



David's Dialogue

Dear members and friends of St. Matthew's

"The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail." *Isaiah 58: 11*

A watered garden is a place where the soil is moist and soft. The roots of the plants and those of the trees are easily nourished there. Of course, much of what is happening in a well-watered garden is happening under the ground, in the soil where we can't see it. A gardener, though, will be digging around and will appreciate the soil, its life and its nurturing qualities. Often we are encouraged to look for God above, up in heaven. We pray by reaching our hands up, trying to reach out to God who is way up high.

But God is not just in the heavens above. God is under our feet, too. We receive God's blessings from the land. We are sustained from below as food grows up from a well-watered field. God is a grounding force, a bottom-up power. That is why the Psalmist speaks of meditation on God's word with the metaphor of sending down roots, roots that draw God's wisdom from below. (see Psalm 1)

In a watered garden, we hear birds singing. In a watered garden we smell the dirt, especially after rain. In a watered garden we taste sweet cherry tomatoes. In a watered garden we feel the brush of a wet leaf against our cheek.

A garden can also feel like home. In fact, it can feel like a mother. So many of the special women in our lives spend time in the garden. They spend time there because they find fulfillment there, peace in their busy and sometimes - trying - lives. But the gardeners I know spend time in the garden because they know the garden can give good things to oth-

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P.I.E. Day was March 14th.

The Sunday before P.I.E Day, the Worship Committee recognized this special day, by using one of the current P.I.E videos that were available from our church head office and Affirm United, the group that assists churches that have declared that they want to be an affirming ministry. The video numbered “3” was shown during our March 8th service. The links to all three selections from the Worship committee are listed below: as I hoped you might like to check out these resources from our church Head Office and the Affirm United group.

From Affirm United:

1. Rev. Tricia Gerhard shares why it's important to be PIE: Public, Intentional, and Explicit, in living out being Affirming, not only inside faith communities, but in the Public Square! Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KSPXct9J474>
3. This is a general description of the meaning of PIE; it was put out this year by Affirm United: <https://affirmingconnections.com/pie-day>
4. This is an easy to follow video made to explain how to refer to people. ie) usage of pronouns. It is titled as “Range of Gender Identities”. Here’s the link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i83VQIaDIQw>

National Indigenous Peoples Day Event at the Richmond Hill Library

Sarah Loretta Schuster is hosting an event on **June 20th from 1 to 4 PM at the Richmond Hill Central Library to honour upcoming National Indigenous Peoples Day.** (NIPD) The first half of the event will feature Indigenous speakers based in Richmond Hill, including Dene Healer Bernadette Rombough, Anishinaabe Entrepreneur Angela Cimino, and Cree Traditional Practitioner Christine Myrden. The second half will be a craft social where we will come together to paint rawhide, share refreshments, and explore a mini Indigenous craft market.

Please register for the event [using this url](#). Registration is required and is free. You are invited to participate in any way you feel comfortable. Sarah would welcome extra hands volunteering at the door, handing out refreshments, sharing a poem or song during the speaking portion, helping with the crafts, or simply attending. No pressure. But they’d appreciate your help.

The event is at the Library and includes lots of interesting activities. Note that the library site lists many other activities and social events you might be interested in attending. Ex) book clubs, presentations, etc. Here’s [the link](#).

COMMUNITY UPDATES AND EVENTS

PODCAST of “Rev. David Unpacking Easter”

Submitted by Naomi Knight

Marj Andre does several podcasts with people or groups as a part of her business. She operates the OnRichmondHill newsletter and her associated Connecting the Community podcasts.

Rev. David Kim-Cragg's interview recorded by Marge is focused on unpacking what Easter means to Christians. To listen, click the link and press the green arrow button to start listening. Here is [the link](#) for Rev. David's interview. She also did one for Rev. Mini Choi, the new minister for RHUC. You can hear it at [this link](#).

Easter Services: Sunrise & Baptisms



For those that enjoy the early morning, 7am outdoor Sunrise service, the sombre but joyful celebration of Christ having arisen from the grave was celebrated. Above is the photo taken by Naomi Knight. Joan Plume is holding an Easter Lily. The piece on the lawn were items that are representative of the Jesus' time on the cross then arising. A breakfast was offered to all following the service.

During the 10:30am Easter morning service, three baptisms made for an even happier Easter celebration for our congregation. The three people baptized were Ali Nik Bakht, Masoud Bolghani, and Tian Jing. Doris was prepped and ready to do a reading for us but ended up with a bad cold and couldn't come. We hope she'll be able to do a reading for us in the future. Enjoy the photos on the next page.

Three Baptisms Celebrated Easter Morning

On April 5th, Easter Service, three people were Baptized. The picture to the left show the celebrants in the hall after the service with the cake made to celebrate this event. In the photo, the celebrants are (left to right): Jing, Ali Nik bakht, Masoud Bolghani, and Rev. David Kim-Cragg. After the service a congratulatory cake was served along with tea, coffee and other refreshments.



