

# THE Transcript

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION



Fall 2022





# 1st Year Anniversary

When I returned from my summer holidays there was a card on my desk. It said, “Celebrate” and on the inside, “Happy 1 year here.” I had sort of forgotten about that. To be honest, I was a bit in disbelief. A year already! How? Time is a funny thing, going both slowly and quickly, and I can say in equal measure that it had been a year of challenges, but also miracles: 12 months beyond anything that I could have asked or imagined. A year in which I believe that God has guided us through the uncertainty of another Covid-impact year and blessed our community.



Some of the biggest challenges when I started in summer of 2021 were Covid-related. Do you remember the days when we couldn't sing together? Even outside! We wore our masks, we kept apart, the communion cup stayed on the altar, and we felt our way through the Covid fog. We opened for in-person worship, then closed after Christmas, and then re-opened. We passed through red, yellow, and green stages, encountering several false dawns and delays. For half the year our Water's Edge community remained in limbo, our children suffered through my sermons in the pews, hospitality was out of the question. Today, I give thanks for all the rich blessings that we have as we enter this Thanksgiving season. A choir back together, with our new Music Director, David King. A Children's Chapel to welcome our Nursery-age children and youth programming in development. A new family initiative on the First Friday's of the month. Coffee Hour to draw us into extended fellowship at the end of the service. A reliable hybrid service, for those who worship from home. A once a month Water's Edge service.



A first visit to Transfig, just after appointment papers were signed.

In this season of abundance, I think we can say that our cup overflows with new beginnings, energy, and life. Thanks be to God who has guided us through a long and dark night and into the glorious light of this new day in our parish.

God's blessing is meant to be the authoritative pronouncement of God's favour. Even through our challenges last year, I believe that we can see how our community pulled together and put our trust that the work of God can flourish and grow again in this place. That Transfig can be a place of life, and life in abundance. As we move into our second year together, blessed by God, blessed by the gifts of our community, and blessed by the ministry that is ripening in our midst, I am reminded of the words in the Gospel, the harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Thank you for being my co-labourers this past year as we proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom. Happy Thanksgiving and blessings for the year ahead.



Preparing for my first Baptism,  
December 2021

In communion, Michael



# On The Hill Music Nights

## Season Review

By Deb Whalen-Blaize

And just like that, it's fall. Another season of summer concerts On the Hill is behind us. But what a glorious season it was!

Every concert season is different. COVID made sure of that. But thankfully, being outside in the open air makes everyone a little safer -our artists included! You may not know, but Alex Pangman, the noble front-lady of our most well-attended concert of the entire summer, is immunocompromised. Under doctor's orders, she is only to perform online or outdoors. She expressed to me personally that she and her fans appreciated our perfect summer setting, finding it lovely and inviting, and because it added another date to her limited summer tour.

Our roster this summer featured artists of diverse genres. In addition to Alex Pangman and the Sweet Hots, we had The Griffith Hiltz Trio take us on a cinematic funk journey complete with steampunk pirate storytelling. We hosted Anda Zeng, a beautiful and delicate singer-songwriter who offered soundscapes to heal the heart, and who incorporated poems written and performed by Natalie Wee. And even though the weather drove us inside the church, our evening with Argentinian folk band El Ceibo was rich none the less; not only were we treated to gorgeous and energetic music, but various traditional dances as well.

And finally we celebrated our final concert featuring music from the church. David King and I invited a few musicians to play with us: Andrew Noseworthy, an accomplished guitar player who has been working as one of our sound engineers, and Ainsley Munro from the Water's Edge community, agreed to lend her vocal harmonies. Together we were able to entertain the crowd using a collection of musical reflection pieces we've featured in our services. Most of the songs were from familiar pop artist, and carried meaningful themes that demonstrate what church means to us: connection and community, authenticity and love.



Thanks to every one of you who attended the shows and brought your friends, and a very special thanks to our faithful volunteers who helped set up and tear down, facilitate the welcome table and offer refreshments. Through it all, we were able to support local musicians and offer hospitality as we met and welcomed our neighbours. And yes, while every summer has been different, I am happy to report that this has been yet another successful summer of building community On the Hill.



**"It was another marvelous On the Hill season! Working at the welcome table, I had the pleasure of receiving on behalf of Transfig so many words of thanks and appreciation from the community as they passed by. They were grateful for the excellent musicians, beautiful outdoor setting and welcoming atmosphere. This series has truly become a summer highlight for our community."**

**- Heather Hanson**

**"Music on the Hill is fun entertainment and all are welcome to come. It's cool that we get to see so many great musicians perform. We are lucky to have Music on the Hill!"**

**-Juliet**





**"We attended all concerts and brought friends.  
All found the program quite interesting with the  
different types of music and performers. I think it  
is an excellent way to do community outreach!"**

**-Susan McKellar**





# Transfiguration Supports the Toronto Spirit Garden

On June 19th, our parish commemorated National Indigenous Day of Prayer. Guest preacher Leigh Kern, Right Relations Coordinator for the Diocese of Toronto, invited us to prayerfully consider how we might better support and listen to survivors of residential schools and commit ourselves to concrete acts of repair. In his June letter to the Diocese [1], Bishop Andrew echoed this invitation, calling on parishes to think about how they might meaningfully respond to the Truth and Reconciliation's Calls to Action [2] that pertain to churches.

