

The Beacon



Stay alert and care for one another. The Holy Spirit has given you elders the task of watching over his people. Like shepherds that guard the sheep, you will watch over his scared family, the ones he paid the highest price for with his own lifeblood. Acts 20: 28
First Nations Version – An Indigenous Translation of the New Testament.

My Dear Friends in Christ,

Over the past year, there has been a desire for us to do more Outreach. I will never say no, to doing more Outreach; however, before we look at doing more, I would like to acknowledge what we already do.

- 1) First and foremost is our Food with Friends (A.K.A. Out of the Cold.) This started as a simple Ecumenical Program, where a few community churches came together to provide a hot nutrition meal once a week for those in need. Over the past few years, it is grown and changed. It is no longer just an Ecumenical program. It is now a program with partners. Local businesses such as De Luca Foods, Gourmet at Home, and Smokin Budda all support the program, donating meals regularly. When I started here in 2020, there were between 50-70 meals were being served weekly. We are now serving between 90-110 meals depending on the week. The need for this program has unfortunately grown. I am so grateful to Nicole Ebert for being the coordinator of this program and for all the hard work she does with all of our partners, the businesses, and the churches.

- 2) Our Community Blessing Box. The Blessing Box is an outdoor pantry of non-perishable foods for anyone in the Community. Rich, poor, young, or

old. Homeless or not. The box is used every day. There are always people dropping food off or taking food home. Somedays, I have seen the box filled 2 or 3 times.

I have been stopped on more than one occasion to either have someone say how grateful they are for the blessing box because they use it all the time or by someone else say they love the box and they are so appreciative that they can help the community and that they donate to it regularly.

I recently heard through the grapevine that a young girl was filled with various emotions when she saw the Blessing Box. She was sad that there was a need for the blessing box, but she was also very happy to see that there was one and that it was being used.

However, she knew she needed to do something with these emotions, so she went to talk with her teacher. She asked her teacher if their school could put a blessing box on the property for the people in their Community. The teacher was thrilled with the idea. I have been told that within the next few weeks, one of the Eastside Elementary schools will also be having a blessing box.

It is heartbreaking that a community this small could use two blessing boxes, but it is encouraging that we have inspired someone else to create another box and help those in need.

- 3) Sandi Marr and New Horizons for Seniors. Sandi has been working for St. James and St. Brendan's now for over three years working in Outreach. Originally her job was to work with Seniors regarding a community garden, and then the Pandemic hit. During the Pandemic, she helped Seniors learn how to work with I-pads and stay connected to their families. Since the Pandemic, she has continued to work with Seniors, still teaching them about Ipads; however, she is now hosting a variety of one-hour workshops for Seniors with great guest speakers.

Last month the topic was **Finishing Well, Finding Meaning in Life as We Age.**

On June 1st, the topic will be **Avoiding Scams and Making Your Money Stretch.**

On July 6th, the topic will be **Downsizing as We Age.**

All these workshops are free and are in the Guild Hall between 10:30 to 11:30 am, the 1st Thursday

of every month. If you are interested or wish to more about them. Everyone in the Community is welcome. Please call Sandi Marr at 519-616-0930.

- 4) Our Live-Streaming. I know that many do not consider Live-streaming Outreach, but it is. Our Living-Streaming is an essential and unique form of Outreach. Our living streaming allows us to show how beautiful the Anglican tradition is, how our service is rich in scripture, and how we are a community that is incredibly loving and welcoming. We have, on average, 60 people watching the 8:30 am Service, another 60 watching the 10:30 am service, we have over 125 people watching the Taize service, and another 125 people watching the Praise and Worship Service. I know people think if we just stopped live streaming, all these people would return to church, but unfortunately, that is not true, and many of the people watching are not from this Community.
- 5) Lastly, all of our community events are a form of Outreach, whether it be the Lenten Community Services, the Lenten Lunches, the Strawberry Social, Friday Morning Coffee time, the Makers Market, the Golf Tournament, the Rector's B.B.Q., Harvest Festival, Fall Bazaar, Christmas House

Tour, Children's Online Storytime or Children's Community Gift bags.

Our events will enable us to show compassion, generosity, patience, and love to the people within our Community. All of our events allow us to be living examples of Christ.

As a parish, we are doing so much concerning Outreach. I hope and pray you are incredibly proud of everything this parish is doing. I know I am extremely proud to be your Rector but if there is anything else you wish to do, please let me know. I would love to hear your ideas.

Blessings,

Jody+

National Indigenous Day of Prayer



June 21st is National Indigenous Day of Prayer.

As a church, we must continue to work toward reconciliation with our indigenous siblings. However, to do that, we need to develop a true understanding of the hurt and pain that was caused in the past. I was asked to contact the Fort Erie Friendship Centre to see what I could learn. Two things came from my conversation with Riley Zimak, the Director. One, we hope to have a guest speaker to the church in the Fall to talk about the Indigenous culture and the effects of the Residential Schools on their Community and their people today. When a date is set, I will let you know.

