



St. Matthew's Anglican Church

The Messenger

Lenten/Easter 2012



From the Incumbent...

*“And the Spirit immediately drove [Jesus] out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.”
(Mark 1:12-13)*

For Western Christians, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the season of Lent – a forty day period (excluding Sundays) devoted to preparing us for the celebration of Easter. We begin this Lenten journey with the outward sign of ashes meant to show on the outside what is happening on the inside. That we are truly sorry for all the hurtful things we have done, all the ways we have disobeyed God, and all the times we have betrayed his gift of new life to us. The sign of the cross made on our foreheads out of those same ashes also remind us of our true identity as people who will all eventually return to the dust from which we were created. Yet this same sign of the cross made on our foreheads also reminds us of our true identity as Christ’s own forever, given to us at our baptism. While we will eventually return to the dust, God is not finished with us, because Jesus’ resurrection is our ultimate future.

Though the Bible does not mention Lent, it has a longstanding tradition in the Church. It began very simply as a time of preparation for Easter. From the earliest times it was customary for Christians in most places to fast before Easter. At first this was a 2-day fast (Friday and Saturday), but as time passed, this fast was extended to a week. The first official mention of Lent as a period of forty days’ preparation is found in the fifth canon of the Council of Nicea, held in 325 AD which uses the term *tessarakoste*, meaning “fortieth” in Greek. By the end of the fourth century, a Lenten period of forty days was established and accepted. The number forty was chosen because it has always been a significant number in scripture. In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain. The Israelites spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God. Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai. Elijah fasted and prayed for 40 days on Mount Horeb. The people of Nineveh repented of their sins with 40 days of fasting. And of course, Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his public ministry.

The whole reason behind observing the 40 days of Lent for Christians is to replicate Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days through various devotional acts like prayer, self-examination, penitence, fasting, giving to the poor and scripture reading and meditation. The purpose of these acts is to help us better understand the gift of God’s salvation and to recommit ourselves to following Christ by turning from those things that have tempted us and caused us to grieve the heart of God.

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LENTEN "REFLECTIONS ON THE WORD"

Lenten Bible Study series with Bishop Douglas Blackwell on the **Wednesday nights of Lent** (except Ash Wednesday and Holy Wednesday), at St. Thomas Brooklin, 101 Winchester Road, 7-9pm. The studies are open to all parishes of the Deanery and, each week, will be preceded by a short service of worship led by the clergy of the Deanery. Refreshments will be provided. Ample parking! Join us!

Thank God for Music

Music plays a big part in the Bible.

From Genesis to Revelation, God enlists musicians to work on his behalf. He uses music to call people to worship, to soothe rages and emotions and to ignite spiritual passion, to celebrate victories and to mourn losses. Music is an all occasion, all inclusive art form. There are followers and leaders, simple songs and complex songs, easy instruments and difficult instruments, melodies and harmonies, fast rhythms and slow rhythms, high notes and low notes.

Music is a wonderful metaphor for the Church because everyone participates by doing what he or she does best. We all sing or play different notes at different times, but we all perform the same song. **The better we know our parts, and the better we follow the conductor, the more beautiful the music.** One of the best uses for music is praise. When Solomon's temple was completed, the musicians praised and thanked God, as they did "the glory of the Lord filled the house of God" (2 Chron. 5:14). We thank God for beautiful music for it's like a preview of heaven, where the glory of God will dwell forever and where praise for him will never cease.

LET THE ANTHEM LOUDLY ROLL, THOSE WHO PRAISE GOD ON EARTH WILL FEEL AT HOME IN HEAVEN.

Taken from "Our Daily Bread"
Written by Carol Palumbo



dreamstime.com

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD

A Sunday School teacher decided to have her young class memorize one of the most quoted passages in the Bible - Psalm 23. She gave the youngsters a month to learn the chapter.

Little Rick was excited about the task - but he just couldn't remember the Psalm. After much practice, he could barely get past the first line. On the day that the kids were scheduled to recite Psalm 23 in front of the congregation, Ricky was so nervous.

When it was his turn, he stepped up to the microphone and said proudly, "The Lord is my Shepherd, and that's all I need to know."

St. Matthew's Dinner/Auction

Sat. Apr. 28, 2012

Doors open at 5:00 for viewing, munchies & punch

Beef Dinner at 6:00

Tickets \$20 /person

Tickets are going fast, so buy your tickets now!

If you have any donations, please speak to Linda Hester 905-725-0729.

If you are able to put up any posters in any business you support, please take one from the welcome desk.

If you are able to obtain any donations from a business you support, please take an official letter from the welcome desk.

