
The Banner

ST. BARNABAS CHURCH ON THE DANFORTH

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Easter 2025



Terrified, the women bowed to the ground. Two figures in dazzling garments said to them
'Why do you search for the Living One among the dead? Jesus is not here; he has risen.'

Luke 24:5 (paraphrase from The Inclusive Bible)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Sometimes we find ourselves at the empty tomb with the women. Terrified. Looking for God in a difficult world. Looking for life and resurrection.

At Easter we remember that no matter how hopeless it feels, no matter how terrified we are, the light of Christ always triumphs over darkness.

This gives us hope as Christians at a time in history when darkness looms in every newscast. In a world beset with violence and hatred, intolerance and fear.

Here we are, as Christians, again telling the world the Easter message that life and light will always triumph. Do we sometimes seem like naive fools? Perhaps, but St. Paul reminded the early church in Corinth that we are fools for the sake of Christ, (1 Cor 4:10).

We are people of love, and every time we choose love over hate and intolerance, inclusion over

exclusion, reconciliation over division, healing over violence, we are proclaiming the victory of light over darkness. When we lift up others, when we affirm all persons as equal in dignity as children of God, when we choose love and truth and justice, we are proclaiming the victory of Jesus Christ over the darkness in this world.

At Easter we proclaim again our faith in Jesus Christ as one who died, but now lives, and in the power of the light of Christ's love to overcome the darkness of the world. Let us continue to proclaim that truth in word and deed, because we are a resurrection people, and nothing can extinguish the light of Christ.

May you be filled with the light of Christ and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit this Easter and always,



Louise

Rev. Louise Dightam, Priest-in-Charge



Bishop Kevin Robertson Visits St. Barnabas

We enjoyed a visit from Bishop Kevin Robertson on March 30. He appointed Deacon Matthew Hartt, dedicated our new Gospel book, spoke to the children about the roles of deacons, priests and bishops, celebrated the eucharist with us and enjoyed social time after the service.

In his sermon the Bishop offered us this encouragement:

"Re-immersion yourselves in the habits that will guide your life together as a community: faithful worship, prayer, study, the sharing of the sacraments, and the pastoral care of one another.

Nurture honest conversation and mutual respect, let go of the past and get ready for the amazing future that God has prepared for you in this place and in this community.



Perhaps most importantly, hang on to the wisdom of God. Remember the words of God to Joshua – be strong and very courageous, do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord God is with you wherever you go. And the words of the father in the parable of the prodigal son – we must celebrate and rejoice, for what was dead is alive, what was lost was found – the essence of the Gospel."



Parish Nurse Ministry

We are blessed to have Marilyn Pepper as our parish nurse, supported by our health council.

Each month Marilyn focuses on a specific topic so be sure to check out the parish nurse bulletin board and table at the back of the church, and join in our monthly coffee hour conversations with her.

Faith community nursing is a health and healing ministry that emphasizes the wholeness of body, mind and spirit. Rooted in the vision of Christ as Healer, this ministry grows out of the belief that all faith communities are places of health and healing and have a role in promoting wholeness through the integration of faith and health. (Diocese of Toronto)

Parish nursing involves educational and support services related to healthy lifestyles, mental health, healthy caregiving, management of chronic health conditions and bereavement/grieving.

Parish Nurse: Marilyn Pepper RN, BA, BSN, MSN, Dip. Parish Nursing

Health Council: Janet Booker (Chair), Ken Aziz, Ken Bark and Enid Crush.

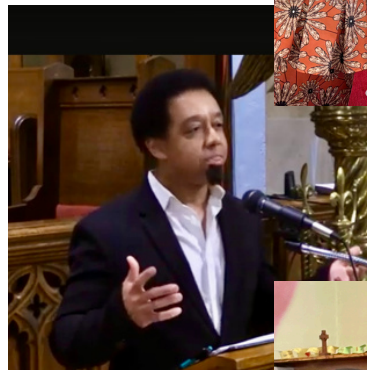
You can contact the Parish Nurse at the Church Office at (416) 463-1344 or email stbparishnurse@gmail.com

Black History Month Celebration

We had an inspiring service and special coffee hour on February 9 to celebrate Black History Month.

