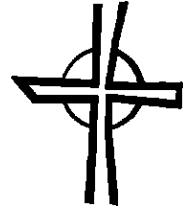


St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole Anglican Church
80 George Henry Blvd., North York, Ont. M2J 1E7

Tel: 416-494-7020 Website: www.stmatthew.ca



THE SPOTLIGHT AUTUMN 2008

AS SEPTEMBER BEGINS AGAIN

The end of this month of September, 2008, will mark the completion of my second year since Lizzie and I moved into the rectory. I began my work as your new incumbent on October, 2006. Much has happened since I came here, but what most significantly has taken place is the completion of a transition that began when Canon Greg Physick announced that he would leave the parish of St. Matthew the Apostle, Oriole, at the end of August, 2005.

I have settled well into my new ministry, a process of development that has meant my learning the history and traditions that you have established for yourselves. For you, however, the coming of a new incumbent has meant adjusting to someone with a different style and personality than the one with which you had become familiar. As customary in these changeovers in staffing, we have had some strains. I do now feel quite comfortable and confident here, and I hope you have come to feel the same way about me.

As we have neared the end of this stage of the parish's course, it has struck me that we have entered immediately into another unsettled period of transition. As you and I have worked out our teamwork under my leadership, we have suddenly started to lose some very significant stalwarts from our membership. Some, like Jim Coombs and Bob Stevenson, have died and left us bereft with sadness. I knew Jim as secretary of the Advisory Board, but most of you have seen him contributing in so many ways to his church and to his community.

Bob became invaluable to me in my move. He looked after Lizzie's and my well-being in the rectory. As property manager, a member of the outreach committee and of the clothing sale team, he cared deeply for his church and its ministry.

I will miss others, like Beth Laird and now Gerry Kileeg, as they move on from our city, but leave us without their guidance and strength. Still others, like our church school teachers for the past ten years, Lyn Atkins, Helen Edmunds, and Joy Alloway I will miss as they leave their long-term ministries to seek new challenges in God's vineyard. I had inherited a strong leadership team here at St. Matthew's when I first came as incumbent. The core of that team remains. Nonetheless, we are now undertaking significant shifts to bring on board new people and to alter the established roles of other leaders so that essential work in running the parish still gets completed.

Summer has meant for me a time of refreshment and recuperation that has renewed my sense that, in what has seemed in continuous flux because of these changes over the past three years, God remains constant. The steadfast pole around which all flows in creation is our Creator's will for us to love each other and to bring justice and balance to our world. Whenever I become frightened or uncertain about the future, I have become more reliant on the assurance I find in my prayer, the invariable answering love for me as an individual that I hear from the Source of my being. I hope that, in this way, your summer will have restored you as well in your faith in Jesus' abiding love of each of us.

The Rev. Canon Brad Lennon

FROM THE WARDEN'S DESK SEPTEMBER 2008

We hope that everyone had a wonderful summer despite all the rain. As we start a new school year, your children and grandchildren return to the classroom and bring much relief to parents and grandparents. The leaves will soon start turning brown and falling to the ground as the Fall/Winter draws near, cottages are shut down for the season and life all but seem normal once again. So far it has been a very memorable year, one that had non-stop activities up until we break for the summer.

Two of our stalwarts at St. Matthew have passed on, Jim Coombs and Bob Stevenson. Jim had been at St. Matthew for many years from its inception, was involved with the Oriole Church Properties when the Covenant United Church shared the building with St. Matthew's Anglican.. His work with Eva's Place, the Liberal Party, the Henry Farm Neighborhood Association and of course our own Advisory Board Secretary, his devotion to his beloved wife Ann, speaks to the kind of person he was.

And Bob, his presence was always felt, and his voice like that of a radio celebrity. His patience, sincerity and the love of family was real. His word was his bond and one of the final things Bob did, was to fulfill his commitment to having the garden where the sign is on the Sheppard Avenue entrance. His work with the Sanctuary Renovation Committee was a journey of patience and commitment. Bob was always offering himself for service. We will miss them both; their untiring volunteering in various roles over the years will certainly leave an indelible mark on us.

