

CONNECTIONS

News and Views of Oxford County United Churches

Vol 1 Issue 4

April 10, 2019

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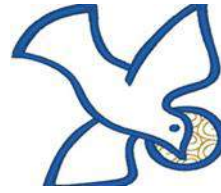
A Tale of One City – Two Parades.

There were **two parades** entering Jerusalem on "Palm Sunday" according to scholars John Crossan and Markus Borg. It was the day of the Jewish Passover; emancipation day, the day to celebrate freedom from slavery. **The two hundred thousand Jews, with freedom on their minds gathering in the city would put the military on high alert. Rome did what any nervous bully would do - show some military muscle with a parade.** Foot soldiers, horses, chariots, the finest that Rome could muster, entered Jerusalem from the west. If that was not enough to discourage any thoughts of a revolt, there was the memory of an attempted coup two decades earlier. That failed attempt resulted in two thousand Jews being arrested, convicted of treason and crucified.

Then there was that **other parade through the Mount of Olives, entering Jerusalem from the east.**

It was street theatre at its best. The script was from Zechariah who said the Messiah would come riding on a colt. He would come to overthrow the oppressor and destroy the weapons of war.

(continued page 2)



FOOD FOR THE SOUL

In 1956, the Rev. Dr. Douglas John Hall was ordained. He has always been proud of his Oxford County roots (attended Innerkip UC and was ordained from Oxford Presbytery). Hall graciously agreed to share with CONNECTIONS his most recent work, a whimsical but theologically profound story, **"God's dangerous experiment Or AND ON THE SIXTH DAY THE CREATOR TOOK A VERY LONG LUNCH BREAK"**.

Here are the first lines.

To do it or not to do it? That was the question. That morning all the lovely creatures had been made. Such a fascinating variety! They were just splendid, running about the firmament, gaping, trying out their brand new voices, sniffing one another, darting about in air and water. Separately and collectively, the brooding Spirit found them very good. Very good indeed! Almost perfect! And yet . . .

'They can't talk to me,' She found herself thinking as She sat down at the high table for lunch...

(The rest of the story is attached to this email and also stored at

https://1drv.ms/f/s!AiDNGqSFiQOakk_XiwpXijpKAhg8).

At 91 years young, Hall noted "I used all the theology I've ever learned to write that piece".

It is **fascinating and inspirational.**
Enjoy!

MM

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(Two Parades...continued from page 1)

Was it the chief priests or the Romans who sounded the alarm? The chief priests had long colluded with Rome. They were one when it came to keeping the peace. The first reaction was to shush the crowd, but it would not be shushed. **Palm branches began to look like red flags.** The shouts of "God Bless the King of Israel" was heard as a war cry. **But on it came, the slow clip clop of suffering love;** justice and mercy on a donkey. It was **the Empire's love of power that was about to run headlong into Jesus' power of love.**

Two thousand years later, the mighty Roman Empire is ancient history, while the celebration of the Palm Parade is as new as next Sunday. It's the parade from the east (east-er) **we celebrate; the only parade worth celebrating.** The parade of hope and renewal, of challenging present empires.

GW



**April 13, 2019,
Siloam UC, London
57th Annual
Gathering Region 7,
Advance registration**

cherylpriverside@yahoo.ca or call 226-927-5729, Registration & Refreshments 9:00 a. m., \$20, **Theme: "Here I Am Lord"**, Speaker: Dr. Eileen Antone, Emeritus, Bible Study Leader: Rev. Mark Bellamy, Noon Dinner \$20, Supper \$10

- **April 15, 2019 Oxford UCW Spring Event**, Westminster UC, Thamesford, Registration 6:00 pm
- **May 3-5, 2019 Westminster weekend.** Details in Feb issue CONNECTIONS.

Programs for Families

Innerkip UC, **WONDERNITE**

Friday, April 12, 5-7 pm. Easter Theme with Pizza and chocolate egg hunt.

St Paul's UC, Tillsonburg

Saturday, April 20, 10-12 noon, **Messy Church Program.** Hot lunch provided no charge. Crafts, games, music and fun! All are welcome. Come out and see what the program is about! Children accompanied by adults welcome.

