



Parish of the Lower Laurentians Newsletter – May 2016 – Vol. 6

The Laurentian Regional Ministry Sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family

Jesus said: “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” (John 10:10)

Individual churches would be very challenged to take on the sponsorship of a refugee family, but as a group of ten, it becomes possible. The Venerable Ralph Leavitt, incumbent and the Rev'd Nicholas Pang, assistant priest, announced this Laurentian Regional Ministry outreach project at the Easter Vigil Service on March 26, 2016.



Meet the Mickael Family

The family lived in Syria until the civil war forced them to leave for Lebanon. Both parents are civil engineers. The family has now completed all requirements for entry into Canada with refugee status. Once here, they will locate in Montreal where they will have a better chance of finding work.

In a recent sermon, Archdeacon Ralph Leavitt asked, “What makes you want to support a Refugee family?” He then gave his thoughts on the question: “At the base of it all is God’s commandment to love your neighbour as yourself. This is not an easy thing to do. Ego and ignorance can creep in to try to take (us) off track and then there is fear.” Moments and opportunities like this push us to examine our own prejudices and the validity of our fears.

He shared four lessons from Mary Jo Letty who is the founder of Romaro House that welcomes refugees in Toronto:

1. Being a refugee is to live with both fear and trust as you walk into the unknown. This is a walk that both sides share.
2. There is a knock at the door, and then you are summoned to become who you really are. If you are true to yourself, and answer the door, there you will always find freedom, grace and truth.
3. Being grateful – life is not all about ownership; it is about relationship, for we should all care for each other – including others in distant parts of our world. Life is all about profound gratitude.
4. Borders and boundaries create mutual inclusiveness which in turn creates safety in communities. Know our personal borders and be willing to cross the bridge and learn.”

Archdeacon Ralph concluded by saying, “Let us truly open our hearts and welcome this family to new life in Canada. As we do, let us also learn more about ourselves and each other, giving thanks to God for our life.”

This initiative is a reflection of a desire to “be the church in the world”, reaching out to make a difference in the community, in the world. The organization and administration of this project is done in collaboration with ‘Refuge-Aide’, who will do the footwork of settling this family in Montreal. The goal is to raise enough to fund this family for their first year in Canada. The funds raised by the Laurentian Regional Ministry will go directly to the family’s needs for things like housing, language training and utilities.

There are several ways in which you can help with the fundraising: pray, volunteer, donate and attend fundraisers.

If you have any questions please call the **Ven. Ralph Leavitt at 819-326-2146.**

You can send a cheque payable to Holy Trinity Church, Ste. Agathe with ‘Refugee Fund’ marked on the subject line. A tax receipt will be issued at the end of the year. Mail donations to:

Laurentian Regional Ministry Easter Outreach Project
12 Préfontaine Ouest,
Ste. Agathe des Monts, QC
J8C 1C3

There are also four concerts, in support of this sponsorship, to be held in mid-June. See other page for details.

Being “Community” Closer to Home

An idea was initiated by Gordon Hudson of Christ Church, Mille Isles in the fall of 2015. The effort opened the door to an ongoing collaboration between Christ Church Anglican Church and the Mille Isles Presbyterian Church which sit on opposite sides of the street in the center of the town.

An informal conversation with John Reeves, Elder with the Presbyterian Church, took place in the yard of that church. Both commented how unfortunate it was that the Presbyterian Church would close soon for the winter. Gordon then suggested that perhaps the Presbyterian Church could look into using the Anglican Church, Christ Church, during the winter months.

Within a few weeks a meeting was held by both churches. A very short time later the Presbyterian congregation attended Christ Church for a Sunday service and a Pot Luck Supper was organized and carried out with great success.

Since then both churches have enjoyed three joint communion services at Christ Church presided over by the Rev. Nick Pang. It is a great beginning. The joint effort goes forward in hopeful expectation of what might follow. Within a small community, this feeling of friendship has definitely brought the two church congregations closer together.

We applaud the sense of community surrounding this initiative and pray for continued blessings for both churches and their congregations.



Fund-raiser concerts in support of the Syrian Refugee Sponsorship Project



Sherman & Lee present a great piece of musical theatre. Lost and Found tells the engaging tale of a duo who found each other while in their mid-fifties. Fictional or true, they bring such chemistry and vivacity to their performance as to make us live their highs and lows. They are backed up by Stephen Barry & Andrew Cowan, members of the **Stephen Barry Band**, along with John McColgan, a great blues and jazz drummer.

All performances begin at 8 pm.

Thursday, June 9th: Holy Trinity Church, Lakefield

Friday, June 10th: St. Simeon’s Church, Lachute

Saturday, June 11th: Holy Trinity, Ste. Agathe

Sunday, June 12th: Trinity Church, Morin Heights

Tickets are \$20 with advance reservation or \$25 at the door. Contact Linda: 450-562-9620



ANNUAL PLL BEACH SERVICE

The 2016 Beach Service will be held at **2 pm on Sunday, July 17th** at Pierrette Gloven’s - **2004 Dunany Road** -and will be followed by light refreshments.

Everyone is welcome. Do try to come and join us.

We extend to our gratitude to Pierrette for her hospitality.

If you have any questions contact Wendy: 450-562-6381

PLL Service Schedule:

HC = Holy Communion

MP= Morning Prayer

May 15 – St. Aidan’s, Louisa 11 am HC

May 22 – St. Paul’s Dunany 9:30 am

Family service, Golf Tournament & BBQ

May 22 – Holy Trinity, Lakefield 11 am HC

May 29 – No services in the PLL

June 5 - St. Aidan’s, Louisa 11 am HC

June 5 – St. Paul’s, Dunany 4 pm HC

June 12 – Christ Church, Mille Isles 11 am HC

June 12 – Holy Trinity, Lakefield 11 am MP

June 19 - St. Aidan’s, Louisa 11 am HC

June 19 – St. Paul’s, Dunany 4 pm EP

June 26 – Christ Church, Mille Isles 11am MP

June 26 – Holy Trinity, Lakefield 11 am HC

July 3 – St. Aidan’s, Louisa 11 am MP

July 3 – St. Paul’s, Dunany 4 pm HC

July 10 – Christ Church, Mille Isles 11 am HC

July 10 – Holy Trinity, Lakefield 11 am MP