



THE Transcript

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

Advent 2022

A year of Gifts at Transfig



The lead-up to **Christmas** can be busy. Staying on top of everything can be daunting, so making some lists and checking them twice is always a good idea. Naturally, my favourite Christmas list is **the gift list**. I didn't use to make one, but in Yvonne's family, the list must be distributed promptly to allow family members time to shop. My Christmas lists tend to focus on my hobbies: camping equipment, photography, books on Christian theology or Spiritual practice, and Liverpool FC.

This year I put a Travel Mug, an "Ultimate Guide" to my Olympus camera, a special, and a wallet. (I have been mocked at various times this year by the ministry team for my broccoli elastic wallet, which holds my various id & bank cards together.)

I might request a Commentary on the Gospel of Matthew (but those can be expensive, so I might just have to buy that gift myself). I have two books on healing on my list, Prayers for Healing in the Anglican tradition and Psalms for Healing. I will see if Archbishop Rowan Williams has written a book (he usually has) and add that too. Lastly, a Liverpool FC neck warmer, because I am always cold!

It's fun to give gifts and to receive them, and it has become an important part of the Christmas season, but as we approach the end of the year, I also know **that the greatest gifts aren't found on lists; they are found in our hearts**. And this year, my heart sings because it has been such a wonderful year at Transfig.

Last Advent, we faced a significant budget deficit. At the start of **this Advent**, we have a **large budget surplus**. In each quarter of 2022, we have had greater than expected revenues (both community givings & rental income) and less than expected expenses. We are ending the year in a position of financial strength.

In reflecting on Advent, **Bishop +Andrew** wrote, *"Watch, Watch, wait and listen. The Season of Advent invites us to go back in time to a moment long, long ago when God broke in."* At Transfig in 2022, God has broken in and blessed us in so many ways.

We had **Movie Night** on the Hill, and we are planning to have a summer film series in next year. **Tots at Transfig** has started up on Saturday mornings. It provides a space for neighbourhood families to get out of their apartments, come & play, and have a chance to meet new friends and grow in community. What a gift to have around 10 toddlers each week.

And then there is, **First Fridays**. For Advent Baking, we had 34 people in our building. **Patti Ryan** reflecting on the evening, wrote, *"there were peals of laughter from the kitchen, the decorating table was buzzing, at least five crafters were hard at work, and kings and shepherds were zipping about the room joyously. It was a lovely moment, and my heart felt very full to see our church space so alive."* I couldn't agree more. God has blessed us this year, and we are so alive. We have received so many gifts already, and now, we wait for the gift at the centre of our faith, Jesus.



Transfiguration

CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

"As a member of the Chancel Guild, Christmas entailed decorating, candles, flowers, lamps and lots of polishing. We would devote one afternoon to making wreaths. Janice brought rolls of green cedar and we set to work, producing about twelve wreaths, each with a red bow attached. David Wilson very gallantly offered to hang the wreaths. It was with great trepidation that we watched him climb the rickety ladder, but he always triumphed and did a perfect job. We then celebrated with tea and Christmas cake."

- Eleanor Thomson

"My memories of Christmas are mainly about the Pageant, with the ACW doing costumes and makeup. Our two daughters progressed through the years from "Littlest Angels" and shepherds to kings, and finally as members of the youth choir singing the hymns. In 2011 our grandson, Rowan, who was visiting from Vancouver, had a chance to be "Baby Jesus" at the age of 8 months. Since then, we have travelled to the cities where our daughters, their husbands and our grandson live, and have missed the Transfiguration celebrations and services. This year we will be in California and Mexico! "

- Susan McKellar

"For many years I taught the children in Sunday School, ages 3 - 5. When it came time for the Christmas Pageant the excitement of the children was almost palpable. They loved to be Angels and sheep. We had to get them up on the then choir stalls and of course they stole the show, saying 'Hi' to their family, waving and forgetting to play their parts by putting their hands in the air! The kids were just beautiful. I also sang in the choir for many years and loved the Christmas Eve Service with the candles, music and the atmosphere in the church. Many happy memories! "

- Jo-Ann Futter

Remembrance Reflections

At our Sunday service on November 12th, we welcomed the 58th Scout troop for our annual service of remembrance. Special thanks to our guest musicians Conrad Beier (bagpipes), Sam Cancellara (bugle) and Jesse Sherman (voice).



