

st. christopher's

Messenger

April 2026

Issue 283



FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY



You may remember that, coming out of the pandemic, we used the Youth Room for extra staff workspace. Gradually a lot of furniture and garden equipment accumulated there. It was getting to the point where the room wasn't working well for anyone using the room through a normal week.

At last month's Annual Congregational Meeting we approved a capital plan that included cleaning up and renovating the Youth Room. This work is now underway! Staff who were using the covid-era workspaces have been relocated. The room will soon be fresh and ready for the youngest members of our congregation to use and enjoy on Sundays. We already have a couple of outside groups lined up to rent this refreshed space that will accommodate 20-40 people, and we expect we'll be able to attract other users as well.

In short, our capital investment will make the room bright and cheerful for

our children and youth, and income from outside users will increase. Good work, St. Christopher's! Please have a look at the space the next time you're in the back hallway!

I want to thank you for your patience and flexibility as we learn new musical settings for the Lord's Prayer at our 9.30am services. Last year we stopped using the familiar setting composed by David Haas after his publisher withdrew all his music from their catalogue, and after church leaders asked congregations to stop using his music because of allegations of abuse brought against David Haas by a number of victims. I know many of us still miss the familiar music we used to use for the Lord's Prayer, but I think we stopped using this music for the right reasons. In the meantime we have learned to sing two other settings, and a third setting is coming our way in the season after Easter. Soon, these settings for the Lord's Prayer will also be familiar, comforting, and uplifting

features of our worship at St. Christopher's!

If you've never tried the Holy Week services on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings (March 30, 31 and April 1), this may be your year! I'll be doing some teaching at these services on a subject that lights me up! We'll look at some of the ways the author of the Gospel of Luke changed material he found in one of his sources, the Gospel of Mark. You read that right! Luke changed the Bible! Specifically, he changed passages where Mark talks about Jesus' death as a sacrifice. This raises questions around the meaning of Jesus' death, and Holy Week is exactly the right time to sit with these questions. I hope you'll join the conversation!

We're trying something a little different this year on Easter Morning. The 9am service will be exactly as you have come to expect: a formal, choral eucharist featuring the St. Christopher's Choir. Music at the 11am service

on Easter Day will feature The Band. So, music at the later service will sound more like the current century. Please spread the word. Please bring your people with you to church through Holy Week and Easter. And please remember there will be children's programs at both the 9am and 11am services on Easter morning with an Easter egg hunt between the services, beginning at 10.20am.

You can probably understand why our focus right now in the office is Holy Week and Easter, but we know there is life after April 5th! And I want to point you to a few events coming up later in April.

I want to invite all the wonderful volunteers who help to make St. Christopher's such a vibrant and hope-filled place to the Volunteer Appreciation evening coming up on Friday, April 24 at 6pm. We are grateful

for all you do! We want to celebrate you!

On April 25th at 1.30pm, the Accessibility Committee is hosting the next event in its occasional education series. Please spread the word with people you know who will benefit from hearing Memouna Saed from the Alzheimer's Society speak about "Learning to Support People Living with Alzheimer's."

Finally, on Sunday April 26th after the 9.30 service the Climate Justice Committee is hosting an event where you can learn about pollinator-promoting gardening practices. See you there!

REV. CANON DR.
PENNY ANDERSON
RECTOR





bliss LOVE healing guidance PEACE
HOPE divine spirit abundance thank you
gratitude PURPOSE NOW blessings
faith mindfulness TRUTH
family SOUL oneness zen kindness
connect forgive intention ACCEPT

Burlington Mindfulness Meeting

Wednesday | 8 & 22 April | 7.00pm

Mental Health Care Support

Providing care to loved ones experiencing mental health challenges can be overwhelming. Come join a safe and confidential space with others on a caregiving journey to share experiences, discuss concerns, and be supported by others confronted with similar situations. Facilitated by community experts, this group meets in-person in the Family Room. Next dates: Monday, 13 April at 7pm.

