



THE **LAMPLIGHTER**

April 2018

Jesus
lives!

“We went to
visit his tomb
but it was
empty!”



THE LAMPLIGHTER IS PUBLISHED BY AND FOR THE PEOPLE OF
ST. ANDREW’S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

496 Birch Avenue, St. Lambert, Quebec

J4P 2M8 450-671-1862

Minister – The Rev. Dr. Barry Mack	450-923-0794	bmack@standrews-stlambert.ca
Church Office	450-671-1862	standrews@standrews-stlambert.ca
Editor – Tiago Chiavegatti.	438-338-3996	tiago@chiavegatti.me

What a crazy story!

by Toagp Chiavegatti

The death and resurrection of Christ is, in many ways, a difficult story to follow. First, there is the religious background of the Jewish Passover and the meal that Jesus shared with the disciples that became the Last Supper. Then, Jesus picks a young donkey to go to Jerusalem from Bethany, where Jesus was already a celebrity (and the declared enemy of the chief priests) since the resurrection of Lazarus. As he enters Jerusalem, the crowd paves his way with their cloaks and branches, and even hail him as the king of a territory occupied by Rome. What were these people thinking?

As the newly proclaimed revolutionary leader, instead of plotting a *coup d'état* or organizing the rebellious forces, Jesus spends the week delivering puzzling speeches, saying that the time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified (I always wondered what people back then understood when Jesus talked about the Son of Man) but no one need to worry because he would prepare a place for them and a mysterious spirit would be sent to help them. (Were we supposed to be worried?) He also did weird things, like washing the feet of the disciples. People were divided—some believed him, others thought he would get them in trouble with the Romans, and Judas and his group considered that he was betraying their cause.

Jesus is arrested and brought by the Jewish leaders to the Roman governor. Strangely, they refuse to charge him with a specific crime—they just said that Jesus was a criminal, otherwise they wouldn't



The 2018 Good Friday walk arriving at St. Andrew's.

have arrested him. Pilates tries to stay away, but the Jewish leaders wanted him executed and only the governor could deliver that sentence. Pilates asks Jesus if he is the king of Israel. Jesus says his kingdom was not of this world. Not very convinced that Jesus represents a menace, Pilates asks the Jews if he should release him. They refuse, and ask Pilates to release someone else. I'm not sure this story makes much sense.

Even more confusing, Pilates goes to the crowd, presumably the same crowd that proclaimed Jesus as their king, and let it decide which prisoner would have his death sentence commuted. Apparently, they realized that Jesus was not the best choice if they wanted to rebel against the Romans, so they chose to let Barabbas, a notorious prisoner found guilty of murder and insurgence. Inexplicably, the Roman governor agrees and release the insurgent instead of the guy he himself considered harmless. Go figure. Jesus is tortured and has to carry his cross up to the hill where he was crucified, a sort of ancient version of making someone dig his own grave. The soldiers nail him to the cross; his disciples watch it all trying stay low. Jesus dies—and if the story ended there, it would have already had too many twists and turns.

And then it happened: people go visit his tomb but his body is missing. It gets crazier: the crucified man himself appears and talks to them! How come? They all have seen him die before their eyes!

The only way to make sense of this story is to believe that Jesus came to give himself in sacrifice for us. It is impossible to understand what Jesus did if we ignore that he is the Son of God, and what is this kingdom he was talking about. To be able to celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday, we have to understand the cross. ■



To my fellow members of St. Andrew's,

My family and I would like to express a sincere word of thanks for your visits to MacGillivray's, attendance at the funeral service at St. Andrew's, sympathy cards, phone calls and prayers, all to commemorate Rose's life here on earth.

I would especially like to thank (a) Barry and Anita for their important help in planning the service, (b) Changhee and the choir for their moving rendition of *Ave Verum Corpus*, (c) Lino for reading the scripture reading in Italian, (d) Joyce and helpers for the much appreciated reception after the service.

I am sure that Rose looking down from on high appreciated Joel's meditation on "love" and enjoyed the happy laughter that ensued. Indeed, truly a joyous service of life (not death).

