



NEWSLETTER OF
ST. MATTHEW'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
1600 NORFOLK ST.
WINDSOR, ONTARIO
N9E 1H5

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The Journey

At St. Matthew's

VOLUME XI ISSUE 2 EASTER 2023

"We are called to share God's love
as we welcome and care for our community"



A Message from Our Rector

Perhaps you noticed that our Sunday worship took on a simpler tone throughout the season of Lent. Gone were the flowers in the sanctuary. Gone were the spoken and sung 'Alleluias'. Gone was the concluding Doxology (Glory to God, whose power, working in us...). Doing away with these things was our way of observing a liturgical fast; a fast that now comes to an end as we share the Easter greeting: **Alleluia! Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!** Our Lenten fast is over; it is now time for us to feast. In these fifty days of Easter, we feast on the sight and smell of flowers. We feast on delicious food and drink. We feast on special visits with loved ones. And most importantly, we feast on the good news of Jesus Christ: risen from the dead, vindicated, exalted, and restored to glory in the heavenly realms, where the Lord prepares a place for us. **Alleluia!** In my years as a seminarian, I undertook a student placement at St. Paul's, Stratford, a parish family that made regular use of the 1962 Book of Common Prayer. I came away from that experience with a heightened appreciation for the phrasing and cadences of the English language from an earlier era. Thomas Cranmer (Archbishop of Canterbury from 1533 to 1555) is credited with crafting many of the prayers found in the Book of Common Prayer, including the Collect for Easter Day. I share it now, along with the hope that it will provide yet another way for us to celebrate as we feast on the joyful Easter message.

*Almighty God, who through thine only begotten
Son Jesus Christ hast overcome death,
and opened unto us the gate of everlasting life:
We humbly beseech thee, that as by thy
special grace thou dost put into our minds good desires,
so by thy continual help we may bring the
same to good effect; through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy
Spirit, ever one God, world without end. Amen.*

May the risen One fill you with an abundance of grace and peace!

Andreas

*Christ
is risen,
Alleluia!*

Holy Land page 5 ...



Jerusalem Sunday
page 7 ...



**Episcopal Visit
with the Rite
of
Confirmation
pages 6 and 11...**



From Our Parish Council

Happy Spring to All! My name is Louise Davis, and I am your new Warden, along with returning Warden Jennifer McAlpine. Various life events, a move from the area, and of course Covid, all combined to limit my regular attendance over the last few years. Since my return to more consistent in-person worship, two things are apparent; sadly, there are a lot of missing friends, an inevitable result of passing time, but also, there are many new faces and signs of growth in our parish. I choose to focus on the latter and this is my chance to introduce myself to all our newer parishioners. I've been a member of St. Matthew's since 1992, primarily involved with the Sunday School. After all this time, it seems I am graduating to work with the grown-ups; I'll let you know next February whether it turned out to be more, or less, challenging!



Louise with husband Roger, at last year's Mega Book Sale
Photo by Gordon Drake

A Letter from Our Wardens:

Our finances have taken a hit over the last few years, and we continue in a deficit while facing increasing costs. However, 2022 saw a 10% increase in the number of donors, and a 7% increase in donation amounts. Currently, we are encouraged to see further increases in donations, which coupled with the financial success of the Pancake Supper (see next page) leaves us feeling hopeful. **We are planning three more community fund raising events.** A Rummage Sale will be held on Saturday June 3; a Used Book Sale, and the Christmas Craft & Food Market will both be held in the fall. **As for Volunteering,** it has been wonderful to see the re-emergence of many of the practices we lost during Covid. At our last Parish Council Meeting, we discussed the need to reinstate Sidesperson Teams (see below), and to form an active Property Committee, with the roof and the state of the parking lot being identified as priorities. Getting involved is a wonderful way to contribute, and there is an immediate opportunity to join both of these Ministries. At our Vestry Meeting, Andreas asked us to reflect on the Bishop's letter in which he spoke of all being worn out by the events of the last few years, but to look at it as a chance for renewal. His words resonated with many of us. Last month, Bishop Townshend joined us in worship and celebrated the Confirmation of Davny and Luiz Montebello (see page 6). This service included a renewal of our Baptismal Covenant. Hopefully, as a parish, we can begin to feel rejuvenated instead of weary.

It's the beginning of a new Easter season, and we are looking forward to a wonderful spring and summer!

