

Parish Newsletter / Summer 2019

ACCORDING TO GEORGE



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A SUMMER MESSAGE FROM REV. ELIZABETH WELCH

This past Sunday I was full of both joy and sadness as we welcomed three new little ones through the sacrament of baptism and we gathered around Veronica and Bill Jackson to bless them as they move to Vancouver. Following the liturgy, we held a parish family picnic under the maple tree to mark the end of the Sunday school year and the beginning of summer. With so many momentous events in one day we wondered what to have the baker write on the cake!? One of our wonderful wardens, Joy Carroll, summed it all up with the phrase "Forever in Our Family," which seemed to hold together all the events. The recent months have involved lots of changes at St. George's. We've said "farewell" to some whose paths have taken them off in new directions, and we've welcomed new faces whose path has brought them here to our beautiful home where we pray and gather as a community of disciples of Jesus.



In mid-August I will have been at St. George's for two years, and as of late when people ask me "how are you doing?" I often say, "now I feel like we've really grown roots here." Anyone who has been a gardener knows that transplanting a mature plant to new soil or a new location is a delicate operation. Neither plants nor human beings like change, and both human beings and plants need time to adapt to change. Sometimes when we are in the midst of a major change – whether it be the birth of a baby, a death of a loved one, a job change, a retirement, a move, or a new developmental stage – we experience a period of 'just holding on'. What we don't realize is that deep below the surface, in the dark and fertile soil of our souls, our roots are growing deeper and farther out.

Sometimes periods of much change can be unsettling, even frightening or full of darkness, like a cold and dreary winter during which nothing blooms, but as Theodore Roethke writes, "deep in their roots, all flowers keep the light." By the grace of God, through all the changes and transitions, we have been keeping the light.

Together as a Diocese we are in a "Season of Discipleship." As disciples we hold the good news of Jesus at the center of our lives. As disciples we sometimes journey a long distance from where we began, but we always have a point of stability, a light that doesn't go out. Recently, Joy Carroll, Vicky Hayward Wrench and I were pouring over a photo of the 1952 General Synod of the Church of England in Canada – what struck us was the fact that we could only find two women in the photo from this time when the Church proclaimed that it was ungodly for women to be in positions of power. My how times have changed! And yet one thing has not changed: the grace of God made known in Jesus. This grace sometimes calls us to change and sometimes it forgives us for refusing to change. This grace invites us to make changes when we are not by word and deed honouring the dignity of every human being, but it also begs us not to change our core commitment to our Saviour Jesus. Amidst the changes in our individual lives and our life as a parish, let us remember this, we do not walk aimlessly, we follow Jesus. Through Jesus we are always one family and wherever we go we are always home, for Jesus is there with us. Wherever your summer journeys may take you, I encourage you to find small moments for prayer; take time to place the good news of Jesus at the center of your life so that you might discern God's call to you, for each of us has unique gifts to be used to bring God's grace more fully into the world.



Blessings,
Rev. Elizabeth Welch

INTRODUCING OUR NEW PARISH ADMINISTRATOR: VICKY HAYWARD-WRENCH

We have a new face in the Parish Office: Our new Parish Administrator, Vicky Hayward-Wrench! She's been here for a few months now, so here is an introduction:

Vicky was born in Crewe, England; moved to Canada when she was 10 years old; and went to middle school and high school in Qualicum Beach. She has a diverse background professionally and academically. This background includes administration, customer service, property management, and entrepreneurship. Vicky graduated from the University of Victoria in 2017 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology with an entire year dedicated to Sociology. She has a passion for animals, the environment, and community building.

Vicky started walking down the hill to St. George's in the fall of 2011 when she started at the University of Victoria. She was one of the founding members of our university student group, Sunday@5, and started attending 10am Sunday services with her Grandma Ruth. Fast forward a few years and Vicky became an active member at St. George's as a member of Parish Council and Eucharist server coordinator.



Vicky is excited to bring her organization and genuine communication skills to the office. She loves problem-solving and helping people find an answer to their questions and concerns.

Vicky and her partner, Ryan, recently moved to Goldstream where they hope to start some small veggie/plant gardens and bring home some pets of their own! In her spare time, you will find her with Ryan and her family; hanging out with the family pets, Tucker (seen above) and Pebbles; hiking, reading, and painting furniture.

FOREVER IN OUR FAMILY



Baby Arlo getting baptised.