This summer's On the Hill concert series provided a unique opportunity to take up these invitations. As we remind ourselves each week, the land on which we gather is the sacred territory of several Indigenous Nations and is subject to the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region. In the spirit of this Covenant, the parish leadership made the decision in June to donate \$2 for every attendee at our summer concert series to the Toronto Spirit Garden [3]. The Spirit Garden is a response to the Truth and Reconciliation's Call to Action 82, which calls for the installation of monuments to the legacy of Residential Schools in each provincial capital. This past May, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto also made a \$300,000 gift to the Spirit Garden in the form of a tithe from the Ministry Allocation Fund. Much like our own Hill, the Spirit Garden will be a place for teaching, learning, sharing and healing.



Our parish donation of \$876 to the Spirit Garden is a small example of steps that we can take as a parish community to acknowledge the harmful legacy of church-run residential schools and to commit ourselves to concrete acts of recognition and repair. May our Spirit Garden donation inspire us to prayerfully discern other ways we might continue the important work of reconciliation and healing.

More information about the Spirit Garden, along with a video of the architectural design, can be found at: <https://www.councilfire.ca/spirit-garden.html>

~Patti Ryan, People's Warden

[1]]<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/from-our-bishops/letter-to-the-diocese-from-bishop-andrew-june-10-2022/>

[2] [https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls\\_to\\_Action\\_English2.pdf](https://ehprnh2mwo3.exactdn.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Calls_to_Action_English2.pdf)

