



For the last many months I've been writing what I call the "Farewell Tour" in the column I write for the Huron Church News called "Mostly About Religion." It has brought me to a place of deeper understanding between endings and thanksgivings. When something ends, it is a wonderful opportunity to say thank you for the joy that the opportunity has brought and the many ways life has been enriched.

We do this most every Thanksgiving when we talk about family meals long past, celebrated with family and friends that we see no more (but love no less). We think about the sweet smell of dinner wafting from the oven in a farm house that held several generations of a family. We remember the traditions that were so much a part of the fall season with those who guided and helped us grow. It can be bittersweet, but it requires us to say thanks nonetheless.

It's not lost on me that this is the next-to-last issue of the Chimes that I will write in. I am well aware that in three short months my career as a full time stipendiary priest will come to an end after nearly 30 years of life, love and memories. It is joyful and sad all at the same time. But I want, I need, I must say thank you.

I don't like saying goodbye. But goodbye leads to the next chapter of this story called life. The previous pages are enamoured with the stories of the events of life in the church and by extension life within a family and community.

I could hardly count the number of people I have met in priestly ministry over these last 30 years. Yet I find myself often thinking about individuals and giving thanks for the life and ministry they have given to me. Sometimes it goes way back and sometimes it's just yesterday. From my first wedding to the most recent, for each of the dozens and dozens of baptisms and funerals, I give thanks for what these relationships have brought to me. Through tears and smiles and laughter life is lived and stations of life are approached, broached and surpassed. Never does a day go by that we are not impacted by people, places and events.

A little preview of something ahead. There is a 1970's song by Canadian musician Terry Jacks, called "Seasons in the Sun". Originally about the breakup of a relationship, I have found in the words and melody so much more. It is poetry that spins the yarn of thanksgiving and appreciation for all that life is. Through joys and sorrows and the many facets of life this song has always made me think. It just might make an appearance before I leave in my own way of recognizing beginnings and endings and always saying thanks!!

Blessings,

Keith Nethery—Rector

St. James Westminster Anglican Church

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Softball and BBQ with St. James and Wesley Knox - September 11, 2022
Big thanks to the Sizeland, Vass, and Ryan families for organizing, it was a lot of fun!



From the desk of your Family Ministry Team

We hope students of all ages have enjoyed a great return to school. Sunday School has also returned. We love gathering with our young people every week in the Parish Hall. See photo of the Good Shepherd (Psalm 23) story as told with felt. We tell stories from our curriculum, Seasons of the Spirit:

The last part of the Season after Pentecost begins on October 2 and takes us through the months of October and November. During these weeks we will be exploring some of Jesus' stories and parables as recorded in the gospel of Luke. These stories explore issues such as reaching out to others, healing, being persistent, and learning about prayer and hospitality.

Seasons of the Spirit curriculum is easy to follow. Prayers, stories, and several possible activity suggestions are all included. If you feel called to volunteer with our young people, either as a lead teacher, or assistant, please contact Laura Manias.

Children are also welcome to enjoy Playground or pew packs anytime during the service. Stretch out on the carpet with a story or stuffie, sit at the table, or use the pews as a bench to colour.

We'll have more news and exciting events coming soon! Please continue to keep our young people in your prayers.

Laura Manias, Judy Jones, & Gerry Adam
Contact us! laurajmanias@gmail.com 519-630-2363



Let Me Be Glad

(Submitted by Karen Henkel)

Not for the mighty world, O Lord, tonight,
Nations and Kingdoms in their fearful might...

Let me be glad the kettle gently sings,
Let me be glad for little things.

by Edna Jaques





Our gardening volunteers in action taking good care of our gardens.

Thanksgiving Decorations

We are looking for items to decorate the Altar for Harvest Thanksgiving (October 9): pumpkins, squash, potatoes, sweet potatoes, cornstalks, apples, watermelons, and Fall flowers, etc.

Please feel free to bring them in anytime before Saturday, October 8 (9:30am). Thank you! *The Altar Guild*



Coming
Soon....



Looking to get involved?

Thanksgiving Decorating

Please join our Altar Guild (even if you are not a member) to decorate the church on Saturday, Oct 8, at 9:30 in preparation for our Thanksgiving service on Sunday Oct. 9th.

Bridge Club

All are invited to join us every other Monday for our afternoon Bridge club. There is no need to sign up and no need to have a partner. The cost is \$2 each day you come and the money goes towards our Christmas lunch.

Playing time is 1 pm to 3pm. Please come 5-10 min before.

