



# NewsLetter

## The Anglican Church of St. Augustine of Canterbury

Lent & Easter 2020

### Megan's Message

We all have scars. Our first scar immediately follows our birth. The umbilical scar that eventually heals to form our belly buttons. As we grow and sometimes stumble through life, most of us will accumulate more scars. Some are from injuries, whether self-inflicted or harm inflicted by others. Some are from accidents and stumbles. Some speak to human frailty, like scar tissue that forms in the heart after an MI or the scar where a fractured bone heals. Some scars and blemishes speak to the passage of time, like acne scarring, wrinkles, or age spots. Some scars mark how we gave life to others, like the stretch marks from a pregnancy or a c-section scar. Some mark how we overcame adversity and survived. Other scars, like the emotional ones, remain hidden to others. None of us escapes unscathed.

I often think of scars at the start of Lent. The ashes we impose on our foreheads are kind of like a type of scar. Marking our frailty and mortality. Marking the ways we are inclined to hurt others and ourselves. Marking the places within us that call out for healing.

I find too that scars can be something of a metaphor for sin. Our first or original scar in our belly button. The scars from injuries inflicted and received. Scars of human frailty. Scars from life passages. Emotional scars. These can all correspond to the types of sin we experience. Many people are ashamed of their scars and try to hide them with clothing. Some disguise them with tattoos. Others try to minimize them with plastic surgery. Our scars tell a story and mark the places where we need healing.

Lent is the season when we wrestle with our sins and maybe even the scars we bear. It is the time when we name them before God. It is the time when we seek healing. It is the time when we might take on devotional practices like fasting, alms giving, prayer, or intentional Christian formation and study. It is that seasonal reconnection with God in preparation. Where we acknowledge our mortality and yearn again for the hope of new life offered at Easter.

This season too, as a community, we will address some of the physical scars borne by



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### *In This Issue*

Megan's Message	... Page 1
The Berberians Citizenship	... Page 2
New Circles	... Page 3
Shrove Tuesday	... Page 4
A Prayer for Lent	...Page 4
This and that..	... Page 5
Mbitsemundo and Kimonyo Update	... Page 6
Community Lunches	...Page 7
The Groove Room	...Page 8

(Continued on page 3)

# The Berberians are Canadian Citizens

On Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup> several of us gathered to attend the citizen ceremony for Aroush, Marika and their daughters Teresa and Narod. It was a joyful and moving ceremony, four years after the family arrived in Canada. Also in the picture are Tiriza, who is Aroush's mother and had her citizenship ceremony two days before. Last February( 2019) the family were joined by Shiraz who is Aroush's younger brother. He is also in the picture.

Many of you at St. A's have had the opportunity to meet the family at church. They were sponsored jointly by St. A's and St. Matthew's, Riverdale. The family had to leave Aleppo, Syria and flee to Lebanon after their business and home were bombed in the war. They arrived in Canada from Lebanon, as refugees in January, 2016. Since that time they have worked hard at learning English and have started a business running the snack bar at the Armenian Community Centre as well as a catering business. Aroush has also spent some time driving for Uber.

Marika is currently working as a teaching assistant in the nursery school at the Armenian school. Both girls attend the Armenian school near the family's apartment in the Victoria Park and Sheppard area of North York. In their free time they love to skate and swim!

They are all happy and proud to be new Canadians citizens and look forward to applying for their Canadian passports. Their first trip out of the country will be to visit family and friends in California. Congratulations Aroush, Marika, Teresa, and Narod!

*Gina Davidson & Peter Shepard*





## New Circles

When you donate items or money to a charity do you really know what happens to your donation? I had the opportunity to see first hand how the GLOW clothing program at New Circles on Bartley Drive (near Eglinton and Bermondsey) really works. At St. Augustine's we have been collecting clothing, particularly winter clothing at this time of year, for New Circles.

Donated items are typically dropped off at the side door on Hobson Ave, where they are then sorted and hung on hangers. Ring the doorbell and volunteers are waiting to assist, offer a tour of the facilities and answer questions about their services. Clients enter through the front doors on Bartley Dr. and are greeted by a friendly staff member. On the day that I was there I saw several families arrive with young children and large empty suitcases. Their parents had the opportunity to search for much needed clothing for both the children and themselves.