There are a huge amount of items to bid on.

We will be having a 50/50 draw that night, tickets for that are \$2 each or 3 for \$5.

cash or cheque only

. On my way home one day, I stopped to watch a Little League base ball game that was being played in a park near my home. As I sat down behind the bench on the first- base line, I asked one of the boys what the score was, 'We're behind 14 to nothing,' he answered. With a smile,, 'Really,' I said. 'I have to say you don't look very discouraged.' 'Discouraged?', the boy asked with a puzzled look on his face... 'Why should we be discouraged? We haven't been up to bat yet.'

Submitted by Allyson Lemire

I agree that sometimes it is easy to be confused and baffled in this world when we often see so much pain and suffering. When we see injustice or experience grief as people we care about and love die it really leaves us questioning our beliefs. We each have to struggle with these questions on our Christian journey.

At one point in my second year of university, I decided that the nay-sayers must be right. There was too much stress and unfairness and sadness in life. Maybe there was no God. Continuing with that thought pattern I decided I no longer needed to pray..... for myself. However, just in case there was a God I decided I would still pray for my family and friends. I kept this up for approximately 3 weeks. praying for everyone and deliberately not praying for myself. The irony of the situation is during this period I probably remembered to say my prayers every day. After three weeks, I had to stop that nonsense. I just could not convince myself that God did not exist.

Psalm 19 vs1 says "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork."

Every day we get up the sun rises. In life, no electric appliance, machine or car works for ever. Things that break down require servicing, God does not charge us for this daily sun appearance, and there are no price hikes. No event happens in the manmade world unless something has been programmed, or paid. How can we look at the sky and trees, and the intricate design of the human body and not know that someone made it?

Psalm 14 vs1 says Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God" below is a poem in collection of Patience Strong's Thoughts for Everyday the actual poem however is apparently author unknown.

THE FOOL HATH SAID

'There is no God" the speaker cries
'Don't let your thoughts be chained;
This Universe evolved itself,
The world is self contained.'

Just then an urchin in the crowd
A skilful pebble throws
Which accurately lands upon
The atheistic nose.
'Who threw that stone? the speaker roars;
At which the cockney elf,
Intuitively keen, retorts,
"No one! It frew itself". **(not a typo, the poem says "frew"}**

So a pathetic casualty
Discomfited and worse,
Goes home to meditate upon
This causeless Universe

Author Unknown
Submitted by Allyson Lemire



Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades - King David
Hearts - Charlemagne
Clubs -Alexander, the Great
Diamonds - Julius Caesar

An Update from the Nursery -

Nursery is available for both Sunday services, but will be closed for the summer.

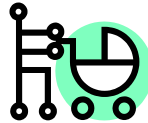
We are equipped with a playpen, exersaucer, infant chair and diaper change table, to care for even your very young children.

Also, we provide age-appropriate toys and activities in a relaxed and inviting environment. A snack of juice and crackers/cookies is offered to those who are able to eat table foods.

Parents and Grandparents are more than welcome to stay with the children. Please sign-up on the sheet posted outside the Nursery, if you wish to become a volunteer.

Thank-You

Lisa MacFarland



Vestry Reports

If you wish a copy of the 2011 Vestry Report, please call the office at 905-725-9841 and we will ensure a copy is available

Allergy Alert

Please be mindful of others who suffer with allergies. We ask that you refrain from wearing perfume, cologne or other scented products. Thank you.

Habitat Build

Habitat for Humanity will be starting a new build on Centre Street S. In May, 2012. St. Matthew's would like to provide lunches for the crew once again. Details will follow for those interested in helping to prepare and deliver lunches for this worthwhile cause.

Seder Supper

Please join us on Thursday, April 5th as we celebrate the Last Supper.

As the Insurance Exams will be on until 5 pm we ask that you do not arrive before 5:45 pm in order for us to set up.

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. **'Pease indicate your willingness to help'**



HELP WANTED!!!

If you are a knitter or crocheter, your assistance is needed to make prayer shawls. Patterns are available for all skill levels.

Also needed are donations of wool or monetary donations to purchase wool.

For more information or make a donation, please contact **Donna Centofanti 905-697-8858**.

Thank you for your support with this outreach project.

Bazaar Update

Jars of jam are still for sale from the bazaar. Price-\$4.50 each. Please speak to Marlene Owen if you would like any.