Everyone gathers at the font



REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE BY JENNIFER HANDLEY

As we look forward to summer, St George's Refugee Sponsorship Committee would like to provide a brief update about our ongoing activities:

Haile Yemane

We have just completed our 12 month sponsorship of Haile Yemane, a young Eritrean man who arrived here in May 2018. In addition to taking ESL classes, Haile quickly found employment at a long term care facility, and recently also started working at a local restaurant. English remains his biggest challenge, but overall he is doing well. It has been a delight getting to know Haile; his work ethic, enthusiasm and positive outlook will continue to be keys to his success. We acknowledge with thanks Haile's cousin, Chaka, and members of the Eritrean community who have provided additional support helping him acclimate to all things Canadian.



Haile Yemane

Elcuk Family

Betul Abdoelcuk and Abdulkadir Elcuk, and their three children (all under the age of six) are a young Syrian family currently in Turkey. We filed their sponsorship application in 2018; once they successfully complete medical, security and other checks now in progress, we hope they will receive approval to travel within 3-8 months. Betul's sister, Aisha, who came to Victoria as a government assisted refugee with her family two years ago, is a co-sponsor. Last month, Aisha and her husband started operating a fully-licensed Syrian food truck and hope that Abdulkadir will join the business once he arrives. During this waiting period, we can indirectly assist the Elcuk's by supporting this initiative. If you would like to sample some delicious

Syrian fare - samosas, kebabs, falafel, etc - please check out the Kebab Me Krazy food truck located on Douglas Street, opposite the former location of the Times-Colonist. They will be most appreciative of the business and you will be equally happy with your purchase!



Kebab Me Krazy food truck (Elcuk Family)

Ruth Afeworki

Ruth is a young Eritrean woman living in Hitsats refugee camp in northern Ethiopia where she is recognized as a conventional refugee by UNHCR. We are in the process of finalizing her sponsorship application and hope to welcome her to Canada within 12 months. One of Ruth's brothers lives in Victoria and will co-sponsor with us.

As members of the refugee sponsorship committee we cannot thank St George's parishioners (and the wider community) enough for the financial and moral support that gives life to this program. And we will come to you for further assistance as soon as we receive word that the Elcuk family has their travel documents. We will need to find and furnish an apartment and hope this will provide an opportunity for others to get involved. (Due to lack of storage, we regret that we are unable to accept any donations of furniture, etc at this time.)

Continue on next page.

Keep up to date on all our latest news on Social Media:



St. George's Anglican Church – Cadboro Bay
St. George's Cadboro Bay Youth Group
Family Ministry News - St. George's Cadboro Bay *NEW*



@stgeorge.cadborobay
@youthstgeorgecadboro



www.stgeorgecadborobay.ca





Belal Family

Last of all, many parishioners have asked about the Belal's, the Syrian family of six that we sponsored in 2016. Although our formal agreement with them ended in February 2017, we have maintained casual contact. All six are doing phenomenally well. Raed's ability to work is limited due to a medical condition, but Natasha has regular employment at Delta Ocean Pointe Resort. Jawdat, Neamat and Mohammad, are working part time while at school; Jawdat starts at Camosun in January. And young Naya starts kindergarten in the fall - she sounds most Canadian of all! We were also thrilled to learn that Jawdat's English is so good that he has been able to provide translation services for the Diocesan Refugee Coordinator's office. We couldn't be happier for them!

Thanks again for your interest in refugee sponsorship, your support and your prayers.

St George's Refugee Sponsorship Committee Members:

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Andrew Armitage</i> | <i>Jennifer Handley</i> |
| <i>John Sager</i> | <i>Brenda Sorley</i> |
| <i>David Stuart</i> | <i>Rev. Elizabeth Welch</i> |
| <i>Betsy Locke (newest member)</i> | |

MIGRANT JUSTICE AT ST. GEORGE'S

**EQUAL IN DIGNITY,
EQUAL IN RIGHTS:**

*A Migrant Justice
Workshop for Church
Communities*



On May 30th and June 1st we had the opportunity to reflect on the needs of migrant workers. Film maker Judy Jackson graciously joined us for a screening of her film "Walk With Us," a documentary film that shows the crisis of migrants from South America through the eyes of Pastor Ignacio Martinez founder of ABBA house in Celaya Mexico. In the film we heard the real stories of migrants fleeing abject poverty and gang violence in their countries of origin. Following the film Judy, Connie Sorio (bottom photo), Migrant Justice Coordinator for KAIROS Canada and Marco Luciano of International Migrants Alliance and Migrante spoke about their experiences. Two days before the film screening Mark Manly of the UNHCR had asked Canada to help resettle vulnerable migrants from the region who cannot safely resettle in Mexico, particularly women and girls fleeing gang violence and LGBTQ+ individuals.

