



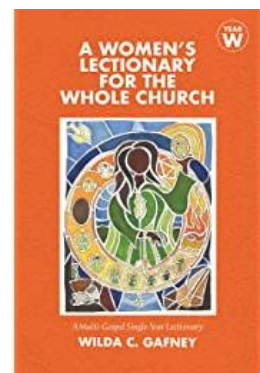
A Message from the Minister: I know the Lord upholds justice – Psalm 140

A little while ago, someone asked about the emphasis on matters of justice in my preaching; and noted that they could not remember such an emphasis in their years in the church. My response was that I couldn't remember a time when my preaching was more focused on matters of justice either. So why is this so? Why is it that justice has risen to the forefront of our consciousness?

Undoubtedly there are myriad reasons that contribute to this, but as Christians we must start with our understanding of the nature of God. Psalm 40: 12 states: "I know that the LORD upholds justice for the poor and defends the cause of the needy." Time and again throughout scripture, we are reminded that God is a God of justice who looks with mercy on the poor. From the Exodus to the Magnificat, justice is identified as that attribute that moves the heart of God. Therefore, the church should always be focused on the plight of the poor and the oppressed.

But, of course, there is more than that. We live in a world of great change, and whenever there is change, there will be those who seek to exploit the opportunity that change manifests for their own self-interest. During the COVID pandemic we have wrestled with many aspects of human life; from how to limit the spread of a disease, to where do we want to live, to changes in patterns of work. All of these have caused people to make changes to their lives – and we recognize that there are others who do not have such opportunities. It is in this gap, that movements for justice are born. Likewise, we live in a time when awareness of systemic socio-economic struggles has become crystalized in our minds: issues around residential schools and first nations communities; the cost of housing; climate change; and now the danger of a nuclear war. Each of these realities invites a moment of faithful reflection, preaching and prayer.

During the season of Lent, our preaching will identify and explore the women found in scripture. The readings each week are from the Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church written by Dr. Wilda C. Gafney, Professor of Hebrew Bible at Brite Divinity School. Dr. Gafney invites us to look at scriptures with eyes wide open. As a biblical translator, she identifies issues in translation that may have shaded our understanding of biblical passages for our whole lives. I hope you will learn new things and perhaps even challenge long-held assumptions. I know that has been my experience as I explore her book.



To return to that original question: why has there been such an emphasis on preaching justice? In the words of the Reformer, Martin Luther, the church is called to be Reformed and always in the process of reforming. God's word is not monolithic but must always be applied to, and interpreted within, the context of the world in which we live. Our duty as disciples is to bring the Word of God alongside those places in our lives – our world – that cry out for God's justice. During this season of Lent, let us strive to draw nearer to God as we look at the needs of our world.

Blessings.

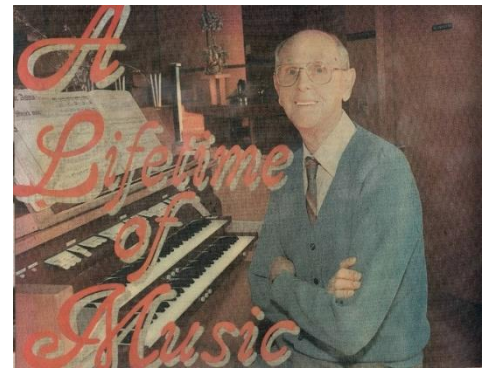
Robert

A Tribute to Gary

Editors' note: Just before his death, we had asked Gary to provide a biographical article for the newsletter. This is the submission he provided in early February.

I have been privileged to be the organist at St. John's for ten years. I love this church, its beauty, and the people who worship here.

I've been a church organist since I was eleven, growing up in Chatham, Ontario, and playing the beautiful pipe organ at Grace Christian Reformed Church. The main and long-time organist there was my dad, John Postma (pictured on the right). I studied at Calvin University in Grand Rapids, Michigan, and didn't play the organ much those four years. My career as an educator began in Sarnia and I was one of the organists at First Christian Reformed Church there. Our firstborn arrived in Sarnia in 1980 and later that year our family moved to Toronto. We settled nicely in the northwest part of the city, Rexdale, and I taught for a number of years at Timothy Christian School there, becoming the principal in 1987. I played a beautiful organ there at Second Christian Reformed Church. From there we moved to Morrisburg. What a change that was!



