

St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1

“KEEPING IN TOUCH – March 2021”



A big THANK YOU to everyone who submitted a Christmas offering envelope. Our church was able to send a \$200 donation to the Cambridge Self Help Food Bank.

WINTER HIKING

If you’re looking for a great way to get some fresh air and exercise this winter, why not try some of the most popular walking trails in and around Cambridge? If you google www.alltrails.com you will find hand-curated trail maps and driving directions as well as detailed reviews and photos from hikers, campers and nature lovers like you.

Top 5 trails based on their website reviews:	#1 - Cambridge to Paris Rail Trail	(18.7 km - easy)
	#2 - Puslinch Lake Loop	(2.4 km - easy)
	#3 - Mill Run Trail	(16.4 km - moderate)
	#4 - Grand Trunk Trail Cambridge	(4.5 km - easy)
	#5 - Linear Trail	(6.3 km - easy)
Rick & Sharon Furnival’s 4 favourite trails:	#1 - Dryden Tract (North Dumfries)	(3.2 km - moderate)
	#2 - Dumfries Primary Trail	(3.4 km - easy)
	#3 - Sudden Regional Forest Loop	(3.2 km - easy)
	#4 - Drynan Tract (Waterloo)	(3.4 km - moderate)

Note: If you have a smart phone you can download their app so you can take the information with you on your walk and follow your progress along the trail.