MUSIC & THE PERFORMING ARTS



Monday, March 23rd, the time is 1pm and the temperature is -1 0C. We're well past the vernal equinox but my bike ride today was freezing. Maybe that's why Easter has managed to sneak up on me, or maybe it's because we've been busy with other things...

Through the month of February we spotlighted Black composers, songwriters and performers by showcasing their music every Sunday morning. In March, we celebrated Women's History month by performing music by Women artists every Sunday through the month. Sometimes this was subtle like a couple of great texts from Common Praise, including "Let There Be Light" and "When God Restored Our Common Life". Sometimes, especially at 11:30, it was more obvious with music by a couple of superstars: Sarah MacLachlan and Cindy Lauper. I didn't realise until

after I'd committed to this weekly observance that Canada does not celebrate Women's History Month in March as many other countries do. Our month is October because Person's Day, which marks the day when the Supreme Court of Canada recognized women as people, is October 18th. I guess we'll just have to do this again in October!

Canada does observe International Women's Day and this year it fell on a Sunday (March 8th). It was the perfect opportunity to play a couple challenging piano pieces that I've been preparing as part of my candidacy for a Licentiate Diploma from Conservatory Canada. Most people I spoke to loved Everyday by Carly Commando and were a bit speechless at "In a Flash" by Canadian Alexina Louie. I'll be playing both these pieces and many more in a concert at St. James, Dundas on March 27th at 7:30 pm and then again for examiner's ears only on April 14th. Your prayers for

calm nerves, good sleep, and perseverance as the finish line approaches, are appreciated.

Another noteworthy piece of music from the month of March is the new choir anthem, "Create in Me" by Michael Larkin which was sung last Sunday, March 22nd. This has become a fast favourite with most choir members, myself included. New anthems start at \$100 and go up from there and so we're grateful that this one was purchased with a gift from the Janet Gadeski Memorial Fund. While these monies are available to any type of ministry, music has been the beneficiary numerous times. The new drum kit for the 11:30 band, a repair to the organ, and multiple pieces of choral music are ministry-tools which the fund has supported.

"Noteworthy" anthems are on the horizon too. Palm Sunday's anthem will feature Cindy Gollinger on clarinet and Jim Wright on Tambourine. Our anthems

for the services on Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday are all by living Canadian composers.

As a departure from tradition, we are only singing one anthem at the Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4th at 8pm whereas in past years there might have been more than a half dozen. The change is in acknowledgement of the value of congregational singing. It will also enable us to sing the first part of the service by candlelight! We've always striven for creativity and innovation at the Easter Vigil service. I hope you'll join us for this holy and ancient first celebration of Easter.

There's another big change to music at Easter this year. Instead of the choir doing both Sunday services, the band will be singing at the 11am service. We won't be attempting to transplant

favourite hymns into a band context. Instead, we hope to provide an alternative sound for Easter morning with music like "Beautiful Things" by Gungor and "Ordinary Miracle" by Sarah MacLaclan. If you want to sing traditional Easter hymns like "Jesus Christ Is Risen Today" and "Thine Be the Glory" the choir's got you covered at the 9am service.

Spring, whenever it arrives, is a time of change and new life. I pray that some of the changes we're trying in our worship over the Easter season will be life-giving.



ANDY ELMHIRST
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



Music in the Garden

Friday | 22 May | 6.00pm

Potluck dinner &

beautiful music from the St. Christopher's Choir

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES

**FUN IN THE SUN
SUMMER CAMP
AGES 4-11**

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS!
JULY 20 - 24
2026**

**LEADER
TRAINING WEEK
AGES 12+
JULY 13-17**

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!
CONTACT
CARRIE@STCB.CA**

diving into friendship with god

With Easter around the corner, spring is on its way and with it, come lots of bright and exciting new things happening for children at St. Christopher's.

The most exciting one is that our youth space is getting a makeover! The youth room has gone through many transformations over the years but it's been a long time since it got an overhaul quite like this! The new layout will give us a lot more freedom with how we use the space for youth, as well as giving the church the ability to use the space for other purposes during the week as needed. The kids are excited to see the finished product!

