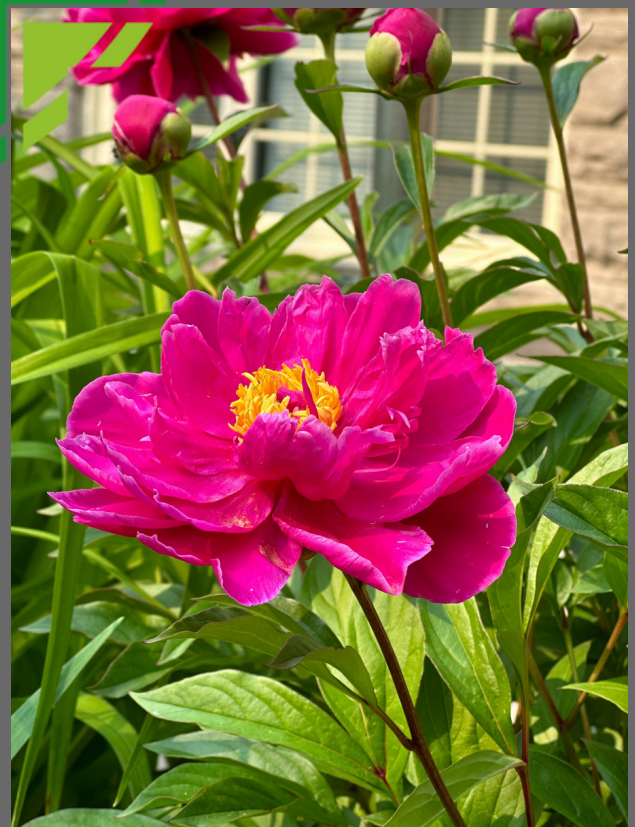


# THE Transcript

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

June, 2023



# *Preparing a Welcoming Space:* a message from Rev. Michael Perry



For Christians, the space where we gather is often a church building. Space is important to how we pray, how we sense God's presence, and how worship as a community. At Transfig, we are blessed with such a wonderful church space in which to gather.

But increasingly, we are rediscovering the spaces that God has given to us through nature. A walk in the woods is now 'forest bathing.' Birders speak of the calming effects of bird therapy, offering a new meaning to 'bird brain.' Nature has a positive impact on our mindfulness and doctors prescribe it as a way to improve our health.

As Anglicans, who love our buildings, sometimes we struggle to worship in our outside space. But it is becoming harder and harder to ignore that God's healing touch is found in basking in the majesty of the work of our Creator. Nature is becoming another reminder of God's desire to offer healing, wholeness, and life in abundance.

Happily this summer, starting on July 2nd, we will have the great blessing of making our Hill our worship space again. It will be our third year worshipping on the Hill in the cathedral of nature. In fact, we plan to be outside a lot between our Thursday Campfire Complines and for Music Nights and Movie Nights.

As we get ready for our worship and events on the Hill, I have some good news to tell you about what has been happening in that sacred space.

We have replaced most of our lawn care equipment so that our maintenance of that space will be carbon neutral. We now have an electric mower, leaf blower, and trimmer. My deep thanks to Kamalini who spearheaded this project and to Steve who managed to find new homes via Kijiji for our old equipment.

There are new plants and flowers in our garden beds. A big thank you to Katharine, who bought plants from the All Saints, Whitby plant sale, to Donald who has been busy landscaping the flower beds along Manor Road, and to Susan Lloyd for her many touches of care.

Finally, our new sign above the Garden Doors is ready for blessing by the Archbishop of Canada, Linda Nicholls, on June 11. So many people have asked me how to you get inside our building. The sign will help to connect our sacred space in our church building to our sacred space on our churchgrounds. It will help to prepare that transition between our two sacred spaces as we seek to be ministers of Christ both in our building and on our Hill.

I am delighted that we are achieving a milestones of the Transfig the Hill campaign so quickly. Five years of small steps to Transfig our Hill through the core pillars of Connection, Character, and Kids, has already begun. I cannot wait until that next milestone is achieved when we host our Kids Summer camp in August.

In Communion,  
Michael



On Sunday, May 28th, Michael and Vivia were lucky enough to welcome some of our neighbours into our sanctuary and share the story of Church of the Transfiguration. We welcomed newcomers to Canada, people who had "walked by many times, but never come inside," and even a few friendly dogs.

Rev. Michael shared his knowledge of the Parish's history as he walked visitors around the church.

Walking around our church can be a little like traveling through time: from regimental flags from the Great War, to a *reredos* installed in the 1950s, and to stained-glass windows in styles ranging from bold to classical.

Our parish's connection to the Great War is particularly interesting-- after receiving permission from the Diocese, the congregation worshipped in an army tent for the early days of the congregation. The parish has had several buildings and planned buildings over the century, before settling into its right-sized home by the hill.

