



THE BEACON

Brought to you by St. John's Communication Committee

AS WE WALK TOGETHER

Power struggles are fear-based reactions to change. We fight to save the boat from sinking. The problem is, it will be Conflict that blows us off course. And it will be Resentment that stirs up scary currents.



Our Church is not protected from these human realities... no matter how much I preach Love and Forgiveness. In fact, the Church can be excessively burdened by power struggles. Because, and I say this with some caution, religion can break hearts.

Appalling conflicts through history flow out of gut-wrenching resistance to particular rituals and rules that are unshakeably attached to our faith.

Several winds are blowing through our congregational life; new members, new ideas, new expectations, new music, and new energy. As we all ought, I pray that we are Graced with grace. Because it takes charity and open hearts to stay in peaceful waters.

(John 14) "... the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace, I leave with you; the peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

- Rev. Jim Innes, Rector



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WHERE WE ARE



With all the rain we have received thus far it makes me wonder if this is a message coming from above that may mention an ark soon.

Regardless, the rainy weather hasn't dampened the spirits of St. John's parishioners when it comes to attending Sunday morning worship service and other events. The energy from our little white church on Sunday morning is great to see from our long-standing members, new parishioners, and seasonal guests. Thank you to everyone that helps to make St. John's by-the-Lake a warm and inviting place of worship. Bishop Todd was impressed during his visit, to see the number of new members and our tradition of providing them with our custom-made welcome bags. The great news is we need to produce even more of these bags; perhaps he'll come back to give them out?

It's been a very busy first half of the year with the transition from the Regional Ministry completed and a renewed path going forward with St. Anne's. It's good to see their numbers are also increasing. Hmm, perhaps the word has got out that the Anglican church is a pretty good place to worship our Lord and Saviour. Let's keep it going!

You may have noticed that we have refurbished the outdoor deck. Catherine's husband, Warren, has been helping us with numerous maintenance tasks around the church. His efforts have included installing the mini library at the front of the church as well as installing the canopy over the deck - finally some shade. Thank you, Warren, for all your help at St. John's.

Although he only intended to assist as our Treasurer on an interim basis, Ron Wagner helped us out during some trying times throughout the dissolution of the Regional Ministry which, I am grateful for. As he has now resigned from the position, please join me in prayers for Ron and Elizabeth for peaceful times and good health. Please welcome Bob Earley as our new Treasurer.

With Bob taking over the financial reporting duties, steering our financial path forward will be a collaborated effort with the Wardens and Congregational Council.

With the busy summer upon us, Council has decided to take a well-deserved break for the balance of the summer, but they will be back and ready to go in September. Many of you have volunteered a great deal of time to St. John's and we wouldn't be the church we are today without you. So, take a bow - you deserve it!

- Brian Gumb, Rector's Warden



During the last few months, we have welcomed many new parishioners to our parish. We are very pleased to see our numbers increasing and welcome to all!

We enjoyed a visit from Bishop Todd followed by a lunch. In early May, we had a Karaoke Sunday after the service with lunch and a fun time with music and singing from many talented parishioners.

In June, we had a BBQ and music afternoon with music by the Better Dayz Band who donated all the donations made back to the church. Rev. Jim was our master chef with help from many volunteers. Later in June we held a Yard Sale, BBQ, and Bake Sale.

Thanks to all volunteers who helped make our events a success. We have bakers, cooks, cleanup and setup, and just general helpers and without all of you these events would not be possible.

We have more events coming in the future so looking forward to seeing everyone there!

~ Dawna King, People's Warden/ Event Coordinator



MUSIC TO MY EARS



“Listen to the birds in the morning and the crickets at night.”

So many beautiful sounds to behold on this same earth

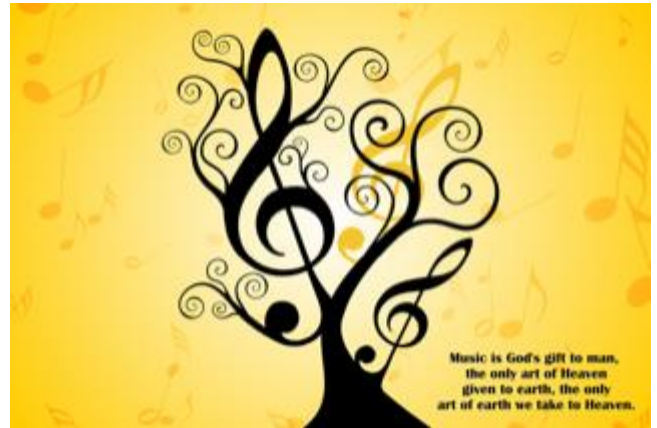
where people fight, disasters strike and tragedies befall the best of folks. How lucky are we here at St. John’s-by-the-Lake to embrace the music of nature and the glorious songs that we raise to give praise to the Lord in gratitude for our many blessings. Sometimes those blessings are hidden amongst our sorrow, our worries, our mistakes. When the St. John’s folks raise their voices in song, our souls are lifted, our eyes are opened wide to the best of life.

