

# BREAD FOR THE SAINTS

All Saints' Westboro

March 3, 2019



## SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKES

The whole family is invited to join us for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and an evening of fun on **Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 to 7:00 pm.** This year First United will be cooking and we will be doing a children's Messy Church program that begins at 5:30. There will be a freewill offering. During the evening we will also have the "Burning of the Palm Crosses" to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES

On March 6<sup>th</sup> we will mark the beginning of Lent with the imposition of ashes at our Ash Wednesday services at **10:00 a.m.** in the Chapel and at **7:00 p.m.** in the Church. Again this year we will also be offering "**Ashes on the Go**" out in the Courtyard of the Church, weather permitting, starting at about 11:00 a.m. and running through the Lunch hour.



## LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

This year's Lenten Bible Study will take place on Wednesdays at 1:30 pm from March 13<sup>th</sup> to April 10<sup>th</sup> in the Chapel. Led by Chris Dunn, this study will take you on a journey through Lent and the issues of our day from a biblical perspective. All are welcome!

## PSALMS OF NATURE AND GLORY

Join Ray Van Leeuwen on Tuesday evenings to continue to explore and discuss some of the most beautiful and relevant poetry in the Bible. The "nature psalms" take us into the meaning of creation and creatures—all in relation to God and our human role in the cosmos. March 5, 12 and 19, at 7:00 p.m. in room 7/8.



## CONFIRMATION CLASS

In response to requests from several young people, we have organized a confirmation preparation course suitable for youth and adults who would like to consider making a public declaration of their faith at the Diocesan Confirmation service on Pentecost Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup>.

The classes will be held on Saturdays, March 2, April 13, and May 11 from 1 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. including a supper break which the confirmands will prepare themselves.

Using a variety of learning styles, a multi-person team of learning leaders will take the students through six themes associated with growing into faith through questioning, a study of scripture and the traditions of Christianity, observing the world, expressing thoughts through art and drama, walking the labyrinth, and improv theatre. We will take a field trip to the National Art Gallery on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

If you or someone you know is interested, please speak to one of the clergy or to Barbara Robertson

## CELTIC VESPERS

We will hold the annual Celtic Vespers service on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the Chapel. The music for this special service will be led by Rare Blend and Duly Noted. The music begins at 4:15 p.m.



## SPECIAL LENTEN ENVELOPE

This edition of Bread for the Saints includes a special Lenten Offering envelope. If you received this issue by email please pick up your envelope at the back of the church.

## THE PLANET PROJECT

For seven weeks this spring, from March 31<sup>st</sup> to May 19<sup>th</sup> our church school children will meet together in Room 7/8 for a specially planned program called *The Planet Project*.

Each week, the students, grades 1 to 12, will work on creating their own planet using plaster of Paris and their imaginations. As we work from week to week, we will also consider the great songs of praise from the Bible which give

thanks for our beautiful natural world.

On May 19<sup>th</sup>, we invite you to come to the chapel to celebrate with us the completion of our project. You will be amazed!



## EASTER BAPTISMS

At the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. and on Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. we will celebrate baptisms. If you are looking for baptism for yourself or your children, please contact Barbara Robertson through the ASW office (725-9487). We will hold Baptism preparation classes during Lent.

## LENT AND RECONCILIATION

We know Lent to be a time of prayer, fasting and study. But are we as certain of the purpose of these practices? In a sense, we are replicating Christ's forty days in the desert when Jesus reconciled himself to God and to God's plan for him and his ministry. Jesus went deep within himself to accept God's will.

This Ash Wednesday, we hear from the prophet, Isaiah (58:1-12). In this text, Isaiah speaks to what he considers God's 'real' meaning of a fast. *"Is this not the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly."*

By going deep within ourselves during Lent we examine our relationship not just with God, through the example of Jesus' ministry, but with each other. We are called to be reconciled to our brothers and sisters and to 'the stranger' to create healing and justice in God's world.

All Saints' Westboro and First United will offer four evenings during Lent to examine the relationships between Canadians and Indigenous Peoples. We'll do this by viewing and then discussing APTN's 4-part series **First Contact**. The sessions will be facilitated by First United's Sharon Moon and All Saints' Westboro's Michael Norman.



Most Canadians have never taken the time to get to know Indigenous People or visit their communities. First Contact takes six average Canadians, all with strong opinions about Indigenous People, on a unique 28-day journey into Indigenous Canada. Leaving their everyday lives behind, the six will travel to many and varied Indigenous communities. It was an experience that changed their lives.

