

## **MESSAGE FROM ST. JOHN'S CHURCH**



### **Newsletter for June 2023**

#### **Rev. Daniel's Message**

Today – May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 – marks the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination as a deacon in the Anglican Church of Canada. The anniversary of my ordination as a priest will happen on December 13<sup>th</sup>. It is a milestone of any clergy: a quarter century of service to God and God's people in the church and I am grateful for the privilege of having served five parishes, including since 2013, St. John's Dixie, the longest ministry I've had with a congregation.

25 years ago in 1998, the 31<sup>st</sup> of May was Pentecost Sunday, an appropriate day for ordinations, as the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and the formation of the church community. It was not hard that day to imagine tongues of flame alighting upon each of us as the temperature inside the Cathedral was a sweltering 35 C. I remember standing at the altar, next to the Bishop, and moving the chalice slightly to one side, so none of the drops of sweat pouring off him would end up in the wine!

Although I was ordained at Pentecost, in most years the church celebrates the 31<sup>st</sup> of May as the Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth, when the mother of Jesus, having just learned of her miraculous conception, goes to stay with her cousin Elizabeth, who is six months pregnant with John the Baptist.

So, every year, on May 31<sup>st</sup>, as I contemplate my ordination I think of both Pentecost and the story of Mary visiting her cousin. And while aspects of the Pentecost story still resonate – for instance, Peter having to address a large crowd and needing the help of the Spirit to do it! – I have to admit that I recognize far more of my ministry in the story of Mary and Elizabeth.

I haven't really seen many dramatic displays of the Spirit's presence in fire and windstorms, as in the Pentecost story. I have however felt the presence of God deeply in the kind of one on one interactions we see between Mary and Elizabeth. Over the years I've had countless conversations in my office, in people's homes, in hospital rooms, retirement homes, and funeral parlours; with children, youth, young adults, parents, single people, married couples, and those who have lost a loved one.

Every time someone has shared a joy, or sorrow, a fear or a hope; every time someone opens themselves to me and shares with me some part of their life, I am honoured by their trust and vulnerability. A colleague of mine once said: "*Ministry provides the best seat in the theatre of life.*" It does and it is a privilege to sit with you in those tender places and to know that God is there between and amongst us.

*"Wherever two or three gather together in my name, there I am in the midst of you". (Matthew 18:20)*

Three times in her encounter with Mary, Elizabeth uses the word “blessed”. *Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb. Blessed is she who believed what was spoken to her by the Lord. (Luke 1: 42, 45)* Mary blesses Elizabeth by bringing Christ to her. Elizabeth blesses Mary by proclaiming what God is doing in and through her. They bless one another by offering practical support as well as the comfort and assurance of faith to each other. This is what we are called to do as the church, as well.

In Jesus’ name, we are to proclaim God’s blessing on others – reminding them of their inherent goodness as people made in God’s image, and that they too are part of God’s great plan. In Jesus’ name, we are to proclaim the good work the Spirit is doing within and among us – especially when it is hard to see or even believe, in a world that often seems so violent and uncaring. In Jesus’ name we are to bless others with the gifts God has blessed us with – starting with our faith, but including our time, treasure and talents, to show them God’s love and compassion. Mary gave Jesus flesh and blood and brought him forth into the world. That is what we are also called to do as ministers in the church...and if you are a follower of Jesus, you have also been ordained through baptism, as one of his ministers.

It has been deeply moving to spend this anniversary of my ordination with two women – a young woman who has just given birth, who I spent yesterday with, bringing her needed items for herself and her child, provided by the generosity of our church; and today, an older woman, a long time member of our parish, who I prayed over and who I stood beside, along with her family, as she took her final breath in hospital.

Birth and death and every wonderful thing in between. Ministry does provide the best seat in the theatre of life. Thanks be to God for all the blessings I have received over 25 years of ministry in the church. Thanks be to God for the blessings you have all shared with me in these last 10 years at St. John’s. May the God Who Blesses continue to bless many through our shared ministry.

*Daniel +*

### ***SERVICE INFORMATION:***

#### **Choir Hiatus**

The choir will be on hiatus for the summer months of July and August. The last day for the choir will be Sunday June 25<sup>th</sup> resuming September 10, 2023. During the summer months, it has been decided by the Corporation to employ one soloist for each Sunday of the summer to help to lead the singing during the choir’s absence.