Thanks to everyone for the gracious welcome and the positive feedback that helps us to build a strong music program. Such a kind and supportive church family! It is said that music is the voice of the soul. Stokowski suggests that a painter paints pictures on canvas, but musicians paint their pictures in silence. Others say that life is a song, love is music. Victor Hugo shares: "Music speaks from what cannot be expressed and when it is impossible to be silent. " Our wonderful choir friends meet on Thursday evenings at 5:00 and are always eager to invite newcomers. We are very excited to begin working on our Thanksgiving music this week. All are welcome!

The Taylor Hayden’s are grateful for the warm welcome and the willingness to allow us to find our place in our own ways, whether it is in the sanctuary, amongst the parishioners, through music, or by participating in the life and work of our physical space.

Many blessings to all. God bless!

~ Catherine Taylor Hayden, Music Director



COMMUNITY GROUPS



The Alzheimer Society Huron Perth actively supports families and individuals affected by Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias. The Society advocates for and provides support services, education,

and funding for research for those affected by Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

Minds in Motion is a program for those living with early to mid-stage Alzheimer’s disease or other dementias and their care partners. The program runs once a week for 8 weeks and incorporates physical activity and mental stimulation.

This program ran every Thursday from June 8th to July 27th in St. John’s parish hall and will return for another 8-week session in January.

The program is available for registered clients. For Huron programs contact Kylie at 519-482-1482 ext. 123 or kylie@alzhp.ca

~ Submitted by Kylie Krane, R. Kin
Social Recreation Program Coordinator /
Alzheimer Society Huron Perth



Tai Chi was developed more than 700 years ago as a method of self-defence. Over the centuries, however, tai chi has evolved into an art that exercises both the body and the mind, so that it is no longer

just one of the martial arts. Tai chi is often referred to as meditation in motion.

Benefits of doing tai chi are:

- 1-improves balance and help with fall prevention
- 2-blood pressure reduction
- 3-cardiovascular health
- 4-stress relief
- 5-helps to reduce arthritis pain and joint stiffness

Tai Chi has been done in Grand Bend since 1994, and we have enjoyed our stay at St. John's since 2012. Currently classes take place every Tuesday and Friday morning in St. John's parish hall.

Students will gradually learn the set while working on basic principles of the Academy.

As an instructor, I have been doing tai chi for 24 years and enjoy every minute of teaching and improving my own tai chi.

*~ Submitted by Elaine Wardle, Instructor /
Canadian Tai Chi Academy*

To St. John's Anglican Church

Thank you for providing the anniversary cake for the 50-year celebration of 'The Ausable River Group'. Our group is very thankful for the use of your church for 50 years. You have helped us save many, many lives! 50 people attended the 50th anniversary!

HOLY HUMOUR

Grandpa's Face

A little girl was sitting next to her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. She touched her own cheek after she touched his.

After a little while of thinking she asked, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

He looked at her and said, "Yes sweetheart, God made me a long time ago."

She paused for a few seconds and then asked, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

He replied, "Yes, indeed pumpkin, God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she whispered to him, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

Church Ladies with Typewriters!

Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. (These sentences appeared in church bulletins) To be read with suitable reverence:

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

~ Lightheartedly submitted by Church Ladies

OUR PARISH – MEET PETER (and the late) ESTHER WARNER



PART ONE ---- Peter Andrew Warner

Peter was born in London, raised on a farm near Ilderton, and began his life's journey. What a journey it has been, continues to be, and will be in the future. New adventures await his pursuit to finish existing plans and even follow new ones. Peter discovered, even as a youngster, he could fix things. On a farm, there is always something to fix, and he could do it. Most people find an engine a complicated challenge. Not for Peter, before he got his driver's license, he was overhauling engines!

Peter graduated from Medway High School, followed by a two-year Specialized Automotive Course, at Beal Tech. Then, destiny stepped in and he was offered an apprenticeship in a shop in Grand Bend. He had the opportunity to fix anything, cars, trucks, and even boats. His first shop was the Imperial Garage, at the corner of Gill Road and 81 Crescent.

By 1964, Peter had entered another business venture. Grand Bend had been the site of an Air force Base constructed in 1942. It was built to relieve the crowding of another base in Centralia where pilots were trained. Twenty years later, Drag Strip Racing was becoming very popular.