Louise & Jennifer

SIDESPERSION MINISTRY - WE NEED YOU!!! A version of this Ministry has been functioning behind the scenes over the past few years, but is now returning to play a more visible role in our services. We will not be returning to passing the collection plate therefore each team will need only three members. The role of greeting fellow parishioners and making guests feel welcome is an important one. Similarly the responsibility of counting and tabulating the collection is vital to our financial well being. Processing the Gifts to the altar on behalf of the congregation is a symbolic gesture that will be making its return. If you sign up to be a Sidesperson/Greeter there is no need to handle the money at all if you don't wish to. If you sign up to be a Sidesperson/Collection Supervisor, there is no need to arrive early if you don't wish to. You can choose which aspect of the job you prefer, or you can opt to play multiple roles. Have I convinced you yet? **Please speak to me if you would like to join the team.** We have plenty of room. The more people involved the more flexible and less demanding the commitment will be.

Louise (519-564-0205)

Our Parish Council meetings are usually held on the third Wednesday of the month, starting at 7:00 PM. **Next meeting:** In the choir room, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 19, 2023. Parishioners are always welcome to join as observers.

Lenten Season at St. Matthew's

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 21



Seasoned cooks were single-handedly producing batch after batch of piping hot and delicious pancakes (puns intended). Skillful servers promptly offered the yummy discs to happy attendants, along with bacon and sausages, while other helpers were in charge of syrup, sauces, hot beverages, and even desserts, as well as of taking the best care of our guests. A buzzing hall, full of happy people with equally full tummies, added up to a very successful evening, with over \$1,900 in good-will offerings. **THANK YOU ALL!**



Ash Wednesday, February 22 — Holy Eucharist with the Imposition of Ashes. This year, two services were offered, at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm.

LENTEN GROUP — Led by Rev'd Andreas, reflections on a series of daily meditations for the Lenten season, took place every Sunday in Lent, considering recurrent themes in Jesus' parables from the book "**Organic God—Lenten Meditations on the Words of Jesus**" by Kate Moorehead

Lent being a season for reflection and self examination, we read these meditations each day and nine of us, including Andreas, came together on Sunday, right after our Fellowship Hour/Lenten Soup Luncheons, to share how these daily meditations spoke to us. This way, the readings brought insight not only to each one of us, but to all the others, as well as a growing understanding of how God works differently in each of our lives. For example, they brought a true meaning of Christ's words in *John 15*, "**I am the true vine**", with each one of us being the branches. As the vine has different seasons - planting, sowing, pruning, growing and harvesting of the fruit, we as a group were there at different stages in our lives, and with different needs, yet coming together, sharing, listening with a feeling of trust and true caring. Being able to share in this atmosphere can and did bring some healing.

Andreas emphasized one of the passages, "**You may have no idea of the difference that you have made in a persons life.**" I think we found this to be true during the sharing of this book. Growing a little more spiritually, and realizing our value to each other, and to God. **Remaining rooted in Christ, we know His love and His faithfulness.** **Jean Muhleisen**

All photography on this page by Gordon Drake

Continue on next page ...



Our weekly **Lenten Soup Luncheons** raised a total of \$1,640.55, this year. All proceeds going to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF). **Many thanks for your generous donations!**

Photos on page 12



Mike Ricketts

Our Choir is Back!

By Gordon Drake

After three long years of absence, the St. Matthew's choir has finally started up again, following the pandemic. As you may have noticed, a small group of cantors had continued practicing and singing during that time, but now that we are at full strength, we can enjoy singing together in harmony once more. Our Music Director, Mike Ricketts, was equally excited, and he had a full range of plans for the upcoming performances, especially the one on March 26, when Bishop Todd would be present.

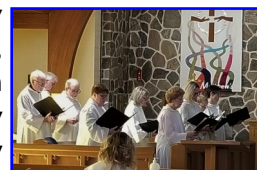
The weekly rehearsals were a welcome interruption to the normal busy schedules of our lives. The first rehearsal and performance, on March 2 and 5, respectively, were heartwarming. The members were excited to see each other, and were full of energy and enthusiasm. We were glad to welcome new members from the former St. James' choir, especially Gracie, our youngest new member. We went through the upcoming hymns and anthem. Mike was impressed by how much we had retained despite the long hiatus.

As the weeks went by, the choir continued to rehearse, and performances were more incredible than ever before. The congregation was thrilled, with a sense of comfort and hope after these difficult times that we all shared. The choir's beautiful singing, and Mike's musical accompaniment, helped to lift everyone's spirits and bring back a sense of normalcy to our worship services. The choir performance during Bishop Todd's visit, on March 26, turned out to be a highlight that brought high compliments and praise.

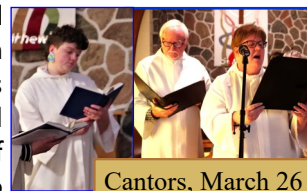
The pandemic has been a challenging time for everyone, but the return of the St. Matthew's choir is a clear sign that things are slowly returning to normal. The choir members are grateful to be back doing what they love, to continue the mission of bringing joy and spiritual nourishment through music, enhancing our worship services.