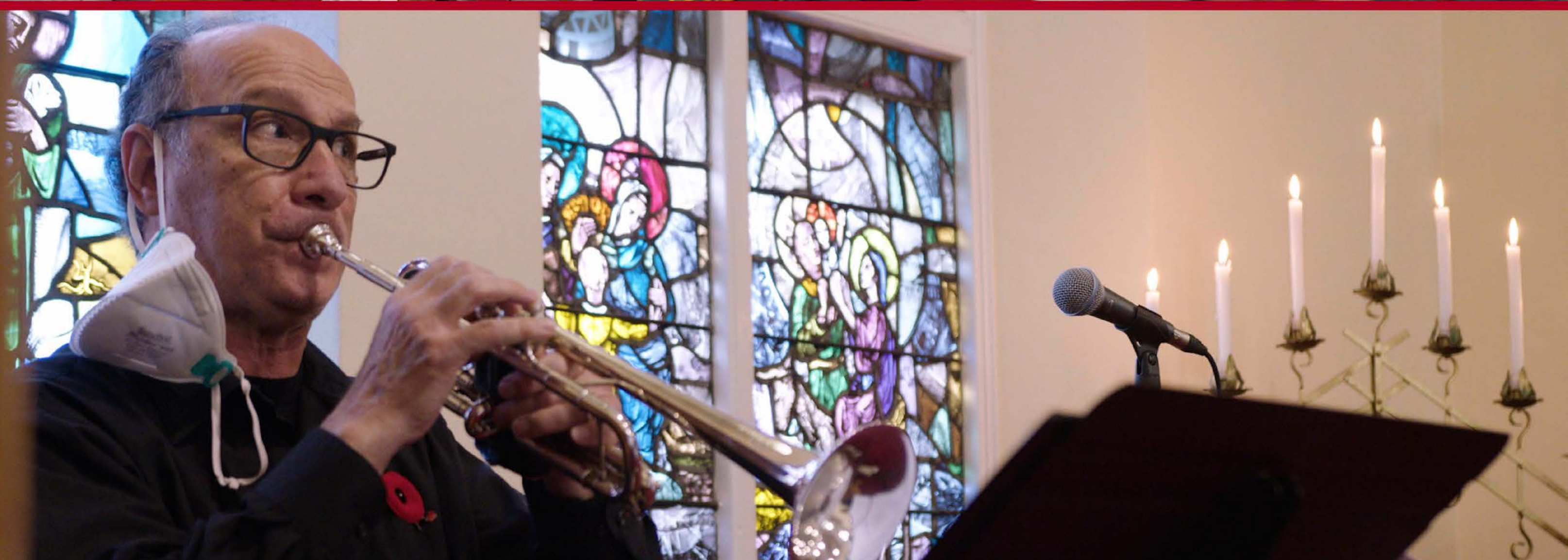
As a community church, Transfig is many things to many people. This is never clearer than on Remembrance Day. Each year, many people join us in a respectful and reverent manner to commemorate shared historical events in an old fashioned but still highly meaningful way. On November 12th we had more than 80 gathered for the morning Eucharist. We had bright Scout uniforms, the piano, the organ and a trumpet soloist. In case you wondered, the “58” in the name of the Scout troop is a direct and intentional link to the 58th Battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Force in which Major Canon Charles Hedley, the founder and first incumbent of Transfig, served as chaplain during World War I. These unique and special services have now gone on for more than a century since both the Scout troop and Transfig were founded. They give real meaning to the famous words “at the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them” from the poem For the Fallen. Not one person there on November 12th was on the battlefield but our wonderful service continues to ensure that the sacrifices made by the fallen are remembered.