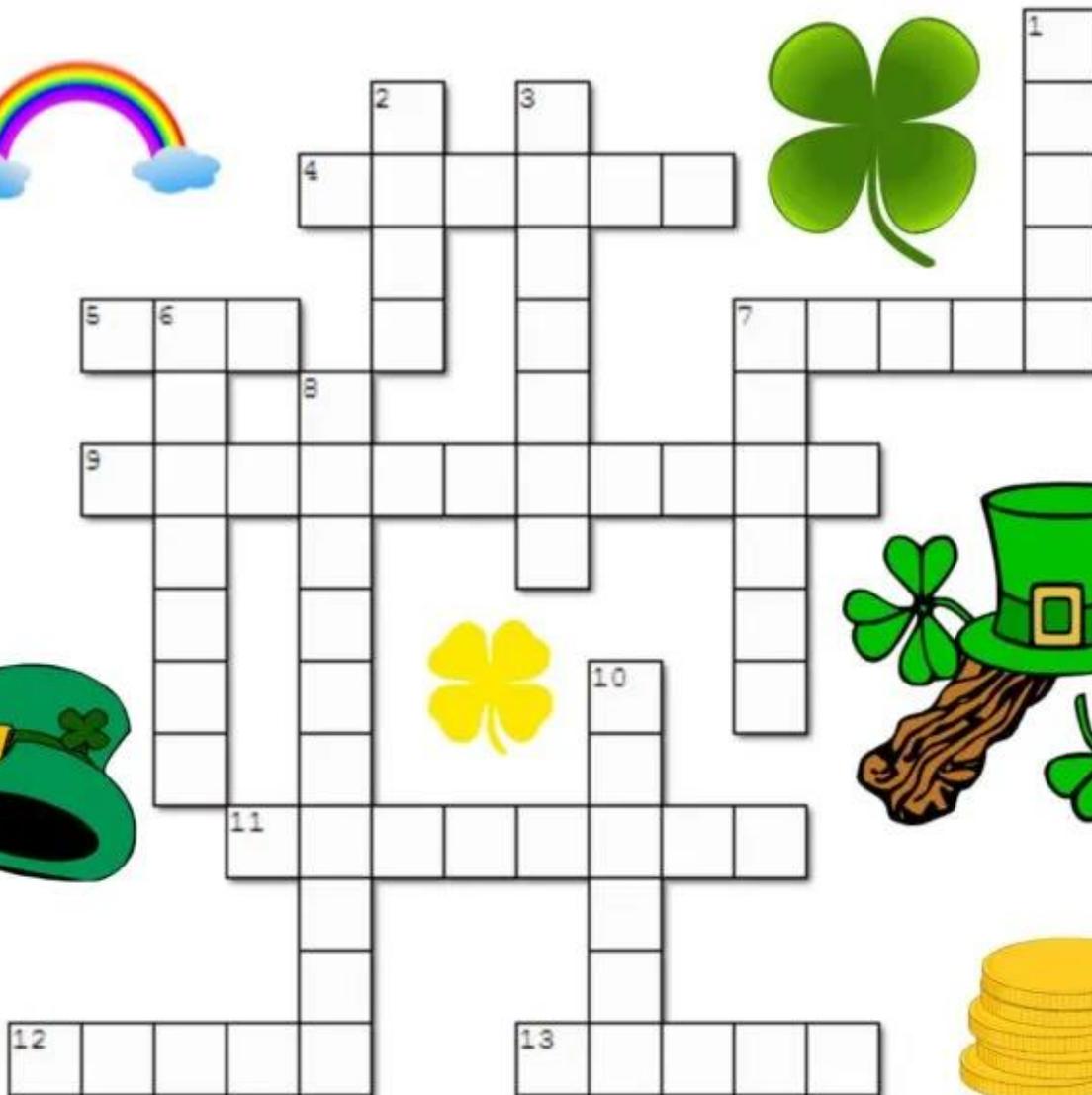
JOKE OF THE MONTH

What is seen in the middle of March and April that can’t be seen at the beginning or end of either month?



(the letter “r”)

ST. PATRICK'S DAY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across

4. capital of Ireland
5. a type of Irish dance
7. if you do not wear green on March 17 this will happen
9. the day St. Patrick's Day falls on
11. the national emblem of Ireland
12. yellow and blue make _____
13. from Ireland

Down

1. the 3rd month of the year
2. good fortune
3. nonsense or misleading talk
6. called the Emerald Isle
7. a starchy vegetable
8. a sprite
10. 4 leaf _____

MYUNENTITLEDLIFE.COM

We are in throes of the Lenten season. We are called to journey the forty days to the cross. A journey that requires us to self-reflect and respond to the Holy Spirit. A journey that speaks on the high cost of sacrifice and submission. A journey of repentance, penance, self-denial, authentic and intimate prayer. A journey that facilitates change, transformation and new birth....all in 40 days.

Do you wonder, why the number "40" is so prominent in Scripture? Check out these examples: Goliath waited and taunted the Israelite army for 40 days. Rain fell for 40 days and 40 nights during the Flood. Moses conversed with YHWH 40 days on the mountain. Ezekiel laid on his side for 40 days to "bear the iniquity" of Judah's sins. Elijah journeyed in the desert 40 days and 40 nights, running for his life from Queen Jezebel. Jesus was tested in the wilderness 40 days and 40 nights. It is 40 days between Jesus' resurrection and ascension.

Each incident of "40", gave birth to a new identity, mission, preparation, proclamation and vision from God. The average length of human gestation is....40 weeks!! Be it the fetal development period from conception until birth or the time Moses spent with God or the time spent by Elijah and Jesus in the wilderness, "40" is associated with testing and hardship one must endure to become more spiritually aware, more spiritually disciplined.

Our Lenten journey is 40 days and 40 nights, where we are called into a challenging place and a pruning space. With the uncertainty of COVID, the inoculation of vaccines and the rampant measures of the virus and its variants, a preventive measure is created and established for our safety, a quarantine (a period of 40 days). It is here, we pause, reflect and listen to the Spirit, despite the whirlwind of confusion. It is in this time of 40 days we walk towards the cross, we wrestle with the depths of our faith, our faith journey, our intimate stories of hope and help, of struggle and salvation. It is at a tremendous cost we walk this journey, yet it is a journey we are inevitably and graciously saved....a time of surety and a place of safety, rooted in 40 days!

Do You Know?!

1. Name the three kings that each served 40 years as ruler?
2. What does "Amma" mean?
3. In 1631, a company published a Bible with a great error. What was the typo?
4. What is the longest verse in the Bible?
5. What country is the largest producer of Bibles?
6. How was "The Matrix" influenced by the Bible?
7. The longest name/word in the Bible?

Answers

1. Saul, David and Solomon
2. Spiritual Mother-a term used for the Desert Mothers (ie. Amma Theodora of Alexandria)
3. "Thou Shalt Commit Adultery"-supposedly there still exists 9 of these Bibles ("Sinners' Bible")
4. Esther 8:9
5. China
6. The rebel base is known as Zion, the primary ship is named Nebuchadnezzar and the film's Judas character is named "Cypher" (in reference to LuCIPHER)
7. Mahershalalhashbaz (Isaiah 8:3)

SPREAD SOME EASTER JOY!!!

