

## St. George's 170<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

Anniversaries are times to celebrate where we have come from and what we have achieved. They are also times when we look toward the future. 2015 is just such an anniversary year for St. George's Church, Trenton, as they remember the 170 years, and look ahead to much more.

The church has changed down through the years, and perhaps the church forefathers and mothers might have trouble recognizing the amazing variety of services St. Georges now offers. In 1845 the services would have been from the Book of Common Prayer only, not the mixture of modern and traditional services that are currently held. They may have been surprized that while one weekly services still uses the beautiful historical church organ accompanied by a traditional church choir, another of the weekly Sunday services is accompanied by electric guitars, drums, and a full worship band! The might have also had trouble recognizing the monthly "Messy Church" service that gathers children and parents together to share in a service that includes games, crafts, and stories. Then again perhaps those first attenders of St. Georges would not have been too surprized at changes – they were always working to make St. Georges relevant to the Trenton of their day.

In 1845, the present stone building was erected the stone coming from limestone quarries north of Trenton. The church opened the same year, but the interior finishing and seating were not completed until 1846. In 1848 the Reverend William Bleasdel was appointed the first Rector of St. George's Church. St Georges has had significant consistency in leadership over the years - during its 170 year history, the church has had only 11 Rectors. The latest, the Reverend Steve Timpson has been the rector of St. George's Church since August 2012.

To commemorate this 170 year milestone, a variety of special events have been planned (listed below) to mark the church's long history. Everyone is welcome to attend these events.

Sat. May 2<sup>nd</sup>: A semi pot luck supper (the church supplying the meat) will be held at 5:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall just behind the church. Special guests include the current bishop of Ontario, Bishop Michael Oulton and former rectors and curates. At 7:00 p.m. there will be a concert in the church featuring "Sidebar" a very popular group from Oakville who provide instrumental jazz, modern and gospel music with 3 vocalists. You don't want to miss this group!

Sun May 3<sup>rd</sup>: To follow our dinner, and concert, the next day a service of Thanksgiving and celebration will be held in the Church at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Oulton will be our special guest, and the Rev. Harold Percy will preach.

Tues, June 23<sup>rd</sup>: Our Annual big social event, the Strawberry Social held behind the Church, will begin at 5:00 p.m until 8 pm. This may be an annual event but the plan is to do it "big time" to celebrate this year. Come and enjoy lots of berries, cake and ice cream. Hamburgers, hot dogs and pop will also be available. The entertainment is provided by our own Trenton Citizens Band.

Sat Sept 19<sup>th</sup>: A Gala celebration will be held at the National Air Force Museum. An auction will be held, and all manner of items that will reflect 170 years of not only St George's, but Trenton as a whole will be available. Dinner will be provided by "Occasions by the Bay" so the meal is expected to be excellent. Watch for more information and details, as the spring and summer progresses.

Sat, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>: Once again, St. George's will be part of the "Doors Open Ontario" beginning at 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. The theme will be "Cherishing the Old and Embracing the New." This event will give you a chance to come to St. George's and see for yourself all that is going on at St. Georges. The historical organ will be playing, and you will be able to see what "Messy Church" is all about. Before you enter the church, notice the garden where 170 flowers have added to the garden and also the elevated cement garden in the shape of a

cross on the side of the hill filled with flowers placed there to commemorate those who sacrificed much in Afganistan over the last decade.

December 6<sup>th</sup>: A grand finale for the year, as the Christmas season begins will be a Lessons and Carol's service. Singing carols and hymns, and enjoying good company, spiced apple juice and goodies seems a fitting way to celebrate the long history of St. Georges, and to look ahead to the much more in store, in the coming years.

The entire community is to any and all of these events.

Welcome to St George's Church