- David Rounthwaite

“I was so moved by the recent Service of Remembrance. From my prime position in the choir, it was so good to see such a great turnout from the Scouts and congregation. The selection of music was just perfect and for us to be able to sing accompanied by David on our organ, Sam on trumpet and our guest bagpiper was wonderful. I found it very stirring and it certainly brought a tear to the eye. It was also the first time we had sung “God Save the King” which, for a proud Brit, was quite emotional. As usual, Deb also picked the perfect music to play. A number of traditions were changed but I felt the service was all the better for it and thought it was one of the best I can remember. A special treat was having an excellent coffee hour hosted by the Scouting community. This was greatly appreciated. So thank you to Reverend Michael, David & Deb for leading us so well on this important occasion. I was proud to be a part of it”.

- Linda Wright





Catch Up With Book a Month CLUB



September: 1 Peter

The First Epistle of Peter is about the time when the early Christians, who lived in the various provinces of Asia Minor, were experiencing persecutions and intense suffering because of their belief in God. The apostle, Peter, was their blessing and strength, offering them encouragement, comfort, hope, wisdom, and guidance on how to accept their agony, how to stay strong and be faithful to God. He taught them that through the suffering, death and resurrection of Jesus, they were now God's chosen people with an amazing new life and living hope of salvation. They were told to forsake their immoral ways, become stewards of God's grace and try to be like living stones in the building up of a spiritual house. Peter outlined instructions and duties to help them lead holy, righteous lives and to be charitable to each other. He charged the elders with tending to God's flock. I learned that Peter, the disciple, often temperamental and impulsive, who severed the ear of a servant of the high priest and thrice denied Jesus, was a great leader who had a powerful impact on the growth of the church.

-Olive Bensley

October: Ruth

In October, we were blessed to have biblical scholar Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat join us to guide us through reading the Book of Ruth and share key insights to help us in our interpretation.

She reminded us of context, "In the days when the judges ruled" that this is the same period as the book of Judges, and a time of famine and refugees. Naomi and her family were "others", and so it was notable that the Moabites welcomed the refugee family in their land and Elimelech and Naomi's sons took Moabite wives. When Naomi's husbands and sons died, she was essentially an untethered woman in a time where tribes and extended family were the organizing structures of society. For this reason, it was particularly notable that Naomi's one daughter-in-law, Ruth, chose to return to Bethlehem with her, rather than return to her family.

We were reminded how the story offers parallels to Job and the theme of Restoration. On arrival in Bethlehem, she said to the people "call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?" However, as the story unfolds and we see how Boaz adopts Naomi and Ruth, and against the customs of the time "acquired from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech" and his sons. Under the laws of the time, Naomi couldn't have sold the land of her late husband. At the end, through the marriage of Boaz and Ruth we learn this is in the Genealogy of David, as "...Boaz of Obed, Obed of Jesse, and Jesse of David". The only reason King David, author of the 23rd Psalm, had any land holdings is because of this transaction whereby Boaz in an act of faith conferred the land for the benefit of Ruth's descendants.

-Susan Ampleford

November: Isaiah 1-39

In November, we had the pleasure of welcoming back Dr. Walter Deller to finish his introduction to Isaiah that he started in the spring. Isaiah was a prophet from the inside, in that he was a part of the court, rather than being located on the edges. He had a very long career of 60 -80 years, and lived through many crises. Walter described for us the power, military technology and cruelty of the Assyrian Empire that was pressing south during Isaiah's time and leaving devastation in its wake. Many of Isaiah's prophecies are directed to the king and other nations who are attempting to build alliances, appease, pander and negotiate with the Assyrian power. In addition to the destruction of war, there was also a major earthquake during Isaiah's lifetime, estimated to be 8.2 magnitude. In his diplomatic travels, Isaiah would have seen human and environmental devastation, from both war and natural causes, in the cities, villages, and countryside, and these images are reflected in his work.

Isaiah was a very fine poet in ancient Hebrew. Even if we can't read the original language, we can appreciate the imagery, sections of which we read at Christmas-time. As a prophet, Isaiah offered both words of judgment and words of hope and sometimes these are intertwined. Walter pointed to "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit," (Isaiah 11:1) and the image of a remnant. While both are images of destruction, they are also images of hope – as long as a remnant remains faithful, there is the possibility of starting again.

