



THE ST. MARGARET'S BEACON

Issue 6

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

October 2013

OUR MISSION

Our mission at St. Margaret's is to be a loving, leading community of God's people, dedicated to involvement in the life of the parish and surrounding community, following the example of Christ and welcoming all in friendship.

ST. MARGARET OF SCOTLAND ANGLICAN CHURCH

161 Hanmer St. West
Barrie, ON L4N 7S1
Phone: 705-721-9528
Fax: 705-721-9455

E mail: stmarg@rogers.com
www.stmargaretbarrie.ca

Incumbent
The Rev. Stephen Pessah
Honorary Associate
Canon Elizabeth Morley

Newsletter editor
Barbara Phillipps
bjphil@sympatico.ca

IN HIS SERVICE

THE STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING THANKS

Moving my Father from Kirkland Lake to Timmins presented a number of challenges. Not the least of these challenges was discerning which of his household items he needed to keep and bring to his new apartment at the Walford Retirement Home, which ones my brother and I would keep or pass down to our children, and which ones simply needed to be thrown into the garbage bin in the driveway. For several weeks we engaged this task until the final minutes of moving day were drawing to a close. Admittedly, by the end of the day we were running out of both time and energy, and I am sure discarded some items that we either should have kept or at least given to the Salvation Army. I am still haunted at the thought that some items of value were treated as though they had none! I keep telling myself that we should have known better and taken more time, and been better stewards of the items entrusted to us, but that is now in the past and can serve only as a life lesson in planning.



In our Gospel reading for Thanksgiving we hear once again the story of the Ten with Leprosy and how only one, a Samaritan, came back to give thanks to Jesus (Luke 17:11-19). It was the Samaritan who would have been considered the "outsider" by the others, who understood it would seem, the profound value of what he had received. That this would change his status as a person from outcast to restored member of the community with all the social and economic implications of that. It seems those who should have known better were somehow too busy, or too tired, or too proud to give thanks for what they had received. Perhaps they missed, as my family did, the value of what had been entrusted to them.

It is in the simple act of giving thanks that Jesus has opportunity to commend the Samaritan for exercising his faith which enabled him to receive this blessing from God's hand. The Samaritan not only understood the value of what he had been given, but that being a good steward also meant recognizing the gift and giving thanks to the one who had given it. That all he had was dependent on a benevolent God of Grace and Mercy!

In the near future we at St. Margaret's will be taking a year long journey of Stewardship. We have been asked by the Diocese to be a "pilot" church that

will observe certain aspects of stewardship meant to deepen our understanding of the gifts that have been entrusted to us. To clarify, this is NOT another fundraising campaign, nor is it merely an attempt to extract more money from parishioners. It is more an attempt to deepen our awareness of all that God has given us and to consider the value and implications of these things, so that in the end, our response to God will be one of profound thanksgiving for all that he has done and is doing in our lives and community. May God enable us to continue our journey into the richness of his Blessing!

**In His Love
The Reverend Stephen Pessah**

**CONFIRMATION JUNE 9, 2013
Submitted by Margaret Paradis**



Confirmation Candidates with Archbishop Colin Johnson and Rev. Stephen Pessah

On June 9, after several weeks of anticipation and preparation, Archbishop Colin Johnson joined us at St. Margaret's to confirm Abigail Beckett, Reaghan Case, Sam Sweazey and Jack Sweazey.

Did you know that in St. Augustine's time, those preparing for baptism went without bathing for 40 days? Several weeks before confirmation, Rev. Stephen and I had the pleasure of meeting with the four very clean and very keen young people. We met to help them prepare to "own up" to the faith in which they been brought up and to reaffirm their vows of baptism. With the guidance of a work book, [I will with God's Help](#), written by Mary Lee Wile, we worked through the questions asked on page 626 of the [Book of Alternative Services](#): Do you believe in God the father? Will you persevere in resisting evil? Will you proclaim by word and example, the good news of Christ? Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons and will you strive for justice and peace among all people?

