



# Connections

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2020

*Give thanks in all circumstances, for that is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* 1 Thessalonians 5: 18

## We have a treasure

There's a parish called St. George's Anglican Church in the town of New Hamburg, west of Kitchener.

Some years ago, when the parish was celebrating its 150th anniversary, the Chancel Guild decided to do a much-needed cleanout of its drawers and cupboards.

On the top shelf of the big cupboard in the sacristy they saw a pewter flagon about 16 inches tall. It looked old and dirty, so they put it aside while they polished up all the silver vessels.

One person was curious about this old flagon and rubbed it gently. To her astonishment, it began to shine. And the more she worked at it, the more it shone.

Finally the old flagon was revealed in all its beauty. The women crowded around to see what had been engraved on it all those years ago. "Given to the glory of God by the Ladies' Society 1888", it said.

This flagon was silver - not silverplate, but sterling silver. It had been used for baptisms for many years, but somehow other things had been placed on the shelf in front of it, and the lovely flagon was forgotten.



"We have a treasure!" the women exclaimed. That silver flagon now holds the water which is poured into the font for baptisms, fulfilling its purpose "to the glory of God".

We too have treasures here at Christ Church. Because we have been away so long, we see with new appreciation the sun shining through the stained glass windows, the skilled embroidery on the altar frontals and the antependia on the pulpit, the hangings lovingly created by parishioners.

But we have other treasures ...

The families who have faithfully attended Christ Church over many years

The children who will take our place when we are gone

The clergy who have preached the gospel, comforted the sick and grieving and consecrated the Eucharist for us

The choirs, the Sunday School teachers, the leaders in all the areas of our life together, the men and women who have tended to the mundane business and financial matters, and yes, all of us who have nurtured each other with a smile, a handshake or a hug. Or a phone call to a lonely person, a visit to a homebound friend.

These are our treasures, more precious than the finest sterling silver flagon, but, like the flagon, "given to the glory of God".



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*Please pray for these members of our community and their families*

<b>Andrew S</b>	<b>Hector B</b>
<b>Anita F</b>	<b>James Y</b>
<b>Anne S</b>	<b>Jenille L</b>
<b>Annet K</b>	<b>Joan N</b>
<b>Beverly Barber</b>	<b>Ken K</b>
<b>Christina &amp;</b>	<b>Lennox &amp;</b>
<b>Joshua</b>	<b>Leonora Y</b>
<b>Corinne P</b>	<b>Margaret B</b>
<b>Deb A</b>	<b>Maureen C</b>
<b>Deborah T</b>	<b>Philip I</b>
<b>Ebun D</b>	<b>Sherri-Ann &amp; Ron</b>

*and for all those affected by COVID-19, racial discrimination or any injustice*

### **FOOD IN ABUNDANCE**

The Deacon's Cupboard continues to see a high level of need in the community, especially towards the end of the month, but thanks be to God it is also matched by a strong level of donations, including from people who are not otherwise connected to the parish.

St. Mark's United Church on Orton Park brought the result of their food drive, a couple we have mentioned before (Nick and Arlene) bring a donation every month, Cliffside Bakery donates bread, our own parishioners bring the produce of their gardens (as does the Community Garden). To give you an idea of the size of the operation, over the four Thursdays of September we served an average of 37 people – but they needed food for an average of 106 people! And we don't keep track of the cats and dogs for whom we provide dry food! We ask you to remember us in October for the Thanksgiving Food Drive – see our wish list elsewhere in this publication. If you cannot shop, we gladly accept cash and shop ourselves!

### **AND A THANKSGIVING DINNER, TOO**



flyers, the *Parish Window* and the signboard.

The Women's Group resumes its Community Lunch Ministry with a Take-Away Thanksgiving Dinner on Saturday, October 17th. Pick-up time to follow via

**Long-time parishioner Margot Patterson passed away on September 23rd. "May she rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory!" Please keep all who mourn her loss in your prayers.**

## **RE-OPENING NEWS**

*From Miriam Mifsud, a faithful member and Sunday School teacher at Christ Church:*

It was a gentle return to the fold.

For six months we had been separated from in-person and onsite worship. On September 13 and 20 I attended services, where I felt welcomed from beginning to end by people who had dedicated their time and effort to make health and safety their priority.

Once my name had been checked on the register and my hands sanitized, I took a marked seat and, with my mask on, began to freely enjoy the lovely parts of worship as before.

Being a senior citizen, I was pleased that I could hear the clergy and readers very clearly from the back row, even though they wore masks and used the microphone.

We were asked to remain at our seats and Communion (wafer only) was brought to us.

Although we were not allowed to touch one another, it was still nice at the Peace to nod and wave to those familiar faces.