Sincerely,

Douglas Mackie



Rose Mackie
(née De Gregorio)
1934-2018

NEWS

FROM THE PEWS

by Anita Mack

Condolences

Our heart-felt condolences go to Doug Mackie and his family (son Jim, daughters Anita (Renato) and Sandra, grandson Zackary) for the loss of his wife of almost 62 years, Rose. Rose died unexpectedly on Monday, March 12. A packed funeral service, led by ministers Barry Mack and Joel Coppie- ters, was held on Tuesday, March 20th. Much loved by all, Rose will be sadly missed.

Goodbye for now

Nancy Ramsey moved to the Chartwell Le Wellesley Retirement Residence on the West Island at the end of February. She reports that her new surroundings are starting to feel like home and that

she is enjoying her daily evening dinner. From someone who spent her professional life making meals for others, this is indeed a high commendation!

Welcome

We warmly welcome Bertand Lowe-Peyo and Gaëlle Magne, their children Tristan and Kimia (and one who we hope to meet in May!) as well as Bertrand's mother Lisette. The family, from a Presbyterian background in French-speaking Cameroon, has been in regular worship at St. Andrew's since January.

After some absence, we are also delighted to have Nicole and Ken Raymond back with us in the pews. ***Vous êtes tous les bienvenus chez nous!***



An anonymous photographer register a strange setup in the church hall on a Sunday evening. Apparently, no man was invited to the event.

In hospital

Our dear friend Frances Allen is now in hospital as is her husband Don who suffered a heart attack on March 5th. Please keep Frances, Don and family in your prayers.

Toky Razafitsiarovana-Lanto underwent ACL (anterior cruciate ligament) replacement surgery on his knee on March 23rd and he is now recovering at home. The ACL connects the shin bone (tibia) to the thigh bone (femur). We hope and pray Toky will be back playing his beloved game of soccer this coming summer (but please be more careful this time around, Toky!)

Women's Valentine Potluck Supper

On Sunday evening, February 11, more than 20 women gathered for a potluck meal and to get to know each other better. Beth Chittim led us in some games. The first one was a rousing game of Valentine Bingo and was designed for us to learn some interesting things about each other (Who had a pet parrot?, Who is a great fan of Elvis Presley?, Who serves coffee in the morning at Tim's?, Who can name the letters of the Apostle Paul in order? Helpful Hint, check the vowel order after Romans and 1st and 2nd Corinthians: Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians.)

The next game, called "Said with love", was very educational. We had to guess who said or wrote things like "Love is patient, love is kind" (You are right: the apostle Paul). Here are a few others.



The Valentine Gang responsible for the strange setup!

Who said/wrote:

1. "If you judge people, you have no time to love them"

2. "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt with the heart"

3. "Do you love me because I am beautiful or am I beautiful because you love me?"

(For answers, check the end of this article)

The last game, naming as many foods as possible that has chocolate as an ingredient, was a good one for chocoholics. We won't say who won this game. But we can say that no one left feeling hungry.

Piano recitals

On two Sundays exactly one month apart, February 18 and March 18, we welcomed pianists Cindy Thong and Nicole Lorenz respectively. Both these talented musicians much impressed a crowd of about 40 people. We are now looking forward to hearing Changhee Lee on April 15 and Carol Xiong on May 13. Stay tuned!

Italian Night

On Saturday, March 3, we celebrated our second Italian Night and it was a great success! The evening began in the sanctuary with Montreal native, tenor Sébastien Comtois—who is in his first year of his Master's degree in voice at McGill—entertaining us with seven Italian songs. Changhee Lee, after accompanying Sébastien on the piano, then treated us to an Italianesque work by Hungarian composer Franz Liszt.

The 5-course dinner part of the evening began with Lino Zarrelli asking a beautiful blessing in Italian (which even non-Italian speakers could sort of understand thanks to words like *Signore, nostro pane quotidiano* and *benedizione*). The food was delicious. Chefs Tracy Silvester (Italian soup), Stéphane D'Alessandro (pasta sauces) and Joyce Cochran (Italian sausages with peppers and onions) outperformed themselves again. The Italian Quiz, produced by Linda Hamilton, was a big hit and

added a fun vibe—so much so that after the dinner, some got up and kicked up their heels. A good time was had by all! We thank Joyce Cochran, Peter McDougall and all who helped with this evening of music, food and fun.

