Westminster Chimes
Easter 2025

Journeying through Lent, Journeying through faith.

As I write this note for the Easter Chimes, we are still in the middle of Lent. I confess that I usually love Lent. There have been many years where I would have been open to a few *more* weeks of Lent. The world is a busy place, and I appreciate the opportunity to slow down a bit and the reminder that life is better when we prioritize God.

This year though, I find myself genuinely longing for Easter. I find that I need to hear the stories of those early days after Christ defeated death and rose from the grave. The stories of Thomas, of Jesus appearing to Peter who had given up and returned to fishing. I believe that the reason I am looking forward to Easter so much this year is because of the Kids' Camino.

I hope that you have heard that in February we made a big change to the Camino. We began to serve supper. The saying "feed them, and they will come" has proven true. We transitioned overnight from 3 children attending regularly to between 8 and 10 children attending on a regular basis. The "new" children are largely friends of the original 3. Some attend other Anglican churches. For others, the Kids' Camino is their first sustained church experience.

What a gift from the Holy Spirit! It has been simply wonderful to see and hear children growing in faith! What an incredible example of evangelism the children have given us! Also. What chaos! What noise! What confusion!

The stories of the early church are marked by wonderful, life changing miracles as well as the doubt and stumbling of the disciples experienced even after encountering the Risen Lord.

Preparing a program for 3 children is very different from preparing a program for nearly 10. There are moments of doubt, and confusion. There has been more than a little stumbling.

And there are far more moments when I am blown away by the children's wisdom, by their acceptance that God is real and loves them, and their delight in the simple act of being together.

During Easter, we hear the invitation to "come and see" over and over. I share this invitation to you: come and see. If you fear that the church is dying, come and see. If you aren't sure you have the faith to meet this moment, come and see.

You may not see miracles. You will get covered in glitter. And, you may well encounter the Risen Christ in the middle of the joyful chaos.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Ann Webber

Introducing Our New Wardens

Hello, I am Jim Mays and I have been asked to be the Rector's Warden for this term. It was both surprising and humbling to be asked to fill this role which had been so honourably and competently discharged by Barb Robinson and Jim Sercombe. Both Elaine and I are grateful to have their continued support and mentorship going forward.

Sheila and I have been parishioners at St. James for many years. We met at UWO in 1980 and were married at St. Andrew's in Grimsby in June of 1988. We first attended St. James Westminster shortly before we were married at the invitation of Jamie and Janet Caskey. Jamie had hired me as his junior lawyer in April of 1987 and he and Janet met Sheila shortly afterwards. After we were married and settled in London we made St. James our church.

Each of our four children Gillian, Rachel, Ian, and Duncan were baptized at St. James by the Venerable Archie Skirving. They all have enjoyed a wonderful religious education at St. James which was capped by a memorable trip to Taize.

Perhaps my most serendipitous moment at St. James was when Archdeacon Ken Anderson (as he then was) was preaching about feeling close to God when picking blueberries on the shores of Georgian Bay. That sermon led to a conversation when we learned that the Anderson cottage is a ten-minute boat ride from the Mays cottage. We've had countless cottage visits and happy boat rides since.

I retired from Siskinds LLP at the end of 2023 after 36-year career as a civil litigation lawyer. I guess I was looking too content as a newly retired fella so now I'm one of your new Wardens. I am looking forward to working with Reverend Michael Bruce and Elaine Jones to best serve the St. James Westminster community.

My name is Elaine Jones and I am one of your new Wardens. I'm honoured to be asked to serve as a Warden, although it's a bit intimidating to follow Barb Robinson and Jim Sercombe, who have given so much in their roles as Wardens for the past 4 years! I'm thankful that they will carry on through a transition period.

St. James Westminster has been my Church for about 40 years. I have been involved in lots of ministries over the years, mostly involving working with children and youth. My late sister, Lynda, was very involved and served as a Warden and many of you will know my sister, Judy, who has been an active member in many capacities.