The runways were still at the now closed airport. In Peter's mind, this was a "No Brainer!" His first venture with 8 partners was the Grand Bend Dragway Ltd. It opened in the spring of 1964 and attracted 5000 plus spectators at the opening. It was a super success! The race car drivers and their families loved coming to Grand Bend; the beaches, restaurants, hotels, drew them to our town. It was also a boom for the merchants, they loved it.

In 1967, Canada celebrated our Centennial and Peter and Esther celebrated their marriage in our church, St. John's-by-the-Lake, with Rev. Norman McLeod performing the ceremony.

A year later in 1968, Peter and Esther purchased the business he had started out in as a mechanic. They decided the business world held promise and they could do it successfully.

In 1969, the Chrysler Dealer in Goderich offered them a sub dealer for new and used cars. Now Peter not only repaired vehicles, but he was also in the automotive business for real!

Another opportunity came up a year later. The Chrysler Marine Franchise was offered to them. Finally, he got to play with boats; a lifelong dream was coming true! In 1973, Peter was selling a newer type of boat, now recognized as the Trojan line of Cruisers. They were anywhere from 25 feet to 50 feet in length.

In the late 70's, and granted a factory direct Chrysler, Plymouth, Dodge dealer status and out of room they purchased the vacant Sunoco property where Circle K now sits as a sales facility. In the mid 80's, they decided to sell their automotive division and concentrate on boats. They built what is now the Home Hardware Building Center on Highway 21 North and moved to their new location.

Also, in the 1980's, came another new line called Carver. These were bigger and better than ever. By now, Peter was well respected and widely known in the boat business in Ontario. Boats were sold to just about every harbour in Ontario and

some shipped to Newfoundland, Quebec, and Manitoba.

After many years in the business world, Peter and Esther semi-retired. Although as Peter himself states, "I still do not consider myself retired!" There were opportunities for travel, they had won dealership awards for high sales and travelled all over the world. They visited Southern and Western Europe, Caribbean, South Pacific, Great Britain, most of Canada and the U.S.A. Whenever possible, the winter months were spent at their winter home on the canal on Sanibel Island in Florida. Finally, they had time to enjoy boating adventures!

Peter and Esther were very successful in their business lives. They were also community minded: Peter was Commodore of the Grand Bend Cruising Club - 1989, President of the original Grand Bend Lions Club -1971/72, Charter Member of the Rotary Club -1991, and part of the committee that championed the Rotary Trail. And this is only part of the story!

PART TWO ---- Esther Myrel Turnbull Warner

Esther was born in 1938 to Fergus and Hilda Turnbull, on a family farm just north of Grand Bend, the sixth of eight children. She attended Smokey Hollow Public School on the Dashwood Road across from Birch Bark Trailer Park. Friends would tease her that it really was a Sleepy Hollow. Esther said that she had to carry her two older brother's lunch pails home from school as they would take a shortcut across the fields, and jump across the creek, which she could not do. So, she was left with two extra lunch pails. To this day, the boys deny it!

Esther expressed her faith in God as a teenager and it was an important part of her life and continued to be with Peter and their lives at St. John's-by-the-Lake.

Esther's career choice took her to London Life Insurance Company in the Head Office. Her

clerical and exceptionally fast typing skills landed her in the Vice President's office as his Executive Secretary.

But, early in her career, adventure called when she and a girl friend set their sights on California, where she was able to obtain a green card. She obtained employment at an Insurance Company in Los Angeles. Eventually, she realized things weren't all Hollywood glamour and returned to London and London Life.

In 1966, fate and a mutual friend introduced her to Peter. It was somewhat of a poor start, when asked what he did, the answer was a mechanic in Grand Bend, and the conversation went sideways! But sometimes a poor start has a good finish and in 1967 Esther and Peter were led to the altar. As they evolved into the business world, Esther was the "bean counter" and easily entered the world of technology, especially computers. There wasn't a software program she couldn't master. Esther was the love of Peter's life. She was warm and friendly; always a big smile, entertained with elegance, and made people around her always feel comfortable. She especially loved kids, kept drums of Baskin Robins ice cream that the kids could enjoy all day long. White was her choice of colour for decorating: white walls, white furniture, and white carpets. The kids' parents secretly panicked that the ice cream would spill. Esther, would say, "Oh, that doesn't matter!"

She loved to go shopping, Christmas and birthdays were especially fun. Esther gave generously of her time and talents. She served 40 years on the Altar Guild at St. John's and she and Peter were faithful members of our little church.