The above photo was taken in the sanctuary during the baptisms. Afterwards, each candidate received a Bible and a Pin shaped in the outline of a Dove of Peace. Names (left to right): Ali, Rev. David, Masoud, and Jing (Vicky) Tian. along with her two sons (Qing Jun and Zi Xuan), and her husband.

Congratulations to Each of You!

The Passing of Grant Marshall

Grant Marshall, a long term member of our Church, passed away on Thursday, April 2nd at the age of 92. He was active in the church and as the Owner of Marshall's Funeral Home, assisted many of us when a friend or family member passed.

When a short message was needed during an Annual meeting or during a service to raise a point or raise funds, give thanks or credit to someone, Grant was quick to provide it. The "few words" were never short but always respectful and on point.

Grant was also a great card player and played every Friday evening when Ken & I ran the Progressive Euchre Club at the church for almost four decades. The Euchre club started as a way to raise money to remove landmines. Of course we had a few dinners and a grand silent auction as well. That project raised some forty thousand dollars which removed a lot of landmines giving the land back to those who could again grow vegetables and other plants, and trees. But I digress. We continued to play Euchre for many years. Indeed by the time Covid came, we had more non church members, than members, playing with us and joining out events and dinners.

Grant would quietly donate to whatever fundraiser our church was running and buy tickets to dinners, and events for those who couldn't have come otherwise. He was a friend to all no matter their circumstance.

He was also an active member of the local Lion's Club and a multi-term President with that Club. Several of our members were also members or helpers at the Lion's Club during Grant's tenure.

Thank you Grant for everything you did: your kind words that encouraged many, and your many acts of kindness that although not known to many, were appreciated.



Photo by Linda Harris

NEWS from the PEWS: How I Spent Easter

Chris and I went to Aaron's new home in Oshawa and I spent my time cuddling with Hudson and Polar, his teddy bear. Hudson had a bad cold and missed the last few days of daycare due to his running nose and slight fever. It was truly a relaxing and thankful Easter.

Robyn with Aaron provided a wonderful meal including turkey, mashed potatoes, both gluten free and regular stuffing and gravy. Sides included salad and veggies, with ice cream and lemon meringue pie for dessert. Also, sparkling juices and tea.

The only problem with the visit is that it had to come to an end. But it was delightful having my family together for the day at Aaron & Robyn's new home. Hudson is now 18 months old!

Article by Doreen; Photo by Robyn.



Want to Announce Something in the Bulletin?

Please send the information using this email link to [Doreen](#) by the end of the day on MONDAY before the Sunday bulletin you would like it printed in. Be sure to write it up as you wish it to appear. She may have to tweak it to ensure it fits in the available space. If you have an announcement but can't meet the newsletter deadline, please go to the front of the church and make your announcement when the minister asks if there are any announcements to be made.

What's Been Happening at Our Church

- * **Rooks to Cooks** held a cooking class during the Jan. 6th PD Day (ie. Professional Dev't Day for teachers). They also had a successful week of cooking classes during the March break and are scheduled to be cooking during the 10 or 11 weeks of summer. To help with advertising, they've dropped off three street signs that advertise their summer classes and they've provided small promotional cards that are near the entrance to the church. Given our many recitals, those coming to recitals might be good candidates for cooking school as well.
- * **Recitals** are starting again and thus we need some help to let the folks in, turn on the lights and the sound system, then lock up afterwards. If you can help out, please let Valery McMurdo know by phoning the church office at (905) 884-3606.
- * **The plaque for our park bench** that is on the lawn under the tree is now available. Bill will be installing it in the near future.
- * **The Annual Strawberry Supper** is coming up on Wednesday, June 24th. More details as we get closer to the event's date.
- * **Project Abraham** is renting our hall for another series of 4 sessions. Due to their rentals, the Craft club has kindly agreed to move to the back of the sanctuary during those rentals. This makes their 4th set of workshops. Their efforts are focused on recently arrived refugees to assist them in easing into life now that they are in Canada. They cover a variety of topics each time. They are already looking at another series to allow the people to become accustomed to shopping here and in cooking using what is available in our grocery stores. We may not always have the same food they are accustomed to but we often have similar items, spices, meats, etc.
- * **Bone Health.** Unfortunately, we've had a few members fall resulting in broken bones and a longer stay in hospital. Helen Smith is now living at the Richmond Hill Retirement home and Jayne Philip is starting rehab at MacKenzie Health. Our best wishes to both of them. I'm sure we are all happy to know they are getting better! Due to this, I've made a resolution to have my bone density taken every 10 years and perhaps more frequently as the years go on. I'd already had this done when I turned 65 so I'm off to a good start. This may be something others might consider given the major cause of broken bones as we age, is brittle (less dense) bones. And there are ways available to increase your bone density to help avoid breaks.