



St. James Church

In the Heart of the Village

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News & Views, Fall 2020

As we prepare to distribute this newsletter, excitement (and some trepidation) builds around the re-opening of St. James for worship.

Never in its 119 year history has St. James been closed. How fortunate we were that this pandemic arrived at a time when we had the technology to still share worship and social time as a parish family.

As the early Christians did, we worshipped from our homes, our decks and gardens. We took comfort from familiar readings and messages. We found new ways of expressing our faith, of finding

joy in the simple things, and of supporting those whose needs did not end with lockdown.

September 13 will be a historic day as the doors open again. Strict Covid19 protocols will be in place. See page 3 for details. Some people may not yet be comfortable with the idea of gathering, and so we plan to continue to have an online presence.

It won't be long before our beloved Caledon hills are painted with the colours of autumn. We have so much to be thankful for — abundance, peace, clean air and water, and being back in our beautiful worship space. Enjoy!

From Father Chris - The Fruit of the Spirit

In these autumn days, I know that many of you are harvesting the fruit and vegetables of your own gardens. As you do this work, the Word of God calls you to do likewise with the fruit of the Spirit in your life.

Although there are 9 of them listed in Galatians 5:22-23, St. Paul deliberately uses the singular word 'fruit' to describe a set of characteristics that grow together in a Spirit-filled person.

1. Love —to will the good of another, to serve a person for their good and intrinsic value, not for what the person brings you.
2. Joy — a delight in God for the beauty and worth of who God is and the blessings He freely gives you.
3. Peace — confidence and rest in the wisdom and control of God. It replaces anxiety and worry.
4. Patience —the ability to face trouble and uncertainty.
5. Kindness — similar to love, kindness is the ability and willingness to show goodness, generosity, and sympathy toward your neighbour.
6. Goodness (or integrity) – this means to be the same person in every situation, rather than a phoney or a hypocrite.
7. Faithfulness — to be loyal to others, totally reliable and true to your word.
8. Gentleness — humility and self-forgetfulness.
9. Self Control — the ability to resist the temptation and pursue only what is good and important.

That's the fruit of the Spirit you are called to yield in your life.

So how does this happen? First, remember that Jesus is the vine and you are His branches (John 15:5), that through Him you are rooted and grounded in God's unconditional love (Eph. 3:17). Therefore you're free to acknowledge and confess your works of the flesh as listed in Galatians 5:19-21.

Second, keep in step with the Spirit (Gal. 5:25). This is a positive, active process. It means more than simple obedience. The Spirit Himself is a living person, who glories in and magnifies the work of Jesus. So worship Jesus, adore Him, and your heart will find Him more glorious than the object of your temptations. That's how we prune away the works of the flesh and clear room for the fruit of the Spirit to grow.

Our gardens teach us important lessons about this growth. First, growth is gradual. You never actually see your tomato plants or sunflowers in the act of growing. You can only measure the increase compared to where the plant was at an earlier stage. Apply that lesson to your life: if you're going through a difficult time, you might realize: 'a few years ago I would never have been so patient or self-controlled in this situation.' This demonstrates that the fruit of the Spirit has been growing gradually and imperceptibly in your life. Finally, the growth of the Holy Spirit's fruit is inevitable. If you are grafted into Christ, if His Spirit flows through you, be assured that you will grow, blossom and yield the fruit of the Spirit. That fruit will be a sign of His life in you and a blessing to your neighbour.



Welcome happy morning – St. James opens for worship, September 13, 2020

What you really need to know:

The St. James leadership team is following the protocols established by the Anglican Diocese of Toronto to ensure that people can worship in the church in a safe manner.

What you'll find that's different:

We will all enter the church from the east doors (near the office). You may need to line up outside on the pavement markings. The door from the back parking lot will be locked. We will enter the church through the Gathering Space, and exit through the Narthex vestibule to the west.

To ensure that people sit at least 6 feet away from each other, the sidespeople will escort you to an open spot. Please do not change seats. If you absolutely must, you need to contact the side person. *Like it or not, we might not be in our old familiar pews! But we will be in our old familiar St. James!*

The washroom in the Gathering Space will be open, but all others will be closed.

