

HONEY & LOCUST



St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church,
Bright's Grove

Church Services

On Sunday, March 14, The Reverend Amanda Longmoore+ will preside over a virtual Zoom BCP service at 8:30 am and a virtual Zoom Morning Prayer service at 10:30 am. This will be the Fourth Sunday of Lent. It is also the Sunday the clocks move forward an hour...so the service may feel bright and early.

Regular attendees of the 8:30 am service have received an email invitation to the 8:30 Zoom. If you wish to attend but did not receive an invitation, please contact Deb. The parish list received a Zoom invitation to the 10:30 am service, the invitation is also posted on our Facebook.

We look forward to worshipping with you.



March 14 – Spring Forward – set your clocks forward an hour for Daylight Savings Time.

Sometime Monday, our toll-free Prayer Line will have the sermon and readings as recorded during Sunday's service. Just call 1-888-229-5422 and follow the prompts to listen to either.

Please continue to wash your hands, Stay Home except for essential excursions, wear a mask if you are in public, socially distance, acknowledge angst (I sure do;-) and continue to be kind to yourself and others—we are in this together. Vaccines are rolling out, but our infection rate remains high as people struggle with the need to take precautions for a few more months. Be strong – comply – and remember “You will never look into the eyes of someone God does not love.”

It is likely that our Easter Service on April 4 will be via Zoom if you are having trouble getting onto Zoom and would like help, please call Deb Walker or Nicole Grieve...we

sincerely want to help you join this Easter celebration.

The status of church building access remains as outlined in the [January 15 edition](#) of Honey & Locust. Essentially only one person/Covid-bubble pair in the church at a time, with 3 people permitted for a virtual service. Should Lambton move from a Red zone to an Orange, Yellow or Green zone, then we will reassess options for use of the church building per [this February 11 letter from Church House](#).



Janice McAlpine presided over our service last week (we are blessed with several lay readers and once a month we have a lay reader officiate the service). Thank you, Janice!



Brenden Fraser, with new eyeglasses and a haircut (Whoo Whoo) did a fine job with the psalm and readings. He is getting to be very

good on his guitar doing the psalm...this said, Brenden and the rest of us wait with bated breath until we can have 5 people in church again so Susan Halliday may return to play

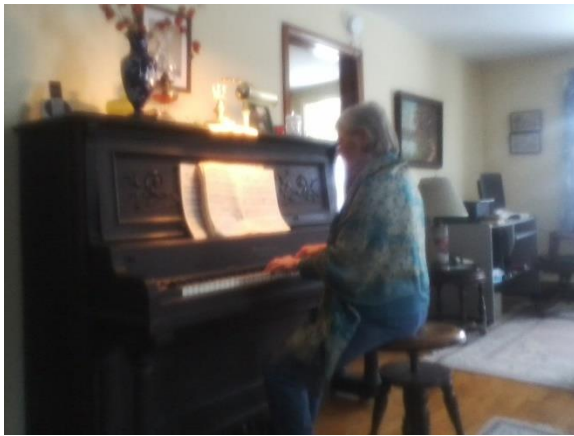
My apologies once again for forgetting to invite Betty and Pat to our last 8:30 am service. It was a very nice service I am told (Betty and Pat, you should already have your invitations to this week's 8:30 service). Brian, Shalleen, Charlene, Doug, Anne, and Amanda missed you ♥



We continue to pray that Father Shaun will heal and return to work.

Quarantinewhile (with Nods to Sephen Colbert)

Bob and Susan Halliday have been isolating on Liveoak farm, keeping their cattle, chickens and dog fed and comfortable. Susan keeps up her playing with the classical repertoire while Bob listens from a distance and sympathizes when she says, "This piece by Schubert is in five flats, and then he throws in a double flat. Why does he do that?"



Susan has performed on the piano since early childhood, playing for Sunday School at St. John's in Sarnia, high school assemblies and while employed at the Rose Goodwin School of Dance. She was paid \$1/hr in those days, and that was 'pretty good money.' Susan started playing in Port Franks when she was 13 years old, on a reed organ when the church was only a tent. In the 1970s she was playing for the St. Anne's services in Port Franks when a student priest, The Rev. Terry Dance, was assisting there. She took up guitar seriously

in the late 1960s and also found her favourite career as a Reg. Nurse at Victoria Hospital, first as a student and then as a graduate, till she had Chris and Carolyn. Since then she's played for many churches, including St. John's Sarnia and Trinity.

