

GRACE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

SPECIAL  
POINTS OF  
INTEREST:

- Refugee Update
- Hazelwood
- Mission Moment
- Kids Corner
- Fundraising Update

ONLINE OR  
IN-PERSON

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP  
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM

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# Good Gracious April 2023

## Peace That Comes After Holy Week and Easter

There was almost too much in that last week of Jesus' life. The Gospel writers give more attention to that last week than to any other part of Jesus' earthly ministry. We know that this last week is the culmination of the three-year presentation of God's plan for humanity, newly presented in Jesus Himself. In it, Jesus pays all the cost for us to know God. In it, Jesus sees the agreement of the crowd as He triumphantly enters Jerusalem as Messiah and only a few days later experiences a crowd asking the Romans to torture Him to death. The highest highs and the lowest lows all in one week.

Then if being surprised by how bad it could get bowls over the disciples, the great reversal happens on Easter morning. Jesus proves that what he had taught about Him being Master even over life and death is true. In Jesus' historic resurrection, Easter becomes the greatest hope of mankind, and the beginning of the conquering of death itself. Give yourself anew to Him today.

After this dramatic week that we call holy and dedicated to God in the most special of ways, we go back to life. The everyday life we live. We remember Christmas morning is just a morning. Holy Week is just a week. But now we have time with the One who wants to meet with us everyday. This is the One that came through the locked doors of our lives and lies. From John 20: 19 -20:

*<sup>19</sup> On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" <sup>20</sup> After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.*

Fear and anxiety had locked up the disciples. They believed they would be next in line for capital punishment. Instead, Jesus allowed their eyes to be fixed on Him and He gave them the peace they need to be His ministers, elders, leaders and followers in the most difficult of times. They succeeded. And the message continues today, nearly 2,000 years later. We can continue on as well and succeed, with our eyes on the One who brings us peace.

Thanks be to God. Hallelujah.

*Pastor Jonathan*

## SESSION SNIPPETS – Donna Dawson (Clerk of Session) – April 2023

With the approach of April, there is a feeling of Spring in the air. The days are longer, the weather is warming and the snow is slowly disappearing. We will soon be marking Holy Week and celebrating Easter.

### **Elder Updates:**

I resumed my full duties as Clerk in mid-March after completing my most recent trip. Thanks to Joan Wilson and Linda Clarke for their help over the past 5 months.

**Presbytery Visitation:** Thanks to all those who came out to meet with the Presbytery Visitation Team. There were approximately 40 people for the congregational segment. The sharing by members of congregation was respectful and heartfelt and the sadness within the congregation for the decisions by the PCC was very evident. I participated in one Presbytery Visitation to another church where no one from the congregation showed up so thank you to all who participated.

**AGM:** Thanks to all those who joined us for the AGM on 26 March. After enjoying some delicious chili from many of our great cooks, a short business meeting dealt with necessary business items including approving the Financial Reports and the Annual Report. Elders then briefly spoke about their functional groups. The focus was on appreciation of our Grace Family, both Staff and volunteers, who make ministry happen at Grace.

### **THE TROY TOFFLEMIRE STUDENT BURSARY FUND and THE EASTER OFFERING:**

This fund was established in 2016, in memory of Troy Tofflemire, to assist members of Grace who are attending a post-secondary educational institution in preparation for Christian ministry. A bursary up to a maximum of \$1,000 may be awarded annually to those meeting the selection criteria. This is a designated fund of Grace Church. This fund is maintained through donations. On recommendation by the Tofflemire Bursary Selection Board, it has been agreed that **the Easter Offering** (special Easter Envelopes) will be used to maintain this fund. This is indeed a most appropriate way to remember Troy who died tragically on Easter Monday 2016. Also, please remember the Tofflemire family in your prayers at this time.

### **A BIG THANK YOU** to the following:



For my “thank you” this month, I want to share a portion of my comments from Session at the AGM.

“There is another group I want to thank – you the Grace family. We have had many congregational meetings, townhalls and focus group meetings. It is encouraging to see the participation of our Grace Family in these meetings – listening to our presentations, giving feedback, asking questions – some of them tough questions.

We didn’t always have answers but we are trusting God to continue to guide us step by step in this journey we are on. Thank you for your faithful participation in this journey with us.”

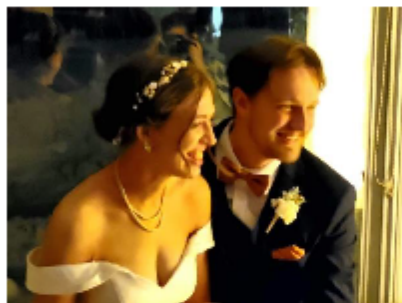
Wishing everyone a Happy Easter celebrating the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

*Donna*

# Mission Moment:

## THE DALTONS

This is Stephen and Samantha's winter update from Dunham, edited to fit into the newsletter.



As you all can see there's a lot of exciting updates to share, the foremost of which is the fact that Sam and I got married February 18th, which I am so pleased to share with all. It was a lovely, intimate and intentional service shared with close friends and family and live-streamed to include as many loved ones as we could.