Pre-Authorized Giving Program

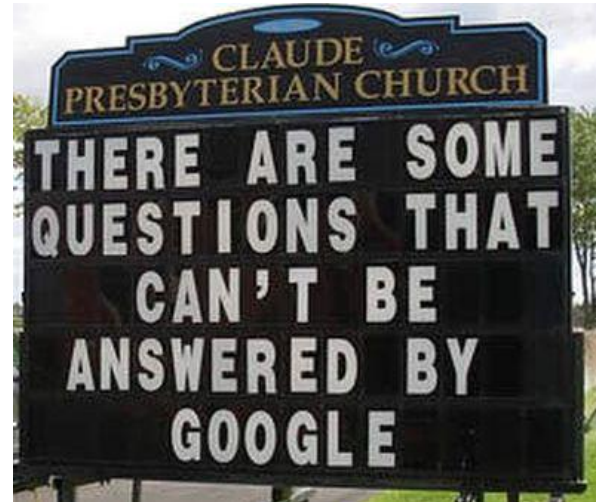
Please prayerfully consider enrolling in our Pre-Authorized Giving Program to ensure your contributions to St. Matthew's continue when you are away from your Parish family. It is really convenient. Pamphlets are available in the Narthex or call the Church Office for information.

Electronic Mail

Please advise the church office (905-725-9841) of your e-mail address in order to send your copy of the newsletter to you electronically. This would really help reduce the amount of postage required to mail them out.

Thank you for your assistance. Cheryl

Funny Church Signs

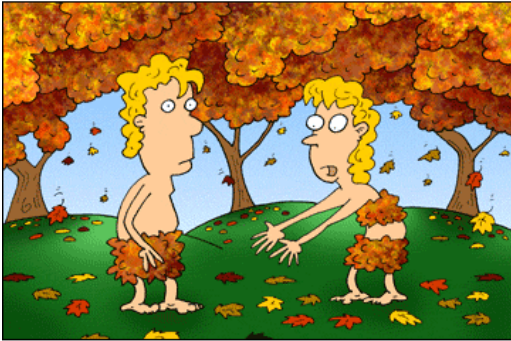


JUST FOR FUN!!



- ASHES
- ASHWEDNESDAY
- BIBLE
- CONFESSION
- CROSS
- CRUCIFIXION
- EXECUTED
- FORTYDAYS
- GOODFRIDAY
- GOSPEL
- JERUSALEM
- JESUS
- JOHNTHEBAPTIST
- LENT
- MARY
- NAILS
- PONTIUSPILATE
- RESURRECTION
- SEPULCHRE
- SIMONOCYRENE
- SOILDERS
- STATIONS
- TOMB
- VERONICA

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10-06-2006
WILL YOU PLEASE PICK UP ALL YOUR CLOTHES?

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Thanks to Josiah Gilman
05-02-2007
LEPERS ... I HEAL LEPERS

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Thanks to Pam Winn (See Matthew 4:6)
03-18-2005
THINGS EASED UP ON GUARDIAN ANGELS AFTER AIR BAGS WERE INVENTED