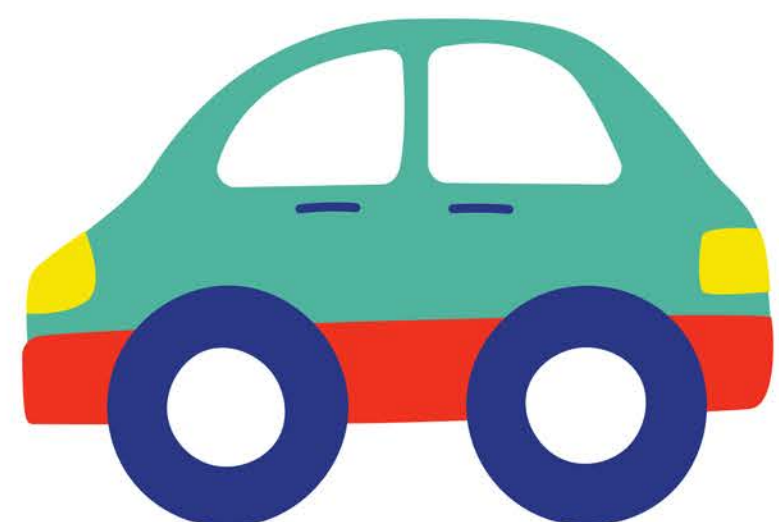
-Yvonne Verlinden



TODDLER DROP-IN UPDATE

The Toddler Drop-in on Saturday mornings is the initiative of Jessica Pratezina. Jessica, her husband Dan and their son Beckett are recent members of our church and live in one of the apartments in our area. Jessica, (who is a lecturer at the University level in Child and Youth Care, Sociology Department) saw a need for young families to have a safe, welcoming space to gather on Saturday mornings. We have many young families in our area from all over the world and they are in need of social connection. Our Chapel is a beautiful meeting space and both children and parents love being in it. The morning is unstructured so children play with the toys as they wish and parents have the opportunity to connect, chat and share resources. Jessica's social media savvy was crucial in promoting this initiative and she and Beckett have been there every Saturday, greeting and extending welcome to our visitors. We have had 8 to 13 toddlers and their parents attend. This programme has garnered much good will in the community. We had a number of the children and parents from the Toddler programme come to our Harvest on the Hill event. Essentially, my job is to assist Jessica and to serve as sexton for the morning. I am so excited to be part of this important ministry. Hats off to Jessica and Beckett!!!

-Freda Perry





PET BLESSING

On October 2nd we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with our annual pet blessing. First the animals and their owners gathered on the Hill for a short liturgy. Then, while Deb performed in the background, Rev. Michael walked amongst the animals to offer personal blessings (along with a highly anticipated treat). Photos of pets were also blessed for those who couldn't attend and special blessings were given for beloved pets who are no longer with us.





Harvest On The Hill





On Sunday October 23rd, our guest preacher was Peter Mentis from FaithWorks; a charitable organization run by the Diocese that we support as a parish each year. Peter spoke to us about a number of programmes that our donations support, including One City Peterborough which he writes about in more detail below ...

One of the programs supported by your FaithWorks donations is One City Peterborough. With a focus on Housing, Employment, Reintegration, Community Development, Circles of Support and Accountability and Outreach; One City Peterborough strives to support people who have/are experiencing homelessness and/or criminalization. During the lockdowns of the past two years, I had done what I could to research OCP. This would not prepare me for the eye-opening visit that Rev. Christian Harvey, Co-executive Director, would lead me on.

Rev. Christian took me to visit one of their homes that is currently being renovated to better serve senior ex-prisoners who are struggling with mobility issues and other effects of aging, while struggling to find food, shelter, and a job. What was most moving for me was a room being created for prisoners in palliative care, that is, those who are in prison and near death. In prison, as you near death, you are assigned a cell in isolation, often without windows. Worse than dying so alone, the myth in prison is that if you die in prison, you automatically go to hell. How terrifying this situation must be as the end draws near!