Whether or not we're able to meet in person at our church this Easter, let's spread some Easter joy around our neighbourhood! What better time than a cold winter day to hunker down and make a large, simple Easter banner to hang on your garage door (or apartment balcony or front door) on Easter Saturday. They don't have to be fancy and can be made out of anything colourful you have laying around the house, e.g.:

- an old towel for the background with scraps of old material, clothing or felt for pictures or lettering
- an old sheet for the background with plain paint or magic marker for the pictures or lettering
- bristol board for the background with construction paper or magic marker pictures and lettering

Just imagine how amazing it would be to walk around the block on Easter day and see 2 or 3 banners hanging up with the true Easter message on them! To give you a few ideas, here are pictures of a few which were created by St. Tom's parishioners last Easter:



"COOKING WITH THE GREENES" (on Facebook)

As a follow up to their Shrove Tuesday Pancake night, the Greene household is inviting everyone to join them (via St. Thomas' Facebook page) on **Friday, March 19** at **5 pm** to celebrate St. Joseph of Nazareth Day by making **Vegetable and Fava Bean Soup**. Please note you must go onto Facebook and request to join "Cooking with the Greens" Facebook page before filming day. Here is a list of the ingredients you will need if you would like to cook along with them:

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 onion, chopped | 2 tbsp (30 ml olive oil) |
| 2 carrots, peeled and cut into small pieces | 2 stalks celery, cut into small pieces |
| 1/2 rutabaga, peeled and cut into small pieces | 1 can (796 ml/28 oz) plum tomatoes (crush with your hands) |
| 5 cups (1.25 litres) chicken broth | 1 cup (135 g) frozen fava beans, shelled & peeled |
| Salt and pepper | |

If you do not want to cook along with them, you are welcome to simply watch and enjoy. See you there!

A Chat with ... STEVE GREENE (*before he was Pastor Steve*)

by Susan Grenville



Young Steve Greene (don't call him Stephen) was born and raised in Montreal to parents who had immigrated to Canada from Barbados. Steve and his older brother, Michael, were raised in a Christian home by their mother, Norma, a registered nurse who worked multiple jobs to support them. Every other summer, she sent her sons to Barbados, where they spent time with both sets of grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, playing and enjoying Bajan [Barbadian] culture and cuisine. Norma was a severe asthmatic who occasionally had to be hospitalized, at which time Steve's maternal Grannie or an uncle would come to Canada to care for her and the boys.

In addition to her job as an Emergency Room nurse, Norma cared for a group of disabled residents who lived upstairs in her duplex. In particular, as an R.N., she distributed their medications. When Steve was a teenager, if his Mum was at work at the hospital, he would have to help out. Although he didn't like having to awaken at 4 AM to distribute meds, he says he learned a lot about accepting people with patience and unconditional love.

Steve was loved by the Kamperidis family, who lived across the street. Mr. Kamperidis, a Greek Orthodox priest, his teacher wife, and their children often invited Steve to join them for meals, where he learned to love Greek food and to talk about Jesus. They were devout Christians, who taught him that the best place to discuss faith may just be sitting around a table, enjoying a meal together.

Norma believed that the best way to keep her boys out of trouble and to teach them collaboration and teamwork was to keep them busy with church, sports, and scouts. From age 5 to 18, Steve was a member of his Anglican church choir. In summer, he attended a choir camp, where he met renowned, internationally-known music educator Daniel Taylor. [Check out www.danieltaylor.ca.] As his voice matured from soprano to alto to tenor to today's bass, Taylor continued to teach Steve at the McGill Conservatory. He sang in Latin and Flemish, baroque, classical, and opera.

