



St. John's Dixie Quarterly

Volume 2, Issue 1
Winter, 2025

What do we each have to offer?

I remember watching a St. John's worship service during the pandemic. Watched from home of course. Upstairs on my laptop. While eating brunch. My Dad joined me, and I remember we spilled some maple syrup on the stairs on the way up. (Pancakes do require maple syrup.)

It was lovely. Fr Daniel had brought together various people to contribute readings and prayers, the organist and soloists provided wonderful music, James did some beautiful work with the filming. It was really nice and felt very real, even though we were just sitting at home.

I turned to my Dad and asked, "What did you think?" He paused, thought for a moment, and said, "It was nice. I heard **most** of what he said."

After we cleaned up the syrup from the stairs, I thought about what Dad had said. I realized I had experience writing captions for videos from a financial services company, and I realized that the church worship videos needed captions. So I emailed Fr Daniel and offered to help with that. Turns out, there were more people who also needed the help that captions provide.

I thought of that now because we are in the season where we're asked to consider what we are able to give to the church. Money, sure, but what else can we do? I would encourage everyone to think about what needs you see in our community, and also what gifts you personally have to help. Then talk to someone and see if there's a good fit.

-Janice Kretchman, editor
(stjohnsdixie.communications@gmail.com)

Lenten Vespers

THE SEVEN DEADLY SINS & THE SEVEN HEAVENLY VIRTUES

Wednesdays, 7pm
March 5, 12, 19, 26; Apr 2, 9, 16

Beginning Ash Wednesday, we will explore the seven classic "deadly sins" which point us away from God and the corresponding "heavenly virtues" which lead us back to the Way of Jesus. Each service will be about 45 min in length. We will end April 16 in Holy Week with a service of Tenebrae.

PANCAKE SUPPER

March 4, 2025
6:00pm-8:00pm



(and burning of palm crosses)

Join us for a pancake supper in the Parish Hall on Tuesday, March 4th from 6pm to 8pm. Tickets can be purchased on Sundays or by contacting the Church Office (church@stjohnsdixie.com or 905-277-0462.)

The cost is \$10/person or \$25 for a family. All extra funds are given to Outreach. The maple syrup is again donated by Hunter and Ann Wilson. Ann is the sister of our Children's Minister Kate Bastarache.

From Fr Daniel: Giving, and offering thanks

The weeks before our annual Vestry Meeting (held this year on Feb 23rd) is always a time of reflecting on our commitment to the ministry of our congregation and how to best use the resources God has blessed us with to do the work God is calling us to do. In this newsletter you will hear from parishioners about their own thoughts on giving to their church.

In his Second Letter to the Corinthians (8: 1-9) Paul speaks to the early church about the need to give, pointing out the difference between an obligatory tithe as practiced under the old covenant (Old Testament) and the nature of Christian giving. Under the old covenant, people were told to give a specific amount (10% of their income). Christians are asked to give sacrificially, as Christ sacrificed himself out of love for us. The specific amount we give isn't the point; what's important is that we regularly give a specific proportion of what we have, back to the One who gave it to us.

Under the old covenant, giving was dictated by law. Christians are not forced to give but are asked to give out of love (not law). Under the old covenant, giving was an obligation, one of the boxes in your religious rules to check off; for Christians, giving is a response - opening our hearts, eyes, minds and hands to others because God has opened himself so generously to us.

I would ask that if you are not already part of it, you seriously consider the PAR program for your giving. Information on PAR can be obtained with a call or an email to the church office. Every increase in the number of parishioners on PAR has substantially benefited the church as it guarantees regular income every month and helps stabilize our finances over the year.



Chester often likes to help Fr Daniel with his sermons.

The Churchwardens and I have worked hard to prudently manage the finances of the parish. Our Parish Administrator has raised revenue through increased rentals. We have reduced costs significantly, while still putting increased funds towards Outreach and ministry programs such as Children's Ministry. We have kept financial transfers from our Cemetery at the same level for the past 8 years. In short, we are doing all that we can to build and maintain trust in the management of our resources.

Now, I ask you to do your part. Consider your giving: what you give and how you give, and make a commitment for the coming year, to support the ministry of our church by filling in your green pledge sheet, and returning it to the office or by placing it in the alms basin during the Offertory in worship.

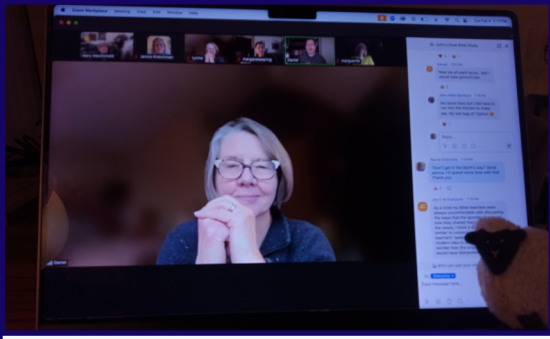
For all that you have given to Christ's Church in time and treasure,

For all that you have done for Christ's Kingdom with your talents,

For all that you are, as a member of Christ's Body,

I give thanks - to God and to you.