Esther was a charter member of the Grand Bend Lioness Club and a long-standing member of the Grand Bend Cruising Club. She participated in fitness classes at the Lions Pavilion. Her laugh and participation made it enjoyable for everyone. Another characteristic was her ability to listen. She took the time to really listen to people; she gave of

herself, stopped what she was doing, and listened. She made everyone feel special.

Peter and Esther were married 53 years. They were always there for each other. Sadly, in 2012 Esther was diagnosed with dementia. She fought so hard to slow the progression down. During their working lives, Esther made lunch for Peter every day at the dealership....and then Peter made lunch for Esther every day she was ill. In January 2019, Esther suffered a stroke in Florida. In January 2020, she started to fail quickly, and on January 28, 2020, with Peter by her side, she passed into eternal life. We love her and will always miss her.

PART THREE ---- MERRYWOOD FARMS

Going back to 1988, on Peter's birthday, they bought their dream home and property, Merrywood. The Homestead and property were life changing. It will continue to influence generations to come.

Within the past few months of this school year, with the help of ABCA, 2 bus loads of children from our local school had the opportunity to plant 100 trees on the grounds. Our future is in good hands.



~Carole Mathers

A Vision for the Future: Warner Wildlife Preserve and Nature Area

The forests and meadows of Merrywood Farms provide a very diverse range of natural habitats

that are remarkable for their natural beauty and ecological significance. Since purchasing the property in the 1980s, Peter and Esther Warner have undertaken many projects and continued efforts to improve and maintain the natural features and trail network on their property. The Warner's place great value on the natural features and wildlife that use their property. Peter and Esther have expressed a wish that the natural features and wildlife that give them so much joy today will continue to be protected and conserved for the benefit of future generations.

Peter and Esther Warner have identified the following as key long-term objectives for the property which they envision as the Warner Wildlife Preserve and Nature Area.

1. The property is to be protected as a refuge for wildlife and nature to be owned by the Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy (HTLTC) and managed by the Ausable Bayfield Conservation Authority (ABCA).
2. The property is to be developed and used for outdoor education to foster knowledge of and an appreciation for nature in children and adults who are exposed to the diverse and significant natural features of the property.
3. Areas of the property currently under agricultural cultivation are to be planted with trees to restore forest conditions to the entire property as it would have been pre-settlement.
4. Encroachment from neighbouring residential and commercial properties and trespass from the public is prevented by installation and maintenance of a perimeter fence in order to protect the property's natural attributes as well as trails, signage and other features to be developed.

The property has several elements and attributes of natural significance that make it important to conserve and ideal for development for outdoor education.

These include:

- The natural areas on the property are a northern extension of a larger forested area that includes Pinery Provincial Park and extends south through Ipperwash to Kettle Point. This region has one of the highest degrees of biodiversity in Canada and is home to several rare and at-risk plant and animal species.
- There is a high degree of habitat diversity on the property which includes mature Oak-Pine forests on the sand dunes paralleling highway 21, young tree plantations intermixed with wildflower meadow, swamp thickets and river corridor forest along Parkhill Creek. These features are all easily accessible on the 60-acre property.
- Soils are very diverse and range from sand dune deposits several meters deep parallel to highway 21, flat to rolling sand plain (possibly a former beach) extending east of the dunes transitioning to variable alluvial deposits on the flatter lands extending east to Parkhill Creek.
- Mr. Warner currently maintains a network of trails that provide good access to all areas of the property. The trail network includes a former racehorse track which would be well-suited to continue as part of an educational trail network and that could be made fully accessible. A small dock provides access to Parkhill Creek.
- The Warner's have a Managed Forest Plan and are participating in the Managed Forest Tax Incentive Program. The most recent Forest Management Plan was reviewed and renewed by ABCA in 2016. A selective timber harvest was completed in the late 1980s and the property could be useful in demonstrating good forest management practices.

- An unimproved municipal road allowance along the southern boundary that presently is used primarily to provide access for farm equipment would, with improvement, provide ideal access for school buses and for ongoing property management.

The vision and mission of Huron Tract Land Trust Conservancy (HTLTC) is to ensure a land legacy in an inspired community that values and protects natural habitat. The mission of the ABCA is to protect, improve, conserve, and restore the watershed in partnership with the community. The Warner's have expressed in words and demonstrated through their actions a shared vision.

Through the partnership and long-term objectives described above and made possible by the thoughtfulness and tremendous generosity of Peter and Esther Warner, the HTLTC and ABCA will ensure that this shared vision is realized for the property for the benefit of nature and future generations.

LITTLE FREE LIBRARY



Thanks to our resident craftsman, Fred Clarke, St. John's front lawn is now adorned with a 'Little Free Library'. Take a book, share a book!