After morning chores, Bob spends 'quality time' in his workshop. It's a school portable from Lansdowne that Carolyn alerted him was to be sold in 1998, when she had a summer job with the Bd. Of Education ground crew. Bob bought it for \$230 and, with a helper, put it on a trailer and hauled it home behind a tractor. This continues to be Bob's 'happy place.' He is presently repairing a 50-year-old picnic table and benches for the Port Franks' cottage.

The fall was busy with harvesting soy and planting winter wheat and rye.

Bob, since 2007, has been secretary-treasurer of the Bluewater Growing Project that farms 80 acres to raise funds for the Canadian Foodgrains Bank (CFGB). The purpose of CFGB is "A Christian Response to Hunger". The project is supported by the Christian Reformed, United and Presbyterian local churches, and money raised is designated for their overseas mission projects. Funds raised are matched 4:1 by Global Affairs Canada to a maximum of \$25 million. The coordinator and Bob organize field work by local farmers and seed donations. Last year the project raised \$65,000. Banking the crop proceeds and making sure all donations are listed on the

project form takes about two weeks for him in December. Over the years they've raised over \$800K.

..... Bob & Susan Halliday

PS From Deb:

Such blessings. Thank you, Bob and Susan. Looking forward to a trivia night in person again. To learning a little more about just about anything chatting in the front pew with you.....and listening to Susan's music after the service as I sit with my eyes closed in that front pew as the church empties into the hall for coffee and fellowship.

Something to Think About

.... Janice McAlpine

"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Psalm 19:14, King James Version



+Bishop Todd – Diocese of Huron

If you go to church (remember when we used to be able to GO to church!) or view the services virtually you will sometimes

hear the Priest or Lay Reader offer the above verse as a prayer before the sermon. They often change it to "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of OUR hearts..." to make it more inclusive.

The writer of the Psalms wasn't necessarily writing for Sunday morning preachers. This was written for you, today.

Your words, the words you use - words that bring hope or words that hurt - and your thoughts - the thoughts you think today, thoughts of good or thoughts of harm - they define who you are.

Ask yourself, "What can I say and what can I do that would be pleasing in God's eyes? But it's not so much for God's sake. It's more for you and those you meet. How can my words and my thoughts make a difference for others today?"

A Prayer

Yes, God, words have power. They really do mean something. They make a difference. I pray that my words and thoughts will be helpful to others, good for me, and pleasing to you. I don't want to hurt anyone. I don't want to be mean to anyone. Indeed, may the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, to me and to others. Amen

...Sending Good Thoughts - Janice

+Bishop Todd To Dedicate our Wilderness Pollinator Garden

Circle May 29th on your calendar. That's the day +The Right Reverend Todd Townshend, Bishop of Huron is tentatively coming to St. John in the Wilderness to lead the dedication and blessing of the Pollinator Garden behind the church. As you know the garden was installed last summer with financial support from the Anglican Foundation of Canada and the hard work, inspiration and love of a team led by Bob Halliday. By the time of the ceremony, we expect the plants and trees in the garden will be 'springing' to life.

More details will be announced closer to the date.



.....Peter Langille

Bluewater Triathlon/Duathlon/ AquaBike & Ironkid A Maybe for July 24/25!!

Race Director, church psalmist and secretary Dr. Ken Walker has peeked at vaccination roll out and has posted the following paragraphs on the event's website at www.bluewatertriathlon.ca. Note, at this stage, given just about everyone in the church volunteers for this event, please circle it on your calendar, but as per the announcement below and on the website, we will not have any further insight until June. This said WHOO WHOO – Time to Get off the Couch!

From Ken on the BWT Website:

"We are cautiously planning for the 2021 Bluewater Triathlon and Duathlon to take place Saturday, July 24 and the Ironkid Sunday, July 25.

We are planning a similar event to 2019 with an Olympic distance Triathlon and Duathlon, a Sprint Triathlon and Duathlon, a Team Relay Triathlon and Duathlon, An Olympic and Sprint Aquabike on Saturday and the age appropriate Ironkid distance race on Sunday.

The event will once again be sponsored by the wonderful people at St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church in Bright's Grove, with lots of help from the Bright's Grove community.