We are looking forward to welcoming the children

and youth to an immersive Easter weekend experience. Starting with Good Friday at 10 am, there will be children's programming available as we learn about the Stations of the Cross through stories and crafts.

Sunday morning we will offer interactive children's programming at both the 9 am and 11 am services and don't forget the Easter Egg Hunt in between! Stay after the 9 am service or come early for the 11 am! The Egg Hunt will start at 10:20 am.

The fun continues after Easter! GIFT is wrapping up our Psalm Series and will begin a new program for Spring. "Faith from the Inside Out" will focus on the different emotions we experience and how these feelings are reflected in the stories of the Bible. We will

use our favourite characters from the movie "Inside Out" to help us through this journey. It should be fun and familiar for kids of all ages and help us make connections between our own everyday lives and how God wants us to live.

Kids Club and Youth group will gather the 3rd and 4th Sundays of April respectively. Just after the March Break, Kids Club had a lively MarioKart tournament and Youth Group took part in a bake-off. A little competition is always friendly and always fun!

Please continue to spread the word about Fun in the Sun! We have been hearing from families, both new and returning, and we are so excited to launch our "Scuba: Diving into Friendship With God" VBS

Summer camp in July! If you are interested in volunteering with snack time or as a camp volunteer, now is the time to get your

vulnerable sector screening submitted online so it's ready in time for summer. We would love for you to join us!



CARRIE FORD-JONES
CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR

EASTER EGG HUNT

EASTER SUNDAY AT 10:20AM BETWEEN THE 9AM AND 11AM SERVICES (WEATHER WILL DETERMINE THE LOCATION)

KIDS' CLUB

Sunday | 19 April | 6:00 -7:30pm
ages 8 - 11

Exploring our emotions through Bible stories

Sunday mornings 9:30am ages 3 and up

FAITH FROM THE INSIDE OUT

SUNDAY APRIL 26
6:30-8:30PM 🪙 00
GRADE 6 AND UP

YOUTH GROUP

SIGN IN START MENU

OPEN DOORS

You're the Piece That Matters!

Please join us in celebrating
all the special things that you volunteers do

Friday | 24 April | 6.30 PM

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Light dinner and drinks will be served
RSVP to volunteer@stcb.ca by April 14th 2026

March has brought a welcome change of pace for Open Doors following a very busy February. This quieter period has given us the opportunity to pause, reflect, and take stock of our programs, allowing us to make thoughtful assessments and ensure we continue to serve our community as effectively as possible.

We were delighted to host another successful Souper Sunday on March 22nd. Thanks to the incredible support from our community, we completely sold out of soup once again! With the warmer months

approaching, we will now be putting our soup sales on hold until September. We look forward to bringing this popular event back in the fall.

Looking ahead, we are excited to participate in a Volunteer Recruitment Event in partnership with Community Development Halton on April 22nd. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with new and interested volunteers who are eager to support the many areas of our programming. Volunteers are the puzzle pieces to the large Open Doors puzzle, and we are always grateful to welcome new faces into our community.

We are also preparing for our Volunteer Appreciation event on April 24th. This special occasion allows us to recognize and celebrate the dedication and generosity of our volunteers. More details will be shared via email soon, so please stay tuned.

We are optimistic as we look ahead to the warmer months. We are especially excited for the season of growth - both in our garden, as it begins to yield its bounty, and in the opportunities for connection, partnerships, and enjoyment that come with longer, sunnier days.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support of Open Doors.



SHANNON SHUELL
GOOD FOOD COORDINATOR



Volunteer Appreciation

Thank you to all of you who help to make St. Christopher's
a vibrant and hope-filled place.

You are invited to our Volunteer Appreciation Evening!

Friday | 24 April | 6.00pm

CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Pollinator Event: Don't Let the Butterfly Flutter by!