After starting each session with prayer, music, reflection and sometimes laughs, we had some very good discussions. The students were given interesting exercises, often followed by something good to eat. At the last session, we made the communion bread which was to be used on Confirmation Sunday. By the end of the preparation for classes, all four candidates had made the decision to be confirmed. Now, confirmation is not the end for them but a new beginning. By the Archbishop's participation in the rite, Abigail, Reaghan, Sam and Jack are physically connected to the Diocese, the Anglican Church, the apostles and Jesus Christ.

As our St. Margaret's family, let us pray that they will grow in grace. Increase in them the spirit of wisdom, discernment and inner strength. May they be filled with wonder and awe at his presence, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Personal Note from Abigail Beckett

My confirmation experience at St. Margaret's was amazing. I enjoyed learning everything I needed to know in such a great environment. The day of confirmation was very interesting and moving. It was a pleasure to be taught by Rev. Stephen and Margaret Paradis, and being confirmed by the Archbishop Colin Johnson. Everyone in the church was very supportive with my journey and I thank them for being there on my special day. Overall, getting confirmed was a wonderful experience as being part of my continuing journey with Christ.

SOME REFLECTIONS

Lord Help Me Pray!

Lord help me pray, every single day. To find a way to speak clearly and say.
 I pray for everyone's salvation, right here & around the nation.
 Surround us with your safety now, as we totally surrender to you and bow.
 Bring us into your protection, elevating hearts in your direction.
 With grateful hearts, loving you. You took us from sad and blue.
 To what we can do for you, Lord, help us to obey you.
 How happy I am to serve, when before I didn't have the nerve.
 I was scared, lonely and confused, oh so abused, beaten and used.
 I read your great book daily; I went from sick and paley.
 To healthy, happy and sappy, dancing all over and tapping.
 You are so amazing, I'll stay and sing!
 Nothing will break my bond, with you giving me insight and dawned
 The light of another day, another chance to pray.
 I love you Lord Jesus, for dying for all of us.
 Nothing can get in between us; our love will never turn to rust.
 Lord help me pray!

Kathy Millette

Ask, Seek, Knock

In the center of my being
 God dwells –
 an ever present mystery
 that tells
 my heart to question with persistence
 the fundamental reason for my existence.

He bids me seek and seek
 until I find,
 and stirs my soul to search and search
 for peace of mind
 and delve life's depths for hidden truth and beauty
 beneath its surface ugliness and duty.

He bids me knock upon the wall
 of my defenses
 and reach beyond the limitation
 of my senses
 'til life opens to reveal that God will bring
 triumph and fulfillment wherever Christ is King.

~ Elizabeth A. Morley ~

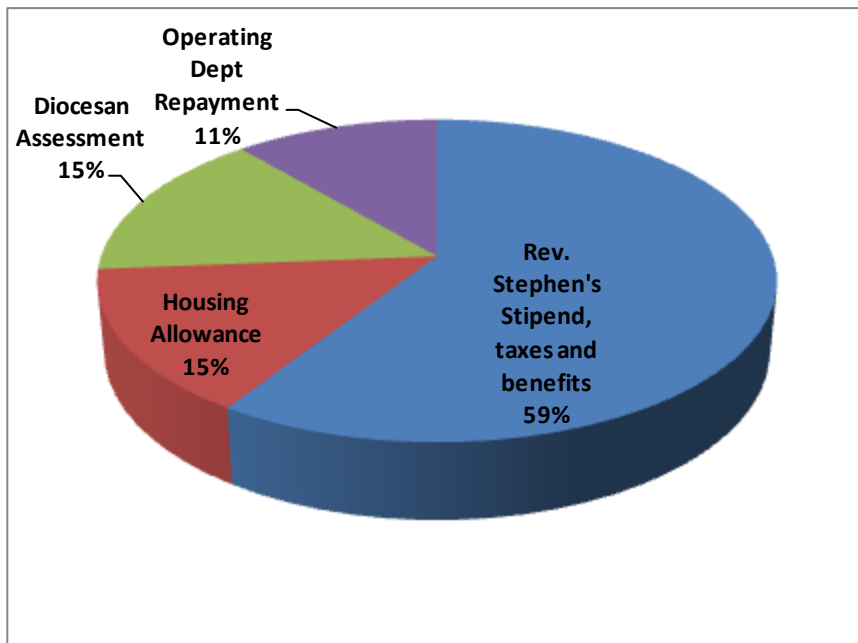
CONNECTION

FINANCIAL UPDATE FROM THE WARDENS

We are now in our 3rd year of a 3 year agreement with the Diocese. We entered into an agreement that we would remain current with our Monthly Invoices from the Diocese. We also agreed to repay back \$13,000 of our operating debt each year.