Our first Rector Fr. Morley and Mrs. Morley also passed on and may we cherish the memories of both of them for their time they spent with us at St. Matthew. May they rest in peace and God's perpetual light shine upon them.

Beth Laird who departed to Montreal during the summer has given so much to the Outreach Committee and in particular the clothing sale, she will be missed by many but we want to wish her all the best as she settles in Montreal with her family.

The property is in good condition. Our treasurer Clifford continues to exhibit exceptional wisdom in the financial area, we are in fairly good condition financially but continue to monitor our expenses carefully.

While Fr. Brad and Lizzie were on vacation during the summer, we would like to thank Fr. Jacques and Fr. Jeff, for their time with us over the summer. Thank you to Elan for his painting over the summer. To all committees, we thank you for the continued support and we look forward to the activities over the next few months. Let us continue to get inspired and work to make St. Matthew a wonderful place to worship

Your Wardens,
Delores Lawrence, Janice Sanders, Ray James and Charlene Yeates.

FROM OUR NEW ASSISTANT CURATE OF THE CHURCHES OF ST. MATTHEW-THE-APOSTLE, ORIOLE, AND INCARNATION, WILLOWDALE

I hope you all have had a relaxing and enjoyable summer, and are refreshed for another exciting year at school, work, and church. I've enjoyed the past couple months meeting some of you, and I'm very much looking forward to getting to know each of you better and sharing in your ministries.

In the coming months I will be working to create a joint youth ministry of the congregations of St. Matthew's and Incarnation. **Our Kickoff event will be a fun social outing at LaserQuest on Saturday, October 4th, at 1:00 P.M.** Mark your calendars and look for more details to come!

After our kickoff event, we will continue to meet every other Saturday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. As the group continues, we will explore our options for learning and outreach, and make plans for the group's future. All youth and their friends are welcome, and any volunteers that would like to assist may contact me at the church office or email me at revjeff@ymail.com.

Today's youth face a future of significant economic, social, and moral challenges. Our city and neighborhoods are undergoing rapid development and demographic shifts. It's a time of unprecedented change in our country and our world. Even the future of the church as we once knew it is uncertain. The question, "what does it mean to be a Christian and an Anglican" in this time of change is a relevant and crucial one to ask. It is natural to feel some anxiety and to have many questions.

One of my favorite Gospel readings is the story of the two disciples walking on the road to Emmaus following Jesus' arrest and execution by the authorities. Everything they had believed and hoped for in Jesus seemed lost. Events had turned so far from what they expected, they didn't know what to think or where to go. Their minds were only full of troubling questions. Just then a stranger appeared in their midst. He walked and talked with them on the road, and then stopped along the way to share a meal. When the stranger gave thanks and broke bread with them, they suddenly realized it was Jesus himself who was with them. This moment changed them, and helped them to continue with hope, faith, and joy.

I am thankful for this chance to walk with you for a time on our journey of faith, and to live our questions together. We all, youth and adults, have many questions about our future and our faith. Like those disciples on the road to Emmaus, what we do together as a church community is walk together, share our questions, and break bread together. We come to church not to be told the answers but rather to be with one another as we seek our answers. Jesus promised, "when two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." Knowing that we have each other and Jesus with us gives us hope and encouragement for the journey.

I see in this story a model for our youth ministry that has three parts:

Sharing in Fellowship

One of the important parts of being Christians is sharing times of fellowship with each other. We have fun, laugh, and share our stories. The disciples walked together, not alone. We will plan to have several events throughout the year where we can just have fun and spend time with each other.

Growing in Faith

We all have many questions about the meaning of our lives. Why are we here? What kind of relationship does God want with us? What does God want us to do? The disciples learned from Jesus as he walked with them and opened the meaning of the Scriptures to them. We will take time for learning about our faith and asking the questions that matter most to us.

Putting Faith into Action

The disciples were changed at heart by Jesus, knowing him to be alive in them, and it moved them to action. He continued to live in them as they loved others just as he had loved them. We also will look for opportunities to offer service and outreach to others in our community.

Please keep all our youth and families in your prayers as we begin our journey together.