Hope to see your familiar face back with us soon!  
*Miriam*

*And some helpful advice from Ron Clark, a regular 8:30 attender who has opted with his wife Ethel to wait a bit before returning, but enjoys the online service every Sunday:*

I cannot get the service by going straight to YouTube, so I go to the Christ Church website, press "Click here for online services", then press where it says "Welcome to Christ Church Scarborough Village online Service". Don't forget to turn on your sound, and just like that, you're at church. We really enjoy the new format of this online service.

**Ron**

### **MORE SIDESPERSONS NEEDED**

The extra precautions we are taking to ensure everyone's safety at in-person services mean that we need more sidespersons and sanitizers at each service. If you can help with this essential ministry, please call Father Roy at 416.269.1506.

## An Anchor for our Faith

I like visiting. Whether it's a new church member or a long-time parishioner. Due to the virus, I miss those visits. One of the questions I often ask when I visit is "Tell me about your journey of faith." The response I receive is usually about church attendance. Something like "I come from a family where we always went to church" or "a certain circumstance brought me to the church" ... whether it was a baptism, a wedding or a funeral. Or it may have been that they felt they needed church at a time when they were facing a crisis.

Faith was inextricably linked to church attendance. There is nothing wrong with that. My faith has certainly been built through attending church.



However, as this virus has restricted attending church, it has caused me to prayerfully ponder and be concerned with the question "how is the faith journey of my parishioners being affected, given that their faith is so closely connected with church attendance?" And a follow-up query: Is there more that could anchor our faith as we face this stormy time?

Mark 4: 35 to 41 has the story of Jesus asleep in the boat, all the while a storm is occurring. He is able to be at rest. It makes me wonder if there is a way to find rest and strength with Jesus as the waves of this pandemic threaten to toss us about. What can I do at this time to anchor me in faith?

Ones that I can try on my own and ones that I can do with others (perhaps not in person). Many options come to mind: following a daily devotional, Bible study, social times on Zoom, a virtual gathering to talk about the sermon or a topic of the faith, prayer (and share) partnering, a book club, contemplative prayer, a phone prayer chain or visiting on the phone.

Really, the ways that can help us stay close to Jesus, to each other and to be people of faith are endless.

I'd be happy to hear your ideas. Consider this the beginning of the conversation.

*Pastor Pam*

### BACKPACK REPORT

Thanks to your generosity, we were able to distribute 26 fully equipped backpacks to the children of the parish and Deacon's Cupboard clients, and also to donate approximately \$300 worth of backpacks and school supplies to Family Residence. Like all social services they are under incredible pressure at this time and ran out enthusiastically to unload the car!



### SCRIPTURE READINGS

#### October 4

Exodus 20: 1 to 4, 7 to 9, 12 to 20

Matthew 21: 33 to 46

#### October 11 (Thanksgiving)

Deuteronomy 8: 7 to 18

Psalm 65

Luke 17: 11 to 19



### ATTENTION CHURCH FAMILY

A small committee has been set up to redecorate the fellowship room. Blinds for the windows have been ordered. Blinds have also been ordered for the kitchen and food bank room.

Arrangements are being made to replace the flooring. In order to do this, the bookcases will be emptied so they can be removed from the room while the new flooring is being installed.

If anyone has books or other items stored in the bookcases, you will need to alert the committee, as some of the books and items will be discarded.

If this is a concern to you, please contact one of the committee members: Pastor Pam, Beverly Baird, Donna Campbell.

### ZOOMing with the youth group

Christ Church is having a very fun and entertaining, mainly student-run, youth group for young people ages 6 to 16 years. Each session will take place virtually through Zoom and will be filled with enjoyable games and activities! Considering our current circumstances and how we have all had to isolate ourselves for the goodness of our health, we understand that many youth have faced a lack of socializing. We acknowledge that it is very important to be social during these difficult times for the well-being of our mental health, so we have organized a fun youth group as a safe space for everyone to interact with one another. In each session we will focus on a specific global issue while sharing stories and concepts from the Bible. The first meeting will take place on October 4, 2020 from 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. Be sure to come and join in!"

# Operation Harvest

**A VITAL OUTREACH PROJECT OF CHRIST CHURCH**

*Fill the Deacon's Cupboard  
for Thanksgiving*

We will receive your bag of non-perishable food  
on Thursday mornings between 9 am and 9:30  
until October 8 or when you come to church  
on October 4 or October 11

Our target is at least 100 bags

filled to overflowing with our love and thanks  
for God's goodness

Most needed: canned meat, soup and stews, canned  
noodles, pasta, pasta sauce, coffee, tea, canned beans (with  
and without pork), canned chick peas, canned kidney beans,  
canned fruit, all kinds of crackers, cereals (dry and  
instant), toothbrushes, toothpaste,  
toilet paper, bar soap.