POET'S CORNER

No One Knows

No one knows
How many days or hours in time
One has in the clock of life
As it has been often thought
That one only finds
The miseries of grief

Is it known
To become quite aware
Of good times sometimes shared
Or to gain strength from it all
To accept the next cross to bear
For no one said, "Life is fair"

There was known
A man long before my time
Who came to this deviled land
To direct the confused kind
On a path of joy and plan
For a heavenly rewarding find

They didn't know
Their riches were not present
But could still be gained
From hearing the man's document
And heeding their wonderless ways
Before time came to an end

Who really knows
Sadness, pain, and sorrow
More so than the condemned stranger
Crying out for forgiveness from the Father
While knowing of oncoming dying danger
Accepting his time to suffer

No one knows
When the time will come
To end all worldly ways
Or where the next direction goes
Except the clock will stop and stay
There is but one
And only He knows.

~ Eldon King

Lord's Prayer

Since the Lord's Prayer is not allowed in most schools anymore, a 15-year-old in Minnesota wrote the following NEW School Prayer, receiving an A+ for the entry!

~~~~~

Now I sit me down in school,  
Where praying is against the rule.

For this great nation under God,  
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If scripture now the class recites,  
It violates the Bill of Rights.

And anytime my head I bow,  
Becomes a federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,  
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.

The law is specific, the law is precise,  
Prayers spoken aloud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall,  
Might offend someone with no faith at all.

In silence alone we must meditate,  
God's name is prohibited by the State.

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,  
And pierce our noses, tongues and cheeks.

They've outlawed guns, but FIRST the Bible,  
To quote the Good Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,  
And the 'unwed daddy,' our Senior King.

It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,  
We're taught that such 'judgments' do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,  
Study witchcraft, vampires, and totem poles.

But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,  
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,  
When chaos reigns the school's a mess.

So, Lord, this silent plea I make:  
Should I be shot; My soul please take.

**Amen**

*~ Submitted by George Jenkins*

### **Drinking From My Saucer** by John Paul Moore

I've never made a fortune,  
and it's probably too late now,  
But I don't worry about that much,  
I'm happy anyhow.

And as I go along life's way,  
I'm reaping better than I sowed,  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

Haven't got a lot of riches,  
And sometimes the going's tough,  
But I've got loving ones around me,  
And that makes me rich enough.

I thank God for His blessings,  
And the mercies He's bestowed,  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

O, remember times when things went wrong,  
My faith wore somewhat thin,  
But all at once the dark clouds broke,  
And sun peeped through again.

So Lord, help me not to gripe,  
About the tough rows I have hoed,  
I'm drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed.

If God gives me strength and courage,  
When the way grows steep and rough,  
I'll not ask for other blessings,  
I'm already blessed enough.

And may I never be too busy,  
To help others bear their loads,  
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer,  
'Cause my cup has overflowed!

*~ Submitted by Jeanette Hodgins*

### **God's Garden** by Robert Frost

God made a beautiful garden  
With lovely flowers strown,  
But one straight, narrow pathway  
That was not overgrown.

And to this beautiful garden  
He brought mankind to live,  
And said "To you, my children,  
These lovely flowers I give.

Prune ye my vines and fig trees,  
With care my flowers tend,  
But keep the pathway open  
Your home is at the end.

*~ Submitted by Lisa Gumb*

### **WORD SEARCH CONTEST**

For those who enjoy some fun competition, this contest is for you! Read through this (Summer) edition of The Beacon and find out how many times the word Saint or St. appears. Call or email the office by with your answer for a chance to win a prize! Contest ends August 31<sup>st</sup>.



## PHOTO GALLERY



St. John's gardens are beautiful as usual, thanks to our committed garden group. Be sure to stop and smell the flowers!



Brian & Lisa Gumb thank God for the safe arrival of their grandson, Andre. Proud parents are Mackenzie & Kurtis Godts.

## PHOTO GALLERY

July 16<sup>th</sup> service with Archdeacon Allan Livingstone (pictured to the right with friend, Warren Hayden) and the St. Andrews Trio (pictured below with friend Catherine Taylor Hayden).



St. John's Yard Sale was a GREAT success, thanks to all the GREAT people who helped out!



Rev. Jim at the grill and Nancy Robaczek taking orders from customers (and the rev 😊)



Peter Warner and Elizabeth Stanley making deals!

Please submit contributions for the Autumn 2023 newsletter by Oct 15, 2023  
to **Carole Mathers** at [dncmathers@hay.net](mailto:dncmathers@hay.net)

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