On June 1st Connie Sorio of KAIROS led a small group through a migrant justice workshop titled "Equal in Dignity, Equal in Rights" (top photo). We learned about the precarious living and working situation of some migrant workers in Canada, particularly those who come through the temporary foreign worker program. We talked about small ways we can help, for example, by creating a safe space for live-in caregivers to connect and feel safe.

A big thank you to Judy Jackson and Connie Sorio for making these events possible.

For more information: <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/migrant-justice/tfwp>



SPRING FAIR HIGHLIGHTS BY JOY CARROLL

The Fun Day at St. George's was a success when measured by the flexibility of all, volunteer participation, and outcome. Unfortunately, the weather was challenging as it rained heavily, and many of the activities moved indoors. Our Parish was once again very generous with their time and donations. A steady stream of participants enjoyed a wide variety of food, games and fun. Many community members returned to enjoy the activities and shop for their favourite items.

Ongoing events included a Bouncy Castle and Fairway games, Baking, Books and Plants which again was in the Community Garden space. Food included coffee and donuts, lemonade, hotdogs and pop/water, and samosas and dahl contributed by the Ismaili community. Scheduled events included Cake Walks, and the ever-popular Dog Show. Unfortunately, the Irish Dancer entertainment was cancelled due to the rain.

The financial net totals were approximately (roughly equal to 2018's totals despite the weather and including sales following the event):

Baking - \$ 1141.95

Books - \$ 755.10

Plants - \$ 1453.05

Hot Dogs - \$ 200.50

Coffee - \$ 166.10

Samosas - \$ 679.00

Tickets - \$ 233.60

Donation - \$ 100.00

NET TOTAL \$ 4729.30

Following the Fair, ideas for future consideration included:

- Updating signage for advertising: lockable sandwich boards, light-weight reusable signs simply stating "Church Fair Saturday 10 – 2" in red on white, and reusable signs to direct people to Plants, Books and perhaps Baking.
- Increasing volunteer participation by developing more participation of Parish members and community links, such as Community Gardeners. A few hard-working volunteers make each area successful. Thankfully many youth assisted in the Kids' Games area this year. Some primary leaders will be stepping down from their areas.
- The Fair involves a lot of time in preparation and take down (weeks beforehand and following), so this need must be communicated clearly to request help.

With thanks to all for their time and energy, *Joy Carroll*



SUMMER CALENDAR

Prayer Shawl Ministry: July 4
10.00 am in the Bayside Room

Women's Coffee and Conversation: July 6
Details TBA: Watch the Weekly Announcements

Pride Parade: July 7
11.00 am Downtown Victoria

Motion Ways Neuro-Health Movement Class
11.15 am every Monday in the Narthex (except holidays)

Centering Prayer
4:00 pm every Monday in the Chapel (except holidays)

Amazing Journey Day Camp: July 8-12
Held at St. George's Church, in partnership with St. Luke's

Prayer Shawl Ministry: July 18
10.00 am in the Bayside Room

Memory Plus Summer Brain Camp: July 23
1:00 pm in the Narthex

Memory Plus Summer Brain Camp: July 30
1:00 pm in the Narthex

Prayer Shawl Ministry: August 1
10.00 am in the Bayside Room

Memory Plus Summer Brain Camp: August 6
1:00 pm in the Narthex

Memory Plus Summer Brain Camp: August 13
1:00 pm in the Narthex

Prayer Shawl Ministry: August 15
10.00 am in the Bayside Room

Memory Plus Summer Brain Camp: August 20
1:00 pm in the Narthex

Memory Plus Summer Brain Camp: August 27
1:00 pm in the Narthex

Prayer Shawl Ministry: September 5
10.00 am in the Bayside Room

Homecoming Sunday BBQ: September 8
After the 10AM Service



SUMMER ACTIVITIES @ ST. GEORGE'S

Do you like to knit and laugh? The Prayer Shawl Knitters meet on the first and third Thursday of every month at 10:00am in the Bayside Room. These ladies knit beautiful natural-fibre shawls, weaving their prayers and love with every stitch. Once completed, the shawls are passed around the gathered knitting circle for prayers of blessing, then brought to church and presented as gifts at the altar for a final blessing, before being distributed to those in need by the Pastoral Care Team. All are welcome to attend and knit. This group is always laughing!

