

Matt's Media



The Newsletter of St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington

Published December 3, 2023

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Waiting for Jesus Christ to Come Again

Rev. Philip Stonhouse

“My soul waits for the Lord. More than the watchmen for the morning; Indeed, more than the watchmen for the morning.” *Psalm 130:6 NRSVA*

It might be one of the most ignored tenets of our faith, which we confess in our Creeds every Sunday, that Jesus Christ will come again. We are used to Advent being a season of waiting for Christmas and Jesus to come (though with Christmas music and advertising long in advance, even that waiting has been blurred) but we forget that Advent is a present and fitting time of waiting and preparation for Jesus to come again: bringing about His Kingdom and heaven on earth.

We don't know the day or the hour in which Jesus will come. The prophets had been silent for 400 years before Jesus was born in that little stable, but what is going to happen before Jesus comes again? When people would ask Jesus, “What are the signs?”, he would talk of wars and rumours of war, of heartache, of separation, of pain, of loss and of moments of decisiveness. We have lived in such times. We live in apocalyptic times now, not because I know God is coming soon, but because right now God wants to reveal himself to us, to give us a revelation of His Kingdom here and now (‘apocalypse’ is another term for ‘revealing’).

I find myself praying for the Kingdom of God more and more as we work through the ‘Sermon on the Mount,’ not only because that is what Jesus came to give us, but also because we desperately need it. Look at the world, even at our neighborhood, and see all the things that God needs to set right. Jesus’ coming again is a promise that he will do that with justice, mercy and peace.

It is not, however, promised that all of us will live in this new Kingdom. One of the great purposes behind the Sermon on the Mount and Advent is to prepare us so that we can create, live in, and be fit to belong to the Kingdom of God. We have discussed numerous ways that we ‘do not fit into’ or ‘create’ the Kingdom of God, and ‘traits’ that we need to grow into that fit, and I am sure you can look at yourself and repent of a few actions, as we should consistently.

This ‘still present need’ to fit in the Kingdom is the same reason that we should be thankful that Jesus has not come again, that he has not corrected everything yet. When Jesus sets things right, we should acknowledge that we too need to be set right. We will be tested and will our lives, our

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Waiting for Jesus *(continued)*

cares, our sacrifices, hold up to His purifying fire? Will those closest to us? The hard part is that not everyone will, even though God longs for it to be otherwise.

Peter, in his second letter, tells us that God is not slow, but patient in bringing about the day because a thousand years to God is but an evening gone. God waits because he longs for all people to turn to him and be saved.

The only guarantee to our salvation is faith in God and our responding with faithfulness to God. It is through that faith that we hold onto Jesus, that we wait patiently, expectantly and that the Holy Spirit moves in and through us. All of these are ways that God prepares us. Now is a time of waiting and preparing ourselves and this world to receive our king. There is a lot of work to be done, but we can hold on in faith that as we do our little part, the Holy Spirit is meeting us there and preparing us, too. Our waiting is not idle, it is deliberate and purposeful, for we know the one in whom we hope and the world he longs to give us.

“Be dressed ready for service and keep your lamps burning, like servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet, so that when he comes and knocks they can immediately open the door for him. It will be good for those servants whose master finds them watching when he comes. Truly I tell you, he will dress himself to serve, will have them recline at the table and will come and wait on them.” *Luke 12:35-37 NIV*

Your brother in Christ,
Rev. Philip Stonhouse



CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS

with St. Matthew's

Christmas Eve

4 pm Family Worship

7 pm Choral Eucharist

10 pm Candlelight Service

Christmas Day

10:30 am

All services are in person and online except for Candlelight Service, which is in person only.

Wardens' Report

Karen Lee, Marguerite Locke, Sharon Shao

The year 2023 in the life of St. Matthew's has been amazing, with so much to celebrate and for which to give thanks! We celebrated 75 years of Parish Ministry. We hope you were able to gather with us on September 24 when Bishop Asbil led us in a joyful service of thanksgiving with the Viva Choir as guests. We welcomed back many former clergy and friends. Many thanks to all the volunteers who made the day one to remember.