One City Peterborough is negotiating with Corrections Canada to allow palliative care prisoners to be transferred to their seniors' home and die with others around them in a room with big, beautiful windows overlooking a garden. I have been taught that a person is considered palliative if they are within 6 months of dying. Corrections Canada would like to release a prisoner to One City Peterborough's care for only the last week of their life. OCP is negotiating for 2 weeks.



This is just a glimpse of my visit to One City Peterborough and what FaithWorks is about. Allowing someone to pass their last week or two in this life with some humanity, compassion and hope for eternal life is what your donation to FaithWorks supports. It is an expression of God's love and mercy.

This article is an excerpt from "My Visit to One City Peterborough" by Peter Mentis. Learn more at onacityptbo.ca and faithworks.ca

You can donate through the church via cheque or etransfer, noting that your gift be allocated towards FaithWorks. We are hoping to raise \$6000 as a congregation in 2022. So far we are at \$4230.00.



Property Committee Corner



Steve Klose's

Copper Challenge!

When the church replaced the eavestroughs we were left with an abundance of scrap copper. How much copper was left and what is its salvage value?

Susan Lloyd says: "200 lbs and \$800"

Ann Blennerhasset says "150 lbs and \$600"

Pat Dugan says "250 lbs and \$1000"

What's your guess?

(Find the answer on the next page)



New Windows!





FIRST Fridays

By Patti Ryan

Fun. Food. Fellowship.

These are just a few things you can expect to find at First Fridays. You might also find a fierce game of badminton, a quieter but still delightful round of Scrabble and even the occasional flying (fabric) burrito!

On the First Friday evening of every month, we gather in the Parish Hall for a drop-in program of recreation, food and conversation. Building on an idea that was brought to Vestry in February 2020 (just weeks before the world changed), First Fridays was launched this past October. Our hope is to create a comfortable, inviting and safe space for parish and community members of all ages to have some fun at the end of a busy week, to enjoy a delicious meal and get to know each other more in a relaxed setting.

We launched our First Friday season in October with Board Game Night! Despite being a Thanksgiving weekend when many people are away, we welcomed 17 people to enjoy some delicious Baked Ziti and play an assortment of classic and not-so classic games. Highlights included Patrick and Kamlini Dugan's masterful execution of a final round of Ticket to Ride, which saw them catapult from dead last to second place! We also learned that some members of the Ministry Team know their way around a crokinole board and can toss a mean burrito!





In November we continued the fun with badminton, ping pong and table hockey. This time we welcomed 27 people, including some Scouts from the 58th Troop and community members who saw our sign on the Hill. Once again, it was a wonderful night of good food and good fun. Members of the Hanson-Schotte family had impressive performances at the various tables, while Yvonne and Irene held their own at ping pong. Richard and Henry Sims got serious at the chess board, while Susan Lloyd, Frida, and Donald enjoyed some friendly rounds of Scrabble. First Fridays really do have something for everyone!

I extended my deep gratitude to all the volunteers who helped make our first two events such a success. To those who brought yummy treats, helped with set up and take down, and extended a welcoming presence for the whole community: thank you! Extra special thanks go to Finn Hanson and Audrey Sims for preparing our delicious meals. Look for a recipe package at the end of the season!

We look forward to seeing you at an upcoming First Friday event. The schedule and planned activities for the season are listed below. Contact Patti Ryan (pattiryan.home@gmail.com) with any questions, and we hope to see you there!



Jan 13: Jeopardy Night
Feb 3: Skating
Mar 3: Video Games

Apr 7: Good Friday
May 5: Gardening
June 3: Fun on the Hill



Gleaning Day at Tanja and Isaiah's

By Yvonne Verlinden

In October, my Instagram feed is invariably filled with photos of friends and family and their one or two-year olds posing in orchards with baskets full of apples. Although I do my best to avoid the endless scroll, I suffer as much as any millennial from that acute condition known as FOMO (Fear Of Missing Out). I suddenly feel like my life is incomplete unless I, too, go experience a sunny fall day with smiling people doing token agricultural work in a pastoral setting. I start to wonder whose small, happy child I could co-opt into accompanying me. And I may have even favoured the '12 Ways to Bake Apples' article on The Guardian.

