.

Under Milk Wood in an insane unreal world
tea on the table at number five and on the Gower
with Caitlin after the Red Lion, disaster on the
rocks
escaping from the worst side of life leaving
his widow to dwell on the besotted brilliance
the greatest paradox of our time, death from drink.

Les Robling





The River of Hope : You Can Help

How? Please consider writing a letter to the Government to advocate on behalf of our Syrian refugee sponsorship program.

The situation is this. The River of Hope has been ready to be matched with a family since February but AURA, our Sponsorship Agreement Holder, has no families to offer us. This is because the government effectively closed the door on groups such as ours once they met their own government sponsored target of 25,000. Unless the government changes this policy, we will be waiting well into 2017 or beyond to be awarded a family.

There are hopeful signs. In response to a public outcry, the Ministry of Immigration is reprioritizing Syrian refugees and sending staff back to Lebanon and Jordan to facilitate their arrival by the end of 2016. Unfortunately, this policy applies to privately sponsored refugees only. At this time, AURA and similar organizations are excluded from this renewed initiative.

The situation in Syria continues to be grave. The civilian population is threatened with injury and death at every turn. The recent bombing of medical facilities staffed by Doctors Without Borders in Aleppo is a cruel reminder of the continuing horror. Young families that tried to remain are now forced to flee to the overcrowded camps.

Your letter can make a difference. You are a voter. Letters are tracked by the government because they know that one letter represents the views of many others who do not write.

Please consider writing a letter to the Minister of Immigration John McCallum, our MP Kim Rudd, and/or the Prime Minister. Request an increase in the Syrian Blended Visa Office Referred(BVOR) or Visa Office Referred(VOR cases) that are allocated to Sponsorship Agreement Holders such as AURA.

AURA is supporting groups who wish to advocate in this way. The sample letter included here is a personalized version of a template AURA has made available. Feel free to modify it in any way or write your own.

For your convenience, the sample letter is also available in digital form. If you send me an e-mail at nola.mcdonald@sympatico.ca I will be happy to send it to you.

The address of John McCallum is included on the sample letter. Kim Rudd, MP is at The House of Commons, Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6. The Prime Minister is The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C. M.P. Prime Minister of Canada, House of Commons Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6. Postage to federal Members of Parliament is free.

Thank you for your help in advocating for a Syrian family the River of Hope is ready to welcome.

Nola McDonald

Date

Your Name

Your Address

The Honourable John McCallum P.C., M.P.

Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

House of Commons Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6

Dear Minister,

Re: BVOR and VOR Syrian Refugee Cases

As a proud Canadian and supporter of refugee sponsorship, I am writing to request that the Government do more to help Syrian refugees by expanding access to refugee sponsorship programs.

Here in Port Hope Ontario, three Anglican and two United Churches banded together in December of 2015 to sponsor a Syrian refugee family. This group, The River of Hope: Refugee Sponsorship is working with AURA, a Sponsorship Agreement Holder with your Ministry. The group has raised in excess of \$60,000 and has a well developed settlement plan. By February 2016, AURA approved the group to be matched with a family. However, under current government policy, AURA has no Syrian families to offer us. Now all we can do is wait. Time is just one thing refugees do not have to spare.

I appreciate that the Government has already increased targets, but with thousands of groups still waiting to help and the extraordinary need for help, so much more can be done. By further increasing the number of Blended Visa Office Referred (BVOR) cases available and reinstating Visa Office Referred (VOR) cases this can be accomplished quickly and safely. Both the BVOR and the VOR programs directly help those most in need and most likely to excel in Canadian society because they rely on the expertise of Visa Officers.

Canadians across the country have been inspired by the Government's leadership in response to this humanitarian crisis. We have worked hard to be a part of what promises to be a lasting legacy for all Canadians.

The money is set aside. Let's see this program through.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Yours sincerely,

Walking the Camino

Rev. Ann Smith

To do a Camino is not simply to take an extended hike; rather it is to go on a pilgrimage. It is not about the distance we travel or even about completing the journey, although there is definitely a satisfaction in doing so. It is far more about the journey. It allows us the opportunity to slow down from the fast pace of daily life. It gives us time to reflect and integrate meaning into our lives.

There are many Camino routes, including, of course, the full eight hundred kilometre route that begins in the Pyrenees in France and ends in Santiago del Compostello. Our group followed the Finisterre Way which began in Santiago del Compostello and took us through Galicia to Finisterre and then finally to Muxia.