There will be no coffee hour. If you want to bring a coffee into church, having gotten used to that during GoToMeeting services, that's ok!

There will be no shared communion chalice; and the bread wafer will be distributed with tongs. We will not be gathering at the Communion Table but Father Chris will bring the bread down and the side people will lead you to the front.

Sounds like a lot to remember, doesn't it? But fear not, there are signs everywhere. Sidespeople are getting training and will be there to assist, guide and answer questions.

Extra cleaning will take place between the services.

Following the Covid19 protocol requires additional resources - so please think about your ability to help in these areas:

- extra sides people (do NOT have to collect or count offerings)
- cleaning crew (supplies provided)
- 'tech' team — people who are willing to be trained to operate the camera and sound system.

And while we worry about what's changed and how it's not the same as it was, consider this list of what's going to be GREAT:

- knowing what day it is because you drove to church
- seeing the new roof for yourself
- worshipping with other human beings (not that our pets aren't great ...)
- appreciating the beauty of the windows
- listening to Mary play the old familiar organ
- waving at friends (you can even stick your tongue out - no one will see under your mask)
- catching up outside, at a distance, after the service
- participating in Holy Communion, Covid-style
- getting out of your stretchy pants; if you have any 'Sunday best' clothes left that fit!

JUST REMEMBER: You can't have breakfast at 10:15 and still make it to church on time. And since you can't slip in the back door unnoticed, better plan ahead!

Thank God - the roof is black again!

We're pretty sure that's what our church neighbours and passers-by are saying — without realizing that we really *are* thanking God for sending Mr. Alder and for helping us raise the funds to clean and re-paint the roof of the church.

Over the summer, Mr. Alder and his team continued to remove the old paint, apply the new undercoat and the top layer of paint. We are very fortunate that this work could continue unimpeded by Covid19.

Thank you to everyone at St. James, and beyond, who contributed to the roof fund. Thanks to Al Lawrie for making the beautiful glass cross sun catchers as our 'thank you' for those gifts. Thanks to Todd and the Churchwardens for shepherding the project for what seems like years! And let's not forget the people who have worked on the roof and the bell tower in previous times - Joe Campbell and Howard Jones come to mind.



Current work includes sandblasting the wooden eaves. Restoration of storm windows will take place over the winter.

Property report —

Todd Hillhouse

Further to the roof project, we have been approved for a restoration grant from the Town of Caledon and will receive the funding once the project is completed and inspected.

During the summer we were able to complete a clean up on the cemetery and the church basement thanks to a group of volunteers. We are working with the Town to secure a grant to cover a portion of the cost to replace the chain link fence at the cemetery. We also plan to apply for a grant in 2021 to repair/replace damaged head stones.

Caledon and Fire Services kindly conducted a site visit to our facility and provided updated occupant load certificates for the Great Hall and the church in accordance with the Fire Act and Building Code.

Although we are returning to our worship space on Sept. 13, we are planning on continuing to 'broadcast' our Sunday service. Thanks to a grant from the Diocese, most of the new equipment costs were covered. Our 'tech' crew: Neil, David, Tom and Jim are working to ensure the set up will work well before we go live in a few weeks.

We have been successful in our appeal to MPAC of the parking lot which had been listed as 'residential vacant' requiring payment of property taxes four times a year. This portion of the property is now classified as exempt and we will no longer receive property tax bills from the Town.

What's up in the garden?

Well, this was supposed to be the best ever year for the garden, considering the great start we all had and our renewed interest in growing vegetables. Have a look at these photos sent in by the parish family.



Clockwise from top: The soybean field which David Finch sees from his front door; Al Lawrie with his MAMMOTH Russian Sunflowers; butternut squash and potatoes grown in the Cameron garden; bumblebee in Diane's garden (don't ask about the veggies.....).

Parish Update

The Dow family had a wonderful holiday with family in the Kingston area.

Todd and Chris took in the night sky with their telescope - catching the Neowise comet and the Perseid meteor shower and other celestial wonders.

Chuck and Donna enjoyed family visits in their back yard and got in a few games of golf. Donna is waiting cataract surgery.

Al Lawrie has been busy tending his garden plot. See page 5 for a photo of his MAMMOTH sunflowers! Gillian has made a great recovery from her hip surgery.

