

The Anglican Regional Ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth

Canon Carrie writes ...

Dear siblings in Christ,

As we enter into another season of Lent, I can't help but think about how we determine and live out our individual and collective callings as Christians. We begin Lent with the imposition of ashes on our foreheads as a symbol of our mortality, but also as a witness to our faith.

Our faith teaches us through the Easter story, that Christ conquered death, that the life Christ won for himself, he won for us. Our faith tells us that no matter how good or bad things are here, our eternal life with Christ will be one filled with peace and healing and joy.

Questions that have intrigued me as I write this Lenten letter are: When does our eternal life begin? What and when is this victory over death? Is it at our baptism, or confirmation? Does it begin after death, or at the second coming? There is much debate about this, and other meaty theological questions that underpin our Christian beliefs, but I find resonance with what is written in the Gospel of John, where eternal life is described as not only futuristic, but also pertaining to the present.

In John's gospel those who accept Christ can possess life "here and now" as well as in eternity or they have "passed from death to life", as in John 5:24- " He who hears my word, and believes him that sent me, has eternal life, and comes not into judgment, but has passed out of death into life." In John, the purpose for the incarnation, death and resurrection was to provide eternal life to humanity.

On that premise, or point of resonance for me, how do we live a life that is expectant of peace, and healing and joy? How do we keep ourselves open to the reflections of this blissful presence of God with us? I believe wisdom

can be found in our Lenten journey.

In Lent, we prepare and celebrate for "eternity's sunrise" on Easter day by learning to acknowledge or kiss joys and sorrows as they pass our way, rather than try to hold on to them forever. This image for me is evoked by a short poem by William Blake.

*He who binds to himself a joy
Does the winged life destroy
He who kisses the joy as it flies
Lives in eternity's sunrise.*

Like Peter on the mountain top with Jesus of last week's reading, we too want to hold onto our mountain top moments, to stay and savour those glimpses of victory or sweetest joys, and yet like Peter and the disciples, Christ calls us from momentary pleasures or sorrows to walk with Him down the mountain and through the valley. Our

Lenten journey is that walk with Jesus into Jerusalem, through the days of baptism and God's voice of love, days of teaching, victory, judgment, persecution, execution, and resurrection. We witness it all and watch again Eternity's Sunrise on Easter morning. We hold lightly the certainty of today to make room for the promise of tomorrow. We are called to give voice to the Good News, that Jesus is with us, and for us, and has done for us

what we can not possibly do on our own. The Good News is that the Kingdom has already come near, and it is visible in unexpected places. We are invited participants of the kingdom, and in our own prayerful discernment of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, we are called to bring messages of peace, reconciliation, grace and love.

Lenten blessings,

Canon Carrie



Highlights of the Lenten and Easter Season:

Traditionally, **Shrove Tuesday** was a day where Christians could reflect on the sins they needed to repent of before the Lenten season began. The name Shrove comes from the old middle English word 'Shriven' meaning to go to confession to say sorry



for the wrong things you've done. It is also known as Pancake Day which comes from the old English custom of using up all the fattening ingredients before Lent, so that people were ready to fast. The fattening ingredients that most people had in their houses were eggs and milk, hence why people began combining them with flour to make pancakes.

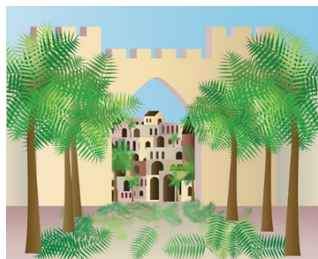
Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. It is a Christian holy day of prayer, fasting, and repentance. The name "Ash Wednesday" is derived from the practice of placing ashes on the foreheads of believers in the shape of a cross. The ashes are typically obtained by burning the palms blessed on the previous year's Palm Sunday. The imposition of ashes is often accompanied by the words "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," emphasizing mortality and the need for repentance.



What is Holy week?

Holy Week is the week leading up to Easter, and is the week during which Christians particularly remember the last week of Jesus's life.

Holy Week begins on **Palm Sunday** which is the day we remember and celebrate the day Jesus entered Jerusalem as Savior and King. As Jesus rode a donkey into the town of Jerusalem, a large crowd gathered and laid palm branches and their cloaks across the road, giving Jesus royal treatment. The hundreds of people shouted, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"



Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter, believed to be the day when Jesus celebrated his final Passover with His disciples. Most notably, that Passover meal was when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples in an extraordinary display of humility. He then commanded them to do the same for each other.