- Oct 3, 17 and 31
- Nov 14 and 28

Questions?? Call Betty at 519-434-7469 or email bettymathers@rogers.com

INDWELL Challenge

Once again, we are raising funds for our friends at Indwell as it begins its third London project in the old Children's Hospital building on South Street.

Along with four other organizations, Indwell is taking on a major affordable housing project in the area of the old south street hospital which will be a life line for many in our midst searching for a place & community to call home. Indwell provides many onsite programs and significant staff to help residents deal with a variety of life problems.

OUR GOAL this year is an ambitious \$5000 which will furnish two apartments in the SOHO project. Indwell is just about ready to open the doors to its project in Old East London, while the original building on Dundas Street downtown continues to be home to a community of Londoners. To give by cheque, etransfer, cash, or credit card, please note "Indwell" in the Memo.

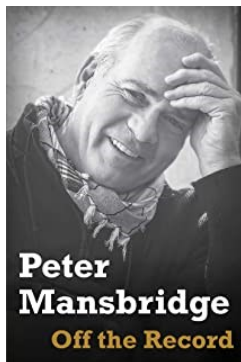
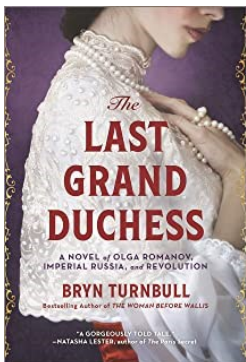
Book Club

The Book Club meets monthly (usually the third Wednesday at 1:30 p.m.) to discuss a variety of books selected by the members - current fiction and non-fiction.

In addition, there are suggestions and conversations concerning books we have enjoyed.

To confirm dates and books, please contact Barbara Thamer at 519-672-1016.

Upcoming Books:



October:
The Last
Grand
Duchess

November:
Peter
Mansbridge
Off the
Record

Food Pantry Outreach

We continue to support Church of the Epiphany's Outreach Work with food donations.

Please leave donations by the Bruce Street door. Suggested Items:

- Canned vegetables and meats
- Soup, Crackers
- Pasta, Pasta Sauce
- Peanut Butter, Jam
- Dishwashing Soap
- Toilet Paper
- Rice, potatoes





Do you ever look around at fellow parishioners and wonder what their story is? Every life is a story. Over the years, I've had the privilege of interviewing a handful of St. James people for The Chimes. Sadly, these past few years, we've lost many and lost many stories.

One person I never met and who very few left among us can recall is a quiet parishioner to whom St. James was so dear she left, at her death in March last year, a surprisingly large endowment, Joan Margaret Watt. Our tireless Parish archivist, Wayne MacPherson, remembers Joan and her companion in their pew at church, her older sister Connie Watt Fetchison, who, like her son Rob Fetchison, passed away last year.

Wayne found mention of Joan in Parish Council minutes from the 2008: Joan was involved in the decision to establish our Memorial Garden. I learned from Joan's niece, Barbara Fetchison McLatchie, that Joan served on the Altar Guild and that Dorothy Panabaker, recently passed away, was a neighbor of Joan's on Croxton Road in Wortley Village as well as a fellow parishioner and friend.

To delve a little more into Joan's life, I had a long and interesting visit with Barbara and her husband Ken, a pleasant phone call with Henry and Hilary Nicpon whose names I found in the condolences section of the obituary website, and chats with two people in Joan's life who actually figure in mine as well, writer Herman Gooden and professor Nancy Tausky.

From Hilary and Henry Nicpon, I learned that Henry had been Joan's and Connie's stockbroker for 50 years (Joan was a teacher, Connie a librarian who helped set up the Cherryhill Library and worked at Landon, and passed on her interest to Barbara, who worked at UWO's Law Library). Hilary and Henry found both the sisters lots of fun. Henry noted that, among all the people he's known, Joan was the very last to get a cell phone.

Hilary, who has an art studio in Mount Bridges, taught with Joan for a few years in the late 70's at Kensal Park Public School, where Joan served as Kensal's beloved Special Education teacher. A Graduate of South Secondary School and a 1950 graduate of the London Normal School (teachers' college), and well seasoned as a teacher in small Ontario towns, Joan requalified as a Specialist 20 years into her career.