I grew up in Montreal, where St. Marks (in St. Laurent) was our family Church and Reverend Thorpe was the rector for most of my childhood and adolescence. He was the father of John Thorpe, for those who remember when John and Wendy were parishioners here.

Derek Chick and I got married at St. James in 1987. Our son Alex married Kailee here in 2021, when only 10 people could be in the Church for the ceremony due to COVID. They have since adopted twin boys (2 years ago) who are almost 15! My daughter Rachael married Reid here in 2023 and they just had a baby boy in February! (They live in Ottawa, which feels far away!)

I retired in 2023 from being a Social Worker with Thames Valley District School Board. While I loved my work, I'm thankful to be retired and feel, at times, like I'm even busier in retirement.

Something to think about...

Two offerings from my Mom's journal:
(Grace Henkel passed into God's arms on Feb.28 in her 104th year)

"If you want to be holy, be kind."

"Never place a period where God places a comma." (death is but a comma)

Submitted by daughter Karen Henkel

St. James' People: Carolynn Fryer

One of the signs of a thriving church community is its strong and dedicated group of volunteers who contribute to our Sunday services, parish life, and outreach. Carolynn Fryer is one who has never stopped making a strong and faithful contribution to St. James Westminster since she joined many decades ago with her equally active husband John (RIP June 2023). An active child and teen, Carolynn was part of Chalmer's Presbyterian Church Mission Band, CGIT (Christian Girls In Training) at Wellington Street United Church and the Junior Auxiliary and Junior Choir at Christ Anglican Church, her home parish.

As an only child, as was John, Carolynn spent happy summers at her grandmother's cottage at Port Franks near Thedford. This is where they met, in the Thedford roller skating rink when Carolynn was 15 years old. When Carolynn took John to meet her grandmother, her grandmother pronounced John "a hippity hoy"- a good grounded fellow and gave her permission to go on her first date with him to the drive-in movie in the village of Shipka.

Thedford is also where they met a young Ken Anderson, our SJW rector from 1999 to 2009. In fact, Ken's parents co-hosted a wedding shower for Carolynn and John. In later years, Ken's father was a curate at St. James and assisted with Kathryn's baptism. Ken officiated at the marriage of her children and John's Celebration of Life. John attended Thedford Public School but when his mother was injured in a car accident, he was sent off to attend Appleby College, a boy's boarding school in Oakville. On graduating there, he attended the University of Toronto for his BSc.

Meanwhile, Carolynn, a Governor Simcoe grade schooler, attended London Central Collegiate and then graduated from the new London Teacher's College on Western Road. Carolynn began her teaching career at Tecumseh Public school in London, where her former grade 8 teacher Mel Baldwin, became her principal.

John and Carolynn were married in 1962 at Christ Church, just before John was to begin his Master's of Business Administration at Western. When their first child, Kathryn, was just six weeks old, 1966, Carolynn and John joined St. James Westminster, which John had attended as a child.

The two jumped right into volunteering: John joined the choir (a part of his life for over 50 years) and Carolynn began a 16-year stint as a Nursery volunteer, and Sunday school teacher. At that time, children were neither seen nor heard during the church service; they'd would spend nearly two hours in Sunday school while Canon Merrifield preached for a good 45 minutes!

During that time, St. James also offered a Wednesday morning drop-in daycare to give moms in the neighbourhood a few hours break. Carolynn knows how welcome that break was: after Kathryn, baby John came along, then Geoff and Colleen, four little ones born from 1965 to 1970. St. James became the family's hub. Carolynn returned to teaching when her children were all in school, volunteering and supply teaching mostly at Wortley, Brick St., Madam Vanier, and Victoria Schools.