For those who like to meditate and move. Motion Ways is a movement meditation class held on Monday's at 11:15am in the Narthex. The focus is on neurological health and is especially suitable for people wanting an inclusive, accommodating, self-paced program. Lindsay facilitates creativity and mindfulness, while incorporating the Basic 4 PWR!Moves into the weekly program. Using music, dance and exercises aimed to enhance balance, sensory perception and community, Lindsay fosters a warm and welcoming environment where participants often say they leave each class feeling joyful and inspired. \$10 drop-in fee.

Want to boost your memory? The Memory Plus Summer Brain Camp is a 6-week long Silver Threads program on Tuesday's from 1-3pm designed for individuals to learn tools and specific strategies to help improve brain function and memory. In the weekly two-hour program, participants will: learn in a group setting led by qualified facilitators; connect with peers; explore techniques; play cognitive games and do other challenges to increase cognitive function. Cost: \$42 (single), \$63 (family) GST included. To register, call 250-382-3151.

For those who need some quiet. Every Monday at 4:00pm, meet in the Lady Chapel for Centering Prayer. The practice is opened with a short reading; this is followed by a chant or prayer. The group then practices 20 minutes of silence. The practice is closed by saying The Grace. Everyone is warmly welcomed to be a part of this profound and beautiful ministry.

LEARNING TO BE THE STUDENT BY LESLIE FLYNN

In my role as family life coordinator here at St. George's, I view myself as many things: supervisor, teacher, mentor, administrator, spiritual director and a very talented glitter glue artist! But this year I have attempted to take on a new role and that is one of student. Our children, youth and young adults have so much wisdom in them, they see God in a way that I have lost over the years. Over this year I have tried to speak less and listen more, often while reminding myself that this is only possible with God's help.

I have learned from my young adults what it means to be community to one another. When someone needs a place to rent, a meal, a bed for the night or a job they are the first ones to offer help, support and resources. Beyond their inner circle, upon hearing of the arrival of baby Thomas one of our young adults approached me and said they would like to throw a baby shower. They gathered a group of young adults together to create a 'baby shower planning committee' and then reached out to the congregation opening the invitation to all. I witnessed true ministry when a group of people saw a need and then stepped in to fill it. A simple and beautiful demonstration of God's love.



I have learned from the teens who attend our programs what it means to sit in the gray of being a person of faith in today's world. As I sit with them discussing abortion laws, what it means to be Christian, does faith matter in a secular society, song lyrics, how to consume media, and relationships, I have learned that my role is to create a safe space to have these discussions and then to listen without judgement. To be heard as a teenager is a precious gift and one that the church is able to offer. Our teens are always the first ones to step in to show care to this world. We decorated some fish for the pride parade which I look forward to walking in with them on July 7th.

Lastly, I have learned from the children who I sit with at the pray ground on Sunday mornings. I am thankful that God never gets tired of hearing their questions, because sometimes I cannot keep up! As they are discovering what it means to grow into the fullness of God's love, I am thankful that my role is to be the student, to not always give the answers and to ask them how they are experiencing the love of God in their own lives.



How to pray for our youth this summer:

Sorrento Center volunteers/staff:

Pray for good community, faith formation and lots of energy for our youth on staff:

Jaime Millar and Caitlin Dean – four month youth staff coordinators

Aidan Knudsen, Isabelle Murphy and Sam Cruickshank – two month staff

Seth Heron and Gabbie Knudsen – LEAP (leadership experience and adventure program)

Amazing Journey day camp: July 8th – 12th:

Pray for all our campers ages 4-12 who will be attending, that they will be open to hearing the messages, have lots of fun and meet new friends.

Pray for our teenage volunteers who are helping for the first time.

Youth and Young adult volunteers:

Pray for the youth and young adult who will be volunteering with Leslie over the summer. Pray that they will have opportunities for faith formation and learn new skills.

Youth programming

Pray for Leslie as she finalizes plans for youth programming throughout the summer.