Steve loved all sports, and played soccer, rugby, football, cricket, and hockey. He regrets that he never played baseball, but he just didn't have enough time! At age 18, while attending CEJEP (post-secondary, pre-university program in Quebec), Steve and a group of friends started to work out at the YMCA. There they met Ralph Harris, a 61-year old coach who became a major influence in their lives. Steve and his friends were big, strong teenagers who figured they knew everything. At first, they didn't really follow what Ralph tried to teach them, so he made them a bet: they would have a bench press (weightlifting) contest, and if the teenagers could lift more than Ralph could, he would let the boys work out any way they wanted. If he could lift more than they could, they would come to the gym and do everything he said, without comment. Since Ralph was a 130-lb. sixty-one year old, the hulking teenaged football players thought they could easily win that bet. It turns out that wiry, older Coach Ralph could lift 225 lbs. In Steve's words, "He not only embarrassed us, he DESTROYED us!" And so, Ralph coached those boys from age 18-21. He not only taught them to lift, but also how to improve their characters, and to become upstanding men.

Coach Ralph is 88 years old today, and 7 of that group of young men still keep in touch with him and with each other. The Kamperidis family also keeps in touch with Steve, and they have actually watched our St. Tom's remote church services this past Covid year. Steve says he was a hard worker in school, thanks to his Mum's good example. He says "You might beat me in brains, but you'll never outwork me."

In the Spring of 1996, he started studying Kinesiology at McGill University. His life changed completely in December of 1996. He and Michael were both at home, when Steve heard a loud thud from the other room. He ran to find his beloved Mum on the floor, having suffered a massive stroke. One of the boys called 911 while Steve commenced CPR, all the while praying to God to save her. After she died, the brothers were alone in their early 20's. Steve's grades dropped so badly that he had to leave school. He worked part-time at the Y and Michael at McDonald's. Their mother's financial advisor stole all the money that she had left, including the proceeds of the sale of their house. The boys rented an apartment, but then had little left over to pay for food. At one point Steve says they lived for several days by eating orange syrup from McDonald's, three meals a day. In those days, Steve says he hated God. Thanks to Ralph, he worked at the Y as a part-time trainer. He could no longer afford a bus pass, and had to walk 30 minutes each way to get to the Y for his daily workout, in spite of the fact that he had frequently not eaten.

One day, Steve secured a job interview at a place across town. Without a bus pass he needed money to get there. The bus fare was \$2. He didn't have \$2. He asked God how he could possibly get there, and he heard God tell him to "Go to the Bible. Turn to your Mum's favourite passage." When he opened her Bible to the 23rd Psalm, he found a \$2 bill. [There was a little more money there, and so he carries that \$2 bill in his wallet today, 24 years later.]

Meanwhile, Steve had a long-distance girlfriend, Sherry, whom he had met on a Grade 9 trip to Ottawa. The only problem was that he lived in Montreal, and she lived in Arthur, Ontario. In spite of the high cost of telephone calls in those days, he and Sherry talked frequently throughout their years in high school. At one point when they were in Grade 12, Sherry's father learned that Steve was black. Her father was overtly racist, using foul racist language and threatening his daughter to give up the relationship. Eventually, Sherry moved to Toronto. In 1998, Steve left his brother, his friends, and Coach Ralph, and moved in with Sherry in Toronto. He worked as a security guard. They had lived together for a year-and-a-half, when Sherry became pregnant with their daughter, Autumn Jasmine Alice Greene. Steve was scared about fatherhood, as he had not been raised by a father. Many of the women in his extended family had abusive husbands. Both his Mum and his Grannie were very strong women, whose values have greatly influenced his life, and he figured he would use Mr. Kamperidis as an example of a good husband and father.

Sherry moved back to Arthur to be near family, but there were no jobs there for Steve. He worked in Kitchener for 2 years, in order to support his wife and daughter. Eventually, he could afford to move to Arthur. He and Autumn were inseparable. He says "I loved being a Dad with her." Unfortunately, the racism of Sherry's father and of others in the community eventually broke up their family when Autumn was 10. [Incidentally, Autumn is now a pre-med student at the University of Ottawa. Guess who is a proud Dad?]

If you read the Chat with Tracy Greene in last month's newsletter, you know the story of how Steve and Tracy met, married, and adopted their younger 4 children. This story is about Young Steve Greene, and I may have to have another chat with Steve to learn about his entry into the priesthood.

I was touched by the love, gratitude, and admiration with which Steve spoke about his Mum and Grannie. Now I know why he married Tracy, who is a strong woman in her own right. And, I love that he always says about Tracy that "I married up."

Note: There is so much more to tell about Steve, the husband, father, pastor.