Gordon Drake



Choir back, March 5



Cantors, March 26

See "Prayer and Music", on page 7

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday April 2



Back this year: The Triduum

April 6 - Maundy Thursday

April 7 - Good Friday

April 8 - Saturday Easter Vigil

Our Journey from Darkness into Light



These photos from our archives

Our Journey to The Holy Land

PAGE 5

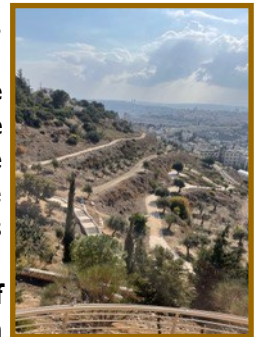
Text and Photography by Sue Trenhaile

Last November, Alan and I embarked on a cruise from Athens to Mumbai. Our first port of call was in Haifa, Israel. From here we left in a convoy of six buses and a police escort for a twelve-hour-long day, visiting Bethlehem and Jerusalem.

After crossing into the West Bank, we drove to **The Church of The Nativity**; I was overwhelmed at the thought of arriving at the place where Jesus was born. This is a UNESCO World Heritage site, and one of the oldest working churches in existence today. Inside the church, which is overseen by several denominations, were hundreds of other tourists; nevertheless, we were able to stand and say a private prayer in front of the altar which was built over the caves or grotto where tradition suggests Jesus was born (picture right). I was disappointed that we were not allowed to descend the steps to the actual place, but we were above it.



From Bethlehem, we drove to Jerusalem. Our first stop was to view **the Garden of Gethsemane from above on the Mount of Olives** (picture right). Beside Gethsemane is the Church of All Nations or the Basilica of the Agony. This church was built (renovated numerous times) over the rock where Jesus and his disciples prayed after the Last Supper, and before his arrest. I was able to touch that rock and pray.



We walked part of the **Via Dolorosa (the Way of Suffering)**, the path where it is believed Jesus walked from his place of judgement, to the site of his crucifixion, marked by the **Stations of the Cross**. Nine stations are outside, and five are inside the Holy Sepulchre Church. Pictured (left) is **Station Five**, where Simon of Cyrene helped Jesus carry the cross.

The next stop was at the **Holy Sepulchre Church**, with many people waiting outside and inside the church. It contains two holy sites: the site where Jesus was crucified at Calvary or Golgotha, and the place where he was buried and Resurrected (Jesus' tomb.) After entering the church, we had to wait our turn to go up a narrow staircase to see the **Crucifixion Altar, station twelve** (picture right). Tradition places the erection of the cross and the death of Jesus in the eastern part of the nave. Station thirteen is the Stone of the Anointing or Unction where the body of Jesus was taken down from the Cross and anointed. I was able to touch this rock and pray. Station fourteen is the Rotunda containing the Holy Sepulchre (Christ's tomb) where Jesus's body was placed, and site of the Resurrection. We stood outside, as this area was disappointingly locked by the Greek Orthodox Church.



The last part of our journey was spent at the crowded **Western or Wailing Wall**. This was the Jewish Sabbath Day so was full of hundreds of people singing and dancing traditional music. The Temple Mount or Dome of the Rock was visible above the wall along with military keeping watch over everyone. **This was a long, but exhilarating day!**

As we celebrate our Easter services and traditions this season, this very memorable time in Bethlehem and Jerusalem has certainly deepened my Anglican faith.

A Blessed Easter to All! Christ is Risen, Alleluia!

EASTER 2023

Our Anglican World

Episcopal Visit with The Rite of Confirmation — March 26, 2023



Photo below, from left: Sponsor Carol Caverzan, Davny & Luiz Montebello, Bishop Todd Townshend, and our rector, The Rev'd Andreas Thiel.



On this very special day, **The Rt. Rev'd R. Todd Townshend** presided our Sunday Service, during his first visit to St. Matthew's as Bishop of Huron. Sponsor Carol Caverzan presented Davny and Luiz Montebello for Confirmation; Davny and Luiz renewed their trust in Jesus' grace and love, and embraced the Anglican faith, as the congregation witnessed, and committed to support them in their life in Christ.

It was both an honour and a pleasure to worship together with Bishop Todd, as well as his son Seth, who was accompanying him. After the service, they also joined the congregation for our Lenten Soup Lunch, and celebratory cake, in the church hall.