[3] <https://www.councilfire.ca/spirit-garden.html>





By

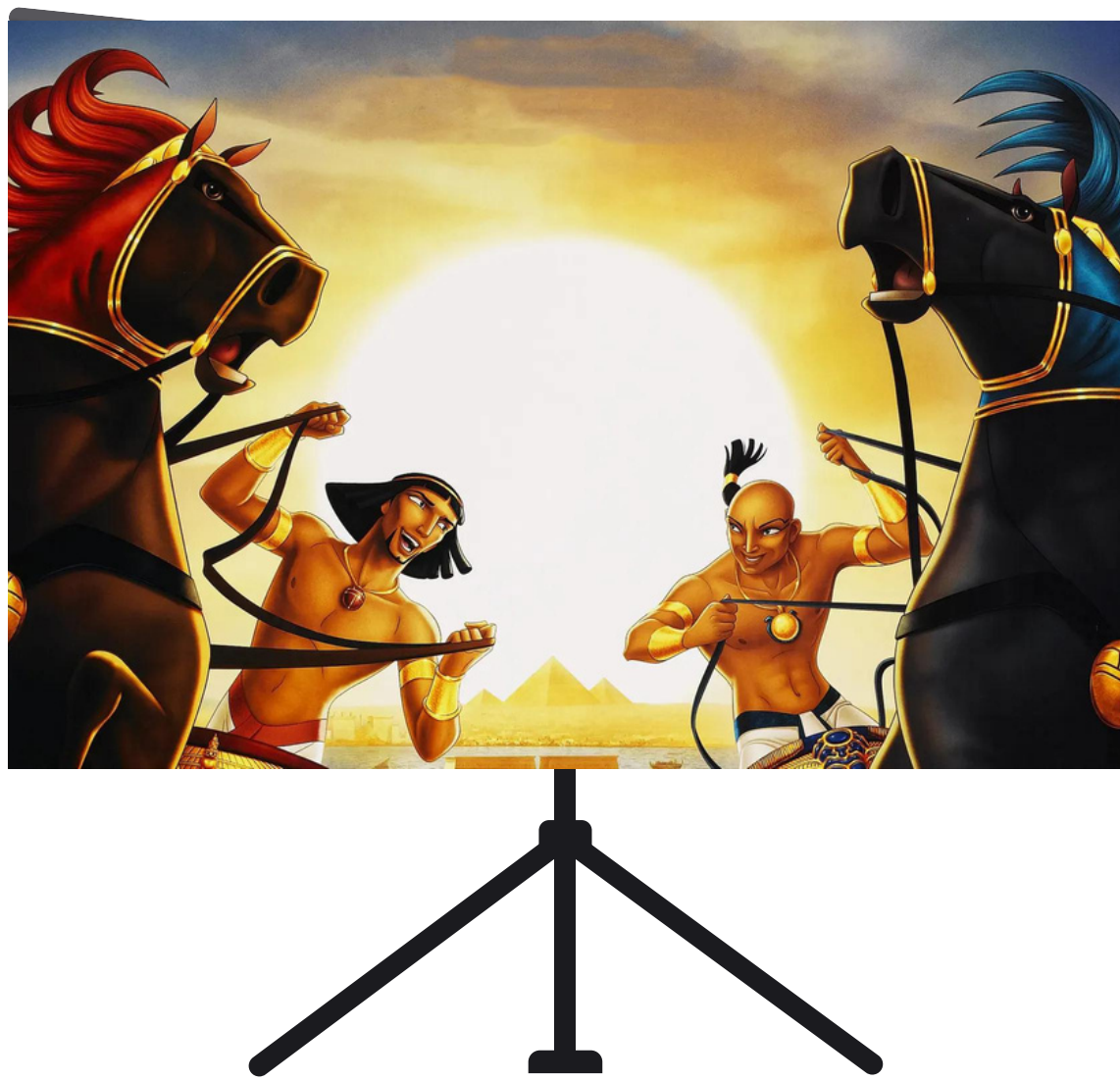
Ann Blennerhassett

# MOVIE NIGHT ON THE HILL

On Friday, September 9th, we hosted our second ever Movie Night on the Hill after a hiatus of two summers. We welcomed neighbours of all ages, and a few dogs to our hill to watch the Dreamworks' 1998 classic The Prince of Egypt.

The events leading up to September 9th were just as much an adventure as the evening itself. After crunching numbers we decided that the best course of action was to buy our own movie screen which we will be able to use year after year. A few weeks before the big night, a big box arrived holding our new 25" diameter inflatable screen, a blower, ropes and stakes, and inexplicably a jump rope. (a bonus prize!)

Yang and I excitedly took the beast down to the Parish Hall to test it out, where we very quickly realized that it was even larger than anticipated! It was even too tall to stand in the Parish Hall, and all hopes of ever folding it back to fit in its original packaging were dashed. On the Sunday evening before the movie night, we inflated the screen again, this time outside on the hill to give it a proper test run and compare our two projector options. We put on Shrek. Several neighbors stopped by to see why on earth a screen the height of a house was playing Shrek (on mute) to an audience of none. We were quick to tell them that it was a test run for Friday's event and several of those curious gawkers came back for the real thing.



The evening of September 9th was a bit breezy, a little chilly, and far too bright. We gathered roughly 100 people to the hill, we invited them to buy some popcorn, and to get cozy, and then we waited...and waited. Despite the Farmer's Almanac's promise of a 7:42pm sunset, the hill remained bright and sunny far later. An egregiously drawn out welcome speech with an extensive and itemized list of thank yous helped to bide time for the sun to sink beneath the trees.

And then...the clear notes of a lone trumpet erupted over the hill, heralding the beginning of one of the greatest animated film scores ever. The epic tale of Moses and the Exodus story began, holding the hill captive, and sparking great commentary from the curious minds around me such as:

"You can tell he's adopted because he has hair."

"It looks like fire, but that's God. He's not on fire in real life though" (in reference to the burning bush)

"That's so many events in one day!" (in reference to the ten plagues)

The night ended with many cheers and promises to come back next year. We hope you'll join us then too!

