

# St. Mark's Chronicles

JULY 2023



## Clergy Corner

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

*Continued from the June Issue of The Chronicles.*

"God works because of who we are, not in spite of who we are," a comment of Brian Ruttan, one of our seminary professors. How does that comment sit with you? Does that give you hope that even though you might not become that "good Christian" that we are told that we must continually strive to be, that God still loves us, still works through us? Or does that make you feel that why bother trying, God still loves us and works through us anyway?

To add to this thought, Canon Martha Tatarnic then goes on to say that we are a collection of fractures across human relationships; we are the invitation to keep figuring out how to love and serve one another. We are also people in whom the power of God will be revealed – not in spite of who we are, but because of it. How do we deal with the "bad" things in this world – the bad that we see happening to others, the bad we see happening to ourselves, the bad that we ourselves might inflict on others? What is the difference between "bad" and evil?

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# Recipe of the Month

From "Little Old Lady Recipes"

## Goulash



### Ingredients:

2 lb round steak  
 6 onions  
 2 pats butter  
 1 tbsp flour  
 1tsp salt  
 1 tbsp paprika  
 2 cups sour cream  
 2 cups red wine

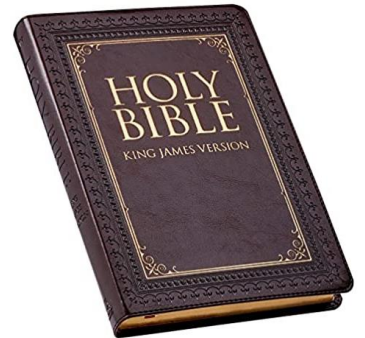
### Instructions:

Cut steak into strips. Brown onions and steak in butter. Add flour, salt and paprika and let cook for a few minutes. Then mix it all up with the sour cream and wine. Pour into a casserole dish, cover, and bake for a little over an hour in a 375 degree oven. Serves 5.

# Biblical Storytelling

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

A month or so ago I went with a couple of United Church friends to a Bible Storytelling workshop at Five Oaks in Paris, Ontario. We heard that listening to Scripture is an open opportunity to meet God and be changed in that encounter. The Word of God is in the interaction between God and the reader, between the people who speak and listen, between the people who receive and respond. The Word is a verb, an event, something that happens.



It was a small class so that everyone got the opportunity to be a storyteller. As each one of us was attempting to engage the group in their chosen story, the rest of us were advised, as the listeners, not to read along (looking for mistakes, presumably) but to focus on the storyteller and actually become engaged in the story that he/she was telling.

The next Sunday, as I sat in the sanctuary, I looked out and realized that 90% of the congregation was reading along as the Gospel was being read. And I thought to myself, wouldn't it be awesome if people would put their bulletins down and just sit and listen to the story, listen to what was actually being told, becoming engaged in what was happening, imagining the scenario – who was involved, where were they at the time, what message is getting through to us. If you think about it the next Sunday, please try it and if you think about it on the way out, let me know if it made a difference for you.

## Poems for the Journey

### *The Pianist* by Carolyn J. Fairweather Hughes

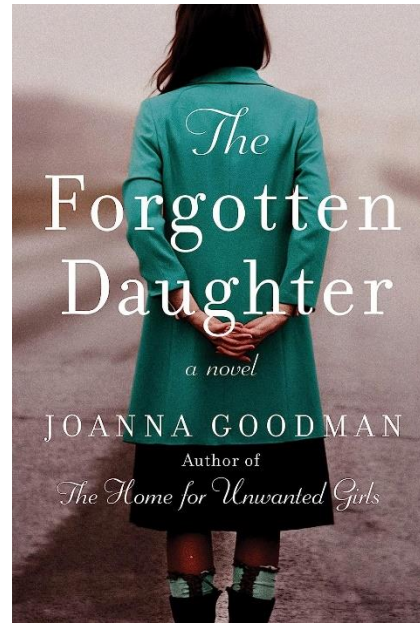
Gnarled fingers of hands  
 that were once beautiful  
 fondle the yellow keys.  
 When no one is listening,  
 she randomly strikes  
 a few dissonant notes.  
 Sometimes, I have to turn away  
 to keep from weeping  
 at her altered state.  
 But then, I see  
 the grey, wrinkled face smile  
 as chords, precise and graceful  
 drop from her hands  
 like ripened plums.