Fr Daniel+



Getting to know... Lynne Cowe Falls, online member

What is your favourite hymn / composer / style of music?

I like all types of music, but maybe like country a bit less. It depends what I am doing. I listen to a lot of classical music, but also really enjoy classic rock or Dave Matthews Band if I'm driving and the Beatles when I'm in the kitchen.

I spent my childhood in the choir (my Dad was the organist, and I missed Sunday School) and I should have a favourite hymn, but it depends on the occasion. A few that come to mind are "The king of love my shepherd is," "Make me a channel of your peace," and "Guide me, o thou great redeemer."

What is your favourite bible verse / character / story?

In the New Testament, I relate most to Martha as she is always working in the background, but I also admire Ruth in the Hebrew Bible for her devotion to her mother-in-law.

You can (hypothetically speaking) invite three people, real or fictional, to a dinner party. Who would they be and what would you serve?

Barbara Frum, Adrian Clarkson and HM Queen Elizabeth. Each of these women inspired me as I grew up and I think they would be fascinating conversationalists with broad knowledge of many things. I'd serve Roast Beef, Yorkshire pudding, and all the trimmings, primarily because I can cook this in my sleep and won't fear culinary failure (Thanks to my Mum).

Aside from money, how can online members contribute to the St. John's community?

It's interesting how well the Tuesday night bible study group support each other online via Zoom and Twitter (X). When Fr. Daniel went on leave, we had so much fun meeting each week to blather on about all sorts of things. We had a lot of laughs and created some funny playlists. I probably still have the Pentecost playlist somewhere. Songs with fire in the title.

Is there anything else you want to share?

I have been able to visit St. John's Dixie twice and it was so nice to be in the church proper. On one occasion, I was there on a Sunday and everyone was so welcoming. It was nice to meet familiar faces in person!

I found St. John's through Fr. Daniel on Twitter (@RevDaniel) and it turns out I have a long connection to the church as it was where my cousin was baptized in 1961 and I recall him wailing all through the service.

St. John's Dixie: the Anglican church with the worldwide reach

Contributed by special correspondent Gael MacLean, online member based in Oxford, England.

We all know that St John's has an online community; we are welcomed at the start of the service. But did you realize just how many countries around the world tune into Mississauga on Sunday mornings?

There are online members all over Canada, from Calgary to Prince Edward Island. Julie Evans visited recently from Winnipeg and Lynne Cowe Falls from Calgary. **[EDITOR'S NOTE: PLEASE SEE OUR PROFILE OF LYNNE ON THE PREVIOUS PAGE.]**

Long time parishioner Leanne, who now lives in Prince Edward Island, has also enjoyed keeping in touch with her friends at St John's online.



Fr. Daniel and Lynne

I am also valuing my friendship with Pat Taylor, mainly by email, whom I met when she and her late husband John were regular members of St John's and joined faithfully each week online. Pat describes the Online Coffee Hour as "a lifeline" to herself and John during the pandemic.



Liz, Ilany, and Bob

St. John's online community "Roving Ambassador" title goes to Liz and her husband Bob from Calgary. They have visited us in Oxford and also attended St John's in person twice. They even visited Ilany who joins the online service from Curaçao, an island just north of Venezuela! Liz and Bob were on a Caribbean cruise and their ship stopped in Curaçao so they hopped onshore and had a wonderful day together with Ilany.

Further afield, we have many online members in the USA; Kathy is in Kalamazoo, Joy in Iowa, John Allen in Alabama to name a few. Some have had fun meeting in person. PPP



John Allen and Joy

Kathy and her daughter Cassie came to England to stay with us in Oxford and we all had a wonderful day visiting Stonehenge – particularly exciting for Cassie who is an archaeologist!

Joy from Iowa recently visited London with her University studies and it was fun to meet – all because of our connection through St John's! Ilany also visited London with her cousin and we met for dinner.



Anders, Gael, Liz, and Cassie



Ilany (centre) with Gael (right)

South Africa is represented by Lizzie in Johannesburg and Bernard and Alice in Cape Town.

Reena and her children Rishi and Shefali from India regularly watch the recording of services – as it's the middle of the night in Vellore in south India when the St John's service is live!

Reena says it was Chester the dog – who used to appear on screen during the pandemic when Daniel and James would join from their condo in Toronto when the church was shut – which was the initial attraction for her children! Laurie in New Zealand is our most distant member and very welcome!

Some of the online community have been to visit St John's in person and meet the people behind the faces on screen.



Anders (3rd from left) and Gael (right)

Myself and my son Anders live in Oxford, UK and have visited St John's Church and so enjoyed meeting members of the congregation especially those whom we had spoken to in the online 'Coffee Hour' on Sundays after the service, which still continues every fortnight – do pop in it's a lovely community and we have a great chat!