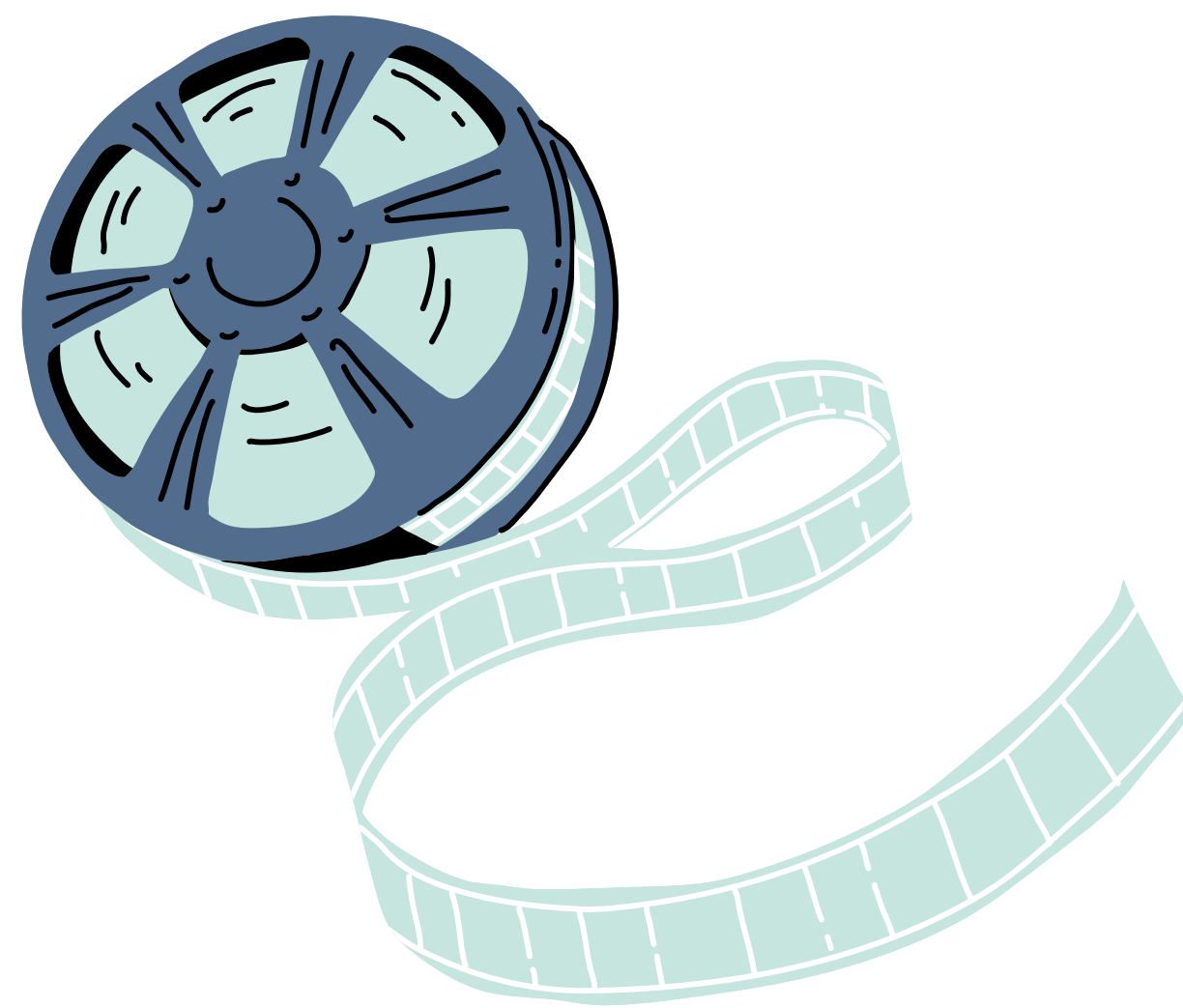








# The Reviews are in ...



"It was really popular!  
We could probably do it again  
sometime. It was really fun ... it was  
really fun to do it for the community"