This particular Camino pre-dates Christianity. Pagans would head there on the Costa da Morte or Coast of Death where they believed the sun died and the worlds of the dead and living became closer. There are Celtic ruins along the way, which added to its appeal to me. On the walk I kept being reminded of that lovely Celtic Blessing:

May the road rise to meet you,

May the wind be always at your back,

May the sun shine full upon your face,

May the rain fall soft upon your fields,

And until we meet again

May God hold you in the hollow of his hand.

The walk is a challenge. Much of the journey is uphill and on rough terrain. Even more difficult is the long, steep downhill stretch towards the sea.

There are lonely stretches of road over moors, through eucalyptus forests, and through countryside where there are no houses and where I came upon only the occasional pilgrim.

Sometimes it led to wonderful conversations as we shared the journey for a time. Sometimes I simply said “buon camino” and plodded on deep in my own thoughts.

Sometimes when I felt as if I could not walk another step, I would come across a small café. It would usually be a place where members of the group would reunite and encourage one another

Two pictures stand out in my mind. The first is of one of the signposts. The Camino is marked by the symbol of the scallop shell along with a yellow arrow pointing out the various routes. Sometimes they are clearly marked, but often we had to search for a sign pointing out the right path as we twisted and turned through the hilly countryside.



The second picture that holds real meaning for me is a photo I took when I reached Faro, the lighthouse at Finisterre. On the top of the rocks there is a statue of a pilgrim boot that marks the end of the journey.

>see over

The first part of our Camino ended in the town of Finnisterre where we received the first of two certificates.



We walked the few extra kilometres to the lighthouse. It has become a tradition amongst many pilgrims walking the St. James Way to continue this last stretch of the Way after reaching Santiago. They would often burn some of their clothes or walking shoes as a symbolic end to the long journey. While I did not burn my clothing or leave my boot – after all we were continuing our walk for another two days – I did find myself leaving something of my past behind.

I was overcome with emotion sitting there on the rocks in the sunshine. It is difficult to put into words exactly what I take away with me from the experience. That will come with time as I further integrate the experience. I do know that it has to do with becoming more authentically myself. My Camino journey is not over. God willing, I will do another section.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

Get-to-know Meetings for Intercessors and Readers. These have been re-scheduled as follows: Readers, June 5; Intercessors, June 12. Both meetings will follow the 10:30 Eucharist

Mystical Intuition Workshop

Evan Legakis is planning a four-session workshop based on various mystical traditions. Topics will include:

- What is Mysticism, and why every religious tradition has mystics;

- The incompleteness of Language and Logic;
- Ego, Desire, Surrender and Self-identity: communing with the divine and the paradox of losing yourself in order to find your essential nature
- Eastern Christian Hesychasm and Christian mystics. Dates and times to be determined.

Call Evan for information and to suggest times: 905-396-6633, or elegakis@gmail.com

Farley Mowat Project October 8-10.

A community event to honour Farley Mowat. Planned events include:

- Relocation of the Farley Mowat Roofed Boat House
- Wheelbarrow Parade
- Park BBQ
- music and supporting activities.

All activities and complete information are listed on the Following Farley website. Further information from committee member Jan Hill.



AROUND THE PARISH



Duck Family Baptism



Newly weds Margaret and Graham

ON GOLDEN POND

Live On Stage - June 2-17

The Classic Ernest Thompson Play
Direction & Visual Effects by
Antonio Sarmiento

Presented by The Capitol Theatre
Ensemble

* Pre-Sale: \$24-\$35 All Fees

Included

* After May 31: \$26-\$38 All Fees

Included

* Call for Group Discounts

Experience the play based on the 1981 film starring Henry Fonda, Jane Fonda and Katherine Hepburn live on stage with visual effects that will put you right in the heart of Golden Pond.

It's summer on Golden Pond, the beautiful lake where Ethel and Norman have spent 48 summers. This year, their tranquil plans are turned upside down when their daughter and her new boyfriend arrive to drop his teenage son off for the summer. This acting tour de force is about growing up, growing older and learning to manage the ties that bind.

"On Golden Pond" features a beautiful cinematic score, a breathtaking set complete with a dock and "lake" in the front of the stage and visual effects to put you right in the heart of the story. You will experience the magic of the film come to life on stage in this memorable, touching and funny play.P

Peter Kedwell.

Jacob's Ladder is edited by Ian McDonald
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JACOB'S LADDER

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