



Easter 2018

In This Issue...

A Message from Rev. Margaret Walker

Holy Week and Easter

Upcoming Events

St James Wilmot

Special Vestry

A Message from the Wardens

Tuesday Prayer Group

Property Report

Preauthorized Donations

Contact Us:

St. George's Anglican Church
3 Byron St
New Hamburg, ON N3A 1P1

519-662-3450

sgac@stgeorgesnewhamburg.com

www.stgeorgesnewhamburg.com

A Message from Reverend Margaret

Journey through Holy Week

Holy Week is a significant time for us as we are following Christ. From Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem on **Palm Sunday**, to the Passover meal and betrayal by Judas on **Maundy Thursday**, to the crucifixion on **Good Friday**, to the stillness of the tomb on **Holy Saturday**, we have the opportunity to walk with the disciples through this challenging week. Do not rush ahead to the celebration of Easter just yet ... but journey through this week with your eyes and hearts open. For it is **in the brokenness** of these days that **we can sense the presence of God in magnificent ways** as we remember the sacrifice Jesus made for all of humankind.

Following are a few recommendations for you to make this Holy Week journey even more meaningful:

1. **Spend time in the Gospel stories of Holy Week** – John 12-19 provides insight into what Jesus and His disciples were experiencing during this week. Read Matthew 26-27, Mark 14-15 and Luke 22-23 as well to better understand the **emotions and events** leading up to the Resurrection.
2. **Don't hurry into Easter** – Slow down and take in the fullness of Holy Week. As exciting as the Resurrection is for us and for our world and as much as we are anticipating gathering for a wonderful Easter Celebration at St George's, fight the urge to jump ahead. Rather, **allow the week to unfold** in such a way that you can fully remember the sacrifice Jesus has made.
3. **Participate in Holy Week worship gatherings** – There is something incredibly special about this week, and what better way to enter into the experience than by joining other Christ-followers on the journey?
 - **Palm Sunday** we commemorate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
 - **Maundy Thursday** we will join together to participate in a **Seder supper**, similar to a Passover meal that Jesus and his disciples would have celebrated.
 - **Maundy Thursday** we celebrate the last supper that Jesus took with his disciples and end the service with the stripping and washing of the altar.

- **Good Friday** is perhaps the most solemn and profound day of Holy Week. The resurrection cannot take place without Good Friday.
- **Easter Sunday** is a time of great joy and miraculous wonder as we celebrate the presence of the risen Lord in our lives.

I encourage you to set aside the time to make this Holy Week significant for your spiritual journey ... **Allow God to stretch you this week** and then be prepared for an amazing day of celebrating on Easter Sunday! Let us prepare once again to meet the risen Lord.

In the peace of the risen Christ

Margaret +

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

Sunday March 25 – Palm Sunday, 10:30am.

Thursday March 29 – Maundy Thursday, Seder Supper, 5:00pm, Service of Foot Washing, 7:00pm.

Friday March 30 – Good Friday, Meditations on the Cross, 10:30am.

Saturday March 31 – Deanery Easter Vigil, St George's of Forest Hill, 7:00pm.

Sunday April 1 – **EASTER SUNDAY** Sunrise Service, 6:45am, followed by potluck breakfast in church hall.

Sunday April 1 – **EASTER SUNDAY** Service, 10:30am.

UPCOMING EVENTS

On Sunday April 8th Fred Cappuccino will join us for the service.

Fred Cappuccino, age 92, Minister Emeritus of Lakeshore Unitarian Congregation, Lachine Quebec, will speak on the topic, "LESSER MIRACLES AND GREATER MIRACLES." It is one person's view of Jesus. Fred and his wife, Bonnie, are members of the Order of Canada. They founded Child Haven International, which operates nine Homes for formerly destitute children in India, Nepal, Tibet, and Bangladesh.

ST JAMES WILMOT

We invite you to attend **Our Anniversary Service** Sunday June 10th at 3:00pm celebrating 180 years of Anglican worship in Wilmot Township. Holy Communion, BCP rite.

SPECIAL VESTRY

There will be a special vestry on Sunday May 4th after the service to vote on the capital budget.

WARDEN'S MESSAGE

The start of 2018 has been a busy time for our St. George's family.

We began the New Year with our annual vestry meeting on January 28 which highlighted the many accomplishments of our parish during 2017. We are an active community, one that, as our rector recently remarked, "punches well above its weight."

