



“Together we are walking with our Lord and celebrating the spirit of St. Francis on a journey of worship, service, fellowship and peace”

February 2019

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**St. Francis of Assisi
Anglican Church**
Meadowvale

The Franciscan

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“From the Mouths of Babes” Jen Jones

The children presented “The Christmas Story in the Children’s Words” in December. After the Christmas pageant, Father Jeff said, “I thought that the Pageant told the Christmas story with a fresh perspective”. The inclusion of the children's own words about what happened so long ago brought the story closer to our own hearts. Every child participated with enthusiasm. “A wonderful event. And I love singing the Christmas Carols.”

Throughout the fall, we asked the children to tell us about the Christmas story. They put an interesting spin on the traditional story. We heard that it was all about Jesus and that he was born on a farm, because there were animals there. The sheep followed Jesus and the wise people gave Jesus gifts of peace, love, and kindness and also a whole bucket of gold. The wise people found Jesus with a map because they didn’t have GPS. We also heard that Jesus was born on Christmas day and that Santa Claus brings presents.

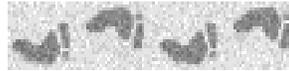
The children did a great job with the pageant. They helped to write it. The narrators spoke very clearly and the actors followed their cues. The church was full and everyone enjoyed this time of praise and worship.

In the first Sunday School class after Christmas, the children and teachers were asked about the pageant. Lucy, Gabby, and Jemimah all liked being angels together. Vahan and Zachary were happy their cousins were shepherds with them. Mackenzie thought everyone did an amazing job. Auni liked that the pageant included everyone and that the children helped write the pageant. Becky said that the children did a wonderful job presenting their Christmas story.

Weekly Programs

Sundays	8:30am Said Eucharist
	10am Holy Eucharist with Sunday School, & Choir
Mondays	11am-12 Line Dancing with Sunny ~ \$5
Wednesdays	10am Communion and Prayers
	10-11:30 Yoga with Margaret ~ \$5
Thursdays	7:30-9pm Choir Practice





I Saw the Light

Father Jeff

Epiphany is traditionally known as the season of Light. This Light of course is Jesus who has come into the world as the Light that has been revealed to the Magi, to the aged and devout Simeon, Anna the Prophetess, to John the Baptist and to all who witnessed Jesus' Baptism. And so this begins the Ministry of Jesus for the next three years. "The Light shines in the darkness and the darkness will never overcome it! The true Light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world." (John 1:5, 9) And of course, we too, faithful members of St. Francis, have seen this Light in Jesus that guides the direction of our own lives as it pertains to the matters of the Spirit.

When I was in my late teens I played the drums in a Rock N Roll band called Heaven and Earth. We used to play our own rock rendition of Hank Williams song, "I Saw the Light". We played in the local Church Coffee shops on Friday evenings for the gathering Youth Groups. All of us had a passion for the Lord that expressed itself in high energy testimony to the wonderful joy and peace that came with asking Jesus to come into our lives and hearts. The song chorus goes,

"I saw the Light, I saw the Light,
No more darkness no more night,
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight,
Praise the Lord, I saw the Light"

Those were the pristine days of my youth. I have great memories of those uncomplicated times. But, as we all know, life isn't always a bowl of cherries. Darkness does come into our lives through tragedy, sorrow, hardship, sickness and challenge. Sometimes our hopes and dreams become shattered through the cruel twist of fate. Yes, and I have seen the light even when that light begins to diminish and yes sometimes even go out.

In these moments ~ that is when we have a chance to discover the depth of our Faith. In these moments of darkness when it seems like all is lost we remember that God's promise to us, because we are his children, is Life, Love, Healing, Restoration, Forgiveness, Prosperity, Blessing, Abundance and Peace. These Blessings come to us through our own prayers, the prayers of others, they come to us through our community of faith that builds us up and upholds us during the difficulty no matter what it is. God comes to us through the Scripture, in our Worship and Praise, in our fellowship with one another and we discover that we are never alone. God Loves Us! Jesus lifts us up and blesses us. We discover that there is always a light at the end of the tunnel. We discover that no storm of life lasts forever. We discover in the words of St. Francis that "all the darkness in the world can never extinguish the light of one single candle." We discover that particularly in the darkness God comes to our aid. We find each other in the dark and that sparks a new light within us. And that light is the Light of Christ.

My brothers and sisters, I believe that God in Jesus wants us to let the Light of his Love shine in our hearts and lives. I believe that Jesus want us to be the Light for one another. I believe that when we share the Light that is in us with another soul that we experience the Glory of God. I believe that we see the Glory of God in one another. I believe that I see the Light of Christ when I look into the eyes of my wife, Yvette. I believe that I see it in my children, although, sometimes I have to look pretty hard. Lol! I see it in my mother, my grandchildren, my friend Dave, my colleagues and of course in you, the members of St. Francis. The Glory of God is present not only in this beautiful world that God created but in all of God's people. I witnessed the Glory in Nature the other night when I saw the Lunar Eclipse. I dressed up nice and warm, sat in a chair and leaned it up against the telephone pole and watched for about 45 minutes including the orange Blood Moon. I sent up hundreds of prayers. This experience moved my soul. It was glorious! And of course, I howled at the moon too! I wasn't going to let that moment pass me by.