***Doors Open: We Share our  
Hundred-Year History***

# First Friday Finale

-- Patti Ryan

On June 2nd, approximately fifty people came out for a great wrap up party as we celebrated the close of the first full year of First Fridays! We gathered on the hill to enjoy some yummy burgers and sides, play badminton, croquet and toss the beanbag, and paint some kindness stones for our gardens. We were undeterred by the brief but intense thunderstorm; at the first clap of thunder, everyone grabbed a bowl and made a run for the Narthex! We were treated moments later by a beautiful rainbow over the Hill - a fitting sign to end a Spirit-led year of community and friendship building.

And my goodness did we have fun this year! We enjoyed many delicious meals, and played a ton of board games, along with badminton and Transfig Jeopardy! We baked up a storm for Advent and learned all about the Holy Land and invasive plant species from resident experts. As Heather Hanson noted so beautifully, even though we faced a number of weather challenges (e.g. frigid temperatures in February, a severe snowstorm in March), we always had a warm and safe place to be, and it was a very special year for all involved.

After a short break for the summer, First Fridays will return in October. If you are interested in being on the planning team for next year, please reach out to Patti ([pattiryan.home@gmail.com](mailto:pattiryan.home@gmail.com)). There is truly something for everyone at First Fridays, so hope to see you next year!

*A huge thanks to everyone who helped out this past year –to all the food preppers, bakers, greeters, chair and table movers, clean up crew and activity planners – you made this ministry truly come alive!*





## **Book-a-month: 2 Corinthians:**

--Vivia Kay Cook

In May, a small-but-mighty group gathered to discuss 2 Corinthians. Led by Vivia, a lively discussion took place. We centered around the general change in tone and a shift in rhetoric from Paul's first to his second (or is it his third or fourth?) letter to the church at Corinth. Since Paul's first visit, Corinth has been visited by other "apostles," preaching false gospels. Paul voices many frustrations-- not the least of them his large amount of care for the community at Corinth, and his hurt at what he perceives as their rejection of him for other more wealthy and more good-looking preachers.

Paul asserts his closeness to Jesus, his knowledge of the true way, and most of all his love for the people of God. There is evidence that his long journeys, imprisonments, and tortures have taken a toll on him. This letter is more disjointed and scattered than some of Paul's other letters.

This letter to Corinth was written fairly late in Paul's life, at a time when he had travelled nearly 10,000 miles most of it on foot! He even speaks of his suffering within the letter: *'Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep'*

We can only hope that Paul's letter was well received by the church in Corinth, and that they remembered his care for them and began behaving themselves again.



*St Paul styled as a First Nations traveller of the Salish Coast-*  
André Prevost, 2016

# ***Coming June 25th: Joshua with Walter Deller***

Joshua is the first "historical" book of the Hebrew scriptures. The book's story begins after Moses' death as Joshua takes over the leadership of the Israelites as they enter the promised land. There's one problem, though. There are already people living in the promised land.

The story is one of God-commanded conquest that features well-known stories: the fall of the walls of Jericho, Rahab the sex-worker assisting Israelite spies, the crossing of a dried-up River Jordan, and the slaughter of at least thirty-one kings. The violence and intrigue of modern novels like *Game of Thrones* and *The Godfather* is dwarfed in comparison to this ancient writing.

Esteemed scholar Walter Deller will lead us through a discussion of this text.





***Music Night on the Hill:  
Alex Pangman and the  
Sweet Hots***  
June 22, 7 pm

The Sweet Hots are an acoustic trio devoted to the swinging sounds of early jazz. Normally the band features both the propulsive guitar of Nathan Hiltz and the virtuoso violin of Drew Jurecka supporting the sublime vocal stylings of the great Alex Pangman. We say "normally" because Drew Jurecka is unfortunately unavailable for our show on June 22nd. Instead, our ears will be blessed by the trumpet playing of big band leader and instrumentalist John McLeod.

Last year we had so many in attendance that we ran out of chairs! So we kindly ask that if you have a portable lawn or camping chair, or a blanket to stretch out on, that you bring it along so we can have plenty of seating for everyone. See you at 7 on June 22nd!



# Movie Nights on the Hill!

-- Ann Blennerhassett



Following the success of last year's movie night we decided that this year we're bringing THREE titles to the big inflatable screen!

We're kicking off the summer with everyone's favourite big, green ogre, *Shrek*! The 2001 cult classic follows the story of Shrek and Donkey as they go on a quest to rescue Princess Fiona from a dragon-guarded castle surrounded by hot, boiling lava! - and they even find love and self-acceptance along the way.