Good Friday, the Friday before Easter, the day on which Christians annually observe the commemoration of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. From the early days of Christianity, Good Friday was observed as a day of sorrow, penance, and fasting.



Easter Vigil, also called the Paschal Vigil is a liturgy held in traditional Christian churches, celebrating the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Traditionally, during this liturgy inquirers and catechumens are baptized and received into full communion with the Church. The Easter Vigil is held in the hours between sunset on Holy Saturday and sunrise on Easter Day, normally in the evening of Holy Saturday or midnight, and is the first celebration of Easter.



Easter Sunday or Resurrection Sunday commemorates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, who came to Earth to offer salvation from sin. The word Easter comes from the Old English term for "spring festival" and is celebrated at the end of Lent. Easter is also a time to reflect on the meaning of life and the power of love and forgiveness. Through the symbolism of Easter, Christians are reminded that no matter how dark things may seem, there is always hope in the power of resurrection and new beginnings.

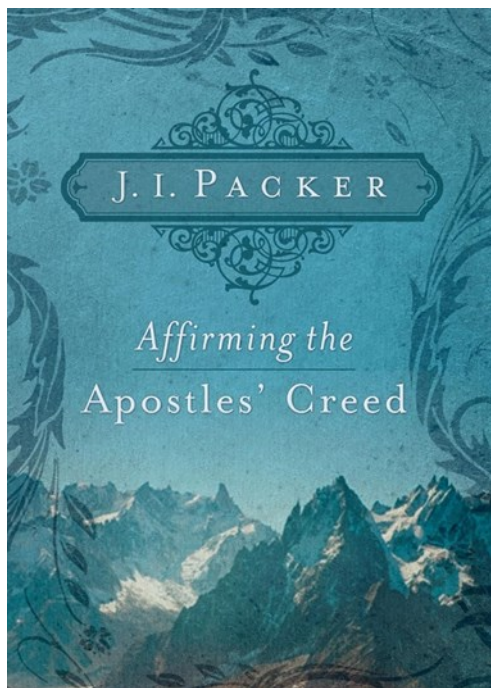


Confirmation Preparations:

We are excited to be holding a Confirmation Class this year in preparation of Bishop Todd Townshend 's visit on Sunday April 21st.

To support this learning, we are holding two different series of teaching events.

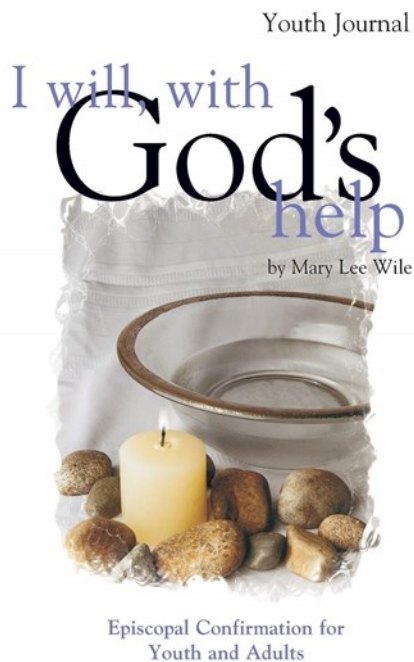
On Wednesday evenings beginning at 7 pm on Feb 21st we will begin our Lenten Book Study/ Confirmation Revisited Study at St John's in Port Elgin This year we will be reading the book **Affirming the Apostles' Creed** by J.I. Packer. During our 6 weeks of study, we will engage in a close examination of and hold conversations around the



Creed that we say together each week. We will also examine our Baptismal Vows which are based on the Apostles Creed. This study will beautifully complement the study of our Confirmation Class. All are welcome to attend this study. It will be a blend of those

simply seeking a Lenten study, those who are revisiting their confirmation vows, those who are being received into the Anglican Church and those who are seeking Confirmation as an adult. If you have not already done so, please let Canon Carrie know if you are interested, to ensure we have enough books.

On Thursday Feb 22nd at 7 pm, we will begin our Confirmation Class at St Paul's in Southampton. This 8-week



class will make use of the Book, **I Will, with God's Help** by Rev. Mary Lee Wile. It will provide a map to the faith journey we start in our confirmation class, and it is a great book with lots of room for journaling and making note of questions and thoughts. At present we have 4 young people who will be

attending these classes. If you have an interest or know of a young person who might enjoy this teen-based study, please contact Canon Carrie.