She was, in Hilary's memory, a particularly kind and calming presence for fellow teachers and students alike. If a child was hurt or upset Joan could gently settle them down like nobody else, with her low cool voice. She made a big difference in many children's lives, doing remedial work for all ages in her role as Special Ed /Resource Support Teacher. Everyone loved her, children, fellow teachers, and parents in what was then a small school but remarkable school, with a

committed Home and School Committee. Joan managed to get parents involved both in remedial work and story-telling with the students.

With Joan, relationships seemed to extend from formal settings into family settings. Hilary remembers being invited to Joan's parents' home at #1 Croxton in Old South, and being treated by the elder Mrs. Watt to a regular "tea in the traditional English way – fine china, doilies on plates filled with various kinds of cookies." All in all, Henry and Hilary found the Watt family kind, lively, and lovely hosts. Joan, like Connie, an avid art lover, actually took an art class with Hilary in 1983. The Nicpons both recall receiving a very gracious letter from Connie's daughter, Barbara, after Joan's death.

Joan's parents were married in St. Thomas in January 1921 and settled in London, eventually moving to 388 Wortley Road which her father had built where she and her sister grew up. When both girls eventually left home, the Watts built their final home at 1 Croxton Road for their retirement.

After some years away teaching elsewhere, Joan returned to Croxton and lived with her parents, caring for them until they died. Their dad opened a printing business called Watt Letter Service (in 1922) at the corner of Richmond and York Streets. Barb remembers their house having Christmas cards from relatives, friends, and clients pasted on the staircase and everywhere possible. We laughed when Barb said she, Joan, and her grandmother used to cut up old cards with pinking sheers to make tags for presents (our family does that too). She remembers as well that Joan and Connie's Dad gave Joan the job of delivering cost sheets from the printing press to clients stores like McCormick's.

The Watt family had a cottage at Port Stanley where they went regularly on the train from London. Barbara remembers hearing stories about the attic there where all the older ladies climbed up to sleep and to tell tales of their own. Likely that group would have included Aunt Dodie (Rose Charlotte Smith, Joan and Connie's aunt) with whom Joan lived while teaching in St. Thomas.

Barbara has been busy assembling myriads of family photos that bring back those times and people, the cottage, the attic stairs, all the fun. She has fond memories of listening to her Mom and Aunt Joan telling endless family stories at the dinner table. She also mentioned, with pleasure, that her gentle aunt sometimes invited her at summer's end to come help her set up her classroom.

Herman Gooden remembers he first met Joan when he was 18. For three years, he and some friends organized a Spring Festival on the parkette in front of the Watt house, then called Croxton Commons, now Rosel Park. After speeches (e.g. by Major Jane Bigelow), there were egg and spoon races and life-sized chess games and, eventually, all sorts of noise and music long into the evening.

Each time, Joan would come over towards the end. The first time the youth saw her, they thought they were in for a tongue lashing about the noise, but no. Joan came to shake their hands, telling them she was so pleased that the park was being used to build community. According to Herman, Joan was "so in touch with her community, drawing on its deepest roots." She and Connie were avid attendees at the Grand Theater, Orchestra London Concerts, and art shows at the Art Gallery of London, at St. Paul's Cathedral, in Lambeth, Byron and Port Stanley, and rarely missed London's Art in the Park festivals.

Joan's commitment to the community extended to an avid interest in local history. According to Herman, Joan was "indispensable" to Mike Baker as a volunteer at Museum London and edited a book on the architecture of South London. She was also involved in the St. Thomas Museum.

According to Herman, Joan was also a key figure in a PUC Book Club Herman ran for retirees from 1986 to 2012. Joan helped him get it started and, when the members met at Beal SS, she brought together students and retirees once a year for a good long chat. She never missed a meeting, and worked hard to sustain the group when it had shrunk to five members. When it folded at last, Herman ran into her at Harveys; they shared a long lunch, talking about their years in the club, and about neighbours they had in common in Old South.

At one point, Joan started to weep, then said to Herman "I didn't know that was going to happen!" She loved that club so much. Herman will never forget her; in fact, he said she had the habit of giving her books away; he showed me volumes of hers that now reside on the packed shelves in his office/library. It turns out that her love of reading extended to support of the London group, Friends of the Library, to whom Joan also left a substantial contribution.

Nancy Tausky, professor of English Literature and Heritage Architecture Consultant, recalls Joan's involvement with London's branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, which a handful of women began in the early 1960s in an effort to preserve a number of fine old houses on Talbot Street.

For a long time, Joan served the group as its Membership Organizer and Treasurer. Joan had a particular, local interest in preserving the outer features of the building at the corner of Askin Street and Wortley, currently the Sweet Onion Grill; she was a successful advocate for that! She was also a faithful participant in the annual Geranium Walks originally hosted by the ACO.