Lenten Lunch at St. Andrew's

On Wednesday, March 7, it was St. Andrew's turn to host an ecumenical Lenten Lunch. We were fortunate this year that we were not clobbered by a snow storm. As a result, around 80 people came for a bowl of soup, bread & butter, cheese, grapes, tea or coffee and cookies. We thank soup makers Joyce Cochran, Tracy Silvester, Frank Szabo and Anita Mack and all who helped. In the end, we collected \$461 for Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

Worship services

Since our minister, Barry Mack, was on an extended medical leave, we have had the occasion to welcome many guest worship leaders over the past two months. On February 4, our own Rev. Dr. Kallemeyn filled the pulpit. The week after, on February 11, the Rev. Dr. Victor Gavino led us in wor-

ship. On our first Sunday in Lent, we welcomed the Rev. Linda Robinson. For two weeks in a row, the Rev. Andrew Cameron (who serves as an Armed Forces chaplain) was our guest preacher. On the fourth Sunday in Lent (March 11), Victor Gavino celebrated communion with us. The following week, our own Silvio Esteves made a guest appearance. Finally, on Palm Sunday, March 25, we again enjoyed Harold Kallemeyn. Of course, on this sixth and last Sunday in Lent, we also had occasion to wave our Palms and get ready for Holy Week.

Ecumenical refugee project

The Saint Lambert churches (St. Andrew's Presbyterian, St. Barnabas Anglican, St. Francis Roman Catholic, Good Shepherd Lutheran, Saint-Thomas-d'Aquin Catolique, la Paroisse Saint Lambert, St. Lambert United) who were involved with sponsoring three Middle Eastern refugee families to settle in Canada received an early Easter gift: the arrival of our third family! After a two year wait, our seven-member family from Iraq arrived safely at Trudeau airport on Tuesday evening, March 27. This family—a mother, father and five children—are now exploring their new



George Hallack, one of the Syrian refugees that were sponsored by our ecumenical refugee project, is already part of a hockey team after only one year in Canada!

surroundings and settling into their Lemoyne apartment.

The first two families (both from Syria and both living in St-Lambert) are doing very well. They are self-sufficient and have integrated very well. In an article from *Le Courrier du Sud**, you can read up on how 13 year old George Hallak from the second family has embraced our national sport of hockey! (This story is also posted on the bulletin board in our Church Hall).

Tip of the Hat

This month's Tip of the Hat goes to kitchen builders Richard Hindle and Peter McDougall as well as their assistant Barry Mack (of course, we are also grateful to inspectors Betty Grant and Linda Smith and supervisor Beverley Hindle). Having a kitchenette in the lower of our Christian Education Centre (CEC) has been a long-time wish of many – simply because it would make the space so much more functional. But building this kitchen has proven to be a huge and complex job. Since major alterations had to be made to the electrical, plumbing and venting situation, building this kitchen was no job for the faint-hearted. However, Richard Hindle and Peter McDougall mustered up the courage and the project is now nearing completion. A big thank you to these amazing volunteers!

Answers to the Valentine Quiz:

1. *Mother Theresa* 2. *Helen Keller* 3. *Cinderella*



We mentioned Jacob, son of Lorraine Hamel and Keith Stickwood, on February's *News from the pews*, but we didn't have a photo. Now we have it!

A lesson on giving

by Beth Chittim

I have heard speeches on giving during my life and remember little of what was said. However the lessons I do remember were those I was taught by my parents who led by example. Being generous and sharing with others was a way of life for my parents.

One of the first lessons I remember came the day I received my first allowance. I must have been five or six years old and I received 25 cents! One dime and three nickels! Boy did that seem like a lot to me back then! You could buy all kinds of penny candies with 25 cents! Remember them: mojos—5 for a penny; black balls—3 for a penny, etc.?

But before I could really begin planning my trip to the candy store, my father got out my Sunday School offering envelope and told me that I always had to share a part of what I earned with the church. He asked me to put a nickel in the section for the church and another in the section for missions. He explained that as a Christian I needed to help support our local church and missions around the world. I needed give back some of what God gave me.