Inside, clothing fills the room all hung neatly on racks and organized into men's/women's and children's. Clients are allowed to choose several items but only one coat and pair of boots. All clients are given new socks and underwear. GLOW does not accept these items used. There is a cheerful play area with games and puzzles for the kids in one corner of the room. Due to the high demand each client makes an appointment well in advance and is given a limited time to look for their new clothing. They are given a picture chart to indicate which items they are allowed to select and a basket to fill. This basket is then taken to the counter where clients are "checked out". Because the service is completely free no money is exchanged at check out. For young families items such as diapers and wipes and formula is also available at the check out. Clients are allowed to select clothing several times a year as the seasons change. GLOW serves up to 200 clients each day.

That is a lot of clothing!

In March and until August, Glow will be collecting Spring and Summer clothing, footwear and accessories eg. hats, scarves and belts for all genders and sizes.

Please keep this in mind when you are sorting out your closet as part of your spring - cleaning. Remember to drop your gently used clothing off at the church where it will be delivered to New Circles. Refer to the Donation Guidelines posted at the church, if you are unsure about what items to donate.

If you would like more information on New Circles and the GLOW clothing program

you can check out their website at "newcircles.ca." You can also make a donation online and sign up for New Circles online news.

A big thank you to everyone at St. Augustine's for your support of New Circles and the GLOW clothing program!

*Gina Davidson*



*(Continued from page 1)*

our church building. It is time to repair and restore our bell tower. It bears the scars of aging. It has weathered many storms and it has faced the elements. In some places, it is worn raw. Like so many scars, it tells a story and marks the place where a community has been forged in God's name. It calls us to worship and it stands as a beacon that calls us to a new way of living. We need to repair its cracks and fissures birthed over time. We need to address the frailty that is there and give it new life for future generations. Preparation work continues on our tower throughout late winter so that the restoration work can begin this spring and we anticipate completion of the needed work this summer.

In the words of our Ash Wednesday prayers, I invite you to observe a Holy Lent. To acknowledge our frailty and woundedness, to reconnect with God, to seek healing and restoration, and to hope and yearn for the new life we are promised in Easter.

*The Rev'd Megan Jull*

## Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

We had a great night of fun, sausages and pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Real maple syrup and the choice of blueberry pancakes were featured. For the second year in a row the set up was in the church proper rather than the Bracken Room, giving it a nice atmosphere. The weather cooperated and the turnout was a higher than last year. There were many helpers that made it possible including Megan dishing out the sausages.

A special shout out to Barb Goodbody who has done such fantastic job running the pancake dinners for so many years. She handed the responsibility to us this year, although we still managed to get her working the ticket booth on Tuesday.

*Mike Rapson & Gina Davidson*



**We need to provide a big thanks** to our Deacon Beth Nelson for her discussion of "Being Mortal" over the last few weeks. It is a very thoughtful and provocative discussion of end-of-life care. It provides a practical perspective encouraging each of us to think about the choices we make. The big take-a-way is when we stop intervention and accept death. I hope we, as a congregation, can relook at this matter every few months. It is a discussion which occurs surprisingly often in day-to-day life

*Mary McLean*

## A Prayer for Lent

I know that Lent is going to be hard for me. The choice for your way has to be made every moment of my life. I have to choose thoughts that are your thoughts, words that are your words, and actions that are your actions. All times and places have choices. And I know how deeply I resist choosing you. Please, Lord, be with me at every moment and in every place. Give me the strength and the courage to live this season faithfully, so that, when Easter comes, I will be able to taste with joy that new life you have prepared for me and all of us. Amen.



This and that...





## Mbitsemunda and Kimonyo Update

In a co-sponsorship venture that had begun last summer between St. Cuthbert's and St. Augustine (through AURA), a light of hope was offered to Mbitsemunda Prudence and Kimonyo Rachid, a couple escaping persecution in Rwanda. Along with the Government of Canada and the BVOR fund, our two churches were able to provide the financial support to get them off to a good start. Of greater significance is the solidarity, friendships and practical help parishioners of both churches provided...the support of the love.