## The Quiet Corner

### *Post Humus* by Patti Tana

Scatter my ashes in my garden  
 so I can be near my loves.  
 Say a few honest words, sing a gentle song,  
 join hands in a circle of flesh.  
 Please tell some stories about me  
 making you laugh. I love to make you laugh.  
 When I've had time to settle, and green  
 gathers into buds, remember I love blossoms  
 bursting into spring. As the season ripens  
 remember my persistent passion.  
 And if you come in my  
 garden  
 on an August afternoon  
 pluck a bright red  
 globe,  
 let juice run down your chin and the seeds  
 stick to your cheek. When I'm dead  
 I want folks to smile and say "*That Patti,*  
*she sure is some tomato!*"

## Book Review



### *The Forgotten Daughter* by Joanna Goodman

Goodman writes with passion about a dark episode in Quebec's recent past. This is a follow-up to her bestselling novel *The Unwanted Girls* but can stand alone. It takes place in the 1990s during the prominence of the radical separatist movement in Quebec. Veronique is the daughter of one of those radical separatists. She is caught in a struggle between a love affair and her questionable morals. Elodie is one of the Duplessis orphans who becomes involved with a collation demanding justice and reparations for their suffering in the 1950s when Quebec's orphanages were converted to mental hospitals, a heinous political act of Premier Maurice Duplessis that affected five thousand children. An interesting read both in terms of historical interest and a darn good story.



# Indigenous Awareness

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

For many years we have been listening to our government tell us that they are making sure that the Indigenous peoples are getting clean water. It is supposed to be a priority, huh! I have often wondered just how many are still struggling and now there is a survey that says that there are still too many indigenous people without clean water. We need to pressure Mr. Trudeau to keep his promises. He keeps finding too many other projects that require redirected funds and our Indigenous people do without. Thanks to the United Church magazine "Broadview" here is a picture of just where we are at.



## Parish Profile

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

I had started writing "parish profiles" to highlight long time members of the parish, behind the scenes members of the parish and anyone else that I feel the rest of the parish might like to know. It is intended as a "Get to know you" piece to help the 8:30 and the 10:00 o'clock congregations get to know one another a bit better. It is an effort to let you know who different people are when you have a problem and wonder who to talk to. Soooooo..... if you think of someone whose parish profile should be written up, PLEASE let me know.

# All About Pride Month

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

## What is Pride month?

Pride month is dedicated to honoring the voices and contributions of 2SLGBTQIA folks and bringing attention to the issues they still face. June is a celebration of both Indigenous peoples and Pride folk. Last month we focused on Indigenous issues so this month we are focusing on Pride issues and again issues of understanding, acceptance and inclusivity.

## Who does Pride celebrate?

Pride celebrates the identities, achievements and resilience of people who identify as 2SLGBTQIA (2-Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning, Intersex, Asexual). It is called 'Pride' because it is meant to encourage the self-affirmation of the community, increase its visibility and honor the activists who have and continue to fight for the rights of 2SLGBTQIA folks. Pride celebrations include parades, workshops, classes, shows, concerts and other events that often occur annually in the month of June, here in Ontario and in many other parts of the world. The month consists of both political activism and a celebration of 2SLGBTQIA culture.

## What's the history of Pride?

Pride takes place in June to pay homage to the June 1969 Stonewall Riots. In New York City, USA, police violently raided Stonewall Inn, a pub that LGBTQ+ people would often frequent, with the intent of detaining and arresting patrons. While raids like this were frequent in places associated with LGBTQ+ folks, this time they decided to fight back. The ensuing uprising lasted several days, and became a symbol of queer resistance to discrimination and persecution. The following year, the first Pride march was organized in New York to commemorate the historic events.