Up next is *Chicken Run*! If you like stop-motion claymation à la *Wallace and Gromit*, and animals in cozy knit accessories this is the movie for you! The chickens must escape before they face the chicken-pot-pie machine, but they will need the help of a brash, American stranger to help them spread their wings.

Our final film of the summer is *How to Train Your Dragon*. A young viking named Hiccup befriends an injured dragon and discovers that things are not as they seem in the conflict between vikings and dragons. Known for its unique visual language, innovations in computer animation, incredible soundtrack, and the CUTEST dragon ever, it is sure to delight viewers of all ages.

Friday, July 21, Sunset 8:45 PM

Friday, August 18, Sunset 8:00 PM

Friday, September 8, Sunset 7:30 PM

Tell a friend, bring a blanket and see you there!



## ***A new adventure***

**--Ann Blennerhassett**

On May 11th I rushed around the Max Ross Room with great excitement making gleeful noises, cutting off a bewildered Michael in mid-sentence as he was telling me the plans for the day. I had looked down at my phone to see that I had just received an email from the admissions counselor at Emmanuel College; I only needed to read half of the first sentence to begin celebrating: "Dear Ann, I am so pleased to inform you..."

I had just been accepted to Emmanuel College's Masters of Pastoral Studies Program in the Spiritual Care Stream. Many of you will remember that this is the same program that our former music director, Xris Hamilton was doing and graduated from in 2019. Xris' recommendation and experience in the program was a large factor in my decision to apply. Like Xris, I plan to apply for the Certificate in Psychotherapy and Spiritual Care after my first year. My goal is to become a registered psychotherapist and spiritual care provider; with specialist training in end-of-life and bereavement care so that I may work with hospices and in palliative care units. A big change in direction for me!

My interest in deathcare emerged over the pandemic when the reality of lonely hospital deaths and isolated grieving became socially relevant topics. I became aware of how limited our resources are as a society to facilitate a good death, and how squeamishness surrounding disease, disability and death make an already difficult process that much harder. I believe every sacred life deserves dignity from the first breath until the very last and it is my hope for the future that the amount of care, attention, and resources given at the beginning of life can continue until the very end.

When I finished university in 2017 I shouted "Freedom!" and was very glad to be done. Going back to school will be a big adjustment, but one I am meeting with open arms. What will this mean for my positions at Transfig? Well I'll still be around on Sundays singing as usual and I'll still be in the office, although at a lesser capacity. Thank you to everyone who has encouraged, supported, and prayed for me thus far; I know that I'll continue to need it over the next few years!



UNIVERSITY OF  
**TORONTO**



# Are we Pentecostal?

--Vivia Kay Cook

I'm a bit of a rare thing in an Anglican-- a real-live "born-again" Christian. That's a rather long story, but suffice to say here that I am a big believer in the life-changing power of the Holy Spirit. That's why I was truly excited to preach on Pentecost Sunday, and why I am so excited to be serving here at Transfig. One of my favourite things to do at the beginning or the end of my workday is to go outside and spend a few minutes on the hill. I sit quietly and listen to the variety of birdsong, the wind rustling in the trees, and the barking of happy dogs. God's creation always renews and sustains me, so when I learned that we get to worship outdoors in the summer, I pretty much leapt for joy. More than just personal enjoyment, I love that this is a church that's willing to be Christian in public. For far too long churches have been fortresses instead of refuges-- we've locked our doors instead of flinging them open. Ours is a world in need of soft places for people to rest and heal, and there is no better place to do that than church, if we're at our best.

In the Pentecost story, we learn that the Holy Spirit caused the followers of Christ to pour out of hiding and into the streets so enthusiastic about the Gospel that people initially thought they were "drunk on new wine." Here I think we can settle for getting a passerby to stop for a snack, or just learn that a living, breathing church is present and waiting for them in their neighbourhood.

I hope everyone is as excited as me to enjoy summer together-- movie and music, communion and community in our outdoor sanctuary.



*Pentecost--Jesus Mafa, 1973*

*A thing that impresses me as a newcomer here at church of the Transfiguration is your boldness of stewardship. This is a church that is Dreaming Dreams of new ways to welcome the community to church, and to be Christians outside. It's always been the way of this hill to be bold, to pitch a tent, and hope that people show up. To trust in the guidance of the Holy Spirit is an act of great bravery, especially in times of trouble and change.*

# SUMMER *on the Hill*

Every Sunday: Worship 10:30am

Thursdays: Campfire Compline+ 6:30 pm  
meal

June 22, July 6, August 10: 7:00 pm  
Music Night

July 21, Aug 18, Sept 8: Movie sundown  
Night

July 9, August 13, Sept 10: 4:00pm  
Water's Edge (worship +  
meal)

hang me on your fridge for quick reference!