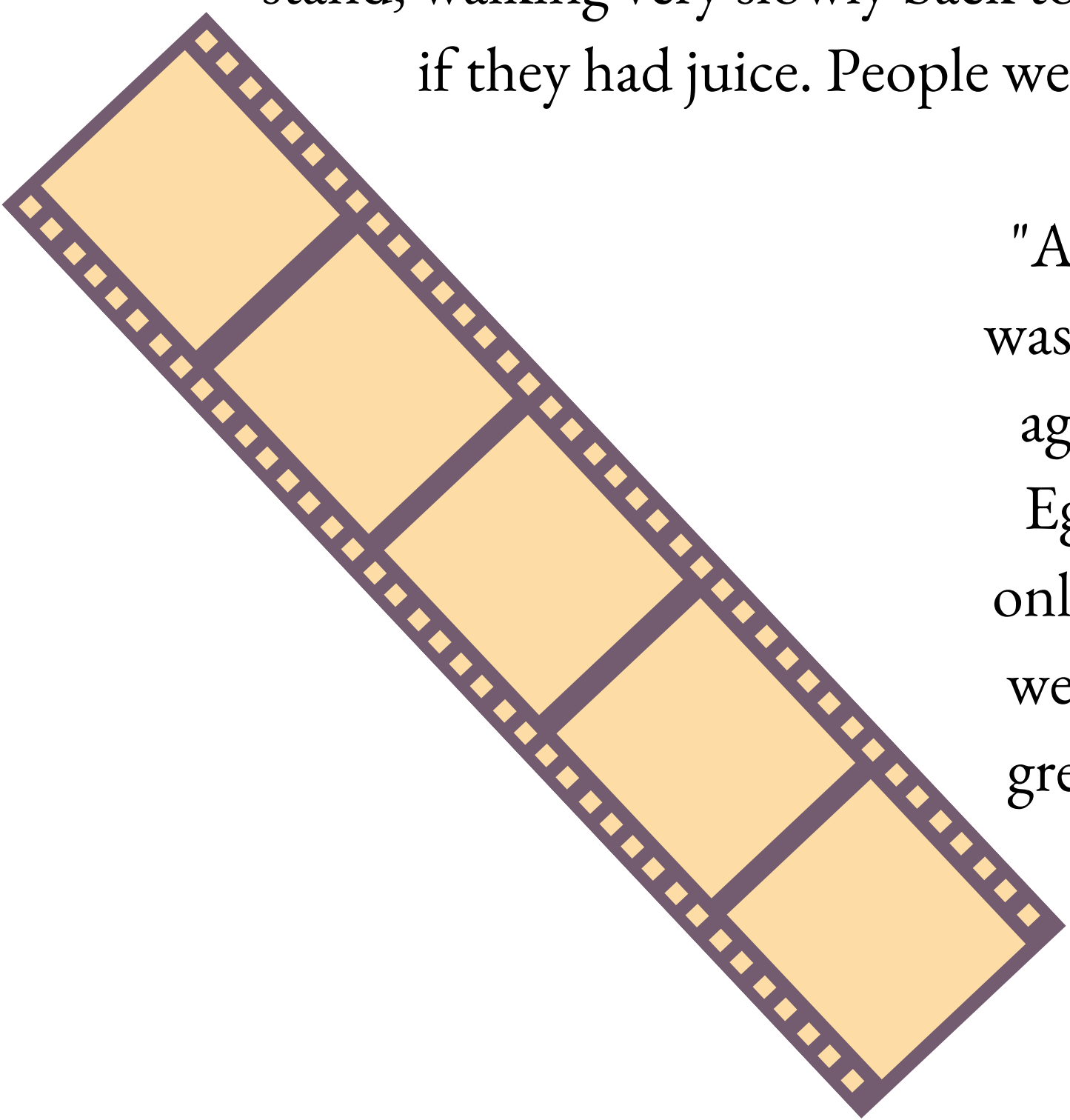
- Henry Sims; popcorn distributor



"For me the time before the movie started was as much fun as the film! There were many adults and many kids of all ages in attendance, i.e., babies, preschoolers, school-aged both elementary and high school, with the preschoolers and elementary children in the majority. Everyone was happy and excited to be there."



"There was constant sound and movement, kids playing, getting up and down from their chairs or blankets, visiting other chairs and blankets, running over to the popcorn and juice stand, walking very slowly back to their places from the popcorn and juice stand, particularly if they had juice. People were laughing and talking and just having a good time."



"And then, when the movie started, the commotion ended. I was impressed with how attentive the children were given their ages and the lateness of the night. No wonder The Prince of Egypt is considered a classic. It was an excellent choice! The only negative for me on that warm, beautiful night on the hill were the mosquitoes. They definitely couldn't care less that a great film was on offer. Next movie night, I'll be sure to wear thicker clothing and come with Deet."

- Janice Long



# A Deeper Kind Of Community



*My Experience at*

THE WATER'S EDGE

*By Susan Ampleford*

I moved to the neighbourhood in July of 2021 and stumbled upon the Church of the Transfiguration while out walking around one day in August. I decided to come back and check out the Sunday service, which was held outdoors at that time and led by the then brand new priest-in-charge; Rev. Michael. I really liked the vibe of the congregation and Michael's enthusiastic leadership, so have been back most Sundays since then (some online – nice to have that option, especially on an extra snowy winter morning!).

A few times I heard Deb mention that "The Water's Edge" would soon make a comeback so when it finally did in May I decided to give it a try. And I've been coming back ever since. It is a lovely alternative service, that follows the outline of a traditional liturgy, but in a somehow more approachable way and with more musical reflection rather than traditional hymns. With Deb on guitar and David on the keyboard, the music is a truly beautiful aspect of the service. Everyone gathers around the altar to receive communion in a semi-circle.





What really makes it special though, is the community meal that follows. Different participants volunteer and bring dishes to share. Everyone helps with setup and clean up. This tradition of breaking bread together creates a space for connection and community that goes a bit deeper than what is possible during a traditional coffee hour after the morning service.

So far this year, the Water's Edge has been held outdoors (except once the wasps were too excited about our dinner and we had to dash indoors with it!). This has also created some unique moments for ministry and service. While there are regular participants from the parish, we often find ourselves with different visitors – someone new to the area or in need of a hand up – who stumble upon our service and join in.

Deb has organized a cooking day for community members to batch cook and prep soups and stews for the fall and winter services; another unique opportunity to come and create together. I look forward to joining in the upcoming “indoor season” of the Water's Edge, and I encourage everyone to come and try it out at least once.

Upcoming dates at 4:00pm are: October 2, Nov13, Jan 15, Feb 12, Mar12. Something special is in the works in December for Advent with more details to come later.





# Reflections from Campfire Compline

By Ainsley Munro

People have been gathering around fires for thousands of years. They offer comfort, a quiet place to reflect, and an invitation for deeper conversations than those that happen over meals or during family gatherings.