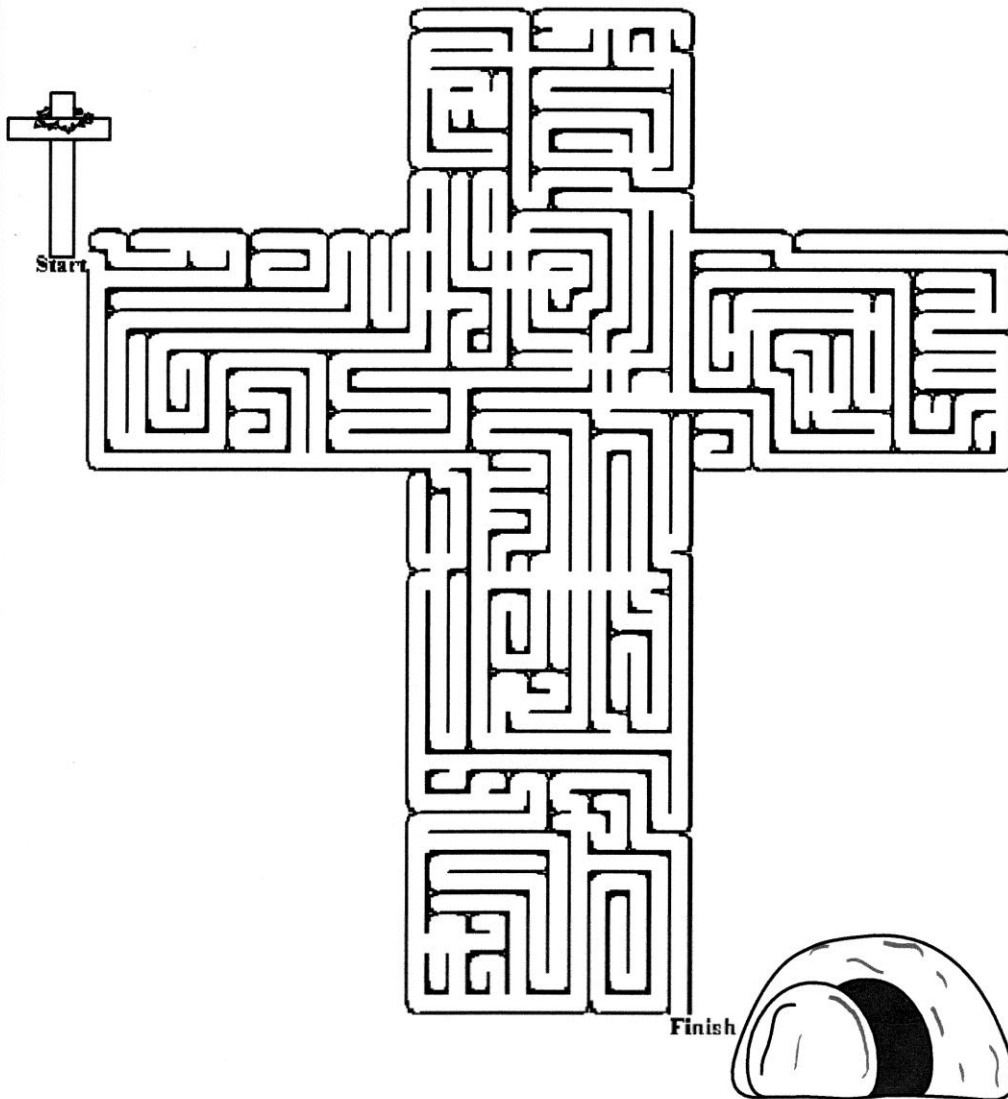
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Thanks to Richard Germain (See Jonah 1-4)
09-19-2008
IT JUST SAYS "DON'T"

From the Cross to the Tomb

Find the way through the maze from the cross to the empty tomb.



©A Kid's Heart - akidsheart.com

KIDS IN CHURCH

3-year-old Reese :

'Our Father, Who does art in heaven,
Harold is His name. Amen.'

One particular four-year-old prayed,
'And forgive us our trash baskets
as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.'

Mark Your Calendar – Lent & Easter

- February 21 Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm
- February 22 Ash Wednesday
9 am – 3 pm Ash Wednesday Event for Children & Youth
at St. Thomas', Brooklin
11 am Said Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
7:00 pm Sung Holy Eucharist with Imposition of Ashes
- February 26 **First Sunday in Lent**
"Birthday Sunday"
9 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Holy Eucharist
- February 28 10:30 am Lenten Study – A Call to Live Simply
- February 29 7 pm Holy Eucharist
- March 4 **Second Sunday in Lent**
"Food Drive Sunday"
9 am Holy Eucharist with Anointing
10:30 am Holy Eucharist with Anointing
- March 6 10:30 am Lenten Study – A Call to Live Humbly
- March 7 7 pm Holy Eucharist
- March 11 **Third Sunday in Lent**
9 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Holy Eucharist
- March 13 10:30 am Lenten Study – A Call to Live Generously
- March 14 7 pm Evening Prayer
- March 18 **Fourth Sunday in Lent**
9 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Holy Eucharist
- March 20 10:30 am Lenten Study – A Call to Live Compassionately
- March 21 7 pm Holy Eucharist
- March 25 **Fifth Sunday in Lent**
"Birthday Sunday"
9 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Holy Eucharist
- March 27 10:30 am Lenten Study – A Call to Live Creatively
- March 28 7 pm Holy Eucharist

Mark Your Calendar – Lent & Easter (Con't)

- April 1 **The Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday**
"Food Drive Sunday"
9 am Holy Eucharist with Anointing
10:30 am Holy Eucharist with Anointing
- April 2 Monday in Holy Week
7:30 pm Compline
- April 3 Tuesday in Holy Week
7:30 pm Stations of the Cross
- April 4 Wednesday in Holy Week
7 pm Holy Eucharist
- April 5 Maundy Thursday
6 pm Seder Supper
7:30 pm Holy Eucharist
- April 6 Good Friday
10 am Service
7:30 pm Tenebrae
- April 7 The Great Vigil of Easter
7:30 pm Baptism + Holy Eucharist
- April 8 **Easter Day: The Sunday of the Resurrection**
9 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Holy Eucharist
- April 11 7 pm Holy Eucharist
- May 15 **Second Sunday of Easter**
9 am Holy Eucharist
10:30 am Holy Eucharist + Holy Baptism