Since arriving on October 15, 2019, it has been a whirlwind of activity surrounding Mbitsemunda and Kimonyo as they acclimatized to their new life in Canada. Below, the St. Cuthbert's/ St. Augustine Sponsor committee members share some light and heart-warming moments.

With the mundane (but essential) necessities of: Presto and RBC debit cards; mobile phones; paper work; doctors, dentists and opticians visits; language assessments and ESL enrolment out of the way, M&K settled in with Kathi and Bob Davies who graciously opened their home for 10 weeks of *temporary* accommodations as a suitable apartment was sought by Gina Davidson and Peter Shepard.

Trying "new" things such as Canadian cheddar cheese, brown sugar in their tea and peanut butter on toast for breakfast, Kathi shares this story: "Mbitsemunda & Kimonyo love tea. Bob and I would often make some for them during their first week. We have a convenient warming burner on our stove to accommodate an "all day" pot of tea. One evening when I returned from choir practice, Mbitsemunda said 'Mommy, we need to beg your forgiveness'... they



inadvertently put the teapot on a regular burner...on HIGH! Bye-bye teapot!"

Meanwhile, as Gina and Peter continued looking for a permanent residence, the rest of the team mounted campaigns at both churches to source furniture, houseware, sundries and clothing for the new life ahead. A spacious one bedroom was found in November and the team organized a clean-up/painting/delivery crew for the apartment. What an outpouring of generosity! There were at least four sets of cookware available to the lads and it's a good thing too as Kathi offers this anecdote: "Cooking is always done on the stovetop on HIGH (my poor saucepans)! However, we taught them how to use a slow cooker and they fell in love with our rice cooker, so we gifted one to Kimonyo for his birthday."

On January 1st, the new year wasn't the only celebration as it was also Kimonyo's birthday. Lilian Wells hosted a drop in party to share some laughs and cake. Lots to celebrate indeed.

*Tom Wong*

***{for the full report please find handouts at the church or attached in a separate email}***



Community Lunches



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Community Easter Egg Hunt

Easter Weekend ~ Saturday @ 11am

Free for Kids 12 & Under



# The Groove Room

The highlight of the last few months was the December coffee house. There were 70 people in attendance and we presented a cheque for \$2800 to the Flemingdon Park Community Food Bank. After attempting for some time to get children from the Northlea music program to perform, we were delighted to have 4 young women from the Northlea choir perform some songs for us. They enjoyed the experience and we expect to see them back in 2020. We also had Groove Room regular Les Garant come down into the audience to sing Christmas songs.

In January we had an all female "A Cappella" group join us for the first time and they were really good. Look to see them again in April. The Feb Groove Room was on Valentine's day so we featured songs with some reference to love in them. Wende made a delicious Valentine's day themed dessert table. February also featured our first ever banjo player.

There were performers of all ages and many genres of music including folk, country, rock, blues over the last few months. We are hoping to have a woodwind quartet perform in late spring but do not have a specific date for yet.

You never know what is going to happen at the Groove Room, but it is always fun. If you, or anyone you know would like to play, please contact me, we are looking for performers.

*Mike Rapson*

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY

### Palm Sunday ~ April 5

Family-friendly procession and  
Eucharist at 10:30am

### Maundy Thursday ~ April 9

Light meal and Eucharist to remember  
the Last Supper at 6:00pm

### Good Friday ~ April 10

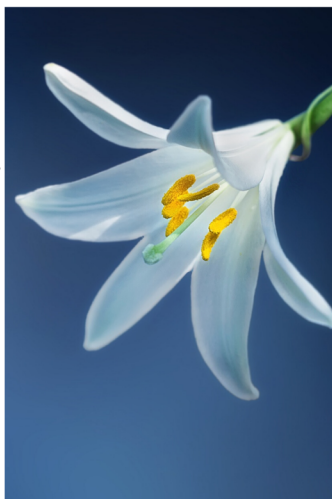
Family-friendly way of the cross  
at 10:30am

### Holy Saturday ~ April 11

Community Easter Egg Hunt at 11:00am  
Easter Vigil at 8:00pm

### Easter Sunday ~ April 12

Sung Eucharist at 10:30am



*If you are receiving a paper copy of this NewsLetter in the mail and would prefer not to, please contact the office at 416-485-2656 or email us at:*

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