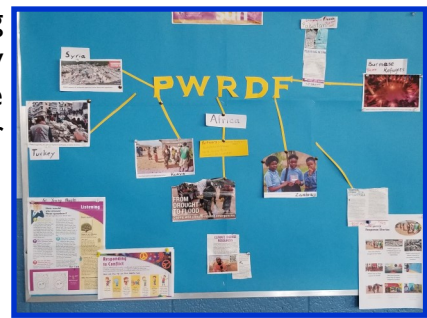
More on page 11 ...

Rev'd Andreas shared the following message, received from Bishop Todd, the day after the service: "Andreas, yesterday was a blessing to all who participated. Seth and I will remember it for a long time. Thank you for your gentle and competent leadership and hospitality. **God is good!**"



Great information during announcements from our new PWRDF representative, Jane Buttery (left). Also, check out her display in the church hall (right).

For more on the **Primate's World Relief and Development Fund** visit: <https://pwrdf.org>



Photos on this page by Gordon Drake and Irene Savva

Continue on next page ...

Anglican Fellowship of Prayer
is pleased to present
the Bishop of Huron's Prayer Conference

Saturday May 6, 2023

10:00am - 3:00pm

Church of St. Jude

1537 Adelaide St. N., London

Cost: \$20.00 (includes lunch)

The Intersection of Prayer and Music: Encountering these practices
as Individuals and as Faith Communities.

with

The Reverend Andreas Thiel

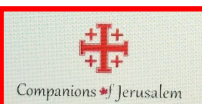
Please join the Rev'd Andreas Thiel, former professional musician and rector of St. Matthew's from the Diocese of Huron, to explore together how music in our liturgies and in our lives, both serves and enhances our prayers.

- Please join us in person at 9:30 am for refreshments.

- Afternoon workshops will be designed to put some of what we will hear in the morning and afternoon sessions, into practice.



To register, please contact: The Rev'd Ann Webber at 226-373-1391



Jerusalem & Holy Land Sunday: May 21, 2023

Every year, for a decade now, Anglican (and Lutheran) congregations have offered prayers for the Christian witness in the Holy Land. In addition, donations are collected, to support the multi-faceted ministry in the Diocese of Jerusalem; this year, donations will be channeled to support the children's trauma healing programs of the Al Ahli Arab Hospital, in Gaza. **Thank you for your support!**

For more, visit: <https://www.anglican.ca/gr/provinces/jerusalem/companions/>



**SINGING THE LORD'S SONG
IN A STRANGE LAND**

**The 183rd Synod of the Diocese of Huron
London, ON May 28-29, 2023**

From: <https://diohuron.org/resources/synod-resources>



Attention All Golfers!!!

**This year's Essex Deanery Golf Tournament
is scheduled for Monday, June 19
Proceeds help to fund the Youth Ministry in our Deanery
More information and registration coming soon**

Currently, The Essex Deanery Golf Tournament Trophy sits at St. Matthew's! Photo, from left, our 2022 winning team: (Scott Millar not pictured), Joe Molnar and returning champions, Jess Dixon and John Rossi, accepting trophy from Rev'd Andreas.



Photo by Irene Savva

What's buzzing in the religious blogosphere? Visit our Diocese of Huron, and the Anglican Church of Canada websites: <https://diohuron.org>
<https://www.anglican.ca>

And for other very good resources, also check out these websites:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada <https://elcic.ca/>

Date of Easter (How is it calculated?) <https://www.anglican.ca/ask/faq/easter/>

Rev'd Cathy's Corner

Outreach Ministries

Marlborough Breakfast: Just a quick note that we have moved to 6 loaves of bread for sandwiches (about 70) with extra cheese strings and juice boxes. There are more children using the Grab and Go breakfast. Food budgets must be more difficult now for families. The older griddle finally died and has been replaced as well. The programme goes smoothly and is greatly appreciated by the School. Socks and underwear have also been taken to the school for emergency supplies this past winter. **Blessings and thanks to everyone who participates.**

Sewing Ministry at the South West Detention Centre

We have been back into the Lifestyle Room for a while now, showing the female inmates, on a one-on-one basis, how to use a sewing machine. The women may choose from different types of items to make and keep, or give away, such as eyeglass case, pillowcase, tote bag, tissue holder, fabric bucket, release bag (clear plastic bags on release day do not give much privacy for personal items), just to name a few. This ministry has proven to be fulfilling not only for the inmates, but for the instructors, as accounted by two of our dedicated volunteers:

From Danielle Richer: The time has finally come for the sewing program at the South West Detention Centre to resume. As the day of my first visit neared, I realized I was filled with trepidation; afraid I would inadvertently say something offensive or hurtful, I envisioned myself just bumbling through instructions and frustrating the inmates into complete confusion. Happily, none of my fears materialized.

