



CONNECTIONS – LENT/EASTER – '25



Lenten Journey: A Time of Repentance, Renewal, and Resurrection “Return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.” – Joel 2:12

Beloved Parishioners:

As we enter the season of **Lent**, we begin a journey of prayer, fasting, and reflection. This is a time to turn our hearts back to God, seeking His grace and renewal. Jesus calls us to follow Him, saying, **“If anyone wants to be my disciple, let them deny themselves, take up their cross daily, and follow me.”** – Luke 9:23

Our journey leads us to **Palm Sunday**, when Jesus enters Jerusalem as the crowd shouts **“Hosanna!”** (Matthew 21:9). This begins **Holy Week**, the most sacred time of the Christian year.

On **Maundy Thursday**, we remember the Last Supper, when Jesus washed His disciples' feet and gave us the gift of Holy Communion (John 13:14-15, Luke 22:19-20). He showed us that true greatness comes from serving others.

Good Friday brings us to the Cross, where Jesus gave His life to save us. **“By His wounds, we are healed.”** – Isaiah 53:5. His sacrifice is a reminder of God’s deep love for us.

But the story does not end there. On **Easter Day**, we celebrate Christ’s victory over death! **“He is not here; He has risen, just as He said!”** – Matthew 28:6. Because Jesus lives, we have hope and new life in Him (Romans 6:5).

This Lent, let us seek God with open hearts, turning away from sin and growing in faith. May the power of Christ’s Resurrection strengthen us to live for His glory.

“I want to know Christ and the power of His resurrection.” – Philippians 3:10

In His Vineyard:

Ravita



Irish Community

Every year on **March 17** we celebrate, with fun and merriment, **St. Patrick's Day**. However the history of the Irish coming to Canada and most particularly to Toronto is a difficult one.

From 1847 to 1851, thousands fled Ireland because their staple crop of potatoes suffered a great disease. Coming here on steam ships and barges, in crowded conditions for 6 weeks., without enough fresh water and food, many became sick with "typhus"and died on board before ever reaching Canada. Upon arrival in Toronto, the survivors, many ill from typhus, were isolated in make-shift hospitals. At King and St. John Street, where the Tiff Bell Light Box Centre is today, was a hospital where many died. They are buried in present day Corktown (named after County Cork in Ireland). Thousands of children, who were from Roman Catholic or Protestant families, were orphaned and cared for by various religious organizations.

To learn more you can visit a Memorial to the famine of 1847, called Black 47, which stands here in Toronto's Ireland Park, near the foot of Bathurst St., where 675 names are engraved in limestone.

So the Irish, like many immigrant groups, had a rough start here but made enormous contributions to our society in business, music and religious life etc.

Miriam Mifsud



Coordinator for Screening Program for Christ Church. It is Diocesan policy that sexual misconduct towards an adult, adolescent or child by any member of the clergy, employee or volunteer will not be tolerated in the Diocese of Toronto. Along with the policy there is a program that all parishes must implement to ensure compliance with the policy. Part of the program requires the parish to assess the various roles (or jobs) that people fulfill within the parish, for example, priest, warden, lay reader, foodbank volunteer, Sunday School teacher etc., for high, medium, or low risk. Factors affecting the assessment include: working with vulnerable people (ie children, the elderly, the disadvantaged etc), having access to sensitive information, or being in a position of authority (priest, warden, treasurer etc). It is mandated by the diocese that our volunteers in medium and high risk positions, clergy and employees must be knowledgeable on the policy and its implementation. Over the years job descriptions have been carefully prepared here, with a designation of whether each is a high, medium or low risk position. Applicants for medium and high risk positions, must take a Sexual Misconduct Workshop. Positions of high risk must also have a Police Check every 3 years.