The Next Time You Eat a Hot Cross Bun, Know This:

A hot cross bun is a spiced bun usually made with fruit, marked with a cross on the top, which has traditionally been eaten on Good Friday in many countries. The bun marks the end of the Christian season of Lent. Different parts of the hot cross bun have different meanings, including the cross, representing the crucifixion of Jesus, the spices inside signifying the spices used to prepare his body for burial, and sometimes also orange peel to reflect the bitterness of his time on the cross.

The Greeks in the 6th century AD may have marked cakes with a cross. In the Christian tradition, the making of buns with a cross on them and consuming them after breaking the fast on Good Friday, was done in order to commemorate the crucifixion of Christ. It is thought that the contemporary hot cross bun originates from England, in 1361. "One a penny, two a penny hot cross buns" -from Wikipedia



St. John's Antique, Vintage and Collectibles Show and Sale:

The St John's congregation came together on July 14 and 15, 2023 for the 45th Antique, Vintage and Collectible Show and Sale. The profit was \$13937.08, resulting from income of \$19700.93 and expenses of \$5763.85.

Donations included \$6000.00 to St John's operational costs, \$1500 to Living Hope food bank, \$1000 to Saugeen Shores Salvation Army food bank and \$1000 to Tara's Christ Church food bank. The Central Bruce Special Olympics was presented with a \$500 cheque to help offset expenses for 2 local Special Olympians to attend the national Special Olympics in Calgary from February 27 to March 2. Our two local Olympians are Justin LeBlance and Michael Bailey who will be competing in 5-pin bowling and cross-country skiing respectively.



Justin LeBlance was on hand to accept the cheque from Rob Campbell at an event on December 17, 2023. Pictured (from left to

right) are Justin LeBlance, Rob Campbell, and Cheryl Smethurst (Central Bruce coach and guide of the Special Olympians).

The remaining profits will be distributed in 2024 when the 2024 Antique show is financially secure. A grand thank you is extended to the 2023 Antique Show committee: Rob Campbell (facilities), Deb Campbell, Rose Blackwell, Bill Blackwell (lunchroom team), Chuck Stuckey, Linda Stuckey (Vendor coordinators), Barb Gledhill (entrance), Cathy Seaton (treasurer), and Hope Wallace (marketing/secretary). The 30+ awesome volunteers made the event a success plus all the donations to keep

costs down. A reminder that the 2024 show and sale is moving to the Southamptton Coliseum on July 19 and 20th, 2024. If you would like to join the fun, feel free to volunteer!



Living Hope Food Bank Donation : (Hope Wallace, Diann Lutz (food bank coordinator), Cathy Seaton



Pictured with the Port Elgin Salvation Army Food Bank coordinator Nikki Thompson (center) are Hope Wallace (left) and Cathy Seaton (right)