Norwich United Church:

Tuesday, May 7th Doors open by 4:30 pm, supper @ 6:00 pm, **Messy Church** Messy Church is first Tuesday of every month.

Summer Camp brochures and registration forms are on Norwich UC website at www.norwichunitedchurch.ca

Good Friday service @ 10:00 a.m.

Easter Sunday @ 10:00 a.m.



GRANDMOTHERS TEA

**Wed April 24
noon – 2:00 pm**

**Chapel of the Mohawks,
301 Mohawk St, Brantford**

Potluck luncheon
Bring your favorite dish or dessert
and share in the fun and laughter
<http://www.nationsuniting.com/>

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Operation Sharing Annual Meeting

At the Annual Meeting of Operation Sharing, March 2, 2019 those pictured below were presented with awards for outstanding service. From left to right are Theresa Cojler (Kindness Award), Dave Heron (Spirit Award), Maddie Heuther (Volunteer of the Year) and Mark Moon (Val Drane Memorial Award). John Furry, not present, was honoured with the Life Time Achievement Award.



Director and Chaplain Steve Giuliano reminded the group of the history of the organization; those early beginnings supported by the five United Churches of Woodstock, followed by First Baptist with John Furry as the minister. **Now the service has grown to two sites, Woodstock and Ingersoll** with wide support from many other churches, from businesses, individuals and local governments, all recognizing the need.

The Children's Aid Society, Canadian Mental Health, Thames Valley Addiction Services and the John Howard Society are just some of the Community Partners.

Some of the changes noted: **Bonnie Cannell-Eby** heads up **Food for Friends out of St. James Anglican Church** in Ingersoll.

Vanessa Page, Chef and Director of Bullwinkle's has partnered Bullwinkle's with two community groups to increase the employment opportunities for trainees. They are also doing catering with Learning Unlimited as a new client. **Eric Schmiedl led a successful creative writing workshop last year.** He edits the excellent bi-monthly newsletter "Helping in Unity." **The Inn Out of the Cold is now operating year round with the name changed to THE INN.** The night that we met, all 16 beds were filled.

Of the \$418,099 raised last year, \$82,540 came from churches and church related organizations.

It is unfortunate that the need is so great. We are fortunate indeed that so many in Oxford are stepping up to attempt to meet that need. **Congratulations to Steve and so many very effective and dedicated staff and volunteers.**

GW

'Helping in Unity'

April 2019 newsletter

Read about

Operation Sharing's Ingersoll site and Premier Doug Ford's war against the poor.

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!AiDNGgSFiqOAKIMfIlgkEkiHcQKQ0>

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"Through the Keyhole: The Holy Land Today"

by Rev. Mark Marshall & Lydia Marshall



In February, we had the privilege of touring the Holy Land – in no small part due to the generosity of the former Oxford Presbytery Possibilities Fund. Our 'alternative' tour showed us the holy sites *and* taught us about the situation on the ground concerning the conflict between Israel & Palestine. We learned the Bible comes alive in

a whole new way when seeing it through the geography of the area – walking in Jesus' footsteps as it were. We also learned a lot about the history and current reality of those who still call that geography home, learning that this is not so much an ancient conflict, but a modern one that stems from decisions made post-WWII, and perpetuated by superpowers for generations now. In fact, many of the decisions made in the holy land are fueled by fear, greed, lack of relationship, and competing narratives with no good way to communicate together. It may seem hopeless, but the people there, downtrodden as they may be, have hope, so we must hold hope with them. We learned that not only the holy sites are holy – God was just as much in the school that opened its doors to the poorest of the poor, no matter what their religion, as God was on the Temple Mount or in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher (commemorating

the place of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.) The trip also taught us a lot about the mistakes we have made and continue to make here in our own 'holy land' – our own county of Canada in the midst of its own colonial heritage.

We saw so much, and we feel compelled to share the story. That compulsion, coupled with our gratitude towards the former Presbytery for their support, has had us develop a presentation called **"Through the Keyhole: The Holy Land Today"** which we would like to share with your community – congregation, UCW, mission/interest group, etc. We only need a way to project our pictures, a table for some of our momentous, and about 1-2 hours of the group's time, depending how in depth they'd like to go. There are certainly many layers of history and many nuances to the conflict to discuss. Thank you for your support and we hope we can have a discussion with you soon – contact us at revmarkconnexions@gmail.com or (519) 533-8989.