Parishioner Michael Miller delivered a powerful and thoughtful reflection, challenging many of us to imagine what it is like to be judged by the colour of our skin and not by our character.

Throughout the month we also learned about four notable Black Canadians whose lives were influenced by their faith: Alderman William Hubbard, Bishop Peter Fenty, Viola Davis and the Rev. Blair Dixon.



Connecting to the Community



**135 WORSHIPPERS
ATTENDED OUR
CHRISTMAS
SERVICES, AND
15 CHILDREN
JOINED IN THE
PAGEANT.**



**WE HOSTED 200
PEOPLE FOR THE
COLDEST NIGHT OF
THE YEAR WALK
TO SUPPORT
KENNEDY HOUSE.**



**OVER 100 GUESTS,
INCLUDING 24
CHILDREN,
ENJOYED OUR
ANNUAL PANCAKE
SUPPER ON
MARCH 4.**



**OVER 70
PARISHIONERS
AND FRIENDS
ATTENDED ONE
OF NINE DINNERS
AT THE RECTORY
THIS WINTER.**

Remembering Elsie May Duncan April 2, 1927- February 24, 2025

Elsie Duncan (nee Howell), age 97, passed away on February 24, 2025, at home with her family by her side. She was born in Kingston Jamaica and immigrated to Canada in 1971, where she raised the two youngest of her eight children and reunited with her eldest daughter.

Elsie had a strong love for God and for her beloved St. Barnabas church, where she attended for many years. Elsie is remembered for her love of children, her enthusiasm for social functions, words of wisdom and her witty humour, as well as her kind spirit and love for her family. She leaves four children, 16 grandchildren, 20 great grandchildren, and one great great grandchild.

Introducing our New Deacon



Rev. Matthew Hartt, a permanent deacon in the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, was appointed to St. Barnabas on March 30, 2025.

Originally ordained deacon in the Diocese of Huron, Matthew joins Deacon Grace Caldwell as a deacon in our parish.

As a deacon, Matthew has served as a pastoral visitor in seniors homes and as a chaplain at the Brantford Jail and at the Central East Correctional Centre in Lindsay, Ontario. Matthew currently exercises his ministry through the Dismas Fellowship outreach for released inmates. At St. Barnabas, Matthew takes on some liturgical duties, and plans to engage in ministry to men and collaborate with the incumbent on parish education.

Now retired from 30 plus years as a Registered Practical Nurse, Matthew served in various roles in psycho geriatric nursing, community nursing and finally as an occupational health nurse and return to work manager. He is an honours graduate of the University of Guelph in psychology, and holds a Master of Divinity from Trinity College, University of Toronto.

Christmas Market 2025

Mark your 2025 calendar for the St Barnabas Christmas Market on November 15, 2025.

If you are interested in participating in the market it is time to start thinking about it and getting prepared. Or if you know someone who would like to be a vendor, please let them know that they can get in contact with the church office or myself, Janet Booker at jbooker@venpark.com or 416 535-2653. Notices will go out in May to those on my list who are interested. Artisans and their home-made crafts are welcome.

Janet Booker, Christmas Market Coordinator

Property Report

It has been a relatively quiet winter except for the usual rad and pipe leaks in the building. We did have the boiler fail one bitter cold day. Thanks to Bill Strain for getting us back up along with the Active Mechanical team.

Bill Strain, Gary Davenport and I have met to go over the property list and decide on priorities like lighting, exterior elevator repairs and roof replacements. We also met with Michelle Strople, our Day Care Director, on shared expenses. We now have our extensive list and between volunteers, Michael Lohan our Property Manager, our contractor Jacek Swierzbinski and our outside trades we will achieve some or all of it.

Children and Youth

Since the beginning of Lent, the Spirit Squad has been following the theme "40 Days to Easter." We have a countdown of 40 beads plus yellow beads for Sundays that we move towards our "Easter bead" each week.