To participate in the sewing program, the women earn points for good behaviour. Some have only been with us once, others have been regulars, and one has not missed a day. She is so prolific; we have to keep coming up with more challenging projects for her. We treat each session with the inmates as if it is our last with them, usually completing a few projects within 90 minutes. Most have indicated that a relative has a sewing machine that they will be able to use once they are released. While the inmates have indeed had a difficult past, the women we meet there are determined to forge a better path for themselves.

I can't speak for my partners, but I can tell you how I believe I am making a difference. I share from my personal experience of how I started young, and how I still sew for pleasure with a machine gifted to me on my 18th birthday by my grandmother. I also share that sewing is not always easy, sometimes you just have to undo some stitches, even occasionally a whole seam. Some, out of frustration, ask me to help them by doing something for them; other times, I resist the temptation of doing it for them because it would be faster. In the end, I want them to be able to honestly and proudly say that they made the item themselves. I think they get it.

And yet, the biggest lesson has been for me. It didn't take long before I made a mistake while instructing one of the inmates; I had to tell her that I forgot a step and we had to undo a seam. How embarrassing! As I admitted my mistake, she sat back, paused for a moment, and told me that it was all right, because after all, we all make mistakes. I got a lesson in compassion from a most unlikely source.

Our laughter-filled sessions go by so quickly, usually ending with hugs all around from the inmates. I went in there to share my knowledge and understanding of sewing. Along the way I have had to think on my feet. Sometimes it worked, other times it hasn't. And I'm OK with that.

The inmates taught me so.

Continue on next page ...

From Jean Muhleisen:

Many emotions surround the Sewing Ministry at the South West Detention Centre.

There is joy, as I watch the women's demeanor change from mistrust, defiance, and shyness, to smiles and hugs within a couple of hours. Joy in their excitement and pride when showing a finished project to the guards; or their surprise at actually accomplishing a sewing project, despite never having sewn before. It is priceless to perceive their expression of thanks while telling us that coming and sewing relaxes them; they feel more positive when returning to their area, with the motivation to work at keeping their rewards or points, so they will be allowed to come the following week.

There is gratifying humour. One woman expressed to me in great surprise that after six and a half years in and out of jail she finally gets it.....you follow the rules, then you get the rewards. She bounced out the door with a big smile, claiming to the guard that she just had an epiphany.

There is a sadness. Another woman asked me why we would want to spend our time with people like them and not get paid.

This ministry provides hope and love to the women, through which they can experience positive contact with the outside world without judgement. Simply to be accepted as individuals, and given hope in just a couple of hours, provides them with a feeling of worthiness. And for me, this is a very rewarding, gratifying, and meaningful ministry.

**This Easter season, remember Hiatus House,
the South West Detention Centre, and our Food Cupboard
Thank you for your continuing support!**

From the Desk of Rev'd Glenda

Throughout the past number of years, we have experienced something entirely new. We came face to face with a new fear. What we couldn't see, predict or control was spreading with lightning speed. Being faced with this threat to our lives and the lives of those we love and those we've never met, not to mention our economic well-being, has resulted in spiritual, emotional, and physical exhaustion. Perhaps, however, in all of it, we have learned something that truly humbles us because, if anything, the pandemic has taught us much about what it means to be truly *human*. Protecting each other, recognizing essential workers, or simply calling someone on the phone, are some examples of how through this pandemic, our lives have really been enhanced by numerous insights. Perhaps it takes a pandemic, a collective experience of fear and lockdowns, to bring home the biblical message that we are all One in the Lord – no one better than, or less than..... just different and perhaps it takes a pandemic to remind us of our humanity and the truth of what matters, and recognize the bright path that now awaits us.

Blessings this Easter, Glenda

Palliative Care at Hospice of Windsor

by Lori Maisonville, RP

Contributing my creativity to my community: Palliative Care at Hospice of Windsor

Eight years ago, I decided to give back to my community again, and became a Hospice of Windsor volunteer. After completing the extensive patient care volunteer training (6 months), and a few interviews/reference checks, I started by sharing my skills in a variety of areas and quickly realized **Energy Work** was my passion and calling. Energy Work is a holistic healing energy modality that uses compassion and universal energy to improve sleep, boost morale, and reduce stress and anxiety in under ten minutes; each session is individualized, quietly sitting in a chair or lying down, fully clothed. Some people refer to it as a moving meditation.

I studied, volunteered in, and completed over 95+ case studies to become a Recognized Practitioner with the Therapeutic Touch Network of Ontario (TTNO), all the while supporting with compassion not only patients, but also their families. Some of the many gifts I've gained through volunteering as an Energy Worker, both on-site and off-site, at Hospice includes: 1) Holding space for another person, 2) Growing my ability to be more compassionate & empathetic, 3) Honoring silence; providing the gift of listening, 4) Respecting the gift of not knowing, that is, being in this very moment.