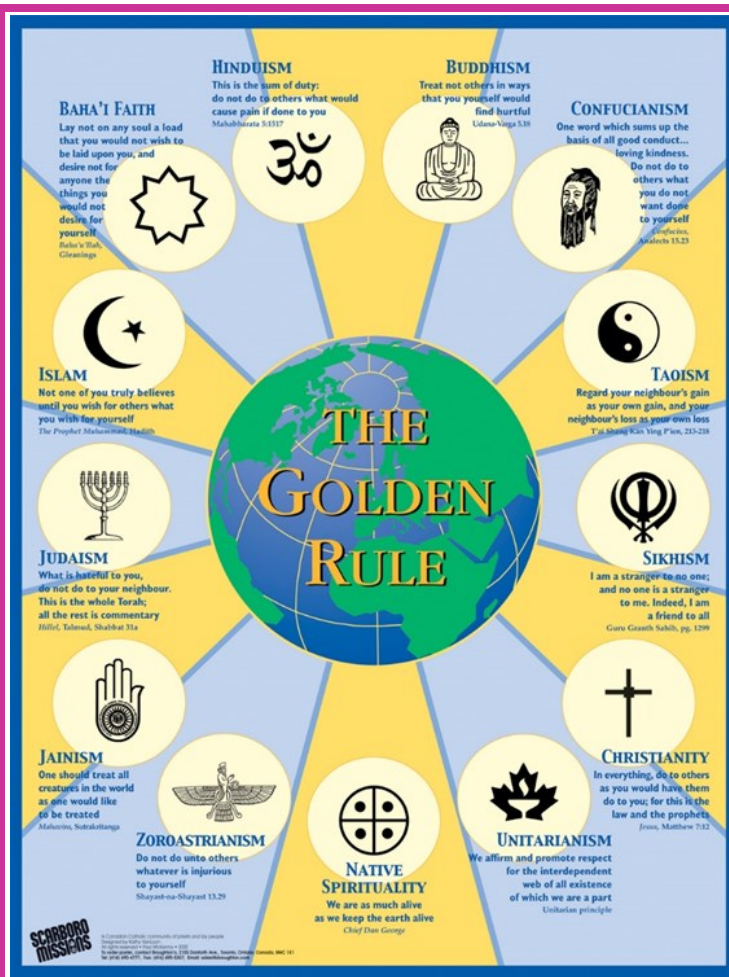
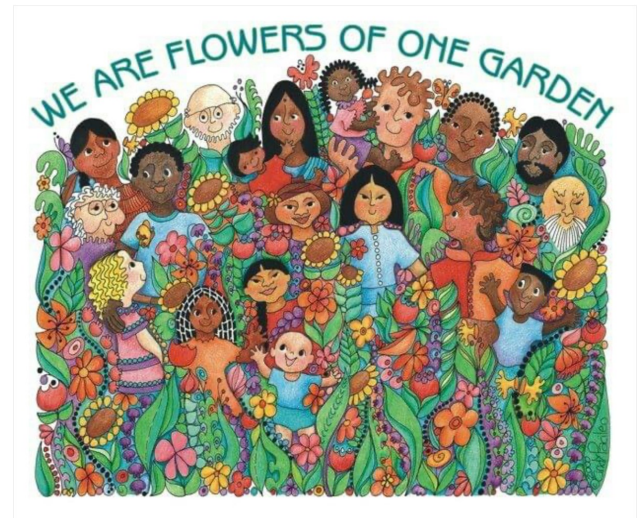


Tara Food Bank donation (L-R) Hope Wallace and Ken Gunson

Interfaith Dialogue in Saugeen Shores:

An Interfaith Dialogue Group has begun in Saugeen Shores. We are delighted to hold space and be involved in conversations, relationship building and exploration of the different faith expressions that guide those who live and love in our neighbourhoods.

If you are interested in joining this friendly discussion group, our next gathering will be at 7 pm on Monday February 19th at St Paul's.



Lord of such amazing surprises
 as put a catch in my breath
 and wings on my heart,
 I praise you for this joy,
 too great for words
 but not for tears and songs and sharing;
 for this mercy
 that blots out my betrayals
 and bids me begin again,
 to limp on,
 to hop-skip-and-jump on,
 to mend what is broken in and around me,
 and to forgive the breakers;
 for the YES
 to life and laughter,
 to love and lovers,
 and to my unwinding self;

for this kingdom
 unleashed in me and I in it forever,
 and no dead ends to growing,
 to choices,
 to chances,
 to calls to be just;
 no dead ends to living,
 to making peace,
 to dreaming dreams,
 to being glad of heart;
 for this resurrection madness
 which is wiser than I
 and in which I see
 how great you are,
 how full of grace.
 Alleluia!

By Ted Loder, Guerrillas of Grace, Prayers for the Battle.

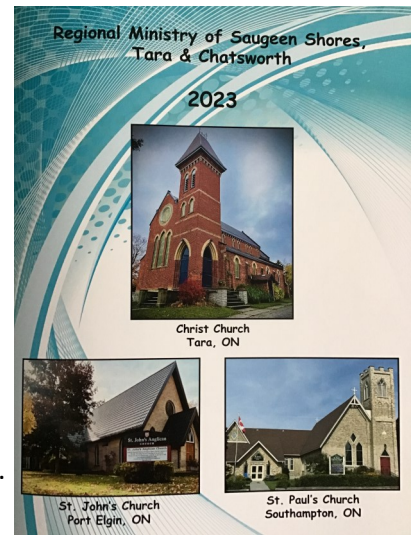


Yarn Lovers Unite!

The ladies have been busy making hats for children in our local schools who are in need of a warm hat! Our time together is spent knitting, crocheting, sharing project ideas, supporting each other with tricky instructions, having a cup of tea and most importantly, enjoying each other's company! Please join us each Thursday afternoon 1-3 pm in Bevan Hall. All are welcome!