We gather in the Chapel from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Wednesdays March 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

Join us for one or all of these videos as part of your Lenten journey. You're invited to spend part of your 2019 Lenten practice considering reconciliation.

## **JOINT PROPERTY COMMITTEE**

*By Lamar Mason, Chair*

It has been a while since you heard from the Joint Property Committee. In that time, there have been many visible changes to the

church. All of the hallways have been painted, Room 5/6 has been painted and its kitchen updated, the New-to-You Shop has had a facelift, the elevator has been upgraded with automatic opening doors, Steacy Hall has been patched and painted and has new lighting, and almost all of the windows have been replaced -- we are looking pretty good!

2019 will see the completion of the rebuild of the Chapel doors and repair of the lobby space between the two sets of Chapel doors. The Joint Property Committee promises to get reliable WiFi into the Chapel as well!

The two big projects that have been approved are a complete refurbishing of the two main washrooms in the downstairs hallway and new flooring for Steacy Hall. Both these projects will take place this summer to avoid as much disruption as possible.

In terms of the washrooms, the men will actually get tile floors and walls, new counters, and new stalls and lighting. The women will see new counters, floors, lighting, and stalls. Both areas will be repainted. This renovation is long overdue and we are thrilled we can move forward with it.

The flooring in Steacy Hall also needs replacement. The tiles are chipping and they add nothing to the aesthetics of the space. By end of summer, the hall will have a whole new look and hopefully be more inviting for everyone, including those looking to rent it for special occasions.

There is never a shortage of projects for the Joint Property Committee and its annual budget of \$30,000 disappears quickly. We have been blessed by generous bequests from members of the congregation that have allowed us to undertake some of these major projects.

If there is something in the building that you would like us to consider and add to our project list, do let us know. The All Saints Westboro members of the Joint Property Committee are Bryan Bonell, Doug Fisher and Lamar Mason.

## REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

Moving Day was February 4, 2019. At last our sponsored family was able to settle in to a place where they could put down some roots. After Zuhair, Hanan and Taif arrived in Ottawa on December 28, 2018, they stayed with a cousin of Hanan's until his departure for Florida. The family then moved into a furnished apartment in McKellar Suites on Carling and finally, on February 4<sup>th</sup>, they got to see their first official home in Canada – a two-bedroom apartment unit behind Carlingwood.

We purchased a new television and some smaller household items but thanks to the generosity of so many people the apartment was otherwise completely furnished and kitted out. With a lag of a day or two moving in (due to the heavy odour from a bathtub re-surfacing) the family managed to reorganize their new home to best suit their needs. Moving Day was made easier through many hands: Barbara Robertson very kindly measured up the windows for curtains and made alterations, Gaetan Haché stepped in as handyman extraordinaire, Larry Chop fulfilled his role in life as our tech wizard and Mary Van Leeuwen exemplified hospitality with the provision of a wonderful home-made repast so we could all sit down to a joyful and laughter-filled meal.

While the family stayed at McKellar Suites, they rapidly became familiar with many aspects of Canadian life and the English language – snow squall, freezing rain, wind chill, icy sidewalks, snowfall! They've certainly experienced it all since their arrival. After their move to the apartment they even got to add *snow day* to their vocabulary since that's what happened on the third day of their English classes at Westgate.

With all this winter weather, we've been grateful for the Sunday driving assistance given by Brian Morton and Joanne Rowlinson and for Elizabeth Reicker's guidance through the bus system.

We've been working through the bureaucracy too – many, many forms: OHIP, lease, tenant's

insurance, bus passes, Ontario photo ID, language classes. Sometimes more than one visit is required to complete an application process. There's lots of orientation to life in a new country including shopping, getting around and even to a new-to-them apartment building.

It's been interesting too, to gain a new take on our language. I'd never before thought about how close some words sound e.g. kitchen/chicken; text/tax, mosque/mask. We have had some chuckles and I also think my acting skills are improving.



A highlight of the past two months was the celebration of Hanan's birthday. In church we sang Happy Birthday, but the family also welcomed several people to their new home for an impromptu party.

Of course, there's still lots to do. We need to organize medical care for the family and look into the possibility of a driver's license for Zuhair. We're also exploring soccer suggestions for Taif thanks to Toni Larson. Also, although we have a few small paying work projects in the wind, more possibilities and suggestions are welcome. Contact: Katy Burnett

## ZUHAIR LABBO: MY STORY

*(Editor's note: Zuhair has asked me to share his story with the congregation. It was written at the time of his application to come to Canada)*

My name is Zuhair K. Labbo. I was born in Mosul, Iraq in 1957, to a Christian family who had lived in Mosul for many generations. I was raised and completed my studies in the same city, and then I ran my own business there.