The Rev. Jeff Donnelly+

LOSING OUR VOCABULARY

The Canadian wireless communication device manufacturer, Research in Motion (RIM), is advertising its new Blackberry Bold model as a mark of "accomplishment and aspiration" for those who purchase it. The words "accomplished" and "aspiring" resonate deeply with some cherished experiences in my history, but these terms have now taken on a different nuance for me since they have become a part of this new marketing campaign. They have become calloused and insincere by their use as a tool to get me to buy the new Blackberry.

Once-adequate words often become depreciated and corrupted by overuse or by an alteration in the contexts in which one has customarily seen and heard them. Statements that originally held sacred meanings, like "spirit" and "mystery", have transformed over time to baser and commonplace employment. Where "spirit" once meant the vital force that kept us alive, it has now become an expression for a temporary attitude or a state of mind that enables us to face challenges—"team spirit."

“Mystery” referred to “religious truths that could only be known by revelation and never fully understood”. Now “mystery” can signify any seeming riddle capable of human resolution. “Mystery” today even characterizes a genre of fiction that deals with the settling of a crime and the finding of a culprit.

I spend a great deal of time and energy in preparing my sermons or writing articles like this to uncover the language that adequately and accurately depicts the insights or concepts that I want to communicate. I find myself frustrated when I have to so frequently turn aside expressions, that hold for me a reminder of the implications in which these terms historically have their roots, but now have lost all such connotations in the ordinary world. That is the explanation of my annoyance when I find yet again an advertiser that has adulterated and robbed my terminology for the principles that I hold important.

However, I wonder if it is sometimes possible to revive and restore older, long-profaned terms to their earliest form as meaningful religious language. Two words that I have long had difficulty using are “mission” and “evangelism”. Both of these have had well-established foundations with “mission” coming from the Latin denotation of the “act of sending” and “evangelism” coming from the Greek phrase meaning “gospel”. Mission and evangelism both took their primary function from Jesus’ post-resurrection words to his disciples in John’s gospel (20:21): “As the Father has sent me, so now I send you,” and in Matthew (28:19-20): “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.”

When, as a young man not long ordained, I became director of All Saints’ Church-Community Centre, I took over an outreach ministry of the Anglican Church that might once have called itself a mission. The ministry had its location in Toronto’s skid row alongside ministries by other denominations that called themselves missions—the Fred Victor Mission of the United Church, the Scott Mission, the Toronto City Mission, the Yonge Street Mission. There was also the “Evangel Hall” of the Presbyterian Church. Each of these missions had long histories for doing work with the destitute and needy.

Yet some of them were reflecting on that history and critiquing it. They had become embarrassed by their having become known for using their meals for the hungry and their services as bribes for getting followers into their worship services. “You must enter here for prayer and for your sermon on the evil of drinking away your paycheque before you go to the dining hall for your lunch.”

I shared then these older ministries’ reservations about the associations that “mission” had for the homeless. I was glad that I, in my ministry, did not have to share with them that entrenched title of “mission” over my workplace that would carry for my work such taints of outdated styles of preaching and conversion. In the same way, overseas “mission” and “missionaries” had taken on the connotations of the abuses that had come from the Church’s accompaniment of the colonizing armies of the Victorian era.

Despite all that, with the perspective of several decades further removed from that era, I now have a fuller picture of the range of what mission meant a century or so ago. I am not so narrowly focused, as I once was, on the wrongs that I could not see the positives. I think of the valiant energy of some of my frontier heroes of the Anglican Church.

Archdeacon Robert MacDonald, as a priest of both European and native Canadian parentage, faced discrimination and hostility from his clergy colleagues. Just the same, he worked a lifetime in the Yukon among the Gwitch’in people—to first learn their language, then to develop a way of inscribing it, and then to translate the scriptures and prayer book and a hymnal into their tongue. His translations are still in use today, still in print from the Anglican Book Centre.

Did you know that the organizer of the first successful expedition to climb Mt. McKinley, Denali, North America’s tallest mountain, was an Anglican archdeacon, the Ven. Hudson Stuck? Measured from its base, at 20320 feet, Denali stands as the tallest peak in the world. Nearly 100 climbers have since died on that mountain, averaging nearly two each year.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF PAUL AND NANCY MORLEY

Stuck and his company reached the summit in 1913, and it would not be climbed again for another ten years. He organized the expedition to raise funds for his work in the Arctic, but although he could have made himself wealthy on the lecture circuit about his adventure, he returned to his work as a missionary in Alaska. He died there in 1925.