Did you know that pollinators are responsible for roughly one out of every three bites of food we eat?! They are crucial for nutritious, high-value crops like fruits, vegetables, and nuts, and they also contribute to a healthy environment in other ways. If you would like to know more about who our local pollinators are (hint: it's not just bees and butterflies), why they are important, and how you can help them to thrive, please join us in the Great Hall between the services on Sunday, April 26th. We promise that there

will be lots of information, activities, ways that you can advocate, and snacks!

The timing for this event is perfect as we are heading into the growing season. April is also Earth Month and there are lots of events and activities on offer in Burlington over the coming weeks. Perhaps you would like to participate in one, or more of them. Check out the websites for Burlington Green, Burlington Public Library, and A Greener Future. And here are a few ideas to get you started:

Key Burlington Earth Month Events & Activities

- Burlington Green - Clean

Up Green Up: Register to participate in a city-wide litter cleanup initiative at burlingtongreen.org.

- A Greener Future Butt Blitz at Burlington Beach (April 22, 2026 6 pm). Participate in a beach cleanup. Check out agreenerfuture.ca for details.
- City of Burlington Forestry Staff Community Tree Planting at Brant Hills Park: Saturday, April 25 (advance registration is required).
- Burlington Public Library: Tons of resources (including a seed library), activities, and talks! Check out bpl.on.ca



CAROL HENLEY



POLLINATORS

DON'T LET THE BUTTERFLY FLUTTER BY

Sunday | 26 April | between the services

Why pollinators are important and how you can help them thrive!

PROPERTY



There are exciting things happening around the building these days! Our Youth Room is currently undergoing a significant change. It had become a storage place for gardening supplies, clothing extras, special event signage and a multitude of materials, reducing the useable space to about 50%. Our children have been very patient to meet weekly in this very over-crowded room. Also, we have numerous calls for space use for 20-40 people. This room is large enough to accommodate such requests but with the excess materials, furniture, partial room dividers and multiple flooring styles, this accommodation was not feasible. Our

facilities team (Chris Jones and Mike Peroune) has been busy in the month of March removing unused materials, disassembling existing furniture, and making a number of trips to the transfer station. Scrap metal was converted to cash where possible. Items were posted on Marketplace for possible retrieval. A local Burlington flooring supplier was hired to install a wood-like wide plank laminate. Contractors from Hamilton were hired to paint over the very bright acrylic walls of our Youth Room. These companies both do a lot of work with nonprofits and priced our job accordingly. As part of this process, the inside-outside shed and the

Open Doors pantry have both experienced a major reorganization and cleaning. A new shelving unit went from the Youth Room back window (lined originally with seedlings and saplings for the garden) to the Open Doors pantry, where it will be used very effectively throughout the year. Existing wooden-top tables used by GIFT each Sunday will be sanded and repainted for safe use in the months ahead. Four 6-foot tables will be permanently stored in the room. Further reorganization will happen in the inside-outside shed in April, allowing ample storage for our garden tractor and related items. Carrie Ford-Jones and Sam Legrand both spent time

going through all items in the room and removing unnecessary things. Optimal storage sites were identified for necessary item retention. Sometime in April, plan to stop in and see the changes that have been accomplished here. The room will soon be a welcoming space for our young families and for those wishing to have private family parties, workshops, education spaces, meetings etc.

Other things that have taken our attention and time in the last several months include, replacement of the toilet in the preschool room, paper towel dispenser replacement in the women's washroom, supplier research for unscented hand sanitizer,

sealing holes in the kitchen which have contributed to a recent ant infestation, the removal of old, plus purchase and pickup of a new, warming oven for the kitchen, identifying HVAC temperature fluctuation problems (without a technician), and planning for the recent room renovation.

The facilities team is action-focused. They meet each Wednesday morning. If you love problem solving, working with tools, getting exercise, please contact the office at staff@stcb.ca to learn how to be a part of this very important church team. Also, please be thinking about your involvement in a spring yard clean-up, with dates to be announced soon.



NIGHT ON THE TOWN



APRIL RUMMAGE



FRIDAY, 10 APRIL 4 PM - 7 PM

SATURDAY, 11 APRIL 9 AM - 12 NOON

Gently used, working, and clean items may be dropped off at the church.