Elizabeth and Gordon Morton are out on their bikes - Elizabeth has recovered nicely from her earlier misfortune and was brave enough to get back on the bike! They are both enjoying swimming - now they get a lane to themselves.

June Laver is feeling better and appreciates notes and cards, as does Anne Allengame. Call the office if you need contact information for these wonderful ladies.

Valerie Jones' ankle injury is healing and she and Howard have enjoyed visits from their grandchildren.

Diane and Jim took Skye camping at Killbear Provincial Park, where she earned her keep alerting everyone to the presence of a (small) bear. But still, a bear!

Please send Diane updates for the next newsletter. Remember the newsletter reaches shut-ins and others who do not attend regularly or do not have computers. Those folks would love to know how and what you are doing.

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Next issue's content is due Nov. 1

Theme: "Getting ready". If you have a worship area in your home, or display a cross or other symbol of your faith, please send Diane a photo.

Treasurer's Report — Todd Hillhouse

We are all experiencing challenges during this global pandemic and this has certainly impacted our finances in many ways.

We were successful in securing the CECRA funding (rent relief) for April to August inclusive which has been very beneficial to us and the day care.

I would encourage all our parishioners to consider signing up for preauthorized remittance (PAR) as this helps us in managing the church finances and budgeting.

If you wish to sign up please email Trudy Messer or I and we would be please to send you an information package.

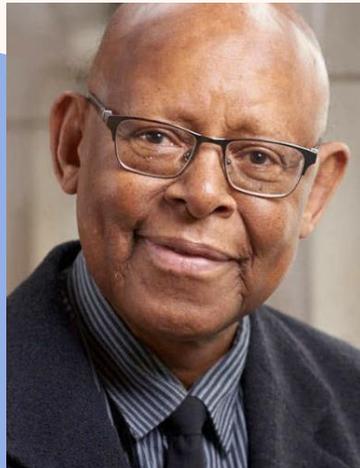
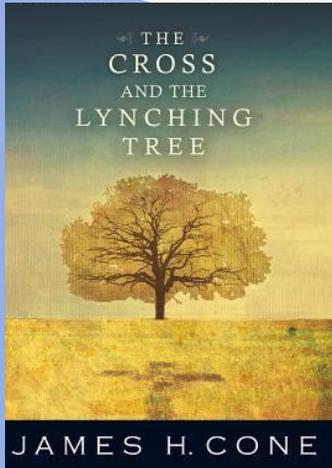
Thank you to everyone who continued to support St. James throughout the spring and summer. We wouldn't have made it without you!



Ongoing at St. James

Father Chris continues to offer the *Christian Foundations* and *Following Jesus* courses over the internet. Please see the website for details.

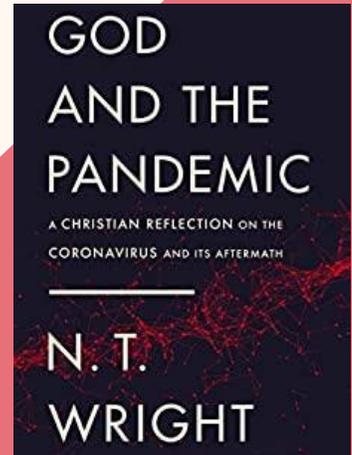
Join Diane Allengame every Thursday night for *Prayers as the sun goes down*, a gentle and short pray service to end the day. You don't have to join Facebook in order to watch the service. It is also recorded and can be played back any time. A link to the event is posted in the weekly parish Eblast.



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Golden Leaves

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
 shortening days, misty mornings, autumn glow.
 We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
 winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.
 Creator God, who brings forth
 both green shoot and hoar frost,
 sunrise and sunset,
 we bring our thanks
 for seeds that have grown,
 harvests gathered,
 storehouses filled,
 mouths fed.
 And, as your good earth rests
 through winter's cold embrace,
 we look forward to its re-awakening
 when kissed by Spring's first touch.

- Author Unknown

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*(you don't need a
 Facebook account to
 see the page)*

Web:

stjamescaledoneast.ca

The website has current
 information on:

- Upcoming services
and how to access
them
- How to donate to the
church
- Links to special events
such as Bishop
Jenny's talks

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