Today, Pride is both a celebration and assertion of the rights of 2SLGBTQIA people as well as a time to bring attention to the discriminating and violence still experienced by many around the world. The month of Pride reminds us that these issues have not been resolved and that there must be a commitment from all sectors of society to fight for the rights of 2SLGBTQIA people.



*The Pride Parade in Downtown Toronto*

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# All About Pride Month

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

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## **How is Pride celebrated in Canada?**

Even though same-sex marriage was legalized in 2005 in Canada, there are many ongoing issues that 2SLGBTQIA people face to this day. For example, many queer and trans youth face increased rates of homelessness due to unsafe and unaccepting home environments that force them out or have them be disowned.

The Ontario Human Rights Code makes it unlawful for anyone to discriminate against the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. However, despite protective laws, marriage equality being legalized in Ontario, and the proliferation of Pride events and celebrations in June annually, there is still a social stigma that is associated with being 2SLGBTQIA+.

There is no one right way to celebrate Pride! Many people partake in large gatherings such as the annual Pride parades (these include events like the trans march and dyke march). Some others prefer smaller community events such as workshops, parties and drag shows. For others, it might be poetry slams, concerts or art displays. Though most events are held in June, some queer organizations might host events throughout the year. Check out your local community organizations to stay updated about possible upcoming events.

## **If I don't identify as 2SLGBTQIA, how can I be an ally to the 2SLGBTQIA community?**

To support the queer and trans community, read and learn about the ongoing issues that still affect 2SLGBTQIA people. Make sure you respect people's preferred pronouns (e.g., they/them, she/her, he/him). There are also many organizations that focus directly on the issues faced by the queer community that you can support or volunteer at.

## **WHAT IS 2SLGBTQIA+?**

2SLGBTQIA+ is an abbreviation for two spirited, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex, asexual, and more. These terms are used to describe a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

## **When was the first pride day in Canada?**

In Canada, the first demonstrations took place in Ottawa and Vancouver in 1971. By 1973, Pride events were held in several Canadian cities, including Montréal, Ottawa, Saskatoon, Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg. Toronto's Pride weekend in June is now among the largest Pride events in North America. Happy Pride Season! When was the first pride day in Canada?

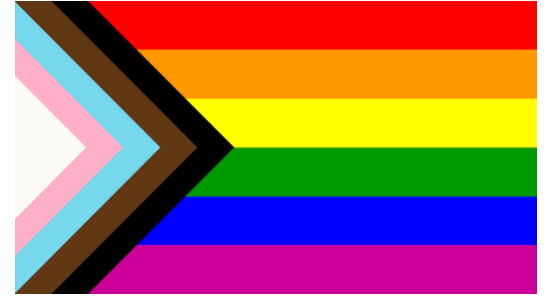
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# All About Pride Month

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

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## A Brief History of the Evolution of the Pride Flag



The rainbow flag is a symbol of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer pride commonly used at LGBTQIA+ rights events worldwide. The colors reflect the diversity of the community in addition to the spectrum of human sexuality and gender. Over the years, the flag has been updated and changed to be more inclusive of LGBTQIA+ individuals and their allies. In addition to the rainbow, there are many other flags and symbols used to communicate specific identities within the community. Original Pride Flag

Designed by artist Gilbert Baker at the request of San Francisco City Supervisor and first openly gay elected official in the history of California, Harvey Milk, the original rainbow flag made its debut at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade celebration on June 25, 1978. After the assassination of Harvey Milk in November 1978, demand for the flag greatly increased. Baker dropped the hot pink strip from the flag as that particular color was not readily available. In 1979, he modified it again to become the 6-stripe rainbow flag that is still used today in addition to many other renditions. More Colors More Pride Flag

In June 2017, under the leadership of Amber Hikes, the Philadelphia Office of LGBT Affairs unveiled the "More Colors More Pride" flag. This version of the Pride flag includes a black stripe and a brown stripe to draw attention to underrepresented people of color within the community. Hikes states that the flag was designed to "reinforce our strides towards combatting discrimination within our community, honor the lives of our black and brown LGBTQ siblings, and uplift our shared commitment to diversity and inclusion within our community."