As a young mother, Carolynn joined Saint Catherine's ACW. At that time there were five ACW groups: Saint Hilde's, Saint Helena's, Saint Anne's, Saint Faith's, and Saint Catherine's, the newest for the youngest ladies. As time passed, the groups became smaller, and they eventually amalgamated as Saint Faith's. Under the leadership of Diane Robinson (Barbara Robinson's mother), Jeanette Aziz, and Betty Doidge (wife of Pastor Jack Doidge), the ACW hosted a yearly Christmas

bazaar, The Hollyberry Market, selling crafts like Betty, Diane, and Connie Jefferess's beautiful decorative handwork, Ken Anderson's stained glass, and many of the ladies' knitting and sewing. There were goodies like Sarah Mills' cabbage rolls, Frank Menary and Carolynn's chili sauce, and the famous St. James turkey and apple pies, lovingly made by a team of ladies in the church kitchen and frozen over the previous few weeks. There was a Tea Room with fancy sandwiches and sweets made by the ladies, and tea served from the cherished Silver Tea Service. I

n later years the Bazaar started in the morning and John suggested a heartier Lunch Room too. John and the BAC (brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen) began serving more substantial sandwiches and donuts in the basement Lunch Room, attracting most of the gentlemen. The ACW also did Shrove Tuesday pancake supper, but were happy to hand that off to the BAC and later John Sizeland and his band of Merry Men. Sarah and Carolynn still recruit helpers to make the fruit salad and what the ACW always did, make sandwiches and goodies for the Vestry Meeting.

When Rev. Ken Anderson became part time minister at St. James and part time Huron Church Camp Director, he and his wife Mary Lou began the Couple's Club – monthly meetings that Carolynn and John enjoyed immensely, with bowling, curling, games nights, parties, and progressive dinners, building community and strong parish relationships that still flourish today.

Carolynn and John also became very involved with Huron Church Camp. Every Victoria Day weekend, St. James adopted a cabin and an eager group of parishioners would head to the camp to clean and paint, joining volunteers from other churches to ready the camp for the summer campers. On Labour Day, many St. James families would return with tents and trailers or use the cabins for a fun weekend, building community, sharing meals, skits, campfire, and worship. Ken even baptized two of our youngest members in Lake Huron, Lara Martin and Bruce Young. Carolynn and John also used to volunteer a week each year at the camp, with, John as bicycle repair man and Carolynn as Tuck mom. One year, Carolynn became a last-minute counsellor!

John was Chair of the Camp Committee for 10 years and oversaw the building of the new cabins and dining hall. He was awarded The Order of Huron for his ministry there. All four of their children attended HCC. Johnny became a councillor, Colleen worked in the kitchen, and most recently their grandson Aidan was assistant director at the camp, under Gerry Adam's careful guidance.

When Rev. Archie Skirving became Rector, he established a number of church committees to bring people together and get them involved. Carolynn represented Hospitality and Outreach on the Board of Management (now Parish Council) and worked on the information package for Newcomers. She organized the Sidespeople Instructions Sheetand, did the scheduling, and established the church Library. In later years, she was a Lay Delegate to Synod and a Church Warden from 2000-2004.

In 1995, Carolynn began the Victoria School Breakfast Program. It was held in what used to be the SJW Board Room. St. James served a hot breakfast for the children three mornings a week for over twenty years. Carolynn is grateful for the many wonderful volunteers who arrived at 7:30 each morning with willing hearts and hands to cook and serve and send many happy children off to school with full tummies.

Carolynn was also the St. James representative to meet with Elmwood, Wesley Knox and St. Martin's volunteers to establish the Old South Community Breakfast Program: each church hosted one Saturday a month. After Covid, that service was replaced at St. James by Project Hope, which sees St. James volunteer teams making and providing 100 nutritious meals every Tuesday to unhoused Londoners and people in need.

On top of serving on the SJW Pastoral Care team, visiting 'shut-in' parishioners, Carolynn is a greeter, reader, and lay administrator on Sunday mornings. Most recently she set up the Hospitality teams to assist with parish funeral teas, and is thankful for the many parishioners who have volunteered to help. Along with volunteering at St. James, Carolynn has volunteered to this day at Ronald McDonald House for all of its forty years.

