

HONEY & LOCUST



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



Church Services

What an Epiphany!


We have entered Epiphany and our Rector, who spent her first Christmas with us a few weeks ago, likes our crèche pieces so much she has asked to keep them on the altar for our Zoom services through to Lent. Thank you, Amanda! I love our crèche too; wisemen, camels and others in the Epiphany journey. This Sunday, Lay Reader Sandra Fraser will lead us in worship over Zoom, please come join us...and invite a friend or neighbour to join Zoom as well



Adjacent is Amanda presiding over last week's 10:30 am Zoom service.

A Pizza Outreach Fundraiser on Vestry Weekend – Pizzaaaa!


**St John In The Wilderness
PIZZA FUNDRAISER**



UNCLE DAD'S:
**Meat Pies
& Pizza Plus**

www.uncledads.ca

Pick A Bundle & Bottle!
Four 11" Regular Crust
Pizzas & ONE bottle Alton Wine for \$45
PIZZA ONLY \$30



Alton Farms
EST. 1974

**TWO Cauliflower Gluten Free
Pizzas For \$25**
Cheese~~Pepperoni~~ Spinach & Feta

BUNDLE 1: Canadian, Meat Lovers, Hawaiian, Deluxe
BUNDLE 2: BBQ Chicken, Spicy Thai Chicken, Pep & Bacon, Cheese
BUNDLE 3: (VEG) Summer Blend, Greek, Bruschetta, Spinach & Feta
BUNDLE 4: Big Daddy Mac, Chicken/Bacon Ranch, Dill Pickle, Cheese
BUNDLE 5: Pep & Bacon, Cheesy Bacon, Spicy Thai Chicken, Veggie

Orders/Payments can be submitted to dwtssarnia@gmail.com
ORDER DEADLINE IS SATURDAY FEBRUARY 5
ORDER PICK-UP is Thursday February 10, 4:30-6pm at
 St John In The Wilderness--2896 Old Lakeshore Rd, Brights Grove

St. John's Fundraisers directly support local charities including: The Inn, Women's Interval Home, Alzheimer Sarnia & Sexual Assault Survivors Centre.

2896 Old Lakeshore Road
Bright's Grove, ON
Telephone: 519-869-2403
E-Mail: stjohninthewildernesschurch@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/groups/524453119787144/
www.stjohninthewilderness.com

These pizza's come uncooked on a piece of paperboard in a giant re-usable ziplock bag (Peter Langille loves these big ziplocks almost as much as the pizza itself!). There are even gluten-free pizzas. You can cook one pizza up, you can split it and cook just part of one up, and/or you can freeze some pizzas for Superbowl Sunday or Valentine's Day.... or, if you are me, just for when you have a hankering for pizza.

The church will raise \$8.00 per bundle which is pretty good. 100 bundles: \$800. Proceeds will go to outreach.

Cooking instructions are with each pizza; typically, they involve cooking at about 400 deg F for 15 minutes or so – even I can do this. I think Jim Foubister may even tell Marie he can do it.

...Deb on behalf of Peter & Eve

Vestry – February 6, 2022

Our Vestry meeting will be on Sunday, February 6 via Zoom after the 10:30 am service. Any motions should be submitted sooner rather than later. Amanda will give her report as Rector as her sermon (so please join the service). Karen Wilson has volunteered to be Vestry Clerk. Almost all the Vestry reports have been submitted to Heather Holbrook at the church email address – Thanks and WHOO WHOO! Peter, Amanda, and I are working on the slate of council members, and it is coming

along well – thanks to folk who have approached us to express their interest.

There will not be a potluck lunch of course...but you can pour yourself coffee and perhaps dream of that wonderful Uncle Dad's pizza you placed an order for by the order deadline the night before in support of our fundraiser.



... Deb

Eating Locusts and Honey

... Hazel Millholland with intro from Amanda Longmoore

As you may know, the name of this newsletter, Honey & Locust, comes from the main foods that John the Baptist was said to have eaten. John the Baptist is indeed the "St. John in the Wilderness" our church is named for.

We may put the two together (the food and the person), but maybe we haven't thought about why this would have been his food, or what exactly honey and locusts would have been like. A huge thanks to Hazel Millholland for providing the article below that helps us understand a bit more. This way we don't have to go out and try a locust for ourselves. Thanks Hazel!

... Amanda

Dr. Lance Waldie – October 24, 2016:

Matthew 3: 4-6: "Now John himself had a garment of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist; and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem was going out to him, and all Judea and all the district around the Jordan; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed their sins."