In addition to our weekly worship services, this fall included our monthly Messy Church gatherings, the Blessing of the Animals, All Souls, and Lesson and Carols services. Club Matt meets each Sunday and the Youth Group meets twice monthly. We are forever grateful to our volunteers and staff for their dedication to all our ministries.

St. Matthew's hosted two music concerts, led by our Music and Artistic Director, Tyler Versluis. We wish to thank Tyler and the guest artists for their brilliant performances.

We continue to be able to provide access to our worship services and concerts online thanks to our amazing and dedicated Tech Team. If you or anyone you may know would be interested in joining the team, please contact the office. Training is provided.

This fall we welcomed a new Wellness Exercise program under the leadership of Katie Ward. The program is held on Wednesday mornings in the lounge. Please contact the office for details.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find an update from Marguerite Locke, our warden overseeing the maintenance our properties. Many thanks, Marguerite, for your dedicated work keeping our facilities safe and functional.

The financial update can be found following this report. Thank you for your unwavering support. This year the Advent and Christmas Offering will be directed to offsetting the current deficit.

We wish you all a blessed journey throughout this Advent and Christmas Season! We give thanks to God for God's continued provision and care for St. Matthew's.

Financial Report: October 31, 2023

Karen Lee, Marguerite Locke, Sharon Shao

We continue to be grateful to you all for the many ways that you support St. Matthew's. Due to rising utility and maintenance costs, **our expenses exceed our income**, as you can see below. This cannot continue much longer.

Thank you for your gifts of time, talent and treasures.

Operating Fund	2023 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Income	\$ 243,512	223,036	244,680
Expenses	\$ 254,766	237,882	254,400
Net Operations	\$ -11,254	-14,846	-9,720

Church Property Report

Marguerite Locke

As winter weather approaches, the Church facilities and property are being readied for the season's changes.

- The gardens, hedges and lawn have been raked, flowers removed and the trimming completed for winter.
- On Wednesday, November 15, the sprinkler system was drained and prepared for winter by B. Harrison Services.
- Mortimer Landscaping has submitted their estimate for snow removal and salting for the winter and, for comparison, we are securing two other quotations for the same job prior to signing any agreement.

Many of our lighting fixtures are quite high and inaccessible for Tom to replace on his own (plus WSIB and the Diocese have strict safety rules about staff and volunteers not climbing ladders). Therefore, the electricians who regularly respond to our needs have changed many spotlights in the narthex and in the sanctuary, and replaced a switch on the sensor by the gym doors.

Unfortunately, graffiti artists were at work one night during the week of November 6. Fortunately, this time they limited their vandalism to a few areas by the gym doors. Tom repainted the salt bin to cover graffiti and Marguerite had success with a cleaner on a sign and pole...so this time, just elbow grease corrected the damages. We need to be aware that these things happen.



On Friday, November 17, the old hot water heaters were removed from the lower level and a new hot water tank was installed. This work also included a new pipe venting to the outside because our old chimney does not have a proper liner that meets the building code for the gas exhaust to be vented. Hopefully our gas bills for hot water heating will be reduced significantly with the new hot water heater.

It is also approaching year end for most of our lease/rental agreements with tenants and room users. The Wardens are making every effort to responsibly and reasonably increase rents for many of the agreements to cover the increase in our costs of maintenance, supplies, and utilities.



Trivia items to share:

Heating costs for gas for St. Matthew's average over the past 5 years... \$ 1,300 per month.

Electricity costs for St. Matthew's average over the past 5 years... \$ 1,000 per month.

If you can assist to reduce these costs by turning out lights when you leave a room, by closing both sets of windows in a room, and by ensuring that exterior doors are properly closed, it should help reduce these expenses.

Outreach – Clothing Drive

Thank you to all who assisted in donating warm clothes and footwear to families in October and November. These bundles have been delivered to various charities in the city and to Christ Church St. James on Parklawn as they assist refugee families.