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**Making a Difference:
Inter-faith, Inter-cultural Centre**

Membership Renewal:

<http://www.fiveoaks.on.ca/RGMember.htm#/event/2796/purchase-membership-2019>

Sunday, May 5 2019

Open House 1:30-3:30 pm

General Annual Meeting: 3:30 pm

Five Oaks is seeking candidates for various **Board of Director positions**.

Details at:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/f8fce9c4601/e1cca119-4b83-4f04-b90b-5f529c0d7d71.pdf>

Five Oaks is also looking for new members of their **Working Teams**. Details at:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/f8fce9c4601/2241d96c-a829-4fcd-b502-5d03b9c09ad3.pdf>

ReUseaPaloozaha!

Two great free swap events:

1. Embro Community Centre,
Saturday, **April 27**
2. Woodstock Agricultural
Fairgrounds, **May 11**

Meet neighbours, declutter, stop the dump, reuse, recycle, rethink, repurpose, renew...

Open 8:30 am to 2:00 pm.

Don't miss out.

CAMP TANNER

Camp Registration now open

Register online

<http://www.camtanner.ca/>



Dig through your junk drawers and hunt around your house. Canadian Tire now puts their money on cards, but if you're anything like us, you still have the old paper money collecting dust somewhere. **Camp Tanner is looking for donations of that old-school Canadian Tire money to use on small purchases** like life jackets and sports equipment.

We also continually collect receipts from Woodstock Boston Pizza. Camp Tanner gets back a percentage from each receipt in cash.

Submit CT money and receipts to Camp Tanner Board Members (see website) or call Sheila Greason (519 349-2768) to arrange pickup. **As always, we thank you for your support!**

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St. Paul's UCW, Tillsonburg

Annual Geranium Coffee Break

Saturday May 4th
9 – 11:30 am.

Admission is \$6 includes
refreshments and a geranium.

Tickets are available from the
church office
519-688-0011.

OXFORD PRESBYTERY FACEBOOK PAGE

<https://www.facebook.com/Oxford-Presbytery-690395957746547/>

Children and Youth Program Coordinator Position 2019

Trinity United Church, Ingersoll,
Ontario

Trinity United Church, Ingersoll is looking for a Children and Youth Program Coordinator. We are in need of a team member who is fun, energetic, spiritual and creative to help inspire our children and youth to learn and live their faith.

Sunday morning attendance is required.

This is a part-time position 13 hours/week. The hourly salary to be negotiated. Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

Please forward resumes to TRINITY UNITED CHURCH, c/o Search Committee Marlene Newell, 118 Church St. Ingersoll N5C 0A3 or email mlnew22@msn.com

Resumes accepted until May 3, 2019

Please contact Trinity United Church for a complete job description.
trinityingersoll@rogers.com

Phone: 519.485.0820

TRANSITION TO LESS WASTE

Check out their Facebook page

https://www.facebook.com/TransitionToLessWaste/?tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARA1fzdz3zhUFL0PF-ZY2Z0n4_XW-wtJECb4sCi9krq4V6qX8Jb2vjoDMrktfd8may2mdhO7OuW5E6IG

ROCK & ROLL
Featuring Live Music
with
Rob and the Rydells
playing your favourites like
Rock Around The Clock
Surfin USA - Rockin Robin
Twist and Shout - Woolly Bully
and many, many more!

**50's & 60's
Rock & Roll**
www.TheRydells.com

College Ave Church
22 Wilson St., Woodstock
Sat. May 18/19
BBQ Pork on Bun
6pm - 7pm
\$20 (12 & under \$10)
Band plays 7pm-9pm
Tickets @ Church Office Tues-Thurs 9am-2pm
519-537-6062

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Oxford Climate Response Team (<https://www.facebook.com/Oxford-Climate-Response-Team-1864170697163042>)



This self-inking stamp tells us again how to keep material out of our landfill. It is one of 7 stamps to raise awareness of the interconnectedness of climate change and our life style. The other stamps are:

Care for Creation, Single Use=Refuse, Renewing the Sacred Balance, Question Convenience, There is no plan(et) B, Sustainable Creation

The stamps are available for meetings, workshops, etc. (email oxfordclimateresponseteam@gmail.com). You may have seen volunteers from OPAL (Oxford People Against Landfill) and Ingersoll District Nature Club using them to personalize letters concerning the proposed mega landfill.