*In this update:*

- What's new?
- The Wedding!
- What's next?
- Prayer points

### **What's new?**

Marriage aside, here's how I've been serving at Dunham the last few months:

DTS prep didn't start right away when I arrived, as the School leaders John and Emily, were welcoming their first child into the world. The week I arrived there was a week of staff orientation training, which helped situate me into the routine and lifestyle here. Following the orientation week, I began weekly classes for the Ministry Development School (MDS) they have on base—training designed to equip YWAM staff serve in their various ministries run in quarterly modules. This quarter has been focused on community living.

During most of January and February I've been serving in the kitchen to feed the 50 or so people on base. I'm also on the fire roster for heating the hundred+ year old building we're all living in.

## **Mission Moment** *continued from page 3*

Now that John and Emily have had time to settle as new parents, and myself as newly wed, things are ramping up in terms of preparing for the DTS which will start Easter Monday April 10th.

Practically, this has meant:

- We've begun regular planning meetings for the Arts and Music DTS
- This past week we completed an online leadership seminar.
- We're continuing to process student applications; it's looking like there will be 11 students.
- All of our speakers have been decided for the lecture phase of the DTS
- We've begun praying about outreach locations, the spiritual theme for the school, the students and much more!

### **What's next?**

I have helped Sam pack all her things to bring down to Dunham to live on base together. Until then, the AMDTS team, including myself, will continue to get things in order for the April start to the Arts and Music DTS. Once it starts, I'll be less involved in the kitchen as I will be working with the DTS full time. Otherwise, I'm so eager to see all God has in store for DTS (Discipleship Training) in the next few weeks as lecture phase begins. YWAM aside, I've gotten plugged into a local Church called The Village Church in Farnham, I've helped out with power point there, and I will be leading worship there on a monthly basis.

### **As for Sam**

After finishing her degree in archeology, Sam will be joining the DTS as student herself. She took the time and prayed about what to do after getting her degree and felt that she would do well to pursue more of her gifting in the arts (and in music too) given she's been creatively deprived the last while.

### **Prayer Points:**

- For beginning our time as newly-weds and all the joys and challenges associated
- For our changing life circumstances over next year
- For the DTS starting April 10th, students and staff
- Ongoing support raising, including saving up for the outreach trip which will cost around \$3500

If you would like to support the Daltons financially, Arlene has the contact information.

**Additional Mission Moment:** by Linda Clarke

## **Worship with Us – PWS&D**

For over 75 years, the Presbyterian Church in Canada, through Presbyterian World Service & Development, has responded to need around the world.

With the generous support of Presbyterians in Canada, this work has helped marginalized people and communities overcome poverty, recover from emergency situations and embrace hopeful futures.

**On April 22, PWS&D will be hosting a special service of thanksgiving to mark our 75th anniversary.**

This worship service is an opportunity to gather in person with PWS&D partners, committee members, staff and other dedicated supporters to praise God for continued faithfulness over our history and as we look to the future.

**When:** Saturday, April 22, 2023, at 7 pm

**Where:** Trinity Presbyterian Church (2737 Bayview Avenue, North York, Ontario)

The service will also be available via livestream. **Details on livestreaming will be posted on their website as soon as they are available.**

APRIL  
2023

# Kids Corner

Kids Club had their Easter themed event March 24th with 11 kids in attendance! We did Easter trivia with chocolate egg rewards and it was fun to see what the kids knew. We threw in some really obscure questions too that they didn't get but all hands shot up when asked "What is Easter really about?".

I also wanted to give a big thank you to everyone who participated and donated in our recent fundraising events including a chili lunch on March

26th and a fantastic concert and dinner on March 31st. A great time was had by all! Stay tuned for this month's events as we are planning a lunch on April 16th (pulled pork) and a Ladies Night April 28th with tea, scones, chacuterie, chocolate fondue and some funny entertainment.

This is Holy week so there is a lot happening at Grace! The line up is Maundy Thursday services at

7pm, Good Friday at 11am and Easter Sunday at the usual 10:30am. Wishing you and your family a blessed Easter!

*Arlene*

## EASTER BASKET

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



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because I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day.

- 2 TIMOTHY 1:12 NIV



*The LIGHT at the END of the TUNNEL*

# Grace's Ministry Groups

The seven functional groups and there leaders are:

1. Worship Coordination: Jacques Dalton
2. Discipleship: Tomm Kuiperi
3. Pastoral Care: Anne Houston Assistant: Yohanna Kimoun
4. Faith Sharing: Linda Clarke Assistant: Dounia Keda
5. Temporal Support: Shirley Blank Joan Wilson
6. Personnel Support: Donna Dawson
7. Communication and Coordination Donald Corbett



## Opportunities to Serve!

- **Children's ministry:** We need planners, craft and game organizers, teachers, assistant teachers. There are lots of ways you can help! We also appreciate your prayers.
- **Fundraising Committee:** looking for people to help plan, setup, take down, cook, and participate! Talk to Linda, Lauren or Arlene for more info.
- **Coffee Hosts:** We need teams of 2 to prepare coffee to enjoy fellowship time together after the service! We hope to have enough teams so everyone takes a turn once every 2 months. You just got to try the commercial dishwasher!
- **Meal Coordinator** to coordinate meals for families in crisis, grief, illness, etc. There is a list of volunteers that are willing to make food. Someone to help Anne Houston with the organizing would be awesome!

Contact the church office for more information on how you can help!  
[admin@graceorleans.ca](mailto:admin@graceorleans.ca) or by phone at 613-824-9260.