The event is still totally dependant on our ability to wrestle the Covid monster to the

mat, and I am hopeful that by that point, large gatherings will be allowed and most of us will have had our vaccine.

In light of this, the race is ON, but we will not open registration until we have a good grasp that we will be able to proceed. We will likely open registration at the beginning of June.

So, time to get off the couch and get on your bike!!



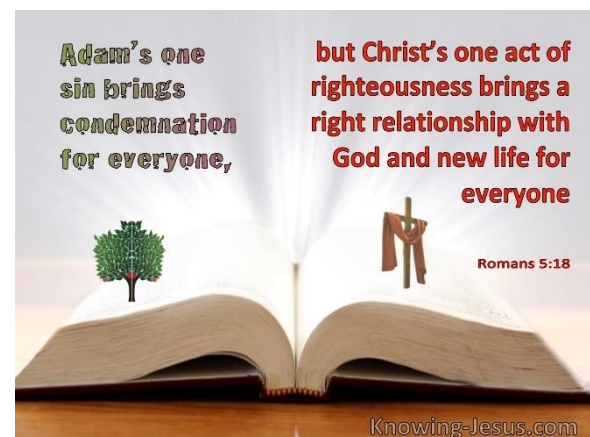
This year the Olympic Distance Duathlon will award one spot in each 5-year age group, male and female, to the Canadian Team for the 2021 World Championships in Townsville Australia”

Share Your Joy/Journey in the Honey & Locust

If you have a paragraph or two you would like to publish in Honey & Locust, perhaps a hello/profile of a parish member, an update for a church/community group you are part of, a favourite project or memory or prayer you would like to share, a family update ...whatever is on your mind that might be meaningful/ joyous for your congregation to hear...please craft the words and send them to debwalker@cogeco.ca

Lay Reader Janice Reflects

Here it is in a nutshell: Just as one person did it wrong and got us in all this trouble with sin and death, another person did it right and got us out of it. But more than just getting us out of trouble, he got us into life!



Adam said no to God and put many people in the wrong; Jesus said yes to God and put many in the right” (Rom. 5:18-19). The notion of Adam as an archetype of disobedience and Jesus as the model of

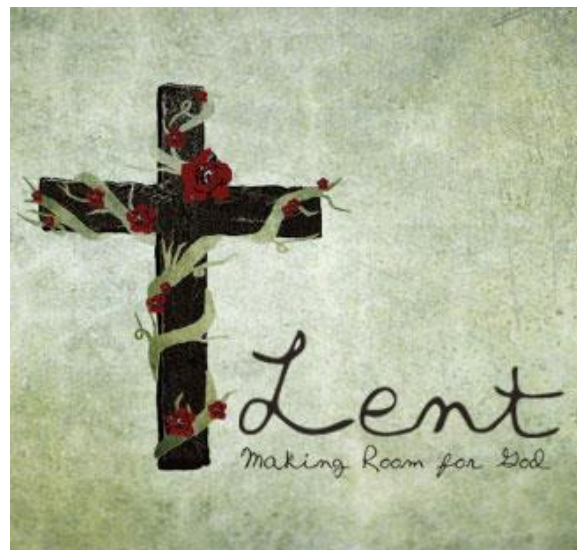
obedience to God puts things in simple perspective for me. Adam brought sin and death into God's good creation and Jesus restored righteousness and life in a new creation. In another place, Paul tells us: "If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new" (2 Cor. 5:17).

After coming out of a year dominated by the COVID-19 virus, I am ready for some new creation. The vaccines, made possible by human use of God's gifts of memory, reason, and skill, are being rolled out. Outside, the temperatures are getting warmer, flowers are popping up and sunlight is increasing. I am reminded that even the word "Lent" is from an old English word meaning "spring." We can show gratitude by offering obedience to our Creator. May the new season we are entering be marked by saying yes to God!

Spring Forward! ... Janice



Thoughts on Lent: "Adjusting our Glasses"



People often ask me what they should give up for Lent. When people come to me with this question, I often ask them if they had anything particular in mind, and many times they name something they enjoy or a behaviour they have that they think needs to change. Avoid chocolate, potato chips, fast food. Less TV, more exercise. Drink less, swear less, stop getting so angry when someone cuts you off in traffic, be more patient waiting in line. Try to reduce the things in our lives that we see as negatives, or make a change in a way that makes us a better person.