We are grateful to the former Oxford Presbytery for helping us fulfil this dream. **MM**

MOVING FORWARD

(with laughter and tractors)

Kintore and Brocksdale UC

By Rev. Doug Peck

Variety in the Dale

On the second Wednesday of every month from October until May, St. Andrew's U.C. in Brocksdale hosts Variety



in the Dale. It's an evening of talent where people as young as 6, and as old 96 can perform music, tell jokes, share stories.

(to left John Huiser)

Rural culture in Oxford County has a

rich history of entertaining itself and every month we enjoy tapping into that energetic spirit! You're always welcome to come and add to the Variety! 7pm - 8:30pm.

Bring Your Tractor to Church Sunday

May 5, 2019 Brocksdale UC

Many churches celebrate Rural Life Sunday. Back in 2007 Rev. Janice Aiken suggested we encourage the congregation to do this in Brocksdale by bringing their tractors to church. We're coming up on our 13th Tractor Sunday and it's been a highlight of our year since the beginning. It's always the first Sunday in May, with special speakers and music.

This year Jack Rodenburg will be speaking on embryos to Uganda to help with their dairy industry. Hope you can experience the fun with us some time.



Bob Barrel driving tractor

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Links for Prayer cycles:

As communities of faith we are encouraged to pray for each other and for our mission in the world.

United Church of Canada – Antler River Watershed.

<https://www.prayercycles.ca/antler-river-watershed26c697c9>

Former Oxford Presbytery – updated April 8, 2019

<https://1drv.ms/w/s!AiDNGgSFiQOAKlTfUQnhF5NuK5qE>

Congregations Searching for new Ministerial Leadership.

We hold the following congregations in prayer:

Avondale UC (Tillsonburg), Mt Elgin UC, Newark UC, Otterville UC, Hickson UC, Knox UC Embro, Trinity UC Ingersoll and Hebron UC (as of July 1)

Prior Issues of CONNECTIONS:

January 2019:

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!AiDNGgSFiQOAJzk1Ak4uvbn6aZYS>

February 2019:

<https://1drv.ms/f/s!AiDNGgSFiQOAKHtXnTBBOM-xnJPO>

March 2019:

<https://1drv.ms/b/s!AiDNGgSFiQOAKhArHMrndrHwBbvg>

A poster for the Skylight Festival. At the top, there is a geometric star-like logo and the text "SKYLIGHT FESTIVAL". Below this, in large, bold, white letters, is "YOU ARE THE ONES FOR SKYLIGHT". Underneath, in a purple box, it says "JULY 26-28, 2019" and "FIVE OAKS - PARIS, ON". Further down, it invites people to join for a weekend of faith, justice, and arts, and lists "superb speakers, incredible artists and fantastically talented musicians!". It provides a contact email for volunteers and a website for registration and line-up. At the bottom, there is a photo of a man and text about a headline performance by Juno Award-winning rapper and host of Hip-Hop Evolution, Shad.

SKYLIGHT FESTIVAL

YOU ARE THE ONES FOR SKYLIGHT

JULY 26-28, 2019
FIVE OAKS - PARIS, ON

Join us for a weekend of faith, justice and a celebration of the arts.
Enjoy superb speakers, incredible artists and fantastically talented musicians!

To volunteer, contact: skylightvolunteers@gmail.com
REGISTER, DONATE AND SEE OUR LINE-UP: skylightfestival.ca

Skylight Festival is super excited to feature a headline performance by Juno Award-winning rapper and host of Hip-Hop Evolution, Shad

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PUBLICATION DATE: 2nd Wednesday

SUBMISSION DATE:
noon of the prior Monday

email: oxfconnections@gmail.com

Help us stay connected with each other. You may share widely. Email the editors to share stories of your congregation or important links.

To remove your name from this mailing list, please email oxfconnections@gmail.com

Feedback welcome!

Co-editors: Marg Murray (MM) and Glen Wright (GW).

Additional members are invited to join our Communication Team.