There are many great reasons to live in a big city, but we quickly fell head over heels for our new community. We moved here in 1992 and I began my position as principal at Timothy Christian School in Williamsburg. I also began work as the organist and choir director for Knox Presbyterian Church in Morrisburg. The people in that church were unfailingly kind to me and I much enjoyed worshipping with them. In 2012, the music director position opened here in St. John's. With anticipation but also some expected sadness, I began the work at St. John's. Rev. Fred Rennie was quite instrumental in my decision to come here. Fred's love of music was so obvious whenever he led worship at Knox, and when he mentioned that there was this opening at St. John's, I talked with him on several occasions to get a sense of how music, and especially, the organ, was being used to support worship. I began with a bang! How so? The Sunday I started was the concluding event of the

church's 225th anniversary year. The church, aided by the visiting Cornwall Centennial Choir, was absolutely packed. I got a chance to "open up the organ" with those 400 congregants. The choir, while not active lately due to Covid-19, was a big part of the position and I enjoyed working with them over the years as they played a key role in the message of the church.



Covid. That certainly changed all parts of society, including church life. Under the leadership of Dan Plant, St. John's began scrambling for ways to continue interacting with its membership. The progress that has been made in the recording, editing, and presentation has been incredible. Our pastor, Rev. Rob, himself brand new to the community when Covid hit, approached this time with confidence and grace. The first few months of the Youtube/Facebook streaming bore mixed results. As for the music, the organ sounded like it was under water! Watch and listen to the services now! Dan and Alex scoured the internet looking for the technology that would allow St. John's to continue its mission to the church and the community. I listen to the services on my fantastic home system, including my favourite speaker, a sub-woofer! These services look and sound great, and I know that Dan continues to scout out future camera options. The church has been very supportive, financially and in other ways, of this whole technology branch of our church. It is also gratifying to see Dan getting help in that sound booth at the back of the church. Brian Markell and Roy Choi are much appreciated.

Visiting musicians have shared talents with us, most notably Steve Dubinsky, trumpeter from Montreal. We've also been blessed with my guitar-picking friend, Dave Hawkins. The Choi family are exceptionally talented and I love having them participate on their strings at our services.



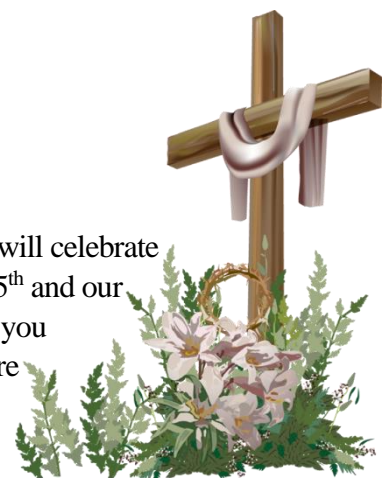
I am blessed to be the organist at St. John's, and I appreciate the kind words you have shared with me. Continued blessings!

Gary Postma

Gary will be sadly missed.

Easter Services

Please join us for Maundy Thursday service on April 14th at 7:30 p.m. We will celebrate communion at this time. Our Good Friday service at 10:00 a.m. on April 15th and our Easter service will take place on Sunday, April 17th at 10:00 a.m. We hope you will join us in person. All the services will be livestreamed for those who are unable to attend.



From the Board of Managers

It is with sadness that we share the news that our bookkeeper, Sally Mullin, has tendered her resignation. We have appreciated Sally's attention to detail and wonderful skill set as she worked at mastering financial matters at St. John's. We are thankful that Sally has agreed to stay on to train her successor.