With St. James as their anchor in faith and friendship ,Carolynn and John wove other enjoyment into their lives: cottage time, plays, travels with friends and family, including exploring Canada (except Nunavut) with their children ; riding camels in the desert in Tunesia and visiting the set of Star Wars; exploring Istanbul with its mosques and prayer calls five times a day; visiting Ushuaia, considered "the end of the world" at the tip of Argentina in South America, on a cruise to Antarctica ; circumnavigating Australia, swimming off the Great Barrier Reef and exploring its beautiful underwater corals and creatures in a submersible boat ; a helicopter ride over Kuai; to viewing the spectacular eruption of a volcano at night, its hot lava racing down the mountain creating billows of steam as it hit the ocean , from the safety of a cruise ship.

On trips to Europe and the Mediterranean and stops in Venice, Rome, Russia and the Vatican, Carolynn and John were in awe of the scenic beauty in these places, the magnificent architecture of cathedrals and castles, and the masterpieces in the Louvre and the Vatican. Carolynn said she wrestled for along time over the apparent wealth of the Vatican and the poverty they saw in Russia, the ubiquitous divide between the elite and the poor. She says "I kept trying to remember, this is My Father's World" but did a lot of praying and arguing about that divide.

To celebrate their 50th Wedding Anniversary, Carolynn and John took their family on a Caribbean cruise, enjoying especially, the wonderment of their grandchildren at experiencing the big ship and the adventures on the islands, so different from any they had known. Memories to last a lifetime!

Carolynn continues to volunteer at her life's hub, St. James Westminster, and thanks God for her greatest blessings – her family, her beloved John, children Kathryn, John, Geoff, and Colleen, their partners Dale, Susan, Annie and Tony, and grandchildren Aidan, Alyssa, Maia, Regan, Luke and Carson whose love and support bring her much joy and enrich her life every day.

Peggy Roffey, SJW Parishioner

Camp Huron

Welcome to wonder!

Registration opens on February 25th

Back by popular demand:

- 6 week-long overnight sessions
- 2 LIT 1, 2, 3 sessions

New for this summer: Day Trippers!

Visit our website at: https://camphuron.ca/ for more information.

Bursaries and payment plans available.

For more information, please contact gerryadam@diohuron.org or call 519-434-6893, ext 217

The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
is pleased to present

The Bishop of Huron Prayer Conference

Saturday May 3, 2025
10:00 am to 3:00 pm
at Church of St. Jude's
1537 Adelaide St., N. London
Cost: $20.00 (includes lunch)

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land" - 2 Chronicles 7:14.

If we can't see God's face, how do we seek God's face?

FINDING THE FACE OF GOD IN PRAYER

Join us for a day with the Right Reverend Todd Townshend, Bishop of Huron speaking to us from his experience with prayer. The day will include presentations, breakout groups and workshop opportunities and is suited for everyone who is searching for God, in our churches, communities, homes, and beyond.

To Register: Please follow link or contact Susan Johnson @brlmail2@aol.com

Last date to order lunch will be Wednesday, April 30, 2025

In the midst of this challenging time, the Executive Committee of the Canadian Council of Churches, led by President Amanda Currie, offers a reflection, a prayer, and words of encouragement to Christians across Canada.

We confess to you our anxiety and worry about profound uncertainty in the politics of our continent and our world. Our hearts are breaking for the people affected by unjust policies and those losing their homes, jobs, and sense of security. We are more concerned than ever for our brothers and sisters in the crossfire of war or violent conflict, as well as people affected by cuts to programs serving those in greatest need. We pray for our political leaders in Canada and for leaders around the world, that they may persevere towards justice and peace for all people.

Easter Lessons and Carols

Join us on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at the 10:30 a.m. service for a special Easter Carols and Lessons celebration. This beautiful service will feature scripture readings and joyful Easter music, proclaiming the hope and glory of the Resurrection. All are welcome—come and continue the Easter celebration with us!

'Tis the spring of souls today:
Christ hath burst his prison;
And from three days' sleep in death
As a sun has risen.
All the winter of our sins,
Long and dark, is flying
From his light, to **whom we give**
Laud and praise undying.