This year, though, I found the perfect antidote: Gleaning Day at Tanja & Isaiah's farm. In Book-A-Month Club, Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat described how Ruth had gleaned in Boaz's fields, following the harvesters all day long and picking up grain that had been missed. This was bent over work in the hot sun with a sack that at the end of the day weighed over 30 lbs. So I wasn't sure what to expect. But as Boaz's kindness to Ruth was a blessing, so too was a visit to Tanja & Isaiah's.





We left after church, five of us piled in the Perry Honda Fit, and picked up a pizza on the way. The day was perfect – warm, beautiful and sunny, but with leaves changing along the roadside, giving us that whiff of fall. We arrived to a welcome of milky chai tea at a long picnic table set on the crest of a hill with a view over the rolling fields. After some trampoline jumping with Markus, Jakob and Lukas, we ambled down to one of the fields and were given an orientation by Isaiah to potato types, potato growing and potato digging. It's a marvel to reach your hands into a ridge of sandy soil, sift it between your fingers, and unearth a potato. Even more special to cook it afterwards and remember where it's from. We chatted, we laughed, we dug, and very quickly we had buckets and bags of potatoes. When we decided we had enough, we ambled back up to the table and shared a wonderful meal as the light turned golden and the sun set over the fields.



It was a day that had everything in my Instagram feed – beautiful countryside, the act of harvesting, and even small children. But it also had so much more – it had the love of Tanja & Isaiah for their work, their home, & for us, their church family, whom they invited to come share it for a day. Thank you to you both! I'm so glad I came.



Fall Raking Day

By Kamalini Dugan

Our annual Fall raking was done on November 12. I am still smiling and relieved that we were so fortunate to have a beautiful sunny day as two days later we had our first winter storm! The Fall raking is a great community event where the Scouts and their families join our parishioners to tackle the major task of raking and bagging the leaves for our three acre property.

At 9:00am the hill was abuzz with at least 40 volunteers raking and bagging the leaves that were previously blown into mounds. It was wonderful to see young and old cheerfully working together. We were so grateful to the Scouting families who came out in large numbers. The biggest surprise was that we were done in record time this year. Thanks to Father Michael we were rewarded and able to enjoy hot apple cider, tea, coffee and Timbits at 11:00am.

None of this would have happened without all our volunteers. Special thanks to Susan Lloyd, Lynda Gibson, Tom Melymuk, David Perry and Katharine Klose who helped me prior to the big day to rake and bag leaves around the property. Special thanks also to Steve Klose for blowing the leaves into piles around the property and David Perry for mulching with the riding lawn mower on the hill ahead of the main event.

A woman and her elderly mother met Katharine in the driveway and asked to see the inside of the church. They live in the area and are looking for a church. Katharine took them around for a tour. When they heard that we were raking that morning, they insisted on helping as they were unable to come on Saturday for the main raking event. We appreciated their help and hope to see them in church on a Sunday. When we were done raking this Fall, we filled almost 300 bags which were spread around the property for pickup! See you in the Spring for a community cleanup.



LET'S GET MISSIONAL!

By Deb Whalen-Blaize



As the summer turned to fall, we continued to take advantage of opportunities to welcome our neighbours to the church, and will continue to do so into the winter months. In October, so many members of the church organized different activities and details that made for a very successful Harvest on the Hill event. Carefully decorated hay bales allowed for some gorgeous family and friend photos; pumpkin oriented crafts were set upon with gusto and great results; and, of course, there were some riveting fair-themed races that rewarded participants with chocolatey prizes -and a little extra glory for our winners. The whole afternoon had an air of easy, unmistakable joy, and so many of our neighbours joined us and showed their gratitude. A big thanks, especially, to all the volunteers from the church who made the effort to organize and facilitate the different activities, provided refreshments, met people at the welcome table, tended to the camp fire, carried chairs and tables, oversaw games and handed out prizes. There are too many of you to list by name, but believe me, we could not have made this happen without you. And it was a great success! We look forward to doing it again next year.