## Fun July Facts

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

### 1. All hail, Caesar!

The month of July is named after Roman leader Julius Caesar. Before the name change, July was known as Quintilis. Quintilis, the Latin word for five, was the fifth month on the Gregorian calendar.

### 2. The crab and the lion

If you were born between July 1st and July 22nd you were born under the Zodiac sign of Cancer. Cancers are known to be emotionally intelligent and caring. If you were born between July 23rd and July 31st you were born under the Zodiac sign of Leo. Leos are known to be outgoing and confident.

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# Fun July Facts

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

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## 3. It's hot up here

The month of July holds some very hot records! In the northern hemisphere, July is usually the hottest month of the year. The hottest temperature ever recorded in the United States was in Greenland Ranch, California. The thermometer soared to 134°F/57°C on July 10th 1913. It was hot enough to fry an egg on a rock in a matter of seconds!

## 4. But it's cold down there

While it may be hot north of the Equator, people living in the southern half of the world see their coldest temperatures in July. In fact, the most severe cold season on record happened in July 1983 near the South Pole. The temperature at Vostok Station in Antarctica saw an extreme temperature of -129°F/-89.6°C. That's weather only a penguin could love!

## 5. July Firsts

Here are some fascinating July facts to impress your friends at your next barbecue. The first ever rabies vaccine was administered by Louis Pasteur on July 6th, 1885. The first atomic bomb test was detonated in New Mexico on July 16th, 1945. And the first bikini debuted in Paris on July 5th, 1946 at the famous Piscine Militor swimming pool. No word if it was an itsy-bitsy, teeny-weeny, yellow polka-dot bikini.

## 6. Historic Dates

On July 1st Canada celebrates their independence from the British empire with Canada Day. On July 4th, 1776, the original 13 colonies of the United States declared its independence from the British, and the rest is history. France celebrates the French Revolution with Bastille Day every July 14th. Many other countries also celebrate their nationhood in July as well, including Algeria, Argentina and Belgium.

## 7. Quirky July days

As it is with all the months, July has some head-scratching daily observances. July 2nd is World UFO Day. July 6th is International Kissing Day. Finally, July 24th is National Tequila Day.

## 8. We landed on the moon

This is one of the most historic fun facts about July. On July 16th, 1969 the crew of the Apollo 11 launched from Kennedy Space Center in Florida. Four days later, on July 20th, 1969 Neil Armstrong was the first human to set foot on the moon.

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# Fun July Facts

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

*Continued from page 8.*

## 9. The king of gems

The stunning red ruby is the official birthstone of July. This sought after and valuable gem is known as the king of gems and was once embedded in armor to protect against harm.

## 10. Two wonderful flowers

July is a month where flowers are at their most beautiful and July is represented by two flowers. The first is the water lily. This delicate flower found often around ponds and marshes is known to symbolize lightness of heart. The second is larkspur. A gorgeous flower of many colors and varieties that grows best in warm July weather. It is said to represent sweetness and laughter.

## 11. The first international phone call

Can you hear me now? It was on July 1, 1881 that the first ever international phone call was successfully made. The call originated in the Canadian province of New Brunswick and was received in the US state of Maine. How we would love to be eavesdropping on that call!

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## Quotes to Remember...

By Phyllis Diller

"The reason the golf pro tells you to keep your head down is so you can't see him laughing."

"Cleaning your house while your kids are still growing up is like shoveling the sidewalk before it stops snowing."

"A man said that he and his wife decided that they didn't want children. They are going to tell them tonight at dinner."