Behind and alongside each of these men were thousands of other men and women in those days. So many of them had an ardent desire to share with others the love of Christ that they each had felt themselves. For anyone on the front lines in the Far North or in the Far East, there were hundreds of others who raised money to support the work or who bundled clothing or foodstuff for the disadvantaged.

I am not sure that the Church's work of establishing hospitals and schools and universities outweighed the negatives of the paternalistic attitudes and chauvinism that the missionaries also brought. Nonetheless, for all those failings of our forebears which we later generations must apologize, we can still applaud their achievements. Where these missionaries planted we now see some of the most fruitful expansion of our Anglican Church, now indigenously led—in Africa, in Asia, in Latin America, and in Canada's North.

As I observe the volunteers sorting clothes for the monthly sale at St. Matthew's or the working group of our parish that is organizing neighbours in Parkway Forest, they remind me of the deeds performed by the missionaries of yesteryear. I pray that we can learn from their examples of old, not just to avoid their pitfalls of arrogance and conceit. Rather we can pursue as well their zeal, their keen desire to share the gospel, and their courage to venture with just their faith to rely upon. To express the good news of Christ in speech that outsiders understand, we will continue to struggle with language that has become outmoded or rendered unhelpful to us by misusage and misappropriation. All the same, perhaps "mission" and "evangelism" might now have reached a point where we can again return them to serve our ministry, reinstating them into their long-ago cherished place.

The Rev. Canon Brad Lennon

The Rev. Paul Morley, our first incumbent and founder of this parish of St. Matthew the Apostle, as well as his wife, Nancy, died this summer. Paul and Nancy were both 85 at their deaths. Paul died on July 17, 2008 following a long battle with cancer and cardiovascular disease. Paul was the son of a priest, the late Rev. Edward Morley. He was a lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Navy during World War II and a former Padre of H.M.C.S. "York" Toronto. Paul was rector of St. Matthew's for twenty-five years, from 1964 -89. He had spent his years in retirement in Dorset, enjoying fishing. His funeral was held on July 28 at Trinity Church, Aurora, only a month after his wife's funeral there, which had been held on June 7th. She had died of heart disease on May 12th.

The Morleys are fondly remembered by many in this parish, and we are keeping them in our prayers, as well as their children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Paul and Nancy were the parents of Trish, Vicki, and Cathy. We owe the Morleys our gratitude for the seeds they planted here nearly a half century ago and carefully nurtured for so long a time.

A LETTER FROM, THE FAMILY OF THE REV. PAUL MORLEY

Dear Clergy and Parishioners of St. Matthew,

The family of Paul Morley, wish to thank everyone at St. Matthew for the lovely flowers and kind words sent to his memorial service at Trinity Anglican Church in Aurora on July 28, 2008.

Dad always held a very special spot close to his heart for his friends at St. Matthew and had many fond memories of the many experiences and his journey over the 24 years as Rector.

He spoke often of the members of the Church and extended families whom he had the privilege of marrying and even later baptizing their children after he retired north to Dorset.

Please extend our sincere gratitude to those members who were able to attend the service. It was wonderful to visit with them again and to those who sent their prayers and thoughts.

We wish you all good health and God's blessing.

Sincerely,

Vicki Morley, on behalf of the Morley family

LANSING FOODBANK YOU CAN HELP!

Due to the rapidly rising cost of food and in particular, **RICE**, the Lansing Food Bank is no longer financially able to continue buying **rice**, a staple that is needed for its patrons. The price of an 8kg bag of rice has risen in less than a year from under \$4.00 to around \$14.00.

The budget for the Food Bank is no longer able to absorb these increases and will soon be forced to rely on donations.

However, the cost of soup, pasta, and protein such as beans and peanut butter, have not risen in the same proportion as the cost of rice. Currently the Food Bank is able to manage its bulk purchase of these staples.

The usual donations in kind that are given by St. Matthew's parishioners are still very much appreciated. In addition, to supplement your donations through St. Matthews, financial donations of \$10 - \$15 **or more**, can be made to the Lansing United Church to enable them to continue the bulk purchase and dispersment of **rice**.