What's Happening

Sun Dec 3	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online
	Lessons & Carols: 4:30 p.m.	In person & online
Wed Dec 6	Wellness Exercise: 9:30 a.m.	Narthex
	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Christmas lunch: 11:30 a.m.	Gym
Sat Dec 9	Men's Breakfast: 8:30 a.m. (1510 Dundas St. E., Miss.)	Sunset Grill
Sun Dec 10	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Dec 13	Wellness Exercise: 9:30 a.m.	Lounge
	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
	Blue Christmas: 7:30 p.m.	In person & online
Sat Dec 16	Pageant Rehearsal: 10:00 a.m.	In person
Sun Dec 17	Unity Worship & Pageant: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Dec 20	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sun Dec 24	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m. (4th Sunday of Advent)	In person & online
	Christmas Eve Family Service: 4:00 p.m.	In person & online
	Christmas Eve BAS Choral Service: 7:00 p.m.	In person & online
	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: 10:00 p.m.	In person
Mon Dec 25	Christmas Day Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online
Sun Dec 31	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online
Sun Jan 7	Unity Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Jan 10	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sun Jan 14	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Jan 17	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sun Jan 21	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BCP Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online
Wed Jan 24	BCP Worship: 10:30 a.m.	In person
Sat Jan 27	Messy Church: 4:00 p.m.	In person
Sun Jan 28	All Ages Worship: 9:30 a.m.	In person & online
	BAS Worship: 11:00 a.m.	In person & online

A Wrinkle in Time Book Club

Linda Harrison

For four weeks this fall a group of 15-20 people gathered under the leadership of Amanda Palias and Lianne Thompson to share our thoughts and faith based on the reading of a very interesting book. *A Wrinkle in Time* is considered to be a classic children's fantasy/science fiction story. Written by Madeleine L'Engle, a Christian writer, it was published in 1962. Many of us enjoyed it years ago.

Each week we were challenged to think about the themes of the story, what the author was trying to illustrate and how it related to our faith. Amanda and Lianne provided great guiding insight to facilitate the thought-provoking discussions on the battle between good and evil, seeing and perception, faith and reason, and love of family and courage. At the end of each session we took away encouragement for self-reflection and prayer.

Reading is often a doorway to new ideas, thoughts, imagination, and possibilities. Sometimes we enjoy a story so much that we read too fast and miss some of the deeper meaning which the author is trying to explore. The Book Club gave us a wonderful opportunity to use the joy of the story for an in-depth study of faith and life. We look forward to more opportunities to explore our faith through literature.



Madeleine L'Engle's
A WRINKLE IN TIME



Club Matt

Lianne Thompson

The clocks have been changed, days are shorter, but now we all look ahead to the light of the star that signifies the wondrous arrival of Jesus!

Looking back at Judges and Kings

Club Matt concluded its Fall program on Judges and Kings in November. While learning about some amazing women and men who were prophets, judges and kings, the children learned how God knew everything about those leaders and helped them to lead God's people wisely. And while the children learned about the judges and kings, the Club Matt lessons also stressed that God knows each and everyone of them, wants them to be followers of Jesus and help with God's plan. It was an exciting Fall of learning and activities!



Helping out in the gym



A number of the Club Matt parents and leaders helped the Wardens clear out one of the gym lofts this fall – part of ongoing efforts to keep spaces clean and safe for all the people who use St. Matt's. The Club Matt kids dove right in and helped the adults cart large items outside and tidy what remained. We were so proud of them all.

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Club Matt *(continued)*

Advent and the “Jesse Tree”

The Club Matt kids will be using a “Jesse Tree” approach this Advent season. As we journey on the road to Christmas Day, the Jesse Tree program will help the children pull together and understand the connection of many Old Testament characters and stories they have learned about through the years. We hope this will provide a way for the children to see God's plan for his people long ago and for us today.

The Christmas pageant is coming!

Mark your calendars, everyone, because St. Matt's Christmas Pageant will be held on Sunday, December 17th at the 10:30 am Unity Service. We know we will be blessed by the joy and enthusiasm which the children and youth bring to the pageant each year. Looking forward to seeing you there!



DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

The Club Matt team is always looking for people to assist with special events, help out leading in the program or supporting children. If you are interested in helping with the St. Matt's Christmas Pageant or helping to lead in the Winter/Spring programs, please speak to Lianne Thompson – we would love to tell you more!

Advertise in Matt's Media

Would you recommend your contractor, repair person or professional to a fellow parishioner?
Would they like to see their ADVERTISEMENT here?

2024 – 4 issues

3.5"x 2" Business card size: We can format their information to fit this size.

Have them email St. Matthew's Church (office@saintmatts.ca) and Marguerite Locke will follow up. Thanks.

Lord, Give us Wisdom

Tyler Versluis

As a genealogist, I am constantly searching for literature to receive a better understanding of how people lived in the past. Reading accounts of the brutality of life in the previous centuries also renews my gratitude for the infinitely more comfortable life I am living today in Canada. One book I read recently was *Village Life in Late Tsarist Russia* by Olga Semyonova Tian-Shanskaia, one of the first people to write honestly about peasant family life in her native land. As expected, the portrait Tian-Shanskaia paints is intense and occasionally shocking. Russian peasant family life was full of desperation, domestic violence, alcoholism, and fatalistic attitudes towards life and culture.

Perhaps most shocking was the 19th-century peasant's attitude towards religion and the church. You might expect that these peasants were devoutly religious, out of a desire to make sense of the endless hardships in their lives, but in reality, the opposite was true. The peasants were largely apathetic about their faith, even irreligious. They constantly pondered the utility of religion and were scornful of the priests who often swindled them out of food and money for baptisms, blessings, and weddings. If the Russian peasants did believe in God, then it was a God of harsh judgment and cruelty, one who punishes heavily and answers prayers only in a capricious manner. Their visions of heaven also reflected the desperation of the times. For the hungry, overworked peasants of Russia, heaven was a place where food literally grew on trees, eliminating the most pressing cares of their lives: food scarcity and the endless toil of subsistence farming.

Reading these accounts of people in the past made me realize that although time has passed, nothing is new under the sun when it comes to human behaviour. Our vision of who God "is" and what the kingdom of God is, are often nothing more than the reflections of our own heart. We turn God and the Church into something that satisfies our own visions and confirmation biases for what is an ultimate good. In Canada the churches often work in parallel to the world vision of the individualistic liberal-democratic state which we inhabit. We waste lots of energy and time promoting the Biblical roots of concepts such as freedom, choice, tolerance and human rights to work in parallel with the society and country that we inhabit. But is this the point of living out the Gospel? Of course not.

When I think of the season of Advent, I think of the word *consummation*, in both the context of a spiritual marriage, as well as revelation of Biblical truth. As the Bride of Christ, we are awaiting the arrival of our Bridegroom, and the yearning can be intense, almost unbearable. In the same way that our vision of heaven is shaped by what we lack most, our hunger for Christ's arrival often mirrors our most pressing anxiety about life and faith. Why do we wait for Christ? Are we weary of being spiritually hungry? Are we anxious for our faith life to be justified after endless doubts, hardships and tribulation? In this era, the Church seems to be buckling under the anxiety of its own history and prejudices, and like the peasants in 19th century Russia, our vision of God inherently reflects the anxiety in our hearts. Sin? Judgment? Exclusion of any sort? Terrifying concepts for any Anglican church in Toronto, but inherent to our faith. It is easier to please ourselves and others than to embrace the fullness of the Gospel.

My Advent prayer is that God clears our vision and that we see past the subjectivity of our own hearts, into the truth at the centre of our faith. This is at the heart of the Second Coming, when we no longer "see through a glass darkly," but rather face to face, knowing no longer in part, but in full. May God grant us Wisdom in this time of waiting.

My Experience Playing in St. Matthew's Worship Band

Lauren K.