Some may agree that it's in the giving that we receive, and I continue to receive abundantly. I am one of some 600 volunteers, and if I could summarize my experience in one short phrase, entertain this: **Volunteering at Hospice is a Masterclass in Gratitude.**

A Real Time Palliative Care Perspective. Recently, I had the privilege to journey with one of my eighty-year-old relatives in Hospice Care for three months, until they made their transition beyond the human form. I was so honored to witness and be of service to a person so full of gratitude, sincerity and a vibrant sense of humor! With the medical systems under so much strain over the past couple years, it was a comfort for our family knowing that our loved one received quality care, nutritious meals, medications to keep them comfortable, and compassion and empathy from a most impressive team of medical professionals, and volunteers from the Transition to Betterness organization (T2B).

There have been a few resources that have especially inspired me on this journey, to grow in compassion and provide the gift of listening. If you aspire to learn and understand more about Palliative and Hospice Care, consider these rich materials:

TED Talk by Dr. Ken Hillman: We Are Doing Dying All Wrong (2016).

Author Cathy Fanslow's - Using The Power of Hope to Cope with Dying: The Four Stages of Hope (2012).

TED Talk by Hospice Dr. BJ Miller: What Really Matters at the End of Life (2015).

Author Elisabeth Kubler Ross: On Death & Dying (1969). This Swiss-American Psychiatrist proposed a patient-focused, death adjustment pattern to "The Five Stages of Grief."

Transition to Betterness (T2B) is an independent charity which has operated in Windsor-Essex County for over two decades, currently with more than twenty on-going programs that support patients and families in our local hospitals and healthcare facilities. Some examples are: music therapy for adults, backpacks filled with toys for paediatric oncology patients, to take with them to treatments, and comfort blankets and snacks, to name a few. For donations, and more: <https://www.t2b.ca/>

Palliative care is specialized medical care for people living with a serious illness, meant to enhance a person's current care by focusing on quality of life for them and their family.

Hospice care focuses on the care, comfort, and quality of life of a person with a serious illness who is approaching the end of life.

Definitions from: <https://www.nia.nih.gov/health/what-are-palliative-care-and-hospice-care>

From Carol Caverzan: I have known Davny and Luiz Montebello since the very first Sunday they arrived at St. Matthew's, in August of 2022. I was honored to be asked to be their sponsor for Confirmation, which took place on March 26, 2023, by Bishop Todd Townshend, in the presence of our wonderful parish community (see p. 6).

Davny and Luiz were born and raised in Brazil; Davny became a lawyer, and Luiz an Industrial Engineer. Not long after their marriage, they decided to immigrate to Vancouver, Canada. *They knew no one.* In the summer of 2022, they moved on to Windsor and bought a home. As Luiz said, "We looked for a city where housing was affordable, and the winters weren't too bad." Again, *they knew no one.* On a Sunday in August, they set out to go to a church they had found on the website "Find a Church." As they drove, they were running late, and Davny realized that they had misjudged the distance; she quickly checked *Google Maps* for the closest church and they arrived at St. Matthew's *on time* for the 10 am Service. As the saying goes, "the rest is history"... a 7-month history of being warmly welcomed and so appreciated by those who have come to know them, and 7 months of their engaging fully into the life of our parish.

The day before their Confirmation, I received a text message from Davny asking if I would read a letter she had written for the end of the Service. Davny felt that it would be too emotional for her; I agreed to her request. The Service on Sunday was incredibly meaningful and moving from beginning to end, like when all the instruments in an orchestra come together to create a beautiful symphony. It is my honor now to share with you again, Davny's letter to her parish family:

"I want to thank you all for making this day possible; we will cherish and remember this day for the rest of our lives. It is the day that we can truly say we are Anglicans, and you have no idea what this means to us. Since the first time we came here, we felt loved and welcomed. Coming to [St.] Matthew's was the best decision we made in our lives. I believe that God sent us here.... because He knew in our hearts that it was just what we needed. For so long I have searched for this feeling of belonging. We are very far away from our families in Brazil, and 'here' feels like home, feels like family. This church was a light in my life when I needed it most. God heard our prayers and we feel so blessed to have you all in our lives. Every day, we will do our very best to be worthy of this church. Thank you, Andreas, for preparing us for this day and for blessing us with your wisdom. The preparation was fun, and we learned so much. I will miss our meetings. And, thank you, Carol, for being our Sponsor and a light in our lives."

Davny and Luiz, **you** are a light in our lives! **Thank you,** from your Matthew's Family.