Should you wish to help in this manner, cheques should be made payable to Lansing United Church and the words "Food Bank" should be placed on the 'memo' line. A tax receipt will be issued for amounts of \$10 or more. Please mark the envelope with the names of either David Johnson or Jane Slessor and they will see that your donation reaches Lansing United Church. If neither David nor Jane is in Church on Sundays, it can be placed on the collection plate and Jane will pick up any envelope marked for Lansing from the office during the week.

Respectfully submitted, Jane Slessor



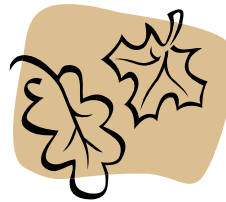
'ALPHA COURSE'

All are welcome, those seeking faith and those renewing their faith.

Where: St. Timothy's Catholic Church
Leith Hill Rd. (just north of St. Matthew)

When: Tues. Sept. 23, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Every Tuesday for 10 weeks

Dinner is served prior to each meeting.
(Sessions and dinner are free)



AUTUMN AUCTION

St. Matthew-the Apostle Church
Saturday, October 4
at 6:30 p.m.

\$20 per person or buy a table for 6 at \$100. Your ticket includes a glass of wine, homemade desserts, \$5 auction bucks. Wide variety of quality services/items on the block **plus** silent auction table. For info or tickets: clifford_wong@sympatico.ca or sealfam@rogers.com.

A DISTURBING PROBLEM

Theft and vandalization of some of our Auction donations

Recently Bonnie and Bruce LaRue and Ann Coombs went to the Church to go over the Auction donations stored there. They were shocked and dismayed to discover that some valuable items were stolen, and others vandalized. It is beyond belief that such a thing could happen.

This, of course, makes things more difficult for the committee. They have worked very hard to come up with enough items, and this hasn't helped.

Please, if you are in the building, keep an eye open for strangers and approach them to see why they are there.

If you have not already contributed, we really need anything you can donate. Please consider this.

If you have something, please call any member of the committee, particularly Ann Coombs (416-226-6827).

OUR BIG BAZAAR

Circle **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8th** on your calendar, reserved for St. Matthew's annual Christmas Bazaar. This is our last major fund-raising event of the year, **and we need your help, ideas and support.** All the popular tables will be back with a few additions. Live entertainment is on the agenda again and you can shop on two levels, enjoying a coffee and donuts from our Snack Bar as you browse, before enjoying our popular buffet luncheon. Consider donating items such as bestsellers, toys and games, unique keepsakes, handcrafted items, jewellery, crystal, vintage oldies; any quality items you may wish to recycle for a good cause; baked goodies, a buffet contribution and/or a filled bottle or two would also be gratefully received.

Helping hands are also a gift, and so if you can spare a few hours the day of the event to help (wo)man a table, we want you! Check the weekly bulletins at church for special requests or needs from your hard-working convenors listed below.

<u>TABLE</u>	<u>CONVENER</u>	<u>TELEPHONE</u>
Leisure World	Arlene Allen/Cliff Edward	647-302-2844
Bake Table	Shirley Stevenson	416-269-5760
Brad's Bottles	Father Brad/Cliff Wong	
Lunch Room	Val Seales	416-490-0943
Trinkets & Treasures	Mary Fox	416-493-3209
Men At Work	Norm Fox	416-493-3209
Church Mouse Stitchers	Janice Sanders	416-491-6422
Church Mouse Pantry	Shirley Young/Carol Woodman	416-494-7836
Silent Auction Table	Jane O'Keefe	416-494-7020
Snack Bar	Steve O'Keefe/Elan Seales	
Bag Boutique	Ann Coombs	416-226-6827

Please contact Bonnie LaRue, Coordinator (416) 495-7212 or bonnie_larue@hotmail.com as well.

THE CHURCH'S BUSINESS

A workshop with our Area Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Patrick Yu



Rediscover what God is doing in our lives and in the world by finding the story of our faith, owning the story, and telling the story.

St. Matthew's Welcome Room
September 20, 2008,
9:30 am to 1 pm
Refreshments served.