Wed. 8 Apr. – noon to 4.30pm or Thur. 9 Apr. 9.30am to 4.30pm

Please no large furniture!

Volunteers may sign up for shifts for the Rummage Sale through Better Impact or call the church office (905.634.1809) to leave a message.

A coordinator will return your call.



Climate Justice
Pray • Learn • Act • Advocate

Next Meeting

Tuesday | 21 April | 7.00pm



Bring It | Fix It | for Free

Volunteers help you fix broken household items (there may be a small charge if parts are needed)

Please send an email to explain what you'd like to get fixed, and to reserve a time slot: burlingtonrepaircafe@cogeco.ca.

Saturday | 18 April | 10am - 2pm

St. Christopher's | 662 Guelph line | Burlington ON



Parish Council

Monday | April 29 | 7.00pm

Zoom



Mondays - Dance with Candace

Line Dance

5.30pm beginner | 6.30pm advanced

Partner Dance

7.30pm



Ginger Group

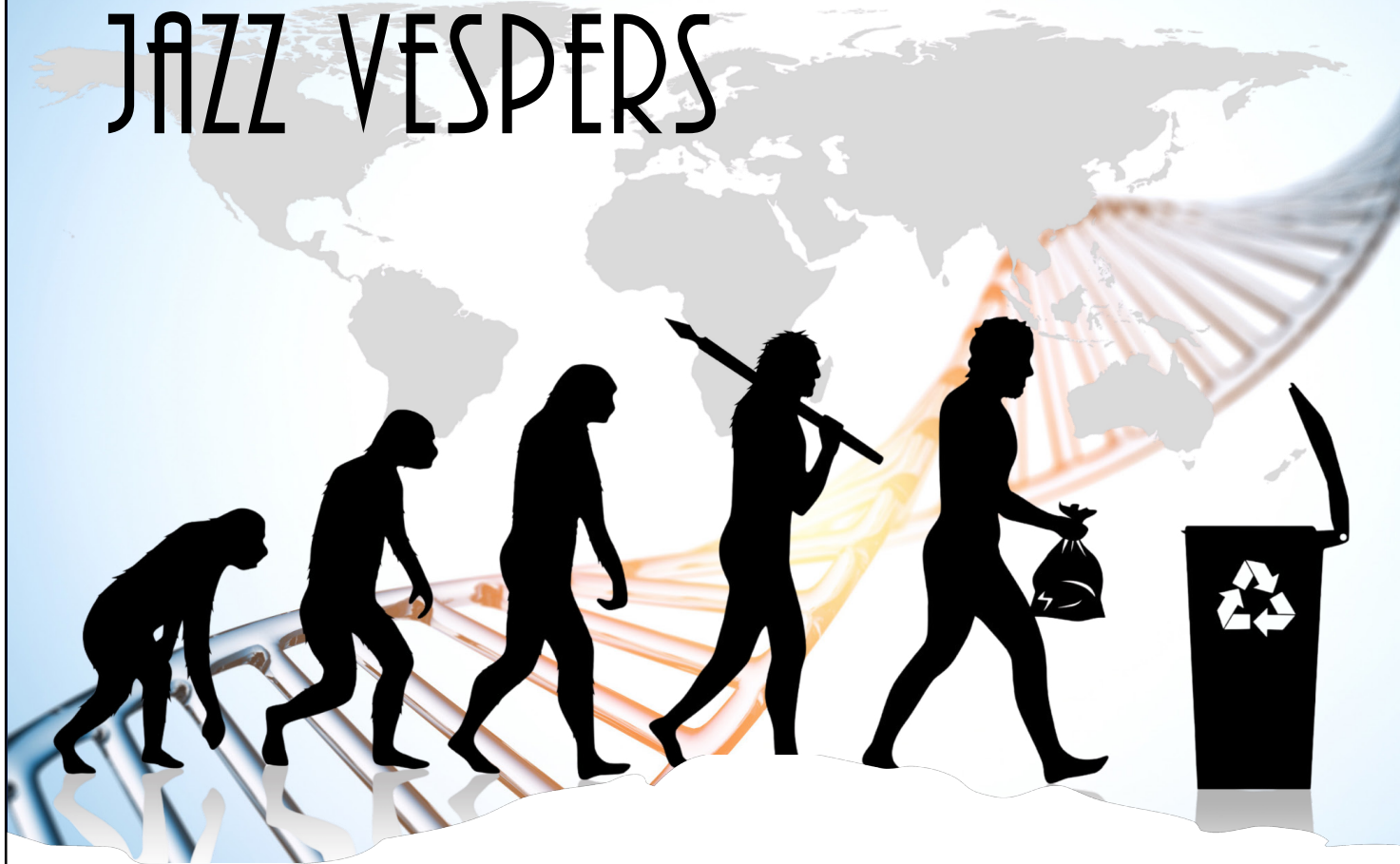
Calling everyone 55+ or retired! Our next gathering will be Monday, 13 April at 11.30am. The topic will be. Contact Winston or John at staff@stcb.ca for more information.



