



A Parish of the
Diocese of Toronto
Anglican Church
of Canada



Parish e-News

A monthly publication of
St Thomas' Anglican Church

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Photo credit: Glen Spurrell

**“God spreads the snow like wool and scatters the frost like ashes...
Who can withstand his icy blast?” *Psalm 147***

Services of Worship at St Thomas' Church every Sunday at 10.30 am

<i>Sunday, February 5th</i>	<i>Morning Prayer - followed by lunch</i>
<i>Sunday, February 12th</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist</i>
<i>Sunday, February 19th</i>	<i>Morning Prayer - Lay Reader Sunday</i>
<i>Sunday, February 26th</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist - Lent 1</i>
<i>Sunday, March 5th</i>	<i>Morning Prayer - followed by Vestry</i>
<i>Sunday, March 12th</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist - Lent 3</i>
<i>Sunday, March 19th</i>	<i>Morning Prayer - Lent 4</i>
<i>Sunday, March 26th</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist - Lent 5</i>

Soup & Sandwich Luncheon - Sunday, February 5th - after church. Before going down to lunch, there will be a very brief (i.e., 10 minute) Advisory Board meeting in the church. The sole item on the agenda (other than approving minutes of the last meeting) will be to distribute and give a quick overview of the Churchwardens' 2023 draft proposed budget in advance of Vestry--there will not be an in-depth discussion. The final version of the budget will be thorough discussed and voted on at the annual meeting of Vestry on Sunday, March 5th.

Journeys Outreach group meets every second Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the parish hall. The next regular meeting will take place on Wednesday, February 8th. All are welcome to attend and participate in these meetings. For more information, please speak to Lianne Landry (705-808-1954).

St Thomas' ACW (Anglican Church Women) usually meet on the first Wednesday of the month at 2 pm. All women in the congregation are encouraged and welcome to attend ACW meetings. For more information on the work of the ACW in our parish and diocese, please call Gail Neiman (ACW President) at the parish office.

As noted above, the annual meeting of Vestry is scheduled to take place in the parish hall on Sunday, March 5th at approximately 12 noon. A soup & sandwich lunch will take place before the meeting. The main work of Vestry is to hear reports, to elect (or acclaim) certain parish officers, and to vote on the Churchwardens' 2023 proposed budget. The nominations committee will, as always, suggest a slate of officers for elected positions, but any member of vestry may be nominated from the floor for elected office.

Note: Vestry reports should be submitted electronically in MS Word format as soon as possible to the Priest-in-Charge at: nate@nexicom.net. We hope to send the reports package to those on the Vestry e-list list a few days in advance of the meeting.

The Diocesan Social Justice Vestry motion for 2023 will address the issue of abysmally low social assistance rates in Ontario. To live on social assistance in this province is to live in increasingly deep poverty. Even before the Covid-19 pandemic, single people on the Ontario Disability Support Programme (ODSP) were paid 40% below the poverty line, while those receiving Ontario Works benefits (OW) were more than 60% below the poverty line. As inflation has soared, this gap has only widened. In September 2022, the provincial government followed through on a promise to raise ODSP rates by 5% and plans to index those rates to inflation. While this is to be commended, after four years of rate freezes, it still leaves ODSP recipients living in deep poverty. Meanwhile, OW recipients continue to receive the same benefits they received in 2018, with no link to inflation. A single person on OW receives a mere \$733 a month—not enough to pay for even basic housing in addition to buying groceries and other essentials. For more information, and a “backgrounder” on the 2023 Social Justice Vestry motion, please visit: <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/diocesan-life/social-justice-advocacy/social-justice-vestry-motion/?lang=en>

***Urgent request from the Rev. Christian Harvey, Anglican Deacon and
Co-Executive Director, One City Peterborough -***

With just over a week of running the ***StopGap Drop-In Centre*** under our belts, we have found that the community members accessing the program and the program itself is in great need of certain survival gear, food, and other miscellaneous items

Clothing: coats/heavy sweaters, blankets, socks, hand warmers, new underwear, feminine hygiene products. **Food:** powdered whole milk, milk, creamer, juice, Ensure, oatmeal, soup/noodle cups, pudding, apple sauce, popcorn, sandwich bread, peanut butter, muffin mix, nutrigain bars (soft), powdered soup stock, eggs, yogurt, deli meats and cheese. **Program needs:** art supplies (stickers, markers, journals, colouring pages), cardboard and large paper rolls, games (cards, 2 player games, puzzles), nail polish and make-up.