My next question to a person who asks me what they should give up for Lent is this: how will that bring you closer to God? This, for me, is the big question. Sometimes a person will be surprised by my question, because they've been taught since they

were young that Lent is about deprivation, giving up things we enjoy, and improving ourselves. That's the message I got when I was young: pick the thing you enjoy that you'd miss the most, and give that up as a way of suffering with Jesus. Through the years I've given up chocolate, chips, or ice cream (you can see what my favourite "bad" foods are!). Some years I made it the whole time, but most years I cheated or just quit. Those experiences definitely didn't have an impact on my spiritual life, mostly because I was more concerned about me than I was about God.

Lent is a time when we try to work to remove those things that get between us and God. The distractions, the choices, the ways that we feel separated or distant. It's a time for us to repent. As I've mentioned in past sermons, the Greek word we translate as "repent" is "metanoia" and it means to change one's mind or change one's perspective. Our perspective, the way we see things, has a huge impact on what we're actually able to see. Repenting means re-orienting ourselves toward God so we can see God more clearly.

I'm not saying that giving up a particular food during Lent is bad. I'm not saying that trying to be a calmer person while driving in traffic is bad, either. The question isn't about what we do or don't do, it's about why. Fasting from something can be a deeply spiritual exercise. Our attitude toward other drivers says a lot about how we view other people, and the teachings of Jesus make it clear that he is deeply concerned about how we treat others.

Giving up something, or taking on something, can be the most effective way to repent, to change our perspective, to see more clearly. It's not about the chocolate, but it is about our hearts.

We're now just past the mid-point of Lent. You may have given up or taken on something this year, or you may not have. Either way, I would encourage you to think of what repentance might look like for you, and what might help you on that path, remembering that changing our perspective so we can see God more clearly isn't a process only for the season of Lent.

Grace and peace,
Amanda

Calling Cooks for the Inn of the Good Shepherd, Saturday, April 3

We need 5 cooks for Saturday, April 3 for the Inn of the Good Shepherd...each cook would make 5 lbs of meat loaf and 25 baked potatoes and drop it off hot at the Walker's for 2:30 pm. Just contact Deb Walker if you want to cook.

On March 6, you helped to feed 55+ people at The Inn – Thank you! You are an integral part in The Inn's mission to provide services with dignity to local people who need food, shelter, and other essentials. Thanks for helping folks in need.



Pictured adjacent are some of the folks from the March 6 team of cooks Doug Winch and Charlene Adams, Pat Poland with hubby Don, Ingrid delivering mum Mavis Schmid's cooking, Maggie Brownridge, Fran Taylor, Sandra Fraser and servers Jesse Macht and Haley, Ken and Deb and Walker.

Outreach

In the latest annual report from the Inn of the Good Shepherd our church is mentioned twice. One for our financial donation and secondly for our support with the once per month meals we prepare and serve. Great recognition in the community and great work done by our parishoners.

Also, this month our annual student "Feb. Blahs" packages were delivered and well received by 7 individuals per the [February 26 edition of Honey & Locust](#). Thanks to Aruna for organizing this effort.

.... Dave Hains

St. John in the Wilderness Mission and Vision

Our Mission

To Love God and to share His love with others.

Our Vision

To show a welcoming, visible sign of Christ in a growing community, and to strive to meet the spiritual needs of everyone in a facility which is accessible, safe, environmentally friendly, and addresses the space requirements of all.



Sunday School Kids of St. John in the Wilderness Bright's Grove

Colouring Eggs – Part of the Celebration of Easter

The following is part of a note/egg colouring kit sent to each family with Sunday School kids from our church. The aim was to stick to something very simple that might just, on an evening whim, bring Easter joy to a few of the kids and families.

It's been just over a year since we've held Sunday School in our little church in Bright's Grove. With the vaccine coming, we are hopeful that by Christmas (or even September) we might celebrate together again – WHOO WHOO!

This Easter, we are sharing with you the joy of colouring Easter eggs. It makes us glad to

know each of you may be dyeing eggs in your own homes as part of the Sunday school community. If you'd like to spread the gift of joy and connection further, please share pictures of your family & easter eggs on our Facebook or in Honey & Locust – the church folk love to see you all!