#### **The Choir Needs You!**

Calling all singers! We are looking for more members of the choir!! No matter your experience, if you enjoy singing, please consider joining this friendly and fun community. As music plays a large role in Anglican Liturgy, it is a very important and valuable way to participate in church life while offering your talents. Come hone your singing skills while making new friends! Reading music is not a requirement. Jeff makes practice tracks for music anthems that we learn, so you can hear and practice exactly what your part is from the comfort of your home. Please don't worry, you will never be put in a position to do a solo. There is also the option to join only for the music heavy seasons of Advent and Lent - but you might have so much fun that you decide to stick around for the entire year. We rehearse weekly on Wednesdays, 5:30-6:30pm.

Finally - many anthems include parts for other instruments such as trumpet, flute, violin or cello, and I'd love to know if anybody has any hidden talents that they'd love to share!

Please speak to the music director Jeff after one of the services to let him know that you'd be interested in lending your vocal or instrumental talents! You can also email him at [jeffreymcleod@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreymcleod@gmail.com) He'd love to hear from you!

### **Wednesday Services**

We hold a Wednesday service at 10:00 a.m. with a small bible study after the service. Attendance is small and well spread out through the church. The bible study after the service is optional. **We will continue meeting on Wednesdays through the July but will not be holding midweek services during the month of August.** The midweek Eucharist will resume September 6<sup>th</sup>.

### ***EVENTS INFORMATION:***

#### **St. John the Baptist Day Celebrations**

The church is planning a large celebration for the feast of our patron saint John the Baptist, **Sunday, June 25<sup>th</sup>**. We encourage everyone to join us for worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by the celebration. We will be honouring six parishioners for their commitment and support of the ministry of St. John's as well as celebrating the coming birth of twin girls to two of our choir leads: Laurel and Tony.

We are offering a BBQ lunch from the catering truck "On the Move Catering" **courtesy of St. John's Cemetery** as well as tours of our new cemetery facilities. There will be games and crafts for the children. We encourage you to invite families and friends.

We need to plan for numbers, so those attending are asked to sign up on the sheets provided on the hall table outside the office, and in the Parish Hall. You may also call the office and indicate your attendance and the number of people coming with you.

### ***PROGRAM INFORMATION:***

#### **Gardening Group**

Bobby Briones is heading up a group of people interested in tending to our gardens again this year. We are looking into having students help with garden during the summer months in order to get their volunteer hours. We still need to have people to supervise them and also to assist with watering during the week. Bobby and other members will be here on **Sunday June 4<sup>th</sup> after the 10 am service**, to plant in the flower planter at the front of the church. If you are interested in helping to plant the planters, please plan on attending at approximately 11:30 a.m.

#### **Contemplative Prayer Group**

The group will be commencing again on the second and fourth Thursdays of June and July. The group is being led by Paula Marshall and Fr. Daniel. We are offering it online and in person at the church on the following evenings at 7:00 p.m. June 8, 22 and July 13, 27<sup>th</sup>. Please mark your calendar to attend.

#### **Mississauga Food Bank**

On the first Sunday of each month, we are collecting for either the Open Door or the Mississauga Food Bank. Each month we alternate between the two, **June is Mississauga Food Bank Month.**

The Mississauga Food Bank is a very worthwhile charity to donate to. Especially, given the many it supports during the increase food costs. We understand our own parishioners are feeling the stress of increased costs but constipate the feeling some of these people must feel not having food for themselves or there children. If you can just donate a couple of cans every little bit helps and is much appreciated. We ask that you look at the expiration date on the item to ensure that it will be accepted by the Food Bank.

#### **St. John's Auxiliary**

The Axillary Group of St John's seeks to assist with fellowship events and assisting with other projects in the church. This group is open to any member of the parish. They will be meeting again on Saturday June 17<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. in the Payton Room. This will be the last meeting until September.

***LINKS TO PROGRAMING ABOVE:***

**St. Johns Church website**

[www.stjohnsdixie.org](http://www.stjohnsdixie.org)

**YouTube Sunday School link:**

<https://bit.ly/3ah5XpW>

**Online Coffee Hour Zoom Link:** Zoom Meeting at 11:30 a.m.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83962667012?pwd=UGljbnZ2WUIMaVlzNlRtU0Q5SmxxZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 6266 7012

Passcode: 112233

**Online Bible Study Zoom Link:** (Zoom Meeting only Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82570649568>

**Online Prayer Group – Thursday at 10 a.m.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86710167010>

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**\*Sabbath Day: I am not available Mondays**



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If you would like to receive this Newsletter by email, please call 905-277-0462 or email [church@stjohnsdixie.com](mailto:church@stjohnsdixie.com)