

# St. George's Anglican Church

## News from the Pews

Holy Week and Easter 2023

### From the Rector

#### **Easter 2023: Christ Is Risen! Christ Is Risen Indeed!**

Every year at this time, it is encouraging to experience warmer temperatures and see the signs of spring emerging all around us, even if they end up being buried under a few inches of snow again. But we know this snow will melt, shoots will appear in our flowerbeds, and soon we will be raking in our backyards once again.

Another sign of spring that brings many people joy and excitement is seeing hundreds of men who have played baseball all of their lives head off to Florida to practice the fundamentals of baseball. Day after day, for these six weeks, these men who get paid millions of dollars to play baseball, go back to the basics: hitting, fielding, running the bases - every phase of the game is studied all over again.

Now if you ask anybody at all, except for Barry Bonds, if they think spring training is a waste of time, they will assure you that they have not forgotten what to do. But rather they go so they'll get better at what baseball players do. It's a return to the basics to get them ready for the long season ahead so they'll be prepared and be able to give their best to what they've devoted their lives to doing.

Here in the church as spring approaches, we have been on our Lenten journey again. Not because we are novices and must be taught the basics for the first time; but because whoever we are, and wherever we are on our journey of faith, these are the basics that will sustain us for the long season ahead. These are the same fundamentals that we rehearse year after year, for they are what make us strong and prepared for whatever curve ball we may experience in the days to come.

As well during this time, we have been busy preparing to celebrate the new life and new hope that the Risen Christ brings. Our Holy Week services begin on Palm Sunday, April 2nd when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem with a procession of palm branches with services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Then on Maundy Thursday, April 6th, we'll gather at 7:00 pm to remember the last supper and Jesus' mandate (mandatum became maundy) to "love one another as I have loved you." After celebrating the Eucharist, our liturgy will include stripping the altar of all furnishings to remind us of how the soldiers stripped Christ of his garments prior to his crucifixion.

We then gather on Good Friday, April 7th, at 10:30 am, to hear the proclamation of Christ's Passion and reflect upon his sacrifice for us. The tone is solemn, but not somber, for our emphasis is on the victory of the cross.

*Continued...*

On Saturday, April 8th, we will celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter beginning at 8:30 pm. The Vigil is the night we gather in darkness, acknowledging our need for the light of Christ. We then kindle a fire, light the Paschal candle, and process into a darkened church. As a pillar of fire led the Israelites at night, so Christ the light of the world leads us. We will then mark the beginning of the fifty days of Easter on Sunday April 9th at 8:30 am and 10:30 am.

Holy Week provides an opportunity for us to encounter our most powerful and transformative liturgies. They are central to our faith and our walk with Christ and I strongly encourage you to plan on attending as many of these services as you are able.

So as we experience new birth and new life around us, it is my hope and prayer that you will find your faith strengthened, your hope renewed, and that you will be blessed with His peace and joy throughout the Easter season!

Yours in Christ,

The Rev'd Victor Kischak  
Pastor, Priest, & Rector

## From the Wardens

Spring and Eastertide represent renewal. The barren ground once again brims with life. At St. George's, we've seen renewal of activities both from a liturgical standpoint as well as from a fellowship point of view. The latter, in particular, has been aided by easing of Covid restrictions.

Here's a quick summary of a few new activities that have emerged, some after a period of (Covid) hibernation.

### January

Coffee resumed after church services, with the 8:30 service in the library and the 10:30 at the back of the nave. Rumour has it that the reason the 8:30 coffee is so good is that John Laidlaw buys it from Tim Hortons, but that's never been substantiated.

### February

Immediately following Victor's Induction Service, we were able to engage with food and conversation among our parishioners, clerical staff throughout the diocese, as well as Victor's family and friends. It was a wonderful opportunity to see new faces, and also get the inside scoop on Victor from his younger brother!

A large contingent from St. George's participated in the Coldest Night of the Year walk. Starting at Hope House, the group walked 5 km throughout downtown Guelph. It was a great opportunity for St. George's parishioners to exercise and socialize for a great cause -- helping local charities serving people experiencing hurt, hunger and homelessness. In total, we raised over \$6,500, the largest amount of any church! And of the dozens of charity groups that participated, St. George's had the most walkers. (Not that we're bragging! Okay, we are a little.)

At our annual Vestry Meeting, Laura Keller and Paul Deacon -- who need no introductions given all the ministries they provide -- were acclaimed as Wardens. They join returning wardens Giesela Goetz, Bruce Carrick, Laura McDonald and Rani Varkey. We very much welcome them to the team!

### March

March was sport's month at St. George's. Noon-time Pickleball gained momentum (see article below). We also had a fun Friday night event, a light dinner at the Church followed by a Storm Hockey game. The final regular season home game of the year proved to be an entertaining finish for the Storm!