We are seeking an individual who would be interested in filling the treasurer/bookkeeper role. It is our hope that someone from the congregation is willing and able to step into the position. Accounting is not a necessity, but rather we are looking for someone who is organized, efficient, has technology skills, an understanding of the church, and is willing to learn.

If you are interested in learning more about this position, please contact Keppel Bharath at 613-930-2411, or at keppel.bharath@gmail.com.

Fundscrip News

We're into the third month of 2022 and we just want you to know that we have again started selling cards on Sunday morning after service. If there is anyone that cannot make it to church and they'd like to purchase cards, please feel free to call Connie at 613-932-0234 or send an e-mail to conniegaucher@hotmail.ca. We would be more than happy to arrange a time and delivery date.

For your information, at a WOC Executive meeting held on March 2nd, it was approved to have the 2021 Fundscrip profits turned over to the General Account to go towards the 2022 Elevator Maintenance contract.

We sincerely appreciate the ongoing support of the parishioners; we certainly can't operate without your support.

Submitted by Gail MacDougall and Connie Gaucher, Fundscrip Convenors.

Thank you

On behalf of the congregation, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to Mrs. Margaret Grindlay for her donation of a beautiful tablecloth, which she gave in memory of her late husband Robert Fraser Grindlay and her late daughter, Jane Geddes Grindlay. The tablecloth will be used for special occasions in the church.

On behalf of the congregation, we also extend a sincere thank you to the Adams family, Kerry, Katherine, Libbey, Innes and Ellie, for their generous donation of window blinds for our Library. It is hoped that this will maintain the integrity of our collection of books.



News from the Women of the Church

The Executive members of the Women of the Church (W.O.C.) recently held their Annual Meeting, delayed this year due to Covid restrictions, weather, and such. This meeting was held in person, however it was decided to postpone gatherings of the general membership until a later date, hopefully September.

We decided to direct our profits from Fundscrip and from selling Meat Pies to Elevator maintenance expenses, to a maximum of \$2000.

Because our fundraising efforts have been severely limited, the only Charitable donation we will continue with this year is the GlenStorDun Lodge November Birthday Party, a special tradition of St. John's.

Rebuilding our group is not an easy task, after two years of Covid-19 upheaval and the inevitable effects of aging/changing circumstances for all of us. We may not be able to carry out some of the large events of the past, but our spirit is still intact! We are so grateful to all the faithful St. John's followers who are there for us when needed. **It is our intent to return to providing Funeral Luncheons for our church family as we are requested and as we are able. This will require**



many helping hands, and as such, we are compiling an updated list of those individuals who are willing to make desserts, help make sandwiches, dress tables, help serve, and assist with clean-up/dishes.

No offer will be refused! Contact Phyllis Bateman: (613)-938-6250 or phylbateman@gmail.com.

COVID-19 Update

St. John's will maintain the following COVID-19 protocols to keep our congregation safe: masking, physical distancing, by using the green and red cards in the pews and requiring people to be fully vaccinated. We ask you to be aware of how you are feeling, and not attend church if you are experiencing COVID-like symptoms or you have been in contact with someone who has COVID-19. These protocols continued to be monitored by the Re-Opening team, based on our desire to keep you as safe as possible.



March, April and May Birthday Wishes

We extend a very happy birthday to everyone celebrating in March: Erin McDerby, Don Orton, Winona Johnston, Wendy Barnes, Johnneen Rennie, Corrine Bourgon, Brian Loucks, Bryce MacNeil, Fleur Eenkhoorn, Jody Quan, Clarice Neill and Janice Plumadore.

To all of you celebrating in April, we wish a very happy birthday as well: Scott McFadzen, Agnes Cooper, Jonah Newton, Phyllis Bateman, Kenneth Evans, Johan Eenkhoorn, Daniel Plant, Dorothy Asselstine, Frank Bartle, Bev Ferguson and Susan Newton.

And to all of you who are celebrating in May, enjoy your special day: Miranda Vivarais, George Moss, Gail MacDougall, Marcia McQuaig, Katherine Adams and Harry Bowman.