On the financial front, it is encouraging to share the news that we had an operating surplus of approximately \$15,000 in 2017. That accomplishment reduced our overall operating debt at the end of December to just over \$10,600 (down from the \$25,600 operating deficit we recorded at the end of 2016). Thank you all for doing your part to achieve this positive result.

For the 2018 fiscal year, vestry approved a balanced operating budget and recommended that there be a second vestry meeting after Easter to consider a capital budget. As many of you are aware, there are a number of major expenditures that we, as a whole, have to consider with regard to pressing church repairs.

Our Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, co-hosted with Zion United and held at the Wilmot Recreation Complex, saw approximately 250 people enjoy a meal of buttermilk pancakes, sausages, and applesauce. Combined revenue from ticket sales and donations resulted in a profit of just over \$1800. St. George's half will be divided equally between Monica Place and Sleeping Children Around the World. Thank you to the nearly thirty volunteers and donors from our parish who helped to make this event such a success.

Just four days later, on Saturday, February 17, St. George's hosted a Dinner and Movie Night featuring a delicious meat pie meal and a very enjoyable film called *Born in China*. The resulting profit of some \$900 will be applied to our operating income. Many thanks to Margaret Bennett and to all those who contributed their time and talents to this event!

The first of our Lenten Series started on February 20. Participants will continue to meet weekly, either on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday evening, until March 28. It has been our own experience that these group discussions feature stimulating conversations in a relaxed setting. We hope that many of you will attend at least some of the sessions.

In another part of the newsletter you will find a complete list of the services and activities that will be going on at St. George's during Lent and Easter. We look forward to travelling with you through this special season of spiritual renewal.

Gail Cuthbert Brandt, Rector's Warden

Margaret Cassel, People's Warden

TUESDAY PRAYER GROUP



Please join us! The Tuesday prayer group is re-starting on Tuesday afternoons at 2:30pm in the Parish Hall. There will be a time of prayer, most times with communion, and then Bible or book study. If you are interested speak to Gail Kostash.

PROPERTY REPORT

At vestry in January we deferred our Capital Budget to April as there were considerable items identified as needing repair and maintenance to our buildings which required estimates and quotes that simply could not be obtained in time to meet the January vestry timeline. The effort of acquiring quotes for the many repairs required around our church mentioned in your vestry report under the Property and Grounds Report has continued full speed ahead since vestry. We are nearing the end of the "Request for Quote" phase and will begin analyzing and prioritizing the tasks into our 5 and 10 year budget. This effort will paint a concise picture of the current state of our buildings and provide much needed information on the scope and costs required to get and keep the buildings in proper shape.

This effort, which has been in the forefront and consumed much of councils and vestries' time, is the result of a directive from our Diocese for all parishes to put together a 5 and 10 year capital budget plan. I think we can all agree that it's hard to budget for repairs and maintenance that we don't know are needed or how much they cost. We continue to work hard to complete this in time for the special vestry in May.

Paul Ditner

PREAUTHORIZED DONATIONS

Quite a few of our St. George's parishioners donate to our church through pre-authorized donation. The benefit for them is that they are making donations regularly on a specific date and a specific amount which they have carefully chosen. If they are away for a period of time, their donation still comes in.

A benefit for St. George's is that we can depend on a steady stream of income to cover expenses which occur all year round. Our expenses include pay for staff, upkeep of our buildings, normal maintenance such as grass cutting and snow clearing, and the usual household expenses such as utilities. Some money also comes for one or more of our designated charities.

Notice to existing pre-authorized donation members:

If at any time you wish to change the amount you are giving monthly, please pick up a donation form from the greeter's area, fill it in with the change, seal the envelope and give it to Gail Kostash. The change will take place by the following month. The change may be to give more or less depending on your own circumstances.

New pre-authorized donors:

If you are considering this form of donation, please pick up a donation form from the greeter's area or speak to Gail Kostash. Filling in the form is quite easy. Consider how much you wish to give in a year and divide by 12 to get the amount of the monthly withdrawal. Money can be withdrawn once a month on the 10th or the 25th, or you may wish to divide the monthly amount so that it comes off twice during the month. Hand in a void cheque with your application form. A second option is to donate by credit card, although we are discouraging that as part of your donation then is charged back to us to cover bank charges. You may wish all of your donation to St. George's to cover regular operating expenses or you may wish part of it to go to one of our designated charities. Speak to Gail if you are not sure what those charities are.

Please prayerfully consider donating to St. George's by pre-authorized donation.

Gail Kostash, Treasurer