We played a "board game" with our bodies with 40 spaces tracing Jesus's journey from the beginning of his ministry to the empty tomb and his resurrection. Whenever we landed on a green square, like "Jesus heals people who are sick" we got to move forward, and whenever we landed on an orange square, we had to move back. Sylvie was our winner, getting to Easter first, while Zoe was a trooper who kept being sent backwards from the "Jesus knows Judas won't be his friend anymore" square. Lent has been a journey, and we are looking forward to Easter!

The Youth Group had its inaugural meeting in March, and meetings are planned in April, May, and June. We see most youth are interested in indoor activities and games, so we are building up our board game stash. We're looking forward to introducing compline (a short prayer service before bed) to the end of each youth group session. In May, we are hoping to have a campfire night at Withrow Park.

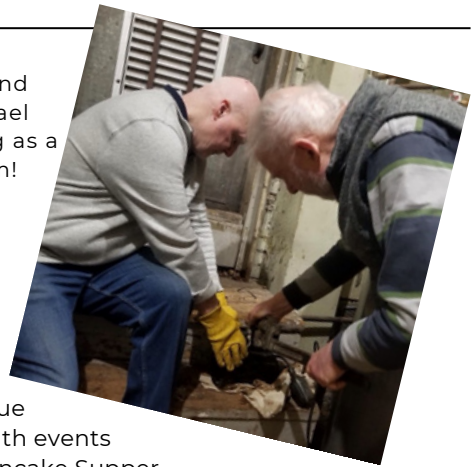
As always, I'd like to thank our amazing volunteers and all those who support the young people of St. Barnabas in their journeys in faith.

Jordan Sandrock
Spirit Squad Leader
and Community Minister



Children with
Bishop Kevin
Robertson

Bill and
Michael
working as a
team!



We continue to assist with events like the Pancake Supper, cleaning up for Easter and in hanging the banners in the church. And there are always our daily jobs which never end.

Spring cleanup is starting soon both inside and outside. We want to look our best for our community.

If you think you have a talent that might help, please speak to Bill Strain or me. We are always looking for volunteers.

Jane Smith, Property Chair

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

We rely on your gifts of time, talent and treasure to support our ministries, and we are always very grateful for everyone's generosity.

Did you know that in the Diocese of Toronto 60% of parish revenue is received through the monthly pre-authorized remittance (PAR) program?

Using PAR means your giving comes securely out of your bank account or credit card every month - no need for cash or cheques. The amount can be changed or cancelled easily too.

Giving by PAR is good for the church. It helps us plan, reduces the chance of bookkeeping errors, reduces the time commitment for counters, and can reduce bank fees. You can fill out a PAR form (found at the back of the church) and submit to our Treasurer, Karen Hunter or the office.

Of course, offerings can always be made by cheque or cash in the collection plate or through your online banking by e-transfer (ideally monthly) to stbarnabasanglican.treasurer@gmail.com.

Or donate through Canada Helps at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/119168987R-R0001-st-barnabas-church/>. (Canada Helps does collect a processing fee.)



Pictured at vestry (left to right) Taz Rive, Parish Administrator; Janet Booker, Deputy Warden; Helen Taylor, Deputy Warden; Gary Davenport, Rector's Warden; Rev. Louise Dightam, Priest-in-Charge; Karen Hunter, Treasurer; Teresa Johnson, People's Warden.

Leadership Team Report

Here we are well into the Lenten season and approaching Easter. Our vestry meeting went very well and the Pancake Supper was successful.

Now spring has arrived with its various ups and downs. The growth and changes can seem a little slow, but it is there. These things take time and a little patience on our part. Like spring, some of the ministries in our church are showing growth which is very good to see. A youth group has started up and we are getting an outreach committee ready to launch.

These are only made possible through your support whether the giving of time, or through your offerings for which we are very thankful.

Parishioners will find a St Barnabas Easter Offering envelope enclosed with this Banner for your use to help in any way you can.

On behalf of all members of the Leadership Team, we wish you a Happy and Blessed Easter.