I began by quoting the Gospel of John, so let me finish with another quote from John. "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. And we have beheld his Glory, the Glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of Grace and Truth." (John 1:14)

May we all experience the Light of Christ as we are guided through this year of 2019.
Blessings,

Father Jeff

"All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle."

St. Francis of Assisi





ACW ~ A Season of Love and Support

Vanna Boghossian

Winter 2018 was a very successful time for the St. Francis ACW. We gathered and planned taking a leadership role in fund raising. Our Christmas bake sale raised \$606.00 that we can disperse to charities and/or families in need. Our Christmas hampers were so well organized and we were able to meet our goals by collecting and distributing many articles of clothing, gift cards, and money to families in need. We thank the whole congregation for their love and support in aiding us to accomplish these goals. We ended 2018 with a wonderful Christmas party (pictures attached), where we revealed our 2018 Secret Sister and selected our 2019 Secret Sister.

We encourage all women of St. Francis to join us in our meetings. Lots of love, laughter, eating and crafting goes on at our meetings and shared energy. ACW February meeting will be: Feb. 25th place TBD. Please watch Sunday Bulletin and St Francis ACW Facebook Page for announcements of all ACW meetings.



The love and laughter of Sisterhood



Our Christmas "Jennifers"

Lessons and Carols



It is always wonderful to be able to take advantage of our ecumenical space and share a service with the White Oak Congregation. This year was our turn to host the service of Lessons and Carols on December 30. It was really evenly attended by both congregations (53 Presbyterian, 57 Anglican) and we made a "joyful noise unto the Lord" singing a lot of Christmas favourites and hearing the Christmas story through scripture. An awesome time of fellowship followed during our joint coffee hour. Thanks to Father Jeff and Pastor Billy for facilitating this shared worship!

Save the Date

MESSY CHURCH
A DAY OF FAMILY FUN IN LENT



MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND GRAB YOUR KIDS, GRANDKIDS AND NEIGHBOUR'S KIDS

SATURDAY MARCH 9, 2019
MORE DETAILS TO COME!



Order of the Diocese of Toronto

Jennifer Jones



Congratulations to Tric Glover who was awarded the Order of the Diocese of Toronto (ODT) at St James Cathedral on January 1, 2019. A number of us from St. Francis of Assisi attended the service and it was very special to watch Tric be presented with this honour by the Diocesan Bishop, Andrew Asbil. We are all very proud of Tric who truly deserves this honour.

When filling out the nomination for the award, Father Jeff asked a few people what Tric had done at St. Francis, the answer was usually, "Everything but warden". What follows is the submission that was sent in and certainly Tric has done just about everything in the church, except warden (and maybe also Envelope Secretary?).

"Tric has volunteered at St. Francis of Assisi for over 30 years. She has been involved in many roles such as Sunday School Teacher and later Superintendent as well as organizing the annual Christmas Pageant. Tric is one of our Lay Leaders in Worship and has led services of Morning Prayer and preached the Homily at least once each summer for the past five years when the Rector is on holiday. Tric organizes the Servers including their training and scheduling. She has Chaired many committees including the Worship Committee, Advisory Board, Stewardship with Presentations and the Christmas Hamper Program. Tric has also assisted in running the Confirmation Classes and Baptismal Preparation as well as assisting in leading particular weeks in the annual Lenten Study Programs. Tric organizes intimate Prayer Circles for special needs and assists in the Parish Prayer Card Program. Tric organizes and produces the quarterly Newsletter called the Franciscan which is a daunting task. On a personal level Tric reaches out to people all the time when she hears about something going on, or if we haven't seen someone in a while, by sending encouraging and uplifting notes in the mail. Tric has also been involved with Coffee Hour, Edenwood Turkey Dinners for Seniors and Food Bank Drives. She pretty much has done everything in the Parish except be an official Warden. We like to think of her as our silent Warden as we know that we can always count on her for some level headed input when we ask for it. Tric has also been involved with Diocesan Programs such as Parish Selection Committee support person for Parishes looking for a new Priest. Tric was also involved in the early planning stages for the Natural Church Development Program and attended all of the Training Sessions."

From all of us at St. Francis, congratulations, Tric! May your light continue to shine and your works continue to glorify!

Parish Givings



As you will see at Vestry, our parish family has maintained our regular givings throughout 2018 and the wardens and corporation offer their sincere thanks to all. Your commitment to the financial wellness of the church through PAG, regular envelope givings or donations for special seasons or celebrations and memorials help us ensure an Anglican presence in Meadowvale and provide a safe and welcoming place to explore our faith. Thanks again to the whole parish family. Watch for our Stewardship and Re-Commitment campaign later in the spring.