So if we can just get someone to join from Antarctica that would be all 5 continents covered – quite an achievement for a parish church in Mississauga: The local church with the Global Reach!

**Antarctica
loves St
John's Dixie!**





Getting to know... Godson Ambrose and Sibiya Godson

But wait! There's more! We hear from Godson and Sibiya's daughter Jiana on the next page.

What is your favourite hymn / composer / style of music?

Classical hymn music which remains deeply rooted in worship, praise, and reflection. Traditional hymns like those written by Isaac Watts, Charles Wesley, or Fanny Crosby.

What is your favourite bible verse / character / story?

“But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” JOSHUA 24:15

This verse is a favourite because it reflects a strong, personal commitment to God. It speaks to the intentional choice of living a life dedicated to God, no matter the circumstances or pressures of the world.

You can (hypothetically speaking) invite three people, real or fictional, to a dinner party. Who would they be and what would you serve?

KING DAVID David is one of the most compelling figures in biblical history. His journey from young Shepherd to a revered king would be amazing to explore.

We'd serve dates, figs, and flat bread as they are ancient Israelite cuisine. Then mutton biriyani, served for all special occasions at our place and it was served only to kings in India). For dessert, perhaps payasam (traditional sweet from South India) to symbolize the sweetness of his relationship with God.

JOSEPH (son of Jacob) Next, we would invite Joseph. It would be fascinating to hear about his life. We want to hear about his faith, forgiveness, and how he overcame being sold into slavery by his brothers, being falsely accused, and enduring many years of hardship and his perspective on dreams.

We'd serve Egyptian cuisine such as dates, roast lamb, then rice, sambar (made with lentils and vegetables). For dessert, we'd serve payasam.

THOMAS The Christian community in India traces its roots to his missionary work. The St. Thomas Mount in Chennai (formerly Madras) is one of the places where tradition holds that he was martyred. We'd want to hear about his journey of doubt and faith and how his understanding of Jesus evolved.

To honour Thomas we'd serve traditional middle eastern meal, grilled fish (as Jesus famously shared with his disciples after his resurrection) and also our traditional fish curry and fish fry. And for dessert we'd serve payasam.

Aside from money, how do you try to contribute to the St. John's community?

Sharing the skills and talents in music, offering help in children's ministry, volunteering our time for special event cleaning.

Aside from money, what kind of support does our church need? What needs to you see? What kinds of things can we do to help?

Passing Jesus on to the next generation, especially through children, is a crucial and rewarding task for the church, family, and community. As we are blessed with many kids and a good Sunday school teacher, we can focus on helping kids understand the love, grace, and teachings of Jesus.

Finally, we can help with the kids to carry their Bible to the Church. As we have bulletins for the congregation we can encourage the kids to carry their own bible to the church.

Jiana, 10 years old

Favourite thing about the Bible? Mary gives birth to Jesus.

Favourite thing about St. John's Dixie? The Sunday School, and children, and Jesus.

What would you change? I would try to get more children to come here. And I would repaint the rooms, with a brighter colour. Bright like the light of Jesus.

What do you think children can give to the church? Help serve during the service, like maybe with the offering.



Chill Zone grand opening

Childrens Minister Kate recently opened the Chill Zone, a place where the kids have a space that's their own.

Filled with craft supplies, games, books, chairs, and pillows, this is a welcoming environment for kids to hang out during coffee hour or when they just need a quiet place to be for a while.



The next **Messy Church** will be on Sunday, March 9th from 11:30am - 1:00pm. There will be no service this time as we are looking to have a meeting with parents regarding input on the Children's Program so we really are encouraging all to come. Even if you don't have kids but would like to be informed of what is going on with the Children's Ministry, please feel free to come as well.





Getting to know... Maureen Rabjohn

What is your favourite hymn / composer / style of music?

My favourite hymn to sing is "All things bright and beautiful." All verses, all refrains. I also like the last vers of "Abide with me."

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heavens morning breaks, and earths vain shadows flee
In life, in death, O Lord abide with me

What is your favourite bible verse / character / story?

My favourite bible story is Luke chapter 1, verses 26-35. This is the story when the Angel Gabriel was sent from God to tell Mary she was chosen to bear a son and his name would be Jesus. What a strong person Mary was to listen and obey God's message.

You can (hypothetically speaking) invite three people, real or fictional, to a dinner party. Who would they be and what would you serve?

Queen Elizabeth II for tea. Nelson Mandella for spicy soup. Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson for anything covered in maple syrup.

Aside from money, how do you try to contribute to the St. John's community?

After many years of service, I have just retired from St. John's chancel guild. This service has many parts, but my favoure was setting the altar for the eucharist. I would encourage you to become a member of the chancel guild.

Asid from money, what kind of support does our church need? What needs to you see? What kinds of things can we do to help?

There is an abundance of opportunities to serve at St. Johns. (I counted 16.) I would encourage you to ask questions; I am sure your skills will match one of these needs.

Is there anything else you want to share?

I am happy to see so many new people, all ages joining us at Sunday services.