We also send very happy birthday greetings to all those wishing to remain anonymous.

If we have made an error in your birthdate, or missed it entirely, please advise us so that we can update our records.

Your chuckle for today...

Got a good joke, poem, or a funny story? Please share it with us. We will not reveal any names unless you give us permission to do so. Send your submission to: susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca.

A Sunday School teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem. A small child replied, "They couldn't get a baby-sitter."



Two boys were walking home from Sunday School after hearing a strong sermon on the devil. One said to the other, "What do you think about all this Satan stuff? The other boy replied, "Well, you know how Santa Claus turned out. It's probably just your dad."

Thank you to Nick Cox for sharing our chuckle for the newsletter.

Kids' (and the young at heart) Corner Challenge

Congratulations to Georgia Fourkiotis and Bev and Ken Ferguson for completing the puzzle last time – they received Tim Horton's gift cards. We will publish the name of the winner in the next newsletter.

Calling all people of any age! We challenge you to complete the puzzle. The first person to correctly finish it and return it to Susan at: susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca or drop it off at the church office will receive a prize.



Easter Story Word Search

S	C	B	M	N	E	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T
K	A	A	P	O	D	V	G	V	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E
J	R	V	M	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R	W	C	B	V	F	S
Y	N	O	I	X	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	T	R	M	L	E
L	A	P	C	O	I	E	B	Q	O	X	B	B	N	O	O	L
I	R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	R	E	S	T
T	R	E	P	P	U	S	T	S	A	L	Y	E	M	B	L	S
S	H	L	U	P	V	Y	T	K	V	F	D	M	T	E	K	O
O	C	A	R	N	E	P	A	X	R	E	S	I	H	M	R	P
C	R	M	E	P	E	N	L	D	M	A	N	A	O	I	E	A
E	U	B	I	K	G	A	A	P	I	J	R	R	R	R	V	V
T	H	X	C	H	Y	N	T	N	H	R	S	M	N	A	O	X
N	C	N	C	A	M	I	E	O	C	T	F	Y	S	C	S	J
E	K	E	R	K	O	S	E	W	N	E	I	D	A	L	S	U
P	U	T	O	N	I	R	N	W	R	P	Y	A	O	E	A	D
L	E	Z	W	R	W	M	D	R	Q	I	T	Y	F	O	P	A
B	S	M	N	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	C	X	G	S

APOSTLES
BETRAYAL
CAVE
CHURCH
CROSS
CROWN
CRUCIFIXION
DISCIPLES
FAITH
GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST
JUDAS
LAMB
LAST SUPPER
LENT
MARY
MIRACLE
PASSOVER
PENANCE
PENTECOST

PRAYER
REDEMPTION
REJOICE
RESURRECTION
RISEN
SAVIOR
SON
THORNS
TOMB





We extend a very happy birthday to Mariah Adams and Alex Plant, who will celebrate their birthdays in April. We apologize for missing you in the newsletter birthday wishes!

Newsletter submissions

Just a reminder, if you have an article, chuckle or other information for the newsletter, please submit it to susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca or call 613-931-2565 and it can be picked up. We don't want to miss any submissions.

Thank you.

Fadi Kayro's Arrival

The Presbytery Syrian Refugee Team is pleased to share with you some information and photos of the arrival of Fadi Kayro from Syria (via Lebanon). He arrived in Canada in one of our heaviest snowstorms! What a welcome!

Fadi is the fiancé of Hiba Nahhas, who settled in Kemptville a few years ago with her extended family. This was a family of five that the Presbytery sponsored.

Hiba was able to locate a temporary home for Fadi and he is residing in Chesterville at the moment. The members of the Refugee Team will be delivering donated items and helping him set up his apartment in the next few weeks.

Fadi already has some leads on employment in Kemptville, so God is good!

On behalf of the Refugee Team and the Nahhas family we would like to thank all the congregations for their support (furnishings and financial donations). If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a Presbytery to settle a refugee!

Jennifer Adams