Tyler was kind enough to include me in the small worship band he'd put together with the choir, and his controlled, yet pleasant direction on playing with a larger group has helped me as a musician greatly. I'm a violinist, and when Tyler asked me to play with them, it was my first time playing with a group. It was excellent practice for my string ensemble at school this year.

I have much respect for Tyler as a musician, and he is simply a humble, good person and I find that he leads the worship band excellently. I appreciate all his corrections, as they make me a better musician playing outside of the church as well. He created a small group to lead the musical component of our Sunday worship, and he put it all together so nicely, making sure we all know the pieces and ensuring that everything sounds beautiful.

Whenever we have a rehearsal to prepare for whatever Sunday service we'll be playing in, I always leave feeling slightly happier inside. It's partly because of the group. The choir is full of the sweetest people. If I should mention, Kathie always tells me she enjoys my playing, and Bruce is such a pleasant person to talk to. All of their presences make that one night every few weeks something I enjoy, even look forward to. I feel particularly content when I surround myself with people who are simplistic in that they don't drain you, they lift you up with every small kind thing said or done. Michelle Lorimer has such a warmth to her, and my "I'm good, how are you," always feels genuine, because I truly mean it. It's a pleasure to reciprocate the kindness she offers. I marvel at how she's a person who can offer a smile and brighten that moment for the receiving person. Her daughter, Sophia, plays the piano or organ with us, and I always look forward to seeing her, as she's someone I'm so glad to have met for countless reasons. These people all grant me feelings of joy, followed by gratitude for the privilege of giving the gift of music to the service. I think of this as doing my small part, and it brings me great joy to play along when hymns are sung at the services.

The small group of instruments along with the choir brings the music to life. Josh and I are the string section (he plays the cello) and the small places in a piece of music where we play together sound exceptionally nice, and I've heard from many that it's a wonderful addition. I find that I feel closer to God during the musical aspects of the service, particularly when I'm assisting the sound. There's never pressure coming from learning music for the services for me, as the songs are usually simple yet pleasant, although the tone colours vary, and I'm often allowed to improvise. We always pray before we start our rehearsals and thank God for being blessed with leading the music of the coming services. It's a lovely concept, which I altogether feel a part of, and I am ever so grateful to the people who have secured that feeling for me at St. Matthews.

Food Cupboard

Noel Martin

Thank you to those who have donated items for the food cupboard; every bit has helped.

The news has been full of the huge increase in food bank use in the city over the past year. Our demand has not increased so dramatically, but our community need is still there. The cupboard must be replenished monthly, and we did receive a nice donation from Bloorlea Middle School nearby on the East Mall, but we do need many other items on a continuing basis. Specifically, right now we have almost no pork and beans, soup, chunky soup, vegetables, peanut butter, canned fruit, jam, or corned beef.

Any contributions you could make will help us keep on supporting those who need this food.

Musical Moments at St. Matthew's

Bruce and Mary Gleeson

We were fortunate to be able to attend the both the October and November concerts as part of the 2023/2024 musical series. *The King of Instruments* concert began with some of the earliest music written for organs around 1360 and moved on with samples of medieval compositions with Tyler pointing out certain aspects of each piece to be listened for. The highlights of the concert were the magnificent Baroque selections followed by more contemporary pieces each accompanied by Tyler's knowledgeable guide to listening. Our guest artist, David Simon, and our own Tyler Versluis displayed incredible keyboard skill throughout the entire presentation.

Next up was the *Young Artists* concert where we were introduced to soprano Anna Tanczak, who impressed us with the crystal clarity, range and power of her voice. Oliver Peart, the solo pianist, was equally impressive with the precision of his fingering, the range of feeling in his playing, and his intense concentration during his performance. While individually they are superb artists, together they were a dynamic duo. Tyler's musical commentary once again definitely enhanced our appreciation and enjoyment.

St. Matthew's Anglican Church, Islington presents

Musical Moments at St. Matthew's

Tyler Versluis, artistic director

Next Concert

MANIRNA MUZYKA

A fundraiser for Ukraine

February 4, 2:30 PM

A glimpse at the
"mannered music" of
Ukraine's underground.