This summer, the Transfig community hosted Campfire Compline - a midweek pause from the everyday to pray together using Taize songs, prayers, and time for contemplation of scripture. It was a way for us to check in with one another weekly in a community of care while sharing food before and after the service (along with the occasional roasted marshmallow).

As a member of the Water's Edge community, it was a lovely way to take a pause from work and life responsibilities to pray with friends. It filled a need I had for regular prayer outside of Sunday afternoon services, and especially for time outdoors. I grew up in rural Ontario and find the constant noise and busyness of the city overwhelming at times. Spending time on the hill as the sun went to bed was a blessing in more ways than one. This summer has meant the reopening of many social gatherings, and being able to reconnect with old and new friends on a regular basis helped me feel grounded in a sea of changes. It's this sense of belonging to a community, no matter how small, that keeps me thankful for places and programs like those offered at Transfig.





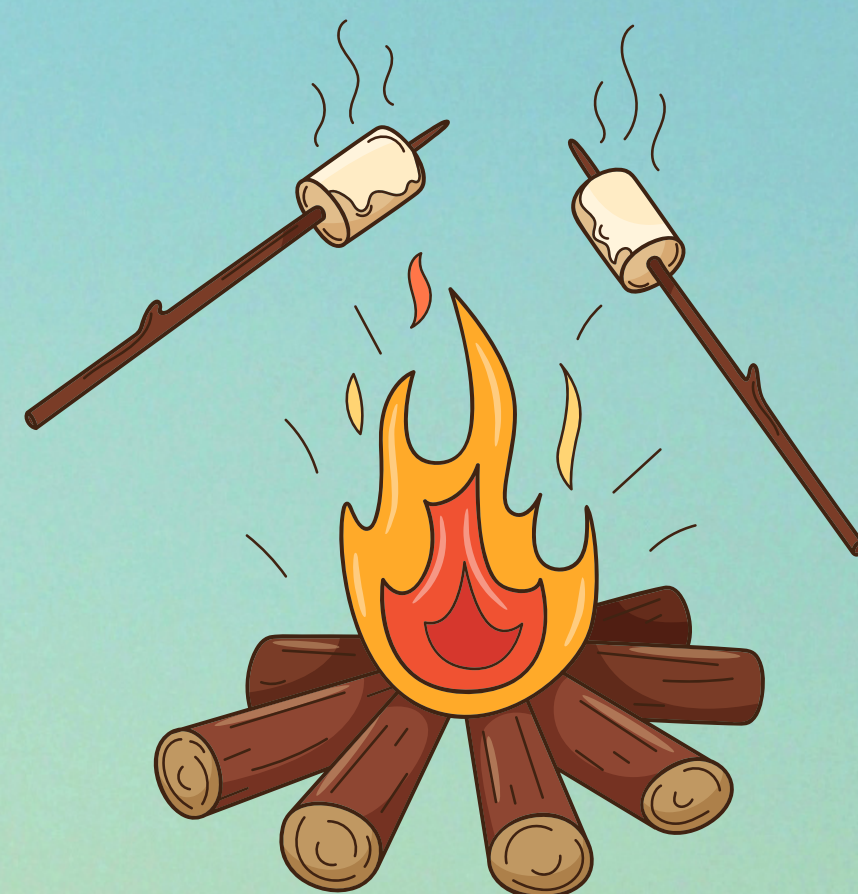


"The beautiful language of Compline offers me a time of comforting peace, calm, quiet reflection and devotion to the Holy Trinity. It is a perfect way to end the day and greet a new morn."

- Olive Bensley

"Attending the Thursday evenings Compline has been a beautiful way to end the day in reflection and prayer - soothing for the soul and calming the mind. I'm grateful for Michael introducing the Compline weekly and for offering it online as well - this for me has been literally a Godsend."

-Alina Racoviceanu





# Property Update

By Rev. Michael Perry

*Have you ever started a little home redecoration project only to see it grow into a massive renovation?*



It begins innocently with moving a picture, but then the colour scheme is off, and you decide to repaint. Then since you are painting a little bit, you might as well just keep going, and soon enough, half of your house is torn apart as you embark on a full reno.

At the end of August, we moved the Scouts Memorabilia up from the Parish Hall Entrance off Manor Road to the Main entrance to the Church. We wanted to preserve it and give it more visibility. The Parish Hall entrance is no place to linger, and there is significant dampness, spoiling the more fragile artifacts.

Moreover, I wanted to have the Memorabilia upstairs so that we could begin our Remembrance Day Sunday service there and finish at the War Memorial. These two stations and processions would make for good liturgical framing.

On the first Sunday, there was a moment of humour and vindication when Scout and parishioner, Henry Sims, asked me, 'Where was this stuff?'





