

St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1

“KEEPING IN TOUCH – November 2022”

Website: <https://www.stthomascambridge.ca/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/St.Thomas.the.Apostle.Cambridge>



The Reverend Julia Gill and the Reverend Ross Gill continue to lead our weekly services and to provide pastoral care for our parishioners while we search for our next priest. Anyone in need of pastoral care, please contact Canon Karen or, if you would like to speak with the Gills, contact either of the wardens (Rick Furnival or Kathy Brown) and they will put you in touch.

Covid Safety: We are continuing to keep the pulpit side of the church designated as “distanced seating” for people who would prefer that option. Masks are optional for everyone, and no longer required at coffee hour.

DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Sun Nov 13 (10:00-noon) 70th Anniversary Celebration Bishop Todd’s visit / Potluck Brunch!



Make sure you join us on November 13th to welcome Bishop Todd as we celebrate the 70th anniversary of our great little church! If you are able to bring something to share at our potluck “brunch”, it would be greatly appreciated. ***Please see the sign-up sheet outside the kitchen.*** And if that isn’t enough, there’s a rumour that the ACW might have a little surprise for us after the service. ***NOTE: Service at 10; Brunch at 11.***

Fri Dec 2 (7:00 pm)
Refreshments @ 6:30

Tribute artist Jackie Grainge returns to St. Tom’s with a **Tribute to the Reba! “Queen of Country” Singer, Actress, and Business Woman.** captures Reba's friendly style with ease.
Call Marion at 519-653-2587 to reserve your seat.

Fri Dec Sun Dec 11 (TBD)

Christmas Sing-a-Long at St. Tom’s with the Anglican Churches in Cambridge. Save the date. Further details to follow.

****THANKS TO THE ALTAR GUILD ****



We have a new member of the Altar Guild. Nadine White has resigned from that committee after she and her daughter, Danielle, served several years with our Altar Guild mistress, Marion McKersie. [Many thanks to Nadine, who is a lifelong member of St. Tom's.]

Enter our newest parishioner, Kerry Timmins, who recently became a student/partner to Marion, by learning the traditions of preparing the altar, its furnishings, and the sanctuary for worship. Kerry and Marion were responsible for the glorious harvest display at Thanksgiving. That bounty was later donated to The Bridges.



****Nov 27th - FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT****

The four candles in our Advent wreath represent the four weeks of Advent. Three of the candles are purple because the color violet is a liturgical color that signifies a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice.

The first candle, which is purple, symbolizes hope. It is sometimes called the "Prophecy Candle" in remembrance of the prophets, especially Isaiah, who foretold the birth of Christ. It represents the expectation felt in anticipation of the coming Messiah.

The second candle, also purple, represents faith. It is called the "Bethlehem Candle" as a reminder of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The third candle is pink and symbolizes joy. It is called the "Shepherd's Candle," and is pink because rose is a liturgical color for joy.

On the fourth week of Advent, we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and penance as we wait for the birth of our Savior. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

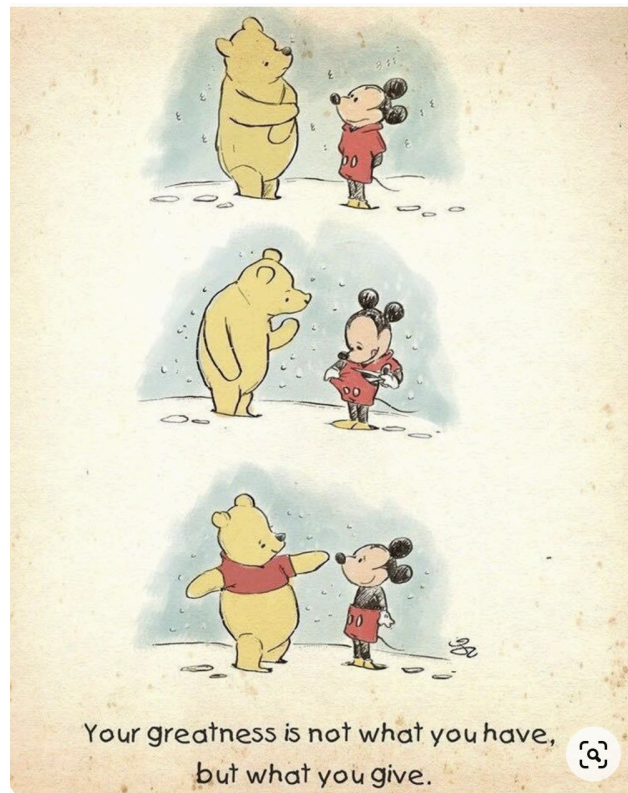
*Life runs in circles.
The wheel never stops turning.
No matter how dark the night, morning comes.
No matter how cold the winter, spring comes.
When you feel despair, know that the wheel is turning
Joy will come*

An update from the SELECTION COMMITTEE
(Chris Coady, Lee Haskins, Rick Furnival, Kathy Brown)

Our search for a new priest is continuing on schedule. We met with St. Luke's Selection Committee on Sept 29 and submitted required reports to the Diocese.