If you are able to donate any of the above items, you can do so by delivering them to the south entrance (off Simcoe Street) of Trinity United Church, 360 Reid Street, Peterborough, between the hours of 1-3 pm, Monday-Friday.

Here is a link to a YouTube video of Deacon Christian Harvey describing this new outreach:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63NffF9NJQQ>

The Primate’s World Relief & Development Fund (PWRDF) continues to support existing and new partners in Ukraine. To date, \$1,170,495 has been raised by Anglican parishes and individuals across Canada for Ukraine, and donations continue to pour in. For more information on the work of PWRDF in Ukraine and elsewhere in Canada and throughout the world, please go to: <https://pwrdf.org/news/>

***Online Christian education opportunities from the
Durham Northumberland Deanery Education Team:***

1) Book Study: *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* by Marcus Borg.

Marcus Borg shows how a rigorous examination of historical findings can lead to a new faith in Jesus and can lead to a life of spiritual challenge, compassion, and community.

Join us on six Tuesday evenings, starting February 21st and ending March 28th from 7 to 8.30 pm. To register, please contact Val Whalley at valjwhalley@gmail.com no later than February 14. Please purchase the book (available at Amazon and other online booksellers) and read the first chapter before the first session.

2) *“Bad Boys in the Bible : Exploring their humanity or lack of it”.*

Join us on Wednesday afternoons on April 5, 12, 19, & 26 from 2 to 3.30 pm via Zoom and discover some fascinating facts and/or fables about some of the “really bad boys” in the Bible. These are tales that are not often told! Some of the stories may be horrific, but there are lessons for us today. To register please contact Fran Richardson at:

fran.richardson@sympatico.ca.

3) *“New Ways of Seeing Christianity.”* Join us for a series of podcasts produced by Richard Rohr's *Center for Action and Contemplation*. We will look at new ways of seeing Christianity. Participants will listen to the podcasts in their own time and come together on Zoom for weekly group discussion. Podcast titles include: Christianity is many things; Christianity, Race and Politics; Christianity as Neighbour; Christianity as the Cult of Innocence; Christianity as a set of insistent questions; Christianity as a road we make by walking.

Discussion will take place via Zoom on Thursday evenings, February 16th - March 30th, from 7-8.30 pm. Facilitator: Canon Susan Sheen. To register please contact Susan as soon as possible at susan.sheen@sympatico.ca.

TOPS -“Take Off Pounds Sensibly” meets in our parish hall every Thursday evening throughout the year. New members are always welcome! For more information, please call the Coordinator, Mrs Lou Bomhof, at 705-944-5422. For more information on ***TOPS*** please go to: <https://www.tops.org/tops/tops/canada/home.aspx>

***The next monthly e-News will be published the first week of March, 2023.
YouTube videos of Sunday services will continue to be made available on a
regular basis.***

The Parish Office

is normally open Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9 am to noon.

Telephone: 705-932-2233

Email: cavmanparish@nexicom.net

Note: Telephone messages and emails are received and answered only during office hours.

For pastoral emergencies or any time-sensitive matter, please call the Priest-in-Charge at home (705-932-1231). If, *and only if*, the voicemail is turned off at that number, please call his cell phone number (705-313-9002) and leave a message.

Note: *the Priest-in-Charge will be on vacation from February 14-24.*

In an emergency, please call the People's Warden (705-768-0029) who can contact on-call clergy if necessary.

The Churchwardens continue to be extremely grateful for the generosity and faithfulness of parishioners and friends of our parish who make an on-going effort to keep up their regular offerings throughout the year.

In addition to making an offering at church on Sundays, financial contributions can be made to St Thomas' in the following ways:

- ***By regular mail*** addressed to St Thomas' Anglican Church, P. O. Box 187, Millbrook, Ontario, L0A 1G0. Please be sure to include the **post office box number** on the envelope -not just the street address - when sending items by mail. Cheques only please - made out to St Thomas' Church. Post-dated cheques, for future contribution periods, would be welcome and very much appreciated.
- ***By e-transfer from your bank account.*** Please call Gail Neiman during parish office hours (705-932-2233) at or email her at cavmanparish@nexicom.net to arrange this. It is easy to do!
- ***By pre-arranged 'drop off' at the parish office.*** Note: Please call in advance to let us know you plan to do this. Please *never* leave cash in the mailbox!
- ***By Pre-Authorized Remittance:*** If you wish to enroll in PAR, please call the parish office during office hours. An authorization form will be mailed (or emailed) to you.
- ***By using the easy and secure Online Donation link on our parish website.*** Charitable donation receipts are issued automatically on our behalf by Canada Helps. Here is the link: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/11920295ORR0001-st-thomas-church/>