Please note that Rev. Lisa will be on her Winter Break from March 12th – March 19th



**Saint Matthew's
Anglican Church**

135 Wilson Road South
Oshawa ON, L1H 6B9

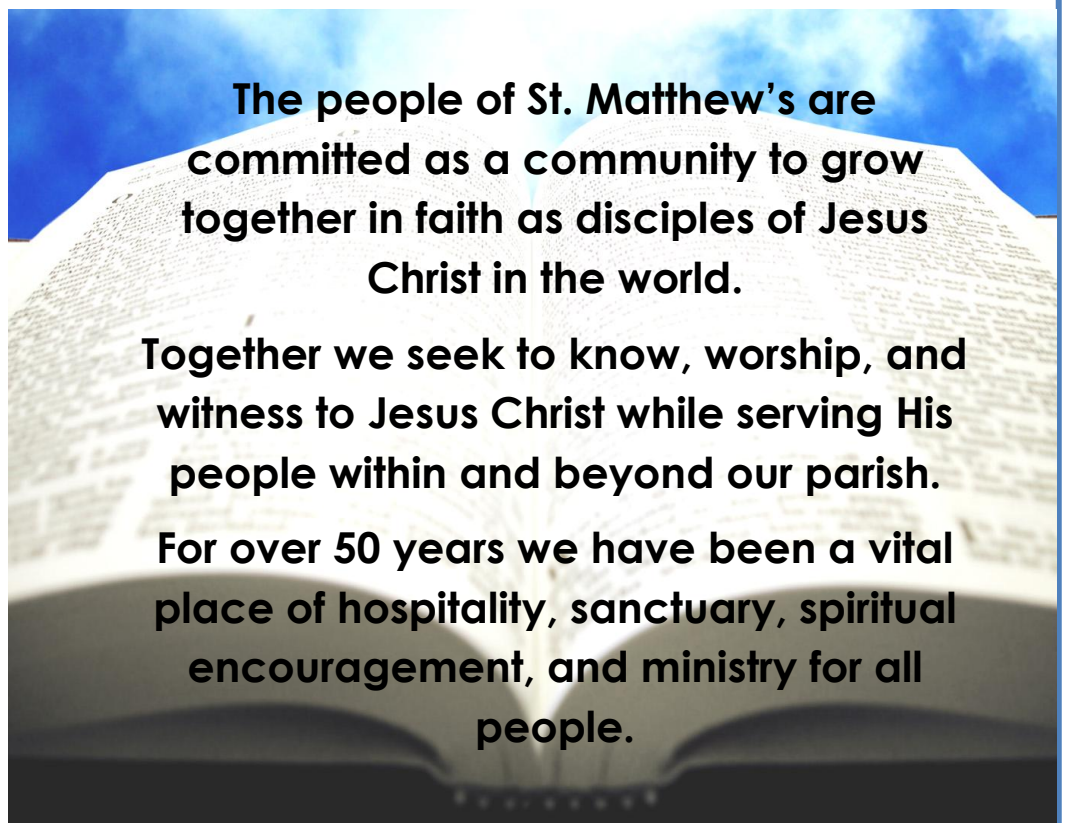
Phone: 905-725-9841

Fax: 905-725-9562

E-mail:

stmatthewsanglican@bellnet.ca

*A Warm and
Welcoming Church
with Heart*



**The people of St. Matthew's are
committed as a community to grow
together in faith as disciples of Jesus
Christ in the world.**

**Together we seek to know, worship, and
witness to Jesus Christ while serving His
people within and beyond our parish.**

**For over 50 years we have been a vital
place of hospitality, sanctuary, spiritual
encouragement, and ministry for all
people.**

The St. Matthew's Messenger is a quarterly newsletter pertaining to the parish of St. Matthew's Anglican Church Oshawa. It is our hope that this publication be informative to the members of St. Matthew's and inviting to anyone who would like to participate in any social event, study, or service described in these pages.

As this publication is a reflection of the community of our parishioners, we invite any person or group at St. Matthew's to submit articles, stories, poetry or any other items of interest for future publications.

Please have your submissions for the next edition of the St. Matthew's Messenger submitted by Sunday, May 13, 2012.

Submissions may be made in writing to Linda Hester, or by email to: linda.harry@rogers.com

We sincerely hope you have enjoyed this publication and will want to share it with your friends.



*May God bless you,
and keep you always.*