The egg, an ancient symbol of new life, has been associated with pagan festivals celebrating spring. From a Christian perspective, Easter eggs are said to represent Jesus' emergence from the tomb and resurrection. **Let's joyfully celebrate together!**



To keep things simple, we have dropped off at your door a little Easter egg colouring kit/bag with things like:

- food colouring, a paper clip, a thumb tack, vinegar, rubber cement, elastic bands and a crayon....and a few chocolates to go along with an evening or two of egg colouring.

We also have included 3 documents:

1. A little history, "The Ancient Art of Decorating Eggs" for the older

kids and parents. (Miss Deb loves that sort of thing as many of you know). This art is just about as old as Abraham...we look forward to singing "Father Abraham" with you again! (and the Boa Constrictor song)

2. Instructions for "Colouring Hard-Boiled Eggs"
3. Instructions for "Colouring Blown Out Eggshells Using Rubber Cement" (this is how Miss Deb coloured eggs when she was a kid).

As you colour your eggs, you might think of some of those classic Easter stories: God's Covenant with Noah (Noah's Ark and the Rainbow!), Doubting Thomas (the good news...Thomas spoke up when he doubted!), and The Baptism of Jesus (by our namesake John the Baptist, also known as St John in the Wilderness).

We hope you have fun with the colours and enjoy the chocolate. And although it is not so much an Easter song, if you sing a verse or two of "The Fruit of the Spirit", you may all just share a moment together while apart.

Blessings in Lent and Happy Easter!

Miss Leslie, Miss Deb and Miss Amanda

On behalf of the Sunday School teachers and helpers.

A Blessing

*Life is short
and we do not have much time
to gladden the hearts
of those who walk this way with us.
So be swift to love,
and make haste to be kind.*

.... from Henri-Frédéric Amiel
via Rev. Amanda

Yours in Faith,

Deb Walker, Peter Langille, Janice McAlpine,
and The Reverend Amanda Longmoore

Wardens, Lay Reader, and Interim Priest



*"You will never look into the eyes of
someone God does not love."*

St. John in the Wilderness, Brights Grove

Church Services

(March 1, 2021 Update)

A free phone line for prayer,
reflections, worship and a
reminder you're not alone.

1-888-229-5422

With love, from the Anglican
Churches of Lambton-Kent

Listen to the prompts to
hear the sermon and
readings from our services
on the St. John in the
Wilderness line.

Option 2 for Reverend
Gord Simmons' silly joke
of the week 😊

Date	Day of Church Calendar (And Officiant if Other than The Reverend Amanda Longmoore)	Time	Service	Location (See Notes 1 to 3)	Colour	Readings
March 7, 2021	Third Sunday in Lent (Janice McAlpine)	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Facebook Live	Purple	Exodus 20: 1-17 Psalm 19 John 2: 13-22
March 14, 2021	Fourth Sunday in Lent	8:30 am	BCP Morning Prayer	Zoom	Purple	Numbers 21: 4-9
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom		Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22 Ephesians 2: 1-10 John 3: 14-21
March 21, 2021	Fifth Sunday of Lent	10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom	Purple	Jeremiah 31: 31-34 Psalm 51: 1-13 Hebrews 5: 5-10 John 12: 20-33 Sermon - Janice McAlpine
March 28, 2021	Palm Sunday	8:30 am	BCP Morning Prayer	Zoom	Red	Isaiah: 4-9a
		10:30 am	Morning Prayer	Zoom		Psalm 31: 9-16 Philippians 2: 5-11 Mark 15: 1-47

- Note (1) Facebook Live services...just join the Facebook Live service at 10:20 am (a little before 10:30 am) as folks like to chat together via the text commentary in Facebook Live.
- Note (2) Zoom Services - Deb Walker or Peter Langille will issue, via email, an invitation to the Zoom service a few days before the service. These go to traditional attendees pre-covid as well as to people who request invitations (just ask Peter or Deb)
- Note (3) We try to save a video on a Facebook Live or Zoom day and issue a saved and edited version of the service recording. It will issue within 1 to 3 days of the service with a link going out via the church's email.

Please check your e-mail regularly to see if there are changes – this is a fluid time given Covid.

Keep wearing those masks, washing your hands, maintain social distance, be kind, acknowledge Angst, and.....recognize Blessings;-)
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