However, once we removed the Memorabilia we realized we had to repaint the Parish Hall Entrance. The colour behind the display case was bright yellow, and the rest of the wall was a neutral grey. Alas the simple repainting job grew and grew. The basement kitchen has been primed, with finished painting for a rainy day later this winter. The Canon Hedley room was painted to match the Nave, with its deep blue base and "oatmeal" white walls. Lastly, the downstairs bathrooms were painted appropriately "bathroom & kitchen white".



The paint job motivated us to address some other property concerns. Janice Long had explained to me that the Chancel Guild storage in the Canon Hedley was fairly inaccessible: we moved their seasonal decorations upstairs to the closet in the Narthex.

The Little Lambs toys, games, and books were moved upstairs and into the "Children's Chapel" to create a new children's ministry space to welcome all infants, toddlers and their families on Sunday mornings. The Tech equipment was moved from the Vestry Closet in the Chapel into the other closet in the Narthex and fitted with a secure lock.

A few other Property Projects remain on our plate before the end of the year. So keep your eyes peeled on Sunday and see if you can keep track of the little changes that are happening in our parish.

All of these changes were made possible through the hard work and generous gift of both time and talent of a few volunteers. A profound thank you to master painter Steve Klose and to jack of all trades and surrogate Property Assistant, David Perry, for their support as we "renovated" this Fall. Please join me in thanking them and do request a tour of what's new.







# Introducing the Children's Chapel

By Freda Perry



The new "Children's Chapel" is a huge hit with kids and parents; as well as the congregation, who are cheered by the muffled, delightful sounds of happy children. I am sure that Transfig is the only children's space in Toronto with stained glass windows; a classy touch for our young members, and why not!

The proximity of the children's space next to the church makes it very easy for young children to feel safe and comfortable, since parents are a few steps away.

Our goal in Children's Ministry is for children to feel happy, welcomed, and come to know the love of God, expressed through our community. After the opening children's song with the congregation, we leave for the Children's Chapel where we follow a regular rhythm of prayer, Bible story, craft, and play time.

Older children have joined in our chapel space and all the children enjoyed being together, a harkening back to the one room schoolhouse.

Come poke your head into the Children's Chapel and see what's going on.





# *From the archives*

*Earlier this past summer, I was invited to have a look through the church "archives", in effect five large banker's boxes filled with an array of photographs and documents going back to the church's earliest days. As I work my way through the boxes, I thought I might report to you from time to time on some of my more interesting "finds".*

Planning for a "mission church" of Christ Church, Deer Park, to be erected on the hill on the south side of Manor Road East, had been ongoing for the better part of a decade before a decision was made in 1921 to create a separate parish. The first service of the new parish (still not named) took place at 8:00 a.m. on Sunday, June 5th, 1921. It was a service of Holy Communion celebrated by The Reverend Charles W. Hedley. However, as there was as yet no building on the site, an old army tent had been obtained and erected on the hill; it was fitted out with a wooden floor and twenty backless army benches which could accommodate about ninety worshippers. One of my early archival finds was a picture of the tent with Canon Hedley and a large number of early parishioners standing in front.

On several occasions, the tent was blown down, once the result of a hurricane that struck the city. Plans for a permanent church and parish hall had been prepared by George Moorehouse and King, Architects and it was decided early in July, 1921 that work on the basement of the parish hall should be started as soon as finances could be arranged. This would, at the very least, provide an indoor space for worship. A decision was also made at this time to adopt the name "Church of the Transfiguration". The Bishop had originally proposed naming the church "The Church of the Transfiguration and the Holy Mount", but he said he was open minded as to the longer or shorter name!

Until next time....