- John of Damascus, Eighth Century

Church Cleaning Party
(a.k.a. "Parish Polish Party")

Saturday, April 12, 10:00a.m – noon (with lunch after): Let's make our church shine in preparation for Easter! Please join us as we "Spring clean" our beautiful sanctuary so we can continue to provide a welcoming space for worship. All cleaning supplies (and pizza) provided. Bring your own rubber gloves if you wish. Following the cleaning fun, we'll celebrate with a pizza party. All ages and cleaning experience welcome! We'd like to clean the pews, mop the floors under the pews, etc., which means we need a big crew, so please join us for this fun fellowship event! Questions? Contact Tracy at jobo_1@hotmail.com or 519-495-8718.

Stations of the Cross – Come Journey with Us

There is an old legend that says, after the death and resurrection of Jesus, his mother Mary would often walk the way her son had walked on his journey to the cross, pausing here and there to recall something that had happened at that spot.

From these walks grew the early Christian practice of walking the Via Dolorosa, the Way of the Cross, in Jerusalem, a tradition that continues to this day.

When they returned home, those early pilgrims to Jerusalem talked about their experiences, and soon many people began erecting "stations" of the cross on the walls and grounds of their own churches so worshippers could make the journey whenever they wished.

Everyone is invited to view our very own Stations of the Cross. They were created in 2022 by eight different households who set apart a special time, a holy time for colouring. Our artists came from our church school and youth members and in many cases, their parents, aunts, grandparents, and friends.

Every swirl and stroke of colour is a prayer for all of us inside the church and *outside* the church!

Find our Stations of the Cross on the way into the church off the Bruce Street parking lot. We hope that you will make time to view them and that they may give you time to pray, reflect, wonder, and ponder as we journey with Jesus on the road to his last days… and beyond.

See our weekly email for a link to pray the Stations of the Cross from home or wherever you find yourself this Holy Week. May God be with us, every step of the way.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to remember or give thanks for a loved one by donating toward the Easter flowers in the Church, please contact the church office Tuesday, April 15. Let us know who the donation is being made by and in whose memory or honour the donation is being made. Cheques/cash should be made out to "St. James Westminster" with "Altar Guild - Easter Flowers" in the memo.

Easter Services and Musical Events at St. James

PALM / PASSION SUNDAY

Sunday, April 13 24 – 8:30 and 10:30 a.m

We start Holy Week with a celebration of Palm leaves.

TRIDUUM

Three services on three days marking Jesus' betrayal, death, and resurrection:

April 17, 7 pm

Maundy Thursday—We enter into the story of a holy meal and an act of humble service.

April 18, 11 am

Good Friday—We gather at the "foot of the cross" as we remember Christ's crucifixion.

April 20, 8:30 and 10:30 am

Easter Sunday—We come together to joyously celebrate the risen Christ!

EASTER LESSONS & CAROLS

April 27 at the 10:30 a.m service

Scripture readings and joyful Easter music, proclaiming the hope and glory of the Resurrection.

UPCOMING CONCERTS

Friday, April 18, 2025 @ 7:30 pm (Good Friday)

London Pro Musica - "In Paradisum" – Requiems by G. Fauré & M. Duruflé
A Common Ground Concert
Tickets available at londonpromusica.ca

Saturday, May 24, 2025 @ 7:30 pm

Canadian Celtic Choir
"Newfoundland Bound"
Tickets available from celticchoir.ca

Saturday, June 7,2025 @ 7:30 p.m

Brassroots - "Americana!"
Music inspired by the rich tapestry of American folk music featuring Tara Dunphy and Larry Smith.
Tickets available from brassroots.ca

Sat. June 14, 2025 @ 7:30 pm

London Pro Music Choir
Handel's Dixit Dominus
Tickets available at londonpromusica.ca

If you would like to receive Easter Communion at home, please contact the church office (where these lovely photos of Rev. Michael Bruce and Rev. Ann Webber were taken.)

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