Current Monthly to the Diocese

| | |
|--|-------------------|
| Rev. Stephen's Stipend plus Taxes & Benefits | \$ 5,679.55 |
| Housing Allowance | \$ 1,400.00 |
| Diocesan Assessment | \$ 1,439.71 |
| Operating Debt Repayment | \$ 1,083.33 |
| Monthly Grand Total | \$9,602.59 |



2013 Revenue Plan
 \$220,178.05
 Average Monthly Revenue Target
 \$ 18,348.17

We have met our Payment Goals for the last two years. In turn the Diocese has forgiven us in excess of \$320,000 of capital debt.

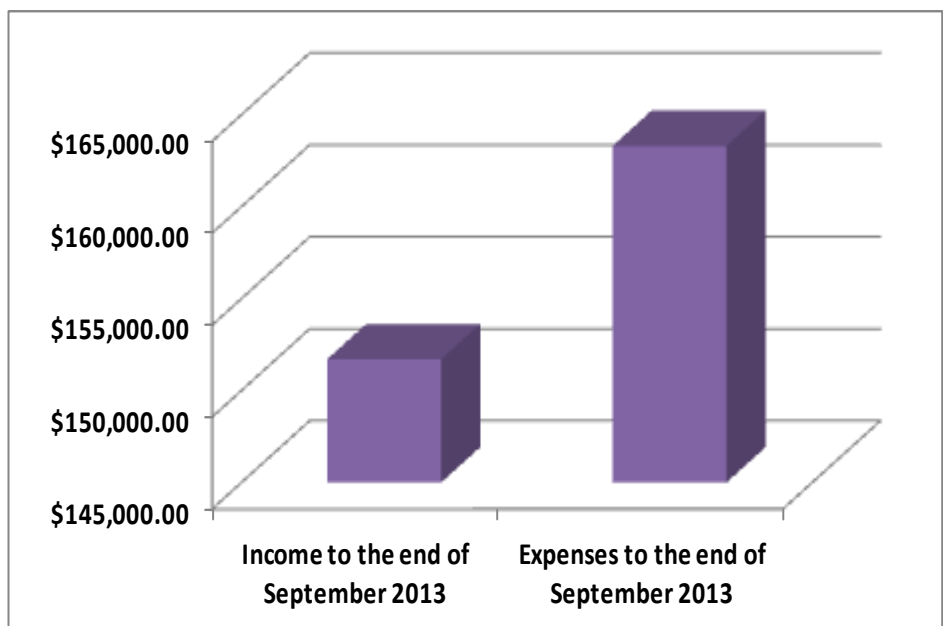
Balance Sheet Debt
 Capital Debt Owing on Church (\$488,000)
 Operating Debt owing the Diocese (\$98,000)
 Total Capital & Operating Debt (\$586,000)

Income and Expenses

Income to end of September 2013
 \$151,700

Expenses to end of September 2013—\$163,300
 Shortfall (\$ 11,600)

At the end of August our expenses are \$11,600 higher than our revenue year to date. Summer is especially challenging. The final three months of 2013 will provide us with every opportunity to close the gap. Let us do all that we can to ensure our financial health and surpass the expectations of the Diocese.



WE ARE IN THE DOUGH!
Submitted by Colleen Hamann



Lorraine and Colleen

We are in the dough.....literally and figuratively!! We had a very successful bake sale the end of September. We raised thousands of dollars to put towards our operating debt. I would like to thank all those who came out to help with set-up, clean-up, sales, and baking. I would especially like to thank my faithful and dedicated co-coordinator, Lorraine Whitwell. Lorraine and I spent half the summer baking and filling our freezers with meat and fruit pies. That is what two of us were able to accomplish working at it over a couple months.