Russell D. Smith



*June 5th 1921*



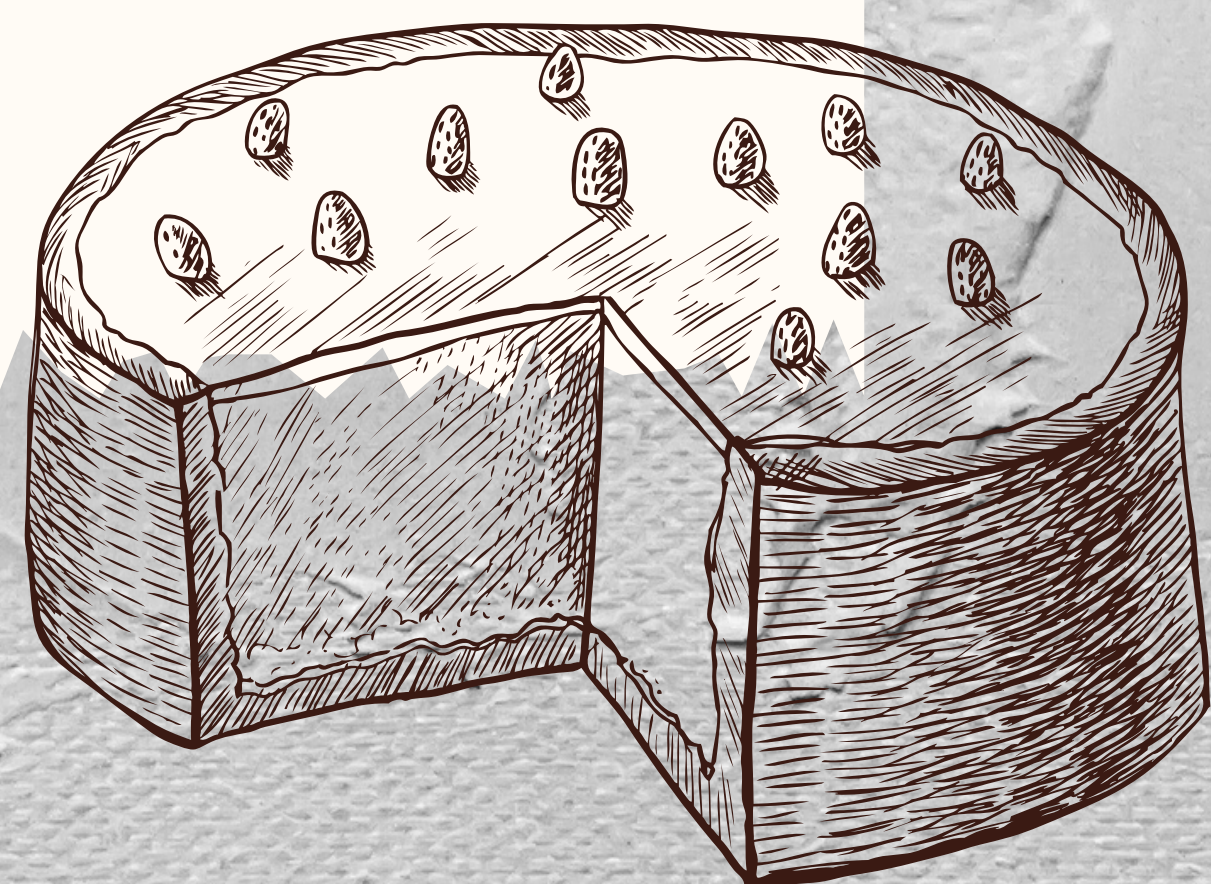
# COFFEE HOUR RETURNS

By Jenn Bolender King

## Coffee-hour-cake is back! And we rejoice!!

Coffee hour is one of the most significant parish traditions we had to give up throughout the pandemic. It's that special time after the service to have a word with someone (maybe someone new, perhaps an old friend), a cup of church coffee or tea in hand, eyeing that big fat cake, just waiting for someone to suggest you have another piece. That post-church sugar rush is the perfect amount of sustenance needed to recharge after the rigours of worship and keep us smiling until lunch. We have found many creative ways to connect with each other during the past few years; yet none are so simple as allowing ourselves to drink and eat together for a few minutes before going back to our separate realities for the week.

I have been surprised at how thrilled I have been all month with the return of coffee hour! As an introvert there is nothing more frightening than the thought of having to immediately put into words some clever thoughts about the service or strike up a chit chat with a brand new person (even though it's a positive thing to do). But the return of the coffee and cakes in the narthex sweetly welcomes us all to linger and connect in a way we haven't been able to do in so long. May we keep enjoying cakes, squares, church coffee and fellowship together again!





# Upcoming

It's a busy Fall at Transfiguration, filled with special services, faith formation opportunities and outreach events. Compline continues in an online format every Thursday at 7:30pm. Guest theologians Sylvia Keesmaat and Walter Deller join us for Book a Month Club. October ends with Harvest on the Hill while November begins with a First Fridays sports night. By the end of November we are preparing to enter the holy season of Advent.

**SPECIAL  
SERVICES**



**COMMUNITY  
EVENTS**

## October

- 9 *Harvest Thanksgiving*, 10:30am
- 16 *Book a Month Club*, Ruth with Sylvia Keesmaat, 12:15-1:15 pm
- 30 *Harvest On The Hill*, 12:30 pm
- 31 *Trick or Treat On The Hill*, 5:30 pm

## November

- 4 *First Fridays*, Badminton/Ping Pong/Table Hockey, 5:30pm
- 13 *Remembrance Sunday*, 10:30am
- 13 *Water's Edge*, 4 pm
- 20 *Book a Month Club*, Isaiah with Walter Deller, 12:15-1:15 pm
- 27 *First Sunday of Advent*, 10:30am

Complete details are in the weekly email. Not yet on the mailing list?

Email Ann at [office@churchofthetransfiguration.ca](mailto:office@churchofthetransfiguration.ca)