John's lifestyle was contrary to the religious leaders in Jerusalem who seemed to live in relative comfort and even extravagance (cf. Mark 12:38; Luke 20:46). John's clothing in verse 4 is not only indicative of a poor wanderer who lived in the desert, it depicts the garb of a true prophet. In fact, his garb links him with the eighth century BC prophet Elijah, for Elijah was known not only for speaking the word of the Lord, but also by his hairy garment and leather belt (2 Kings 1:8; cf. Zech. 13:4). Also, Malachi 4:5 predicted, "Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord."

Not only was John's clothing poor, his diet was likely one that was given to him daily without any preparation, much like Israel in the wilderness (Exod. 16). First, he ate "locusts" (dried insects). These are actually large grasshoppers common in the desert regions in and around Israel. They are still common food in the East, and they are even listed in Leviticus 11:22 as "clean" food for the Israelites to consume as they desired. In addition, John ate "wild honey." This was not tree gum (cf. Judg. 14: 8-9; 1 Sam. 14: 25-29; Ps. 81:16) but true honey from the wild. John may have eaten other things

from time to time, but his diet and garb both suggest a prophet destitute of luxuries. Whereas in Zechariah's day — some 500 years prior — some false prophets dressed like poor prophets to deceive people, John, like Elijah before him, had a very focused and simple ministry where both his garb and his diet confirmed his message and even condemned the false teachings of Israel's teachers. Modern preachers could take note of John, namely that even his food and dress preached and represented sound doctrine.

According to Ellicott's Commentary for English Readers, "Stress is laid on the simplicity of the Baptist's fare, requiring no skill or appliances, the food of the poorest wanderer in the wilderness, presenting a marked contrast to the luxury of the dwellers in towns."

Therefore, it is evident from Biblical records that John ate locusts and wild honey because they were ordinary, cheap food of the day that could easily be obtained.

Brenda Martin, Bible Teacher/Adjunct Professor (1975-present, Katy, TX):

Locusts were considered a delicacy by such ancient peoples as the Assyrians and the Ethiopians and are still eaten today by certain Bedouins and Yemenite Jews. In Israel, locusts were considered a food of the poor. After the head, legs, and abdomen were removed, the thorax was eaten raw or roasted or after being dried in the sun. Sometimes the locusts were salted or soaked in vinegar or honey. Historian

Henri Daniel-Rops says that they taste somewhat like shrimp.

Since John preached in the wilderness, locusts would likely have been accessible to him (Mark 1:4). As they contain about 75 percent protein, locusts, along with wild honey made a highly nutritious meal.

Postscript from Deb:

Hazel submitted this article several months ago and I saved it until now for a couple of reasons. First, it has no real date urgency...so I could use it anytime. This said, secondly, last week was The Baptism of the Lord and I felt it a fitting time to publish. Thank you, Hazel!

I love speaking with Hazel occasionally when I drop off Honey & Locust. Earlier in the year I kept missing her house for some reason. When I was chatting with her, she let me know that it was likely because she was re-painting her address sign. She gave me a tour of her outbuilding and there was her address post (pictured adjacent).

I have an outbuilding, and it is not that well organized. It was quite inspiring to tour Hazel's, and I review the pictures I took every once in a while, as I look to organize more.

Honey & Locust was started in the Wilderness of Covid to help us stay in touch and perhaps get to know each other even a little better as we communicate in stories from each other over anything that

interests us. My hope is periodically you each write/submit something, however short or long, just to say hello and we journey together.



Thanks for the story and company Hazel.

Share Your Joy/Story in the Honey & Locust

If you have a sentence or 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

Greetings from Judith Bond

Hello church friends especially ACW members, Thank you for your Christmas greetings. It was lovely hearing from you. I hope you all had a wonderful festive season and I pray 2022 will be good to you all.



Our Christmas was somewhat different as Sarah (pictured above with me) tested positive just beforehand, so she went into isolation and that part of the family did not celebrate until 28th, and we all got together on New Year's Day.

I continue to watch your church service videos, so I still feel very connected to you. But I have also been attending St. Anne's in Byron and they are very friendly and welcoming. Of course, wearing masks is rather restrictive but the Spirit is at work there, so in time I hope I will be as happy there as I was with you.



David, Susan, Lola, Sarah, Evan, Charlotte, Judith, and Rebecca – together on New Years Day.

We are now happily settled into our new home. It must be well insulated here as we only turned the heating on on the 8th of December and often manage without it and even have open windows! Definitely better than those howling winds and waves at Bright's Grove. David enjoys walking about 11 km each morning in Springbank Park and he often sees deer and even skunks. We haven't yet worked out how he will get back into this apartment block if he ever gets sprayed! I use the gym which is right next door to our apartment.

Again, I wish you all the best for 2022 and I hope to see you soon at church.

Blessings,

Judith

(P.S. Blessings Judith...Deb and the gang ♥)

Inn of the Good Shepherd - Thanks!