We hope that in our future endeavours, more people will volunteer to help assist with preparation of fillings, assembling pies, etc. If you aren't sure what you could do to help just give us a call. We would like to arrange two days before our Christmas Bazaar and Bake Sale (Nov. 23rd) to make baked goods to restock our freezer. If you are willing to give us your assistance on one or two of these days we would be most grateful. Please send me an email at the church or leave a message to let me know if you would be available for an evening or afternoon.

Many hands make light work! Once again, many thanks to all who loaned us their hands.



Just one of the tables of baking and preserves at the sale

NEWCOMER'S WELCOME EVENING
Submitted by Margaret Paradis



Left to right, Anna Zielke, Barbara Semsch, Rev. Stephen, Margaret Paradis, Nellie McPhee and June Dodds

On Wednesday evening, October 2, St. Margaret's hosted an evening for newcomers. Over lively conversation and refreshments we "old timers" got to know a few of the newest members in our church.

The Rev. Stephen opened the evening with prayer, welcomed everyone and talked a little about what goes on in our parish. Margaret Paradis spoke about our pastoral care team and what it contributes. Then Bill Gray explained a little about the corporation of St. Margaret's and the finances of the church. The best part of the evening was getting to know the newest members of our St. Margaret's family. Those new members present were: Pat Callan, Shirley Hatch, Nellie McPhee, Jean Wallace, June Dodds, Wendy Pettey, and Sharon Zacchigna.

WELCOME! If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to ask the leaders of the church or other parishioners. We will find an answer for you. Also, if you would like a visit, let Colleen our secretary know and we will set a date. Again, welcome! We are looking forward to getting to know you.

MISSIONAL TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

Submitted by Peter Beckett

Over the past summer the MTP team came up with an experiment to engage people in the immediate community of the church. The team decided to adopt Hanmer Park through the "Adopt a Trail or Park" program through the City of Barrie. Clean-up of the park was implemented twice a week on Monday mornings at 10:00 am and Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm.

Throughout the summer people of St. Margaret's volunteered to help clean up the park and engaged in conversation with other people who visited the park. Many people we encountered were dog walkers or parents with young children who played in park. Many neighbours thanked us for helping keep the park clean as well as people walking by as we were cleaning up. So far, with this experiment, we had one young mother who we met at the park come to a couple of Sunday morning services. This is encouraging. As for the fall and winter we will be cutting back on the park visits due to less daylight and colder weather. We will be starting back up in the spring with some changes to make this project more successful.. The team attended the last formal meeting with the Diocese on September 28, 2013 in which we reported on our experiment. It is hard to believe that it has been one and half years since we began this process.



The above photo shows people of St. Margaret's participating in this MTP experiment. Thank you to all who participated in the park cleanup. A special thank you to Susan Cronje for chairing our MTP committee and for introducing the park clean up as an method for St. Margaret's to engage with the community.



THANK YOU!

On behalf of our daughter, Sarah, we would like to thank all of St Margaret's for their continued prayers, love and support during this most challenging of years. Sarah's health has been a tremendous struggle for her, and deeply concerning to us, especially this past few months. She had her gallbladder removed in late August, and has now been able to return to work. Thank you to Maggie Prentice for the beautiful prayer shawl (in Sarah's favourite colours!). It means the world to Sarah, and it was never far from her during her recovery.

"Thanks again to you all, love Bill, Cathy, James and Sarah Gray."

WANTED FOR THE CHRISTMAS ISSUE – STORIES OF OUTREACH

The Christmas Season is often when we think most of reaching out to members of the wider community, particularly those less fortunate. The Oxford dictionary defines outreach as "to reach out" or an "act of extending services, benefits to a wider section of the population as in community work". Many people at St. Margaret's volunteer in the community to assist charitable organizations and individuals. Would you be willing to share your story in the December issue of The Beacon? It would allow other people in the Parish to be more aware of needs in the community and the valuable work performed by volunteers from St. Margaret's and beyond. Please send your story to Barb Phillipps anytime before December 8th.

We welcome advertisements for The Beacon. Please inquire through the office or to the editor re policy and rates.