But we won't have to wait til then, of course, before we welcome our neighbours again. On **Friday December 16th**, we will gather on the hill around the campfire, bundled in our warm coats, boots and Christmas spirit to do some caroling together. We won't go wandering through the neighbourhood, as is traditional, but just stay around the campfire and sing. I'm excited about this for a few reasons. For one, churches are among the last places where people sing together in groups, regardless of talent or skill. Singing as a group is so important and such an easy way to spread joy! On top of this, Christmas and Advent carols only get sung for this short window of time in December. I am hoping that lots of us from the church will be there, and also bring friends and welcome neighbours who might not have a chance elsewhere to take part in this fun tradition. And since we'll be outside, gathered around the fire, we might attract some passers by with our joyful singing of everything from classic hymns in honour of Jesus to silly songs about snowmen. We hope to see you there!



In keeping with the idea of being present in the neighbourhood and showing hospitality, another opportunity we have to do this is through our Gift Bag Drive. Every year since it's opening in our neighbourhood, the Roehampton Shelter has been at capacity at Christmas. There are so many reasons people find themselves in the shelter system: fallout from the housing crisis, loss of jobs and income through the pandemic, refugees arriving in Canada, and extensive challenges to people's mental health. While solving any of these issues is a long-term goal requiring a lot of patience, what we can do in the meantime is show dignity and hospitality to those who are struggling, remind them that they are not alone and that we are praying for them. Since the shelter's first Christmas, we at Transfig have gathered small gift bags to offer to the residents for Christmas morning. We all know how small acts of kindness can make a difference. This year, the shelter expects their capacity to be at 150 people, and we are aiming to collect 150 bags that will each include a Christmas card with a brief personal message, a \$5 or \$10 gift card to McDonald's or Tim Horton's and 2-3 small items such as: chapstick/lip balm, hand cream, mittens/gloves, socks, hand warmer packets and sweets.

I hope you will consider contributing to our efforts, and inviting your friends and neighbours to pitch in as well. There are lots of ways to contribute to our Gift Bag Drive!

- 1) Decide how many bags you'd like to assemble and donate them already packed by **December 18th**
- 2) Buy bulk items to be divided among the bags and drop them off by December 18th
- 3) Donate money for items to be purchased by **December 11th**.
- 4) We also need volunteers to shop for items (with donated money), help us assemble the last of the bags on December 18th, and help drive the completed bags to the Roehampton on Dec 19th or 20th (subject to availability)

The effort, of course, takes some organization, so as soon as you know how you would like to contribute, please send me an email (dwhalenblaize@churchofthetransfiguration.ca) and let me know if you are contributing prepared bags, individual items, or if you would like to volunteer your time. Anything you can pitch in is extremely valuable - far greater than any retail value. And the Shelter staff and residents, as they remind me every year, are so grateful. Thanks for your participation in advance!

It's such an honour to engage the neighbourhood in such varied ways. We at the church have so much to give, and knowing Jesus, we have such a great reason to reach out and connect with people. So here's to another season of practicing the love of Jesus, through hospitality, compassion, and community, especially as we travel through Advent towards the birth of Christ, who will continue to inspire us and fill us with his hope, peace, joy and faith.

candlelight compline

EVERY THURSDAY DURING ADVENT

A shared meal and short prayer service
starting at 6:30pm at the church



Christmas Carolling

Friday, December 16 . 7-8pm

*We'll gather outside around the fire
and have a merry time
All are welcome!*

(as it'll be dark, we recommend bringing
a flashlight or headlamp to see the music)



Church of the
Transfiguration

Christmas Dinner

DEC 11TH
4PM SERVICE
5PM DINNER
ALL WELCOME!



THE WATER'S EDGE

Gift Bag Drive for the Roehampton Residents

LET'S BLESS OUR NEIGHBOURS AT THE
ROEHAMPTON ON CHRISTMAS MORNING!

DROP OFF YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS
AT CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION BY
SUNDAY DECEMBER 18TH.





CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Children's Service

December 24 4pm

Christmas Eve Vigil

December 24 9pm

Christmas Day

December 25 10:30am



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