From top: Davny and Luiz with Bishop Todd; with their certificates, next to Rev'd Andreas, and gift-bearing sponsor Carol; cake; chocolate art by Sue Bernard.



Celebratory dinner, from left: New parishioners Andrew Dalavale, Carline Stalter, Luiz & Davny Montebello, The Rev'd Andreas Thiel, sponsor Carol Caverzan, and parishioner Nadine Donlon.



Above right: Mary Grace (black T-shirt) with parishioners Judith, Carol, Nadine, and Rev'd Glenda, after a performance (left).

Last month, Mary Grace Weir accomplished another successful role, this time in the play **Incredible Hospital**, a silly soap opera spoof, at The Shadowbox Theatre.

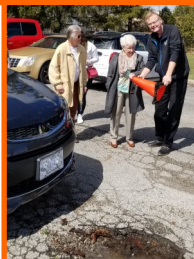
Taking care of each other—

A pylon was stuck under Flora Smith's car; several fellow parishioners ran to the rescue, and got it out in no time!



The Colchester Ridge Estate Winery (CREW), a family-owned company operated by St. Matthew's parishioners, Bernie and Nancy Gorski, has announced their re-opening, following recent renovations. CREW is a Winery & Gallery in the heart of Lake Erie's North Shore.

Logo from, and for more info:
<https://www.colchesterridge.com/>



... News from the Pews



Easter-themed gift boxes and chocolate bars were designed and sold by the Craft Guild; the funds raised will go towards the purchase of their stock supplies.

Photos by Gordon Drake and Irene Savva



Lenten Soup Lunches to Support PWRDF

Everyone is welcome!
Coffee & Fellowship Hour
Sundays after the 10 AM Service
Our hosting rotation is back!
Sign up with Mary Lou Drake

Anniversaries

Celebrating this season

April

23 – Roger Wurdemann & Louise Davis

May

8 – Steve & Erin Pidhoresky
 14 – Onorio & Beth Felet
 18 – Peter & Pat Lown
 19 – Richard & Ann Hucal
 22 – John Rossi & Patti Weir
 24 – Alan & Sue Trenhaile
 26 – Toni Ligor & Jen McAlpine
 28 – Mark & Sue Bernard

June

8 – Robert & Mary Grace Weir
 10 – Aaron & Melissa Bratt
 10 – Jeff Wilkinson & Sandra Hall
 20 – Donn & Jane Bayne
 24 – Shawn & Linda McDonald
 27 – Al & Nicole McCabe
 30 – Brad & Stephania Allsop

July

10 – Mark & Audrey Goldspink
 25 – Marwan & Nadia Taqtaq
 29 – George & Irene Savva

August

4 - Andy & Katie Hahn
 30 - Gordon & Mary Louise Drake

September

7 – Paul Finlayson & Danielle Richer
 15 – Jeff & Jane Patterson

October

7 – Don & Jane Gall
 9 – Paul & Gwen Allsop
 13 – Ladd & Florence Ritchie
 17 – Mark & Dora Donlon
 27 – Steve & Kim Sussens

Birthdays next page ...

Dates to remember:

Tree Planting (ERCA)— Sunday, April 23, 10 am-12 Noon. Sign-up sheet in the narthex. See information on page 14.

Rummage Sale— Saturday, June 3. Stay tuned for more information coming soon.

St. Matthew's Photo Directory— Photo shoots June 20-24. Mark your calendars, session booking coming soon.

Rector's Time Off— Rev'd Andreas will be away this summer, **August 6 to September 3.** The Rev'd Bill Bradley will preside during that time.

Celebrating this season

Birthdays

April

3 – Catherine Hillman
6 – David Paraschak
6 – Sandra Hall
7 – Colin Allsop
7 – Noah Allsop
7 – Jacob Ritchie
9 – Andreas Thiel
9 – Erin Henderson
9 – Nicole Sussens
10 – Haylie Hancock
10 – Michael Chantler
16 – Ted Clarke
17 – Mark Goldspink
18 – Emma Westray
21 – Tom Dunsmore
21 – Scott Ritchie
25 – Collin Patterson
27 – Ryan Patterson

July

2 - Emily Finlayson
4 – Don Gall
4 - George Savva
5 - Katie Hahn
5 - Cathy MacKendrick
5 - Alisa Ritchie
5 - Janet Williams
7 - Kate Westray
8 - Gail Henderson
9 - Cora Braidford
11 - Ed Bulley
12 - Donna Hudec
17 – Daniel Repko
18 - Susan Bernard
19 - Brad Allsop
22 - Jane Stanley
27 - Richard Postovit
29 - Onorio Felet
31 - Bill Shaw