Nancy remembers going to Joan's home for meetings of the group, where, in the "very neat" living room, filled with works of art, out came delicious treats on porcelain plates and tea cups on the tea caddy Joan's niece Barbara remembers so fondly.

According to Nancy, Joan always carried with her the financial and membership records in a tote bag that

sported a silhouette of the London skyline. On resigning from her dual role, she simply handed the tote bag of records over to her successor.

According to niece Barbara, Joan made the very best of her retirement years. She sold the Croxton home and bought a condo on Pine Valley, where her sister Connie would eventually move as well. She travelled the world, sometimes alone, sometimes with a retired teachers' group, and often, after Connie's husband died in 1986, with Connie. She enjoyed a cruise to Russia, a trip to South Africa, and many places in between.

She also made time to volunteer with the Canadian Institute for the Blind, according to Barbara "creating tactile books for visually impaired children." When, as she aged and underwent a number of joint replacement surgeries and moved to Chartwell Riverside Retirement Residence, Joan continued that involvement, taking art classes to enhance the fabric books she made.

When Connie moved to Grand Wood Park Retirement home, Joan followed her; they spent time there together and then Joan moved to Arbor Trace Memory Care Centre. Her eyesight failed, but her hearing was good; Barbara recalls that all she had to do was give Joan "cues about who you were, like mentioning your dog or childhood events" and Joan was right there, ready to engage. For Barbara, her Aunt Joan lives on in many memories, a lot of which have links to St. James Westminster, like going to the Pancake Suppers, attending the SJW Christmas Holly Berry Market, the Candlelight Services, and Christmas Eve services. One especially fond memory is the wonderful Engagement Tea Joan put on at Croxton, before Barbara and Ken were married at St. James by Archie Skirving in August 1983.

It was a pleasure to get a further glimpse into the long, active, gracious, and generous life of this quiet parishioner, Joan Watt, and I'll take more care to get to know the other stories sitting in St. James pews.

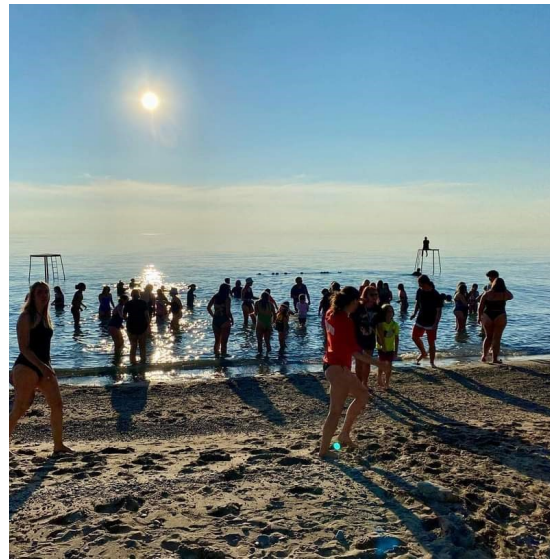
Peggy Roffey, Parishioner



Engagement tea that Joan (seated, far right) put on for her niece, Barbara

Good news from Camp Huron

We are back! After two seasons without campers we are so very grateful for our return to our overnight programs led by such an exceptional staff. Special thanks to St James' very own - Lily Ryan, Gabriel Sizeland, and Aidan Dawson.





Dear Friends at St James Westminster Church,
You are cordially invited to the Vision SoHo Groundbreaking on **October 14 at 11:00am** at South and Colborne Streets in London.

Join with Indwell and our Vision SoHo partners, along with London Community Foundation, Mayor Ed Holder, MPP Terence Kernaghan, and other dignitaries as we begin to transform this property into a new community of over 680 mixed-rent apartment homes.

VISION SOHO ALLIANCE

Groundbreaking

Friday, October 14, 11:00am
South Street, between Waterloo and Colborne

Join the Vision SoHo Alliance as we celebrate the groundbreaking for over 680 new mixed rent apartments. Meet the non-profit developers and learn more about the project.

For more information see:
www.visionsoho.ca



Orange shirts for
National Truth and
Reconciliation Day.



Candle Lighting for the Departed

On All Saints Sunday, November 6, St. James will again remember all the departed who have died in the past year. If you have a relative, friend or spouse that you would like us to remember, please let the parish office know. The departed do not have to be members of the parish or be members of St. James. Ken Anderson will be preaching at both services.