This system has worked well for many years to make sure the parish is in compliance. We NOW need help. Ian C, our seasoned coordinator, is willing to train any new individual (s) to take over this very interesting position. ***We ask you to seriously consider learning more about this important work of the Lord & get in touch with Ian Campbell or any of the Wardens or Rev. Ravi soon.***



MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

- March 04: Pancake Supper – 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm
- March 05: Ash Wednesday – Service 7:00 pm
- March 09: Lenten Bible study on Sundays with after the worship
- March 11: Lenten Bible Study: Tuesdays - 7:00 pm on Zoom
- April 12: Volunteers needed to make Palm Crosses 9:00 am
- April 13: 10:00 am - Palm Sunday: Procession, weather permitting
- April 17: Maundy Thursday Seder Supper, Feet washing and Lord's Supper and Stripping of the Altar
- April 18: Good Friday Service 10 am
- April 18: 12:00 pm: Stations of the Cross with Father Roy
- April 19: Easter Vigil: 7:00 pm
- April 20: Easter Day: 8:30 am & 10:00 am - Regular services with Bells.
- May 3: Rummage/Bake Sale: 9:00 am - 1:30 pm
- May 11: Mother's Day
- June 8: The Day of Pentecost

SPRING FOOD DRIVE FOR DEACON'S CUPBOARD

Faced with ever-increasing numbers of clients visiting our food bank on a regular basis, as well as larger families, coupled with the problems which Daily Bread Food Bank is experiencing in sourcing affordable food products, we are looking to have four "food drives" a year: during Lent, during June to help with summer school vacations, during September/October for Thanksgiving and during December for Christmas. Here's how it works:

The first food drive, which we have called "Lenten Grace" will run from Ash Wednesday to Easter. If each household in our congregation buys JUST ONE EXTRA ITEM in their grocery shopping each week, and brings that to church, it will go a long way to filling the gaps. The items we need most are **canned meat/fish, pasta sauce or canned tomatoes, canned vegetables, powdered/canned milk, instant oatmeal and cereal.**

Please help the Deacon's Cupboard team to overcome its "Mother Hubbard Syndrome" and be able to give even the last clients of the morning a reasonable choice of food. *Jacquie*

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 27 – MAY 4

During National Volunteer Week, we come together to recognize and celebrate all the volunteers who help to make our church a welcoming, comfortable, exciting place to worship .

The sharing of time, skills, empathy and creativity is vital to the inclusivity, strength, and well-being of our parish family. By coming together, committing support and increasing our collective efforts and impact, volunteers contribute exponentially to the religious and social atmosphere at Christ Church.

What can I do to help, you may ask? Our Church Handbook outlines the many groups that operate within and outside the church. Ask a Sidesperson to give you one. You can volunteer using ccsvcares@christchurchscarborough.com

I'm too busy with work and family obligations during the week! Many of our volunteer opportunities can be performed during the time you are in church on Sunday: Sidesperson, Coffee Hour set up, Sunday School teaching, Lesson reading, Choir, or Live streaming the Sunday service. Others can be done on Saturday: Chancel Guild and Property Maintenance, Rummage Sales and Christmas Bazaar. Support and training are always available.

Too often the burden is left to a few faithful volunteers. They need and deserve our support.

Please consider offering your help. The benefits are many: new friends, a feeling of belonging, learning new skills and enriching your life.



Fall & Winter Property Report

The Property & Maintenance group is having serious recruiting issues and can now attend only to items that are safety concerns. This group is still looking for someone to volunteer to arrange for people to come out for work parties, and also be the contact person between the Property Committee and the Church's Corporation, Rector, Wardens and congregation.

This person does not need to have a lot of home repair/renovation knowledge or skills, as you can learn on the job being mentored, in the beginning, by those who do know. Please consider this and speak to **Ken P. 416-261-9391** or one of the Wardens soon. Accommodation will be tried to be made for your available times.