Daily Bread Exercise Program

Katie Ward

It has been such a blessing for me to lead our Daily Bread Exercise program. Each Wednesday we delight in one another's presence and connect to the Holy Spirit by reading our Daily Bread Meditation, reflecting in personal experience, and enjoying exercise to Soulful Music. Our class runs about 45 minutes long and includes Qigong, Tapping, Yoga, range of motion, and strengthening exercises. I am so inspired by the strength and wisdom of our St. Matthew's family, especially our seniors. We have had lots of fun getting our blood flowing, our muscles moving and, most importantly, our souls connecting. It has been so good for me to stay after our exercise program to further nourish my spirit at the Wednesday BCP Eucharist Service. I leave St. Matthew's feeling refreshed, restored, and anchored in God's Grace. I am so grateful and I hope we can enjoy another Daily Bread Exercise Program in the Spring.



St. Matt's Youth

Bryan Tran

Since our last edition of Matt's Media, our youth have enjoyed a games night, a combined movie night with the Family Room, rock climbing, and a gift creation workshop. We look forward to a Youth Worship night hosted by All Saints Kingsway as an opportunity to reconnect with friends we made at the fall retreat.

Looking ahead to the new year we are excited to host a Youth Alpha program, attend the Radiate winter retreat at Ontario Pioneer Camp, and help with the food bank at Christ Church St. James.

A big shout out to the youth for their wonderful contributions to our worship band, volunteering at Messy Church, and for all the other ways they are involved and bring life to our parish. Thank you!



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Messy Church

Linda Dickson

If you walk into the gym on the last Saturday of the month you are sure to get a big surprise. Things can sure get messy. “Why?” you ask! It’s Messy Church Day.

October’s theme was ‘Shine your Light for Jesus.’ This was a great opportunity to get really Messy and carve a pumpkin, create leaf rubbings, and have flashlight fun. Some of our wonderful youth taught us how to make shadow animals with our hands and a light.



November’s Messy Church’s theme was ‘Our Great Big Family.’ What a blessing it is to see children working together to share love. Cards and a small Christmas gift were made for those who can’t get to church. We made a paper-chain family and a delicious dessert (strawberry-filled crescent roll). We also learned about a ‘Jesse Tree.’ Every family has taken home a kit to make their own plus a pine bough to put the decorations on.



We have a great group of volunteers, which include many of our youth, to help lead activities. We are looking for a little more help with clean up after dinner if you could come out on a Messy Church evening from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Many hands make light work, with a great group of people. You could have a bite, too, if we know ahead to cook enough. Speak to me, Linda Dickson, or any of our team, or send an email to mrsldickson@gmail.com.

Join us at the next Messy Church on January 27.

After School Drama Club

Rev. Philip

This September St. Matthew’s began our After School Drama program every Thursday in the gym starting with nine children and one youth volunteer.

For the first 45 minutes the kids have free time to run around, kick a ball, toss a frisbee or whatever. After that we go into organized games and exercises. These exercises teach kids about their breath, how to speak well, choreography, and more. Drama games include having a conversation only in questions, one sentence storytelling, pitching a made-up product, charades, and more.

The most meaningful part is at the end when we act out a bible scene together. We use acting concepts like storytelling, character development, and the “As if” to help kids explore the story and live it out. It has been wonderful to see the children grow and love the stories. Last week, unprompted, they were discussing favourite Bible stories and all of their favourites were the ones we had acted through. They loved remembering how each of them had acted out each moment.

Church Records

Baptisms

Matteo James Stonhouse
November 5, 2023

Deaths

Marion Graham
October 24, 2023



Chancel Guild



A new painting by Sandra Wilson enriched our Remembrance Day service.

Help Decorate our Church

Each year we decorate the church with poinsettias purchased in memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for blessings.

Forms: Online at saintmatts.ca
Paper forms in Narthex

Cost: \$20 / plant

Due: December 11

SERMON SERIES

The Potent Word
Nov 26-Dec 25

Privilege
Dec 31-Feb 11

We are Collecting Again!