My suffering and persecution started in 2004; it was a persecution against Christians. In addition, our government didn't do anything to protect us or to stop the extremist's transgressions against us. The terrorists began to scare the Christian families by many ways such as explosion in many churches. At one time they bombed our church where I was attending worship service with my family. Thank God we weren't hurt. Later in 2007 the Bishop of our denomination, Bishop Faraj Rahho, was killed in Mosul by the terrorists.

From 2004 to 2006 my wife and I were facing many types of threats and prosecution from many terrorist groups when we are going from our home in the left side of the city to our offices in the right side. One day when we are at our home the terrorists came and set fire to my car and destroyed it; they were trying to force us to leave our home in Mosul. After that we got permission from our manager to change my wife's work office to a small village which is 20 kilometers to the east of Mosul to keep her safe.

Our suffering didn't stop at this point. The terrorists put a threatening letter with a rifle round inside it, at the main door of our home asking us to leave the home immediately or we would be put to death. To keep my family safe we went to my brother's house in another part of the city.

In view of this scary situation I decided to move my family to a safer place outside of Mosul. So, we went to a small village called Karakoush, which is 20 kilometers to the east of Mosul. In November of 2006 I lost my business in Mosul in order to live in peace and safety in this village where the majority population is Christian, and my wife had already started her job there. It was a difficult move because we left everything at our home in Mosul.

The house in Karakoush was very tight, with not enough furniture, high rental fees, and I couldn't get any business there. We thought things would return to normal soon, but our hopes were mere wishes as ISIS sent threats and occupied Mosul on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2014. They expelled all the Christians who were still living in Mosul and took over their houses and everything they had including their money, jewelry, and cars. After that ISIS started to capture all the villages to the east of Mosul which were mostly populated by Christians without any reactions from the Iraqi army.

When ISIS reached Karakoush they started to shell the village with their artillery bombs. Many people died and others were injured. On the 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2014, they captured this village and started to shout from the mosque for people to either convert to Islam or they would be killed. We had to flee again out of Karakoush.

At noon of that day thousands of people were outside the village on the way to the nearest safe city, Arbil, in the Kurdistan area. We were leaving everything we had furnished in Karakoush. The road to Arbil was not very safe; it was very congested with refugees. People were driving madly. That caused some accidents. Arbil was 50 kilometers away. The distance which usually takes one hour to drive, took us 15 hours amid horror and suffering.

As we arrived in Arbil It was crowded with fleeing refugees, so we went to a church in this city which opened the doors to allow hundreds of Christian refugees in its parking lot and gardens. We had to stay in the open air for several days before we were able to get a

small tent and some foam beds, starving for food and water, lack of sleep, and with suffering children. Fear and despair filled our hearts. Despite these drastic situations we could not get any government help. Two months passed, the rainy season had started, and it was going to be challenging to stay in these conditions with the cold weather of northern Iraq.

As we had nothing left to make our living any better, we decided to leave Iraq looking for any country in which we could continue our life in safety and freedom. With the help of an Iraqi church in Jordan we got permission to travel to Jordan. We reached there on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October 2014. Because we did not have enough money to pay the rent of a house, the church there gave us a small old house to share with many families who came with us in the same trip. We were not allowed to work in Jordan, since the refugees had put a great pressure on the country. The church started to provide us with bedding and food to continue our life in Jordan.

At the beginning of November 2014, we registered with the UN agency for Refugees to get the chance to immigrate to any country to continue our life with peace and freedom. We can't go back to Iraq after we had our home, and everything destroyed by ISIS. Moreover, the big amount of money which we were required to pay to the Jordan government as a fee for our staying there which was to cover more than two years and three months.

We look forward to a peaceful country like Canada, where we can live permanently and peacefully. I am looking forward to being in Canada since I have two brothers with their families who have already immigrated to Canada. One of them has had Canadian citizenship since 2015 and they are living in Vancouver, BC.

We appreciate being in Canada where we are close to my brothers and to allow us to continue our life there with peace and freedom.



*Paul clears snow during the big storm on February 13<sup>th</sup>*



*Our Servers gather following their commissioning on January 27<sup>th</sup>*