On January 1, you helped to feed 30+ people at The Inn – Thank you! Pictured on this page are some of you who cooked and served. I only captured a couple of pictures. Thanks to cooks: Anne Toth, Sandra Fraser, Brenda Clingersmith, Denise Hillary, and Mavis Schmid. Thanks to servers: Carolyn and Lanna Iacobelli, Brian Bradford, Ingrid Schmid, Shawn Bourne, Haley Walker and Kyle Straatman (pictured adjacent).



Our parish people are an integral part in The Inn's mission to provide services with dignity to local people who need food, shelter, and other essentials. Over 35 of our parish folk and friends cooked and served these Saturday meals in 2021 – donating food and over 600 hours of time over the year. Blessings and Thanks.



Dr. Anne Toth and Norm Fraser dropping off hot meatloaf and baked potatoes.

On February 5, Tara Fraser and her crew will serve at The Inn; we already have six volunteer cooks as well. Thank you, All!

Feeding some of Sarnia's hungry on the first Saturday evening of each month is one of our primary outreach programs.

Lay Reader Janice Reflects



"I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day."

~ Exodus 16:4, NRSV

Moses and the children of Israel were escaping slavery in Egypt and heading to a new land. They spent 40 years wandering in the desert shaking off a slavery life and preparing for a new life. In the desert they realized they had to rely on God to truly live.

Occasionally we wander around like we're lost in a desert and don't really know what we're doing. It feels like we're lost. Tired. Worn out. How long have we been living with this pandemic? It feels like we're close to 40 years, doesn't it!

We need to remember that God will provide. Not that we stop working ourselves. But God will provide. Strength to get through the tough times. Courage to face the impossible. Humility to know when to sit down. Wisdom to know when to get going. God will rain it down. Be ready for it. It will be something.

Let us pray:

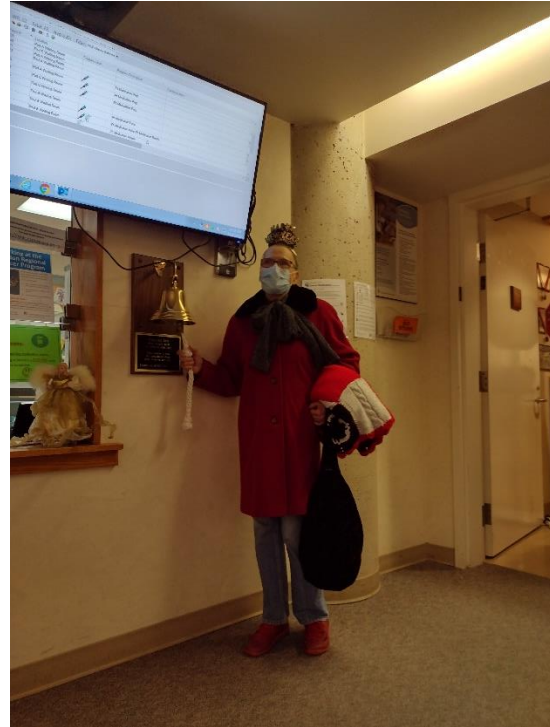
I do the best I can, God. Or at least I think I do the best I can. But sometimes it feels like I'm in the desert. Lost. Alone. Tired. Sometimes it feels like you're not even there. But I'll keep walking. I'll keep praying. I'll find a way. I hope I'll feel you with me. And I hope the bread will one day rain down on me. Amen.

"Without the bread of life, you're toast."

... Janice

Postscript from Deb,

Adjacent is a picture of Janice Ringing Out after the last of a successful treatment at the London Cancer Clinic over Christmas. This tradition started with Irve Le Moyne a



rear admiral in the US Navy. He followed the Navy tradition of ringing a bell to signify "when the job was done". He brought a brass bell to his last treatment rang it several times and left it as a donation. It was mounted on a wall plaque with the following inscription:

Ringin' Out

Ring this bell

Three times well

Its toll to clearly say,

My treatment's done

This course is run

And I am on my way!

– Irve Le Moyne

Blessings Janice ♥

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 strive to meet the spiritual needs of everyone in a facility which is accessible, safe, environmentally friendly, and addresses the space requirements of all.

Yours in Faith,

Deb Walker, Peter Langille, Janice McAlpine,
and The Reverend Amanda Longmoore+
Wardens, Lay Reader, and Rector

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

Postscript:

We received the following thank you note recently related to our Christmas support of a local child. Thanks to you, our parish folk, for coming together to help individuals right here...our neighbours.

"Dear St. Johns,

My grandson was chosen to receive your wonderful and very thoughtful gift from B.G. public school. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts as it was very much appreciated.

Sincerely,"