Deborah Hurn

Over the years, parishioners have saved various items for collection in the Narthex. At one Welcome Ministry/Pastoral Care Team meeting we recalled this, but we couldn't remember what purpose they supported, or who passed them on! We have since resumed collecting the following:

Stamps: Oxfam collects stamps for the *Stamp Out Poverty* program which focuses on the needs of women and girls. Save foreign, Canadian, and commemorative stamps, including the entire envelope if there are clearly identifiable location postmarks or registered/special delivery postmarks.

Eyeglasses: The Lions Club of Canada will collect and donate eyewear free of charge to people in developing countries. They accept prescription glasses and sunglasses.

Milk bags: The outer plastic bag from your three bags of milk can be made into sleeping mats for people who have nothing but bare earth or cardboard to sleep on. MILKBAGSunlimited collect the bags to weave mats, purses, shoes, etc. The bags cannot disintegrate in landfills.

Pop can pull-tabs: These tabs can be turned into wheelchairs! March of Dimes Canada collects aluminum pop tabs year-round. The recycling of these tabs generates revenue to benefit their Assistive Devices Program that helps buy, repair, and maintain a wide variety of mobility or assistive equipment including wheelchairs.

For more information, here are the web sites:

[Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre - CLERC](#)

[Support Oxfam by Stamping Out Poverty | Oxfam Canada](#)

[Networks - Milk Bags \(milkbagsunlimited.ca\)](#)

[Pop Tabs | March of Dimes Canada](#)

You may drop off the items in the marked boxes on the shelf outside the office or drop off at the Welcome table in the Narthex and we will ensure they get to the right place. If there are other small items you would like us to collect, let Deborah Hurn know, and we will see if we can facilitate.



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the fruit of the womb is the reward."**

Psalm 127:3

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Pastoral Care: Pastoral visits can be offered over the phone, by email or via Zoom. If you would like to arrange for home communion, please contact Rev. Philip or the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca.

Partners in Prayer: Should you desire prayer for yourself or for another person, please make details known to Bob Holloway at 416-253-4909 or rholloway@sympatico.ca. If necessary, the request can be transmitted through the church office.

Cycle of Prayer: “Beloved, pray for us.” This is Paul’s way of asking the Thessalonians to pray for him (5:25) and it expresses the genuine need for believers to support one another through prayer. Each Sunday, we will be praying for individuals and families of St. Matthew’s in the Prayers of the People. Each week, a few names will be mentioned in our prayers and we will have the opportunity to support one another through prayer. Please take the time to remember these people during the week in your own prayers as well. If you do not wish to be included in our “Cycle of Prayer” please let the office know and we will be sure to keep your name off the list.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Prayer Shawls are provided to those who need the warmth and comfort of God and St. Matthew’s. If you would like a shawl for someone, please contact the office at 416-231-4014 or office@saintmatts.ca. If you are knitting shawls for this ministry, please contact the office to arrange to drop them off.

Weekly Worship

Wednesday

10:30 a.m. BCP Service

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Casual*(in person & online)

11:00 a.m. Classic*(in person & online)

12:10 p.m. Coffee Hour

*First Sunday of each month:

10:30 a.m. Unity Worship
(replaces 9:30 & 11 a.m. services)



Join Us

Messy Church

Next Messy Church dates:

January 27

February 24

GIFT Groups

Contact the office for information

Office Hours

Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday

9:30 - 3:30

416-231-4014

office@saintmatts.ca



The Rev. Philip Stonhouse, Incumbent
416-231-3060 / philipstonhouse@hotmail.ca

The Rev. Merv Mercer, Honorary Assistant
Dr. Tyler Versluis, Music Director and Organist
Amanda Palias, Family and Discipleship
Ministry Associate
Bryan Tran, Youth Ministry Associate
Tom Travaglini, Sexton
Lisa Tait, Administrator

3962 Bloor Street West, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9B 1M3

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