At first, as you can imagine, I was really disappointed. I thought I wasn't going to get enough candy to satisfy my longings! I was wrong—I still was able to get lots of candy with the 15 cents that remained—enough to share with my sisters and my father. And I also felt a sense of

accomplishment when I put my envelope in the offering plate every Sunday—money I had earned was helping the church do God's work.

Another time I remember my father saying that giving to the church was a lesson he learned from his mother. He explained that when he was growing up (during the depression), his family went through some really hard times. While they did not have much, they had chickens. He told us that my grandmother said that they could always afford to give the cost of a dozen eggs to the Sunday School offering. They always had enough eggs left over for the family's needs. He said that what my two sisters and I gave to the Sunday school each week was equal to the cost of a dozen eggs. (In the 60's a dozen eggs cost about 60 cents!).

What I learned is that when we put God first, we always have enough for our needs. As an adult, I always include as one of the first items in my budget, financial sharing with the church and other charities. Even though in the past, I sometimes had to count pennies to pay my rent and had to eat a lot of lentils and beans, I have always had enough for my needs—after giving back to God.

And yes, when my son was growing up, I always made sure he had an amount of money equal to a dozen eggs to put in the offering plate. ■



**Déjeuner aux crêpes,
vente desserts maison**

**Pancake Breakfast
& Bake Sale**

**Menu 'Cabane a Sucre'
'Sugar Shack' Menu !**



Samedi, le 7 avril, 09h30 à 13h00

Saturday, April 7th - 9:30 to 1:00

Déjeuner \$10.00 for breakfast

**Église St. Andrew's Church
496 Birch, St-Lambert**

**En meme temps
une vente par**

**Sale happening at
the same time!**



**Rendre l'éco-vie amusant,
facile et accessible**

**Making eco-living fun, easy,
and accessible**

What does Jesus look like?

by Eliane Bastosi

Every year, especially around Easter and Christmas, news outlets will put out a “What did Jesus really look like?” article. Did he really have blue eyes? What about his hair and beard? Did he wear robes all the time? People seem to be obsessed to know Jesus’s appearance, and news channels will take advantage of that obsession to fill up their pages when they are short on relevant topics to cover.

In our Sunday school classes, we have been hearing many stories about Jesus. We still don’t know how he looked like—sometimes he ends up having a green beard or purple hair during craft time—but I am really happy to report that the children are learning a lot about his character. For instance, we heard about the time Jesus stopped the storm and walked on the water and, after a long discussion among the boys, there was a consensus that Jesus is stronger than any superhero.

We also heard about the time the children wanted to see Jesus but the disciples thought that he was too busy for that. I asked our kids, “what do you think that Jesus did?”. And they answered, without hesitation, he always has time to see the kids because he loves kids.

This Easter Sunday, Robin and I insisted that the kids participate in the service, even though it is not a tradition in our church—kids usually only have active participation on Palm Sunday. However, in their own way, they really know who Jesus is and we are convinced that they should and can rejoice with the rest of the church that our Savior lives. ■

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On se souvient

by Tiago Chiavegatti

Photos by Randy Lockhart

Twenty years ago, southern Quebec and eastern Ontario were hit by a five-day storm that sprinkled 100 mm of ice and left in the dark roughly half of the province’s population.

I was probably dealing with summer flash floodings back in Brazil at the time, so I can’t say much about how bad it was other than what I’ve read. But apparently it was bad. Randy sent me some pictures of the church building after the storm, and the pictures make me happy that spring is around the corner and know that we won’t have to put up with snow and ice anymore until the end of the year. ■

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He Qi. *Easter Morning*. He Qi, a professor at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary, is one of the most popular modern painters of religious themes. Here a triumphant angel announces that Christ has risen, conquering the demons of darkness who now flee from him. The women have not yet woken properly, and seem unaware of what has happened. They still mourn, but the angel is telling them that the time for grief is over. Instead of the unfurled military-style banner often held by Christ in earlier paintings, He Qi's angel carries a luminous lily, sign of purity and peace.