Tai Chi

Wednesdays 7.00pm

JAZZ VESPERS



ANTHROPOLOGY



Pat LaBarbera
Sax



Rob Somerville
Trombone



Matt Newton
Piano



Tim Shia
Drums



Jim Sandilands
Bass



Jake Wilkinson
Trumpet

Sunday
19 April
2026

St. Christopher's
662 Guelph Line
Burlington

4.00pm
Free Will
Offering



Watercolour Wednesdays

with Cheryl Goldring

Wednesday, 1 April & 6 May at 12 noon

\$35 per session. All materials are provided, including professional instruction. Gather with others in a warm and encouraging space. Light beverages are included. Registration required at staff@stcb.ca.

MAP

Reshaping Parish Culture

On Zoom with Gail Grant

Tuesday | 7 April | 7pm



Seniors' Social

Tricia Clarke and this warm and wonderful group of seniors meets Tuesday afternoons in the Family Room at 1pm. Enjoy a time of refreshment, games and conversation. Bring your special energy to build some new relationships. Please contact staff@stcb.ca for details. (On the last Tuesday of the month, this group meets offsite at 1pm.)



Bridge Group

Welcome to those wishing to join us for a game of Bridge! All are welcome but previous experience is appreciated. Light refreshments will be provided. You don't need to be a regular at St. Christopher's to join this group. Please contact Liz at staff@stcb.ca for more information. Upcoming meetings are: 13 and 27 April at 2pm.



Prayer Shawl Group

Plan to join this passionate and caring group at their next meeting: 30 April at 1pm. If you have never knitted before, come and learn. Meet friends over shared creative skills.



Men's Cooking Groups

Men's Cooking Combined will meet on Monday, 20 April at 9.30am. Come and learn how to be a proficient cook. Share your skills and knowledge if you are already experienced in the kitchen. Please contact Bob or Gerry at staff@stcb.ca if you are interested.



“Learning to Support People Living with Alzheimer’s”

**Brought to you by the St. Christopher’s Accessibility Committee
Our guest speaker will be Memoona Saeed from the
Alzheimer’s Society of Brant, Haldimand Norfolk, Hamilton Halton**

Saturday | 25 April | 1.30pm

EASTER AND HOLY WEEK

Mon | Tues | Wed 7.30pm
March 30 – April 1 Holy Eucharist
Conversation around how biblical authors changed the Bible!

Maundy Thursday 7.30pm
April 2 Holy Eucharist
Hand Washing
Stripping of the Altar

Good Friday 10.00am
April 3 Meditation on the Cross
(Children's programs available)

Easter Vigil 8.00pm
April 4 Vigil and Choral Eucharist

Easter Sunday 9.00am
April 5 Choral Eucharist featuring the Choir
(Children's programs available)

11.00am
Choral Eucharist featuring the Band
(Children's programs available)