May

2 – Caitlin Henderson
4 – Jane Patterson
10 – Irene Savva
15 – Dianne Iannicello
19 – David Goldspink
21 – David Hitchcock
28 – Jane Bayne
28 – Jeff Wilkinson
30 – Sharon Ritchie

August

5 – Jane Buttery
8 - Ron Henderson
9 - Lorraine Souchuk
9 - Donnie McAlpine
13 - Al McCabe
15 - Matthew Ritchie
20 - Gordon Drake
23 - Alyson Pidhoresky
25 - Deb French
28 - Frances Bernard
30 - Joan Geml

October

3 – Ryan Ritchie
4 – Virginia Schofield
7 – Paul Allsop
8 – John Rossi
10 – Frank Geml
11 – Meaghan Felet
11 – Joan Mallender
12 – Gabriela Savva
12 – Mark Donlon
14 – Brayden Ritchie
14 – Nadine Donlon
16 – Ginny McAdam
19 – Donn Bayne
21 – Dennis Bernard
26 – Mary Grace Weir

June

1 – Glenda Fisher
2 – Don Prodan
4 – Margaret Jemison
5 – Benjamin Hahn
7 – Danielle Richer
7 – Steve Sussens
14 – Bill McAdam
17 – Ted Felet
23 – Daryl Hudec
26 – Louise Davis
27 – Toni Ligor
28 – Shawn McDonald
30 – Sarah Finlayson
30 – Kevin Patterson

September

1 - Florence Ritchie
1 - Laurie Ritchie
3 - Roger Wurdemann
5 – Erin Pidhoresky
5 – Karen Ceman
12 - Agnes Dalley
13 - Emma Chantler
15 - Jeff Patterson
16 - Eva Pidhoresky
16 - David Pidhoresky
19 - Matt Bulley
21 - Kierstin Yednoroz
22 - Stan Goldspink
24 - Marwan Taqtaq
26 - Jackson Donlon
28 - Lauren Wilkinson
30 - Melissa Bratt

New Parishioners: Join the announcements!

Please submit your articles, feedback and other contributions to Sue Bernard, Irene Savva, or to thejourneyatstmatthews@gmail.com. Are you celebrating a milestone anniversary soon? Submit your wedding picture for publication! **Also let us know of any updates needed in the birthday and anniversary announcements; we apologize for any mistakes or omissions.**

Have you joined our e-mail communication list? It is the fastest and most environmentally friendly way to receive communications from our clergy. Enroll at: stmatthewswindsor@diohuron.org
Do you receive "The Journey" by e-mail? You could get your newsletter in PDF in full colour by joining the e-mail distribution list. Request your subscription at thejourneyatstmatthews@gmail.com

Earth Day 2023 - Tree Planting



Earth Day is a global annual event to support environmental protection. The day is celebrated on and around April 22 every year

The Earth Day 2023 Theme is a continuation from 2022

Invest In Our Planet.

Tree Planting Sunday, April 23, 2023

Your wardens, Jennifer and I, share an interest in “green” ideas, both at St. Matthew’s and in the greater community. During **Earth Day** weekend, our parish has an opportunity to make a difference by forming a St. Matthew’s team and planting some trees. This event is organized by Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA), and takes place on Sunday, April 23, between 10 am and 12 pm. This is one of the rare occasions when missing church will be sanctioned and even encouraged by the Rector. **We need at least fifteen volunteers to form a team, so please let us know if you are interested ASAP.** The invitation extends to family, friends and neighbours. We have placed a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can speak to either Jen or myself. **Let’s invest in our planet, our community and home!** Louise Davis (519-564-0205)

<https://essexregionconservation.ca/education-and-events/earth-day-community-tree-planting-2023/>

Auto-deduction giving – Please consider this option, which helps us meet our monthly financial obligations. To learn more, change amount (a small increase can make a big difference!) or switch from credit card to bank account, please contact Beth Felet at (519) 969-3035.

Front page photos by Carol Caverzan, Gordon Drake, Irene Savva and Sue Trenhaile

Everybody is Welcome!

Sunday Services

8:30 am & 10:00 am

To prevent the spread of COVID19 and other infectious diseases, when feeling unwell, it is strongly recommended to abstain from attending public gatherings, including services of worship.

Visit our website

<http://www.saintmatthewswindsor.ca>

Check out “The Journey” in full colour
and our Facebook page 

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Phone: (519)969-1510

E-mail:

stmatthewswindsor@diohuron.org

Rector:

The Reverend Andreas Thiel
Cellphone (226)345-5085
(Monday is our rector’s day off)

Deacons:

The Reverend Cathy MacKendrick
The Reverend Glenda M. Fisher