In the meantime, Riley invited us to watch some videos that can help us grow and deepen our understanding of the Indigenous Culture. There are three videos. If you are reading the Beacon online, you can just click on the links below, and you will take to each video. If you are not reading this online but have computer access, I would

encourage you to look up the Fort Erie Friendship Centre online and go to their Digital Library.

In The Beginning - Indigenous Perspectives - part 1

This Docu-series is intended to help educate about the Indigenous people's history. From our perspective, we will cover topics such as Indigenous Involvement in the War of 1812, Residential Schools, and Healing as a Community.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3FQRAP9Mq0>

Residential Schools - Indigenous Perspectives - part 2

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80mADZNX_Bs

Racism - Indigenous Perspectives - part 3

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SUobmkxzc6Q>

I hope that you will join me, to develop a deeper understanding, appreciation, and love for our indigenous siblings and work with them toward Truth and Reconciliation.



Next Parish Council will be held on September 20th

Save the Date



Thursday, October 19th, Friday, October 20th, and
Saturday, October 21st.

Theme:

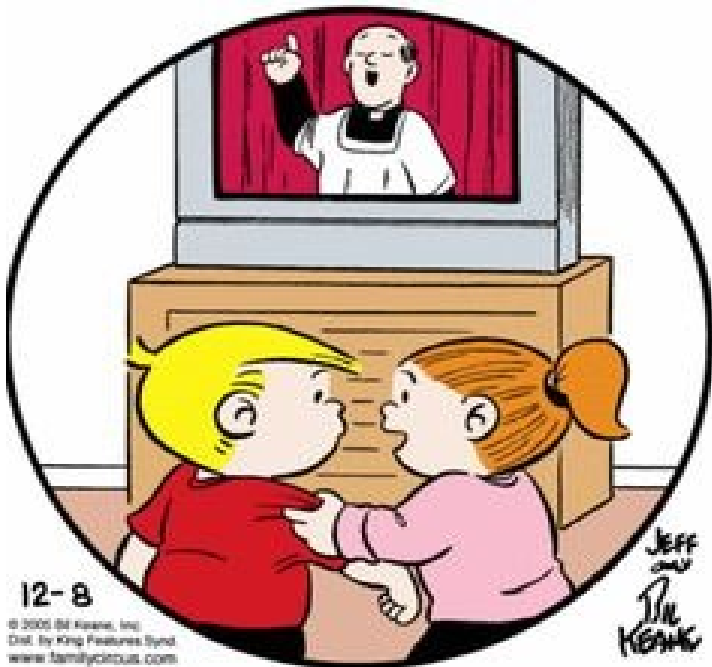
Finishing well, Spirituality for the Second Half of Life

Led by Robynn and Lowell Bliss

We have space for 15 people.

\$244 per person

Church Chuckle



12-8

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JEFF
and
DICK
KEANE

“Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life.”



Saturday, June 24th, Berries and Bubbly

Friday, August 18th, 2nd Annual Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 3rd, Rector's BBQ

October 19th to October 21st, Parish Retreat

Saturday, October 28th, 2023, Fall Fiesta (Bazaar)
10 am to 3 pm

Saturday, November 25th, Christmas House Tour



The Knitting/Crocheting group will be taking a break until the Fall. See you again until Tuesday, September 26th, 2023

If you are unable to attend Service, nor do you not have internet, please listen to the Gospel and the Sermon on your Phone.



If you ever have any questions concerning what is happening within the parish, please feel free to speak with anyone on either Corporation or Parish Council, and please remember that I am always available to chat. In person, on the phone, or via email. Please remember.

My Door is always open.



Everyone is Welcome to All Our Services

Tuesday Morning Prayer

9:00 am.

Thursday Morning Healing Eucharist

10:00 am.

Bible Study

Every Thursday Morning

10:30 am.

Sunday Eucharist

8:30 am & 10:30 am.

Taize

Third Sunday of the Month

The next Service is on September 17th.

Followed by a Pizza and Wine in the Guild Hall

This will be the last Taize until the Fall.

Praise and Worship Service

Fourth Sunday of every month.

The next Service is **T.B.A.**

There is a discussion with the Band play throughout the Summer.

I will keep you posted.

At the Pub with God

Fourth Sunday of every month after the Praise and Worship

Service at the Belmont @ 5:15 pm.

Let's see what happens with the Praise and Worship Band.

Service for Peace

The next Service is Wednesday, June 28th.

12:15 pm.

God Answers Prayers (G.A.P.)

Third Wednesday of every month

June 21st, 10:00 am, in the Narthex

Places to Find Us:

<https://www.portcolborneanglican.org/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-JB-Anglican-Church-Port-Colborne-112931226929130>

YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/StJamesandStBrendanAnglicanChurch>



St. James and St. Brendan Anglican Church

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Email: anglicanoffice@gmail.com

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact anyone on the Corporation.

Rector: Rev. Jody Szoke

905-414-4860

rectorstjamesandstbrendan@gmail.com

Warden: John Hogan

Warden: Kathy Kairies

Deputy Warden: Brian Abbott

Deputy Warden: Jennifer Main

Vision Statement:

To Live as Christ Lived, Loving Everyone!

Mission Statement:

*To invite, welcome, educate and support people into the
Community of St. James and St. Brendan and into the
Life of Christ.*