A Quiet Balance

Tric Glover



How many of you have been to the movies lately and seen those cute cartoons about the distracting habits of movie goers – “Don’t be a Tommy Texter” or a”Sally Soundtrack” These clips are meant to remind movie goers to respect all others in the theatre who have come to watch the movie and don’t want to miss anything.

The same good manners also apply to coming to church. Depending on your background, experiences of worship and where you are on your faith journey – they may apply even more.

When we come to worship, we should always be mindful of where we are. The church centre doesn’t look like a traditional church so it is so easy to forget that when we walk into our St Francis sanctuary, we are walking on holy ground. We are in God’s house. All of us here at St Francis value the friendship and support of our community so much. We all know that we are family. For me – I think God’s power works in us in this way – greeting, acknowledging, helping, supporting and loving each other. It is at the essence of who we are as a church family reflecting God’s grace. And we also all know that children are sometimes rambunctious and often want to ask about things that are going on. Also important!

But, when we are listening to scriptures, hearing an interpretation of the Good News, praying or preparing to meet our Lord in the bread and wine, we must find a balance. We come together in communal worship and we must rejoice in that, but as family, we must also respect that others may be distracted by chatter while they are trying to listen or pray. In a time where technology is so prevalent – we must remember to mute our devices when we walk through the doors (I usually remember after the first hymn! – I need to get better). Lent is a time of reflection, learning, giving up, taking on. As Lent approaches – I pray that we will be intentional about our surroundings and those with whom we share them. I pray that we will give up some bad habits and take on a new focus of active listening and thoughtful worship.



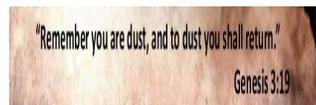
Palms to Ashes

Please bring your blessed palm fronds and crosses back to the church over the next few weeks. They will be burned and then used in the imposition of ashes at our services on Ash Wednesday.



Palm Sunday celebrates Jesus’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem, so when the crosses used in the Palm Sunday service are converted to ashes, we are reminded that Christ’s crucifixion swiftly followed triumph. But using the ashes to mark the cross on our foreheads symbolises that though death will come to us all, we know that it is not the end. Thanks to Jesus sacrifice another chapter awaits us.

It is a powerful and reflective way to begin Lent.



Black History Service February 10, 2019

Following results of our parish poll, St Francis will be holding a service to celebrate Black History Month. This year’s service will take place February 10, 2019 at 10 am. There will be a Pot Luck lunch after the service.



Annual Vestry Meeting February 24, 2019



Our Annual General Meeting (Vestry) will be held following the 10 am service on February 24. Please come to review financials, discuss the business end of the church and vote in new leaders. Finger food will be provided at Coffee Hour

Pancake Supper March 5, 2019



Once again, St Francis Youth will be hosting a delicious Pancake Supper on “Fat Tuesday” March 5 between 5:30 & 7:30 pm Prices are \$6 Adult, \$3 for 12 and under, \$15 for a Family (and that’s a bargain!). Buy your tickets today!

Ash Wednesday March 6, 2019

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent—a time for intentional reflection, and prayer. Some ‘give up’ as a symbol of sacrifice. Some ‘take on’ as a symbol of service and gratitude.



Services with imposition of ashes will be at 10 am and 7:30 pm



Celebrations

WELCOME JACK

Diane and Geoff Wilson are so proud to announce the birth of their new grandson Jack Wilson Mackenzie.

Well rumour has it that Santa predicted we would see this little guy on January 12, but he must have had his glasses on backwards, because Jack was born on January 21 and weighed in at 8 lbs 10 oz.



A son for mom Sarah and dad Bryan and the chance for little Ellie to become a “big” sister. Although Sarah and Bryan no longer live in the area, we are all anxious for them to visit and bring their growing family to St Francis for a Sunday service for a visit.

Congratulations to the whole family!

COMMUNION OPTIONS

Last year Lorraine Palmer brought the idea of an alternative method of receiving wine at communion forward to the Advisory Board. Father Jeff began a time of consultation within the Diocese to ensure the practice of individual cups was acceptable and had precedence. With the okay, the Palmer family generously donated our new tray and cups and they were blessed in celebration in January, with the family present. This is not a replacement for the common cup, but an alternative for any who wish. We are still working out smooth logistics at the rail, so please be patient and comments or suggestions can be made to Worship Committee members. Thanks Palmer Family!



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

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“Make me a channel of your peace.”

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE:

WWW.STFRANCISAOFM.ORG

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Mark Your Calendar!



February 10	Black History Celebration and Pot luck lunch	10 am service
February 14	Happy Valentine’s Day	
February 23	Ironmen’s Breakfast ~ Hutchison Room	9:30 am
February 24	Annual Vestry	Following 10 am service
February 25	ACW February Meeting	Location TBD
March 5	Pancake Supper ~ Hutchison Room	5:30 pm ~7:30 pm
March 6	Ash Wednesday Services	10 am and 7:30 pm
March 6 ~ April 20	Season of Lent (watch for study group times)	
March 9	Messy Church Family Event	