Since music is such a big part of St. George's, we'd be remiss if we didn't mention the Carillon Concert Celebrating Spring, which took place the final Sunday in March. Fortunately, there was enough sun to warm up the large crowd of listeners, and the classical music from the bells certainly got us thinking about when spring would come!

April

A group of folks will be preparing a hearty meal for the U of G Ecumenical Campus Ministry students and staff during Easter week. Thank you to Laura Keller for organizing this event, and to those who will be preparing the food. The university students are always appreciative of "free food"!

On April 2nd, after a Covid hiatus, we will be assisting with our first Saturday Night Supper in many moons. It is a great sign that so many people are volunteering to help with this important ministry. Thanks to Jon Fage for all the logistics and legwork on this.

Speaking of logistics, we will be hosting a large Rummage Sale on Saturday April 22nd. We're sure that we'll work up an appetite following that, which will be perfect for our Soup & Buns lunch the next day.

These activities represent a fraction of all the ministries that are occurring at St. George's. From the Chancel Guild through Choir, Church School, Flowers, Greeters, Grounds, Outreach, Readers, Communion Assistants, Social Justice, Videographers and many others, we give thanks to all those who are volunteering their time and energy on behalf of St. George's.

During this most sacred season of Lent and Easter, we pray for God to help renew all of us in Jesus' vision.


-Giesela Goetz, Bruce Carrick, Laura Keller, Paul Deacon, Laura McDonald, Rani Varkey

## Shock and Awful Lot of Fun

Those who walked out the lower exit to the parking lot the last few Sundays must have been shocked and confused. An almost non-stop barrage of loud thuds could be heard echoing down the hallway. Was there new construction going on? Some strange animal in our kitchen? In fact, it was just the growing cohort of Pickleball pupils - under the watchful tutelage of Franki Robinson and Ella Turnbull - whacking wiffle balls with ever increasing precision. Starting with two small practice courts in Mitchell Hall, our main gymnasium, we've now graduated to a full-size



court there as well as a practice court in Palmer Hall, below the nave of the Church. A number of parishioners have come out to play at noon, including our very own Father Victor, who has a "wicked" backhand! So watch out for his devilish play. We plan to continue pickleball on most Sundays at noon throughout the spring, based on the Hall's availability. No equipment or skill required, just the willingness to have some fun in a relaxed atmosphere. For an updated schedule, check out Upcoming Events at [saintgeorge.ca](http://saintgeorge.ca).



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### MAILING ADDRESS

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# Holy Week Service Schedule

Palm Sunday: 8:30 am (BCP) and 10:30 am (BAS)

Wednesday: 10:00 am (BAS)

Maundy Thursday: 7:00 pm (BAS)

Good Friday: 10:30 am (BAS)

The Great Vigil: 8:30 pm (BAS)

Easter Sunday: 8:30 am (BCP) and 10:30 am (BAS)

## Treasurer's Report

For the months of January and February identified givers is down from last year by \$1,428. However due to new parking revenue from special event parking and rental of spaces during the week, we brought in \$4,371. This combined with wedding income put our total revenue at over \$48K, about \$4K more than last year.

Expenses are similar to last year with a slight increase to salaries and natural gas costs. Our Diocesan assessment is also lower this year. The main difference in expenses from last year to now is that we paid part of our insurance in February of 2022 and have not made a payment in the first two month of this year.

	Actual Jan-Feb 2023	Actual Jan-Feb 2022
Total Revenue	\$48,326	\$44,334
Total Expenses	\$72,708	\$86,192
Net Revenue	-\$24,382	-\$41,858

### Upcoming events

Rummage Sale - April 22 8:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Soup and Buns Lunch - April 23 - after the 10:30 am service

# Church School Easter Plans

St. George's Church School is planning to run a full program for children's ministry this Holy Week. The following programming includes:

April 2nd - Palm Sunday (10:30 am)

Palm Sunday will include a full lesson with our children. As is our routine, children will gather in our classroom and begin their lesson with a Children's Focus at the front of our church. They will spend the rest of the lesson learning about the importance of Holy Week and the sacrifice that Jesus made.

April 6th - Maundy Thursday (7:00 pm)

While there will be no formal Church School lesson on Maundy Thursday, we still wish to invite all our parishioners to attend. Maundy Thursday commemorates the last meal Jesus shared with his disciples before his death, and it's an important observance that reaffirms the importance of our Eucharist. Children are welcomed and encouraged to attend.

April 7th - Good Friday (10:30 am)

Good Friday will see a special lesson for children take place in our classroom for the duration of the service. Children will learn about the death of Jesus in a format that is both engaging and suitable for children. Also, please also send your child with a favourite toy (not a security toy or sleep aid, please!) since we will be leaving them in the church until Sunday.

April 9th - Easter Sunday (10:30 am)

Alleluia! Christ is risen! For the celebration of our most important festival, we will have children sit with their families for our service. We will have small activity kits, as well as the family space, available for our youngest parishioners to stay busy. There will also be an extra special Children's Focus at the beginning of the sermon for all children in attendance.