"Tranquillizers work only if you follow the advice on the bottle - keep away from children."

"The only time I ever enjoyed ironing was the day I accidentally got gin in the steam iron."

"I asked the waiter, 'Is this milk fresh?' He said, 'Lady, three hours ago it was grass.'"

# Clergy Corner

By The Rev'd Canon Lynne Thackwray

*Continued from page 1.*

In our baptism service the candidates and parents and sponsors are asked "Do you renounce Satan and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that rebel against God? Do you renounce the evil powers of this world which corrupt and destroy the creatures of God? Do you renounce all sinful desires that draw you from the love of God?"

I often wonder how seriously these questions are taken.

Do we really envision someone called Satan is out to coerce us into doing evil things and rebelling against God? Do we really think that it is the evil powers of this world that are filling our oceans with plastic and killing our sea life? Do we think about these things in our daily lives or just cruise along with the idea that God will look after us? There is certainly evil in this world as Martha points out by the actions of Paul Bernardo, or the in the treatment of many of the indigenous children in residential schools, or in the decision of Putin to send his army into Ukraine. How do we deal with it?

Then there is the question of prayer. We are taught that it is right and good to talk to God in prayer – to praise Him, to thank Him, to ask Him for help, for healing. What happens when our prayers are not answered or answered in a way that is not what we wanted. The final chapters of this book take us back to the gathered church which is not perfect but is there to uphold us and to support us as we figure out how to love one another and live with one another in order to love and live with God.

Martha says: "Church is not a place to go. It is a community. I don't go to church to find a place where I feel close to God. I become the church in order that my soul may be pushed outward from self-concern into relationship with the people and places around me." And although the church is not a place, it does help to meet in one particular place where people will know they are welcome whether they are in need of prayer or food or sanctuary.

The church is a place of Gathering and Sending. How do we envision our church? Is it a place to gather with friends, a place where we are supported in prayer, a place of learning more about how to follow Christ and what it means to be a good Christian, a place where we are offered opportunities to go out from and be God's hands and feet in this world. Are we inclusive? Do we welcome everyone into our midst regardless of race, colour or sexual orientation? Do we really believe that God works in us regardless of who we are and at the same time do we believe that God works in others regardless of who they are.

Being a Christian is not easy, it can be challenging, it can be demanding but with the support of our Christian community and the knowledge that God is always there for us, we can make a dent in this world in spite of the evil that is always lurking around the corner to convince us to take a different path.

## Talent Fair

By Tracey Croft

Our first "Talent/Hobby Fair" was very enjoyable! Thank you to those who volunteered to share their hobbies/talents: Bette Ann Speers, Sharon Bailey, Matt Rahn, Yvonne Rahn, Christine Robinson, Bill Robertson, Bobbie Fowler, Lynne Thackwray, Madeline White, Grace White, Lauren White, Daniel Scanlan, and Archdeacon Peter.

It was a great opportunity to meet with and learn about some of our fellow parishioners and their interests, several for the first time!

We plan to host another Talent Fair in early 2024, and look forward to inviting the parish to join us in this fun.



## Church Information

### Connect With Us

Website: [www.saintmark.ca](http://www.saintmark.ca)

YouTube: [saintmarkorangeville](https://www.youtube.com/saintmarkorangeville)

Facebook: [saintmarkorangeville](https://www.facebook.com/saintmarkorangeville)

Phone: 519-941-0640

Email: [office@saintmark.ca](mailto:office@saintmark.ca)

### Services

Sunday Eucharist – 8:30 a.m.

Sunday Choral Eucharist – 10:00 a.m.

Thursday Eucharist – 10:00 a.m.

### Summer Office Hours

Monday, Thursday & Friday

9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

### Food Cupboard Hours

Monday, Tuesday & Thursday

11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

### The Beacon Drop-In Centre

Monday & Friday

12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Address

5 First Avenue

Orangeville, ON

P.O. Box 22

L9W 2Z5