We have tried to do small things to help around the church like replacing a burned out five light fixture but it can be tricky, as soon as we think they are out and ready to be replaced: on they come for a while longer. Simple repairs have been done to the food bank equipment, along with helping their volunteers relocate shelves to get best use of space and to make room by the electrical plug to put the recently donated upright freezer (used) in this room by the kitchen.



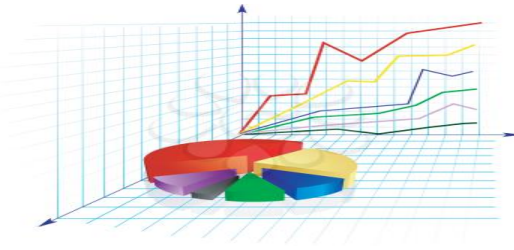
Brain storming ideas needed

Our Treasurer has indicated that in 2025 we could have a deficit which might impact programs that we hold dear. At our Parish Board Meeting, in January, the idea came forward that we should “get” out in front” of this deficit, by being a little more aggressive with our **Fund Raising**, throughout this year. So you the parishioners are being asked to contribute any/all ideas that you think could help.

Right now we need ***ideas***, later on we will ask for volunteers as needed.

Please email your suggestions to ccsvcares@christchurchscarborough.com or speak with ***Jo-Anne or Shirley.***

*PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION:*Anna-Mary K., Ann R., Antony, Art C., Dolly, David F., David H., Deb & Russ A., , Ethel C., Jenille L., Jone L., Ken H., Lystra., Leonora Y., Myrna, Laurel L, Linda E., Lloyd K., Lois L., Marsal, Sharia & family, Patsy C., Philip I., Swerna T., Unice B and Cheryl., Viggy M. and all those affected by ill health, homelessness, food insecurity, racial / religious discrimination, natural disasters, the unrest in Haiti ,the war in Ukraine and the Hamas / Israel conflict.



2024 Financial Highlights

As of the end of November, we had a \$23,000 operating fund deficit. However, in December we had a remarkable \$53,476 total operating income which included \$36,479 of offering income, which meant that we ended with a surplus for the year of \$1,319. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

	<u>2024 Budget</u>	<u>2024 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u> <u>2024/2023</u>
<u>Operating Income</u>				
Envelopes & Open	\$138,700	\$148,945	138,539	+10,406
Other Operating Income	<u>108,580</u>	<u>111,147</u>	<u>102,149</u>	<u>+8,998</u>
Total Operating Income	\$247,280	\$260,092	\$240,688	+19,404
Operating Expenses	<u>\$255,658</u>	<u>\$258,773</u>	<u>240,278</u>	+18,495
Operating Income less Expenses	<u>-\$8,378</u>	<u>\$1,319</u>	<u>\$410</u>	

In addition, donations for the Deacon’s Cupboard increased from \$34,735 in 2023 to \$47,510 in 2024, mostly as a result of significant donations from persons not members of the congregation, but who recognize the need and the great work our foodbank volunteers are doing. \$45,674 was spent on the foodbank, mostly for food purchases, but also included two refrigerators to keep perishables such as dairy products properly stored.

The Capital Fund had donations of \$14,470, and expenses of \$16,336. One significant expense included replacing the elevator lobby entrance door, the north stairwell door (exit by the driveway) and one of the stairwell interior doors.

Financial Outlook for 2025

2025 will continue to challenge us financially. The operating fund expenses budget is \$272,718. This is an increase of \$13,945 from 2025 expenses. Some costs continue to outpace inflation – such as insurance, but also because we are more active, we use more supplies and hydro etc. We will need everyone’s help again, to balance our finances again this year.

Ian Campbell

THE NEXT EDITION OF CONNECTIONS WILL BE JUNE/25

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JOIN US AT CHURCH OR ON OUR WEBSITE FOR WORSHIP

www.christchurchscarborough.com



Sunday at 8:30

Holy Communion (BCP)

Sunday at 10:00

Sung Holy Communion (BAS)

Wednesday at 11:00 am

Morning Prayer

and quiet conversation