Bishop Todd is presently reviewing those reports, and we await his shortlist of candidates for us to interview. The entire committee will work closely together, along with much prayer, to discern which of the candidates would best fit our two communities. There is a chance we could have a priest in time for Christmas, though it could also be early in the new year.

Please continue to pray for everyone on both Selection Committees throughout this process. PRAY for God's guidance in bringing us the right candidates and pointing us to the right person.



A Chat with ... MARLENE MERCER
by Susan Grenville

Marlene Zimmerman was born in Carrick Twp., Bruce County, to a farming family. Her dad raised animals and grain. One of Marlene's early memories is of her mother and father working the fields while their wee ones were safely ensconced nearby in a wooden playpen. She started school at age 6. The school was 5 miles away, and unless they were lucky enough to catch a ride with a neighbour, her older brothers would walk her to school. On occasion, when she got too tired, the brothers would cut a large branch to carry between them as a seat to carry their little sister!

When Marlene was 7, the family moved to Cambridge, where her Dad was eventually employed by Mayfair Nurseries. They joined St. Paul's Lutheran Church, where Marlene remains a member today. She first attended the "Little Red Schoolhouse" on Hwy 97, and after a family move to Francis Street, she attended Dickson Street School, St. Andrews, and Glenview Park Secondary. Her favourite subject was math, which she says is particularly handy when scoring in her favourite game, Dominoes. She keeps in touch with longtime school friends including Linda, with whom she shared the answers to math questions, until they each got the strap. [So much for helping.] She frequently meets up with an Elora friend she met in Grade 4.

She loved country music then and now. Once, she was supposed to see Johnny Cash at the Kitchener Aud, but Johnny was not allowed into Canada because of his known drug use. [I did learn from Marlene that it is untrue that Cash was ever a prison inmate, and that rumour started after the prison concerts Johnny performed during his career.] She did get to see her favourite Kitty Wells at at Centre in the Square, on Kitty's final tour.

Marlene was an early entrepreneur from age 9-20, when she and her sister grew a 125-customer paper route in Galt. After graduation, she had different jobs, including packing shoes at Savage Shoe, then at a car wash, and at industries that manufactured electric fences and transformers for TVs and radios. She met Wilf Mercer through a mutual friend. Wilf had been a farmer in the Grimsby area, and later became a die setter at Butler Metal Products in Cambridge. They married at St. Paul's when she was 23 and he was 27. Marlene worked at Hostess Foods for 9 years before they adopted a daughter, Kimberly. This year, they celebrated their 51st anniversary.

Kimberly Ann Mercer was born in May 1975, and adopted by Marlene and Wilf when she was 7 days old. She was walking by 9 months, attended Tait Street School, graduated from Southwood Secondary, and got a degree in political science from Carlton University. She works as a marketing manager for a mortgage company, and lives in Stouffville with her husband and 8-year old son, Sebastian.

Wilf and Marlene have many friends, both at home and at the Flamborough trailer where they have summered for the past 17 years. On several occasions, Marlene has invited her ACW friends to enjoy a day with her at the park. Marlene enjoys many volunteer pursuits, from making milk bag sleeping mats to outfitting the St. Tom's kitchen for coffee hour. Wilf creates and constructs "whirlies — wooden lawn ornaments that hold a pinwheel. He gives them as gifts, and there are 14 of his creations around their trailer property. He says that the little kids, especially the toddlers, love to toddle up to watch them spin. Together, they plant 2 gardens, one at their Francis Street home and one at the trailer, where they grow red cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kohlrabi, tomatoes, onions, peppers, squash, cukes, and zucchini. Their favourite pastime with friends is playing dominoes around the kitchen table.

Although Marlene remains a member of St. Paul's and serves as their Funeral Coordinator, she has established a strong bond with St. Tom's. In 2008, at a time when she was not feeling her previous tie with St. Paul's, she decided to check out her neighbourhood church, St. Tom's. She was first greeted by Irene Schmidt, who said "I know you; you're Kimberly's mother." As happened with so many people over the years, Irene recognized the family members of former Tait Street School attendees. Marlene found everyone so friendly that she kept coming back, and eventually joined the ACW. When her brother was dying a few years ago and his St. Paul's pastor did not visit him over a period of several months, Canon Karen offered him spiritual care and officiated at his funeral. That cemented Marlene's ties to St. Tom's. Marlene is presently a lector, a baker, a coffee hour helper, a ticket-seller, and an all-round friend to St. Tom's parishioners.

One last thing about Marlene and Wilf: I so enjoyed sitting in their kitchen, chatting away and hearing their stories, feeling the warmth in their home, and admiring their affection for each other. *We're glad you found St. Tom's, Marlene and Wilf!*