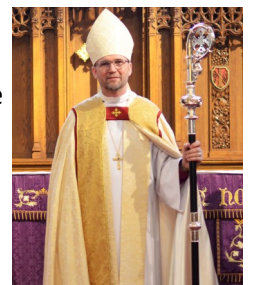
Photo Directory:

Wow! It's here! Our Regional Ministry has a new Photo Directory! Pictures were taken by IPC Canada photographers in the fall of 2023. We are thrilled that so many chose to participate in the collection of names for the Roster at each church and in having portraits taken or submitting a personal photo. What better way to celebrate the relationships we have developed or may develop as we become familiar with names and faces. Congratulations and thanks to everyone who helped to make this joyful representation of our congregations a reality, including Cathy Woodley and Marilyn Stewart who planned, gathered roster information and chose designs and templates for the final booklet, Cathy Seaton, Maureen Simpson, Karen Speight, Sharon Fabian, Doug Goar, for assisting with photo days and Chuck & Linda Stuckey for 11th hour corrections! Our leadership team of Canon Carrie and Rev. Annie set the tone in our churches and their introductions say it all. Everyone is encouraged to catch the great vibes that our new Directory captures!



Save the Date:

Sunday, April 21 is the date that Bishop Townshend will be with us in the Regional Ministry. The service of confirmation will take place at 10:00 AM at St. Paul's. Come out and support our four confirmation candidates. Be inspired by Bishop Todd's address. Let's show him our "Best Ever Anglicans" spirit!



The Regional Ministry Needs Your Support!

With the resignation of Scott Saunders as our paymaster, we are in immediate need of an individual to take over this role. Scott will train and support our new paymaster through this transition. Please contact your wardens or Carrie+ if you are interested in this role, know of someone, or need additional information.

Recent Events within our Regional Ministry:

- * Valentine Luncheon at Christ Church:
- * Pancake Suppers at St. Paul's and St. John's:



From the Priest Assistant's Pew:

The winter season in Saugeen Shores and surrounding area has been described as black and white with very little colour to see as we gaze out our windows or drive along the salt-dusted roads. Think of seeing the world monochromatically. No colour, just regular things defined by the black silhouettes they cast. Ugh.

But then, there's a beam of sunshine, something we've missed so much recently, that illumines the world around us and we see again, for the first time, the bright red cardinal in the shrubbery, or the blueness of the lake dotted with icebergs. Colour, rich like the stained glass windows in our churches, or the fun decorations at a celebration. In a few short days, filled with sunshine, folks are out and about sharing smiles and "how are you" on the street. Just that one thing made a difference.

As we begin to delve into the season of Lent I have always been led to believe that it is a season of darkness, one where we sing more quietly, pray more ardently and become more downcast in our approach to worship. You're right, many of those things continue to be true to us today but in fact there may be a new curiosity about Lent. I was asked if I fast on Ash Wednesday. When I contemplated that I realized I didn't know if that was a thing to do and not. I never have fasted for that specific Church



calendar day. I was also asked if all the decorations (flower pots outside) are to be left bare for Lent. No I wasn't sure about that either but suggested that something lower key in the way of decorations would be appropriate.

Where has this new form of questioning regarding Lent been coming from? I really don't know but I find it very interesting that it's happening. Are we noticing that we've been in a "black and white" world and need to respect a time of solemnity and pondering? Is it a time to "get back to basics" in the church and remember what we learned so many years ago that is important again? Maybe it's embracing the black and white so much so that when the colour of Easter morning hits us square in the face (and spirit!) we will be more joyous than we've ever been. Perhaps.

Whatever practice you undertake to bring your Lent to a spiritual explosion of colour at its conclusion, may you be blessed. We have so much to offer in the Regional Ministry (check our Announcements Page on Fridays). If you can't find the colour to take the black and white and put it aside for you during Lent there are myriad events to help to explore more about your life in Christ! We look forward to seeing you at some of them, or maybe all of them!

Shalom,

Annie+

Our Holy Week and Easter Schedule of Services:

Maundy Thursday: Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 PM at St. John's

Good Friday: Friday, March 29 at 10:00 AM—Location to be announced

Easter Day: Sunday, March 31:

9:00 AM Holy Eucharist at St. Paul's

10:00 AM Holy Eucharist at Christ Church

11:00 AM Holy Eucharist at St. John's

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

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To contact The Rev. Ann Veyvara-Divinski (Priest Assistant): Cell Phone: 519-375-1816; Email: aveyvara@hotmail.com