Gary, Teresa, Helen, Janet and Karen, Wardens, Deputy Wardens and Treasurer

Coffee Hour

A cup of tea or coffee -perhaps a cookie or a scone, a piece of fruit or cheese. A chance to chat with fellow parishioners after the 10:30 am service. We welcome all who attend the service to join us for this social time.



There is preparation that goes on behind the scenes: to bring the refreshments, set up the table, prepare the coffee, etc in the study and wheel the cart to the table, serve the coffee and tea, and clean up at the end. With recyclable paper cups, washing mugs is no longer required, so clean up takes only a few minutes. We divided the duties into four sections hoping volunteers would come forward - some have done so and I so appreciate that - but we don't have enough helpers.

Looking to the future, perhaps we need to do something different. Do you have any ideas as to how our coffee hour could be improved? Please give this ministry your prayerful consideration. I am always available to speak to you about it.
Helen Taylor, Coffee Hour Coordinator

Social Committee

Our Social Committee plans and leads special events, from special coffee hours such as the cake for the visit of Bishop Kevin Robertson, to events in the upper hall like the upcoming reception for over 100 people after the Good Friday walk. We are also planning something special for St. Barnabas Day on June 15 – stay tuned for more details.

We always welcome volunteers to get involved and help, from set up, and serving to cleaning up afterwards. Watch out for the sign up sheets at the back of the church, or if you would like to get involved, please speak to me any time.

Submitted by Helen Taylor, Social Committee Chair

Coming Up at St. Barnabas

Holy Week Service Schedule

Palm Sunday Apr 13 at 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday Apr 17 at 6 pm

Good Friday Walk Apr 17 at 10 am

Walk starts at Riverdale Presbyterian Church,
662 Pape Ave, at 10 am. Walk finishes at St.
Barnabas at 11:45 am.

Join for all, or any part, along the way.



Easter Sunday Apr 20 at 10:30 am

Good Friday Walk

Fri April 18, 10 am to 12 pm

Good Friday Ecumenical Walk Route:

10 am - Riverdale Presbyterian Church 662 Pape Avenue

10:30 am Holy Name Parish 71 Gough Avenue

11 am Danforth Church 310 Danforth Avenue

11:20 am East End United 310 Danforth Avenue

11:45 am St. Barnabas Church 361 Danforth Avenue

12 pm Refreshments at St. Barnabas

Join for all or any part along the way!

**Jesus, remember me when you come
into your kingdom.**

Luke 23:42.

Mark Your Calendar

Sunday May 4 at 3 pm: Music for
Food Concert

Sunday May 25 at 10:30 am:
Rogation Day service with
blessing of the garden

Thursday May 29 at noon to 2 pm:
Ascension Day service and lunch

Sunday June 15 at 10:30 am: St
Barnabas Day Service and lunch

Sept 26,27 and 28:Riverdale Art
Show and Sale

Saturday November 15:
Christmas Market



**OUR
CHURCH
WINDOW
SHOWING ST.
BARNABAS**

**(1929 BY N.T.
LYON)**

Ascension Day Service and Lunch Thursday May 29

The Lay Pastoral Visitors team
invites you to our Ascension Day
service Thursday May 29 at noon.

The service will be held in the side
chapel (wheelchair accessible via
our new ramp), followed by a
hymn sing, fellowship and a light
lunch in the study.

Rev. Louise Dightam will be
presiding and celebrating.
All are welcome.

Service Schedule

Every Sunday at 10:30 am:
Choral Eucharist with Spirit
Squad children's program

Every Thursday at noon: Said
Eucharist (BAS)

Last Sunday of the month at
9 am: Said BCP Eucharist

Third Sunday of the month at
7 pm: Taize Service

Lenten Retreat Day: Praying Into Easter Saturday April 12

Rev. Louise will lead a Lenten Day
on Saturday April 12 from 10 am to
3 pm, with lunch provided. It will
be held in the Study and our
sanctuary, with some time outside
(weather permitting).

A quiet day of prayer, reflection
and community, we will explore
different ways of meeting God in
stillness, music, scripture,
movement and images.

Please register at the back of the
church or by contacting the office.