

ST. TIMOTHY'S TIMES

Volume 1, Issue 1

April 7, 2019

CHANGES

You've probably already noticed this newsletter looks different than prior editions.

We've decided to spotlight our people and groups as a way for us to promote both our community and our individual stories. It's also what makes us the Church; we are the people of God, the body of Christ. It's long been a challenge to publish before submissions were outdated and events in the distant past. Also, the newsletter wasn't as effective a calendar of events as the Sunday bulletin and the website can be.



And so, in keeping with our people focus, this time we are featuring two important people in the life of our parish, Office Coordinator Danielle Griffith and Assistant Curate Rev. Johanna Pak. We are blessed to have

many interesting people and groups at St. Timothy's so please let us know who you might like to see featured in future issues. We're planning the next issue for publication in early June.

The changes to the newsletter are just one example of efforts to update the way we communicate with each other at St. Timothy's. Rev. Johanna is preparing a survey to help us understand our demographics, our spiritual maturity and health, and how it is that people access information. We hope this will help us communicate more effectively with parishioners and our greater community.

Another group is examining the website to make it even more useful to those who attend services regularly, to those who can't physically get to church as much as they'd like, and to those seeking a church and investigating our faith.

If you're interested in becoming involved in this project, please contact Rev. Andrea or Danielle.

Thank you, and happy reading!

The Newsletter Team

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Meet the Team

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**for this issue only, layout by Elaine Vanderwerf*

Q AND A WITH DANIELLE GRIFFITH

How did you come to be the office coordinator at St. Timothy's Agincourt?

"A family friend received the job posting and passed it on to me. She knew I was looking for a second job. I was planning to go back to school and wanted a second job to help pay for it. I also work at Go Transit in the evenings."

Why did you choose to be an office coordinator for a church?

"It fit with my goals, but I also liked that you build relationships in this job and it becomes like a family."

How long have you been working here?

"I started in the office here in August 2013."

What do you like most about this position?

"There is never a dull moment. Every day is different. I like working with people and there are some really good people at this church. It's great to be able to talk about God and your faith. You couldn't do that in a lot of jobs."

Is there a typical day here? If so, what would it look like?

"No, there really isn't. The office is the main place to reach staff and volunteers or get answers to questions, so you never know what you're going to encounter, even in terms of the calls and emails. The day begins with whatever calls and emails have come in, on top of the regular duties - the bulletin, the bookkeeping, and scheduling. When I follow up on voice messages, they can be quite urgent and those can be lengthy conversations, depending on what is happening."

What might surprise people about your job?

"People think the bulletin is about 80% of my time but it's a smaller portion than that. I could be looking for someone to repair something, getting photos from events to Welly for the website, working on the bulletin, sending out readings and prayers for Sunday, mailing out cheques,.... Also, the office works well because of all the staff, not just me. Everyone works together and helps each other whenever they can. It makes it a very positive place to work."

We learn in everything we do. What have you learned in this position?

"I've had a lot of personal growth since I came here. Working with people from different generations, I've learned about life and its importance. It has changed my viewpoint about things, like funerals and death even. I hadn't attended many funerals before this but now I'm much more comfortable."

What advice would you give someone looking at a similar position?

"You are the first point of contact, for the church and sometimes for Christianity, so how you treat people is how they'll remember the church."



SEARCHING FOR THE PATHWAY

"When you're working with people who have weeks or days left, everything changes. All your priorities change." Before joining St. Timothy's as assistant curate, Rev. Johanna Pak worked as a palliative care assistant. The experience led her to turn an interest in religion into a full-time pursuit, and a call to ordained ministry. Now she is preparing to be ordained at St. Timothy's by Bishop Kevin on April 7, 2019.



Our Assistant Curate : Rev. Johanna Pak

Rev. Johanna was born and raised in Hong Kong but moved to England in her mid-teens to complete her final two years of secondary school. Being away from her family wasn't easy. "These were the most formative years of my life," she says. "I learned independence and self-reliance. If I needed help, my parents were a minimum of 72 hours away."

A native Cantonese speaker, she knew English but found it challenging to be immersed completely in an unfamiliar language. She says she didn't speak for three months. She watched TV, listened to the radio, and studied the dictionary as a way to improve her language skills.

In school, Rev. Johanna took a class that explored the philosophy of religion. Not only did it teach her to look at faith differently, but also it introduced her to a very special teacher who made great strides in helping

her settle in to her new environment. "I stayed with her and her family during school breaks. They took me travelling with them. This life-touching-life showed me the difference that can be made by hospitality."

When it was time for university, she went to Scotland to study Economics and Management at St. Andrew's. It wasn't a good fit. She disliked economics intensely. However, the locale was a very good one for someone exploring religion. "There were 15 different churches in that tiny town," she says, and she was determined to learn from them all with their varied approaches to faith and to church.

After she graduated, Rev. Johanna spent a year in Hong Kong and Vietnam as an executive trainee but she didn't enjoy it. She had some family members in Canada, so she decided to come here. After a series of jobs in customer service, she felt drawn towards working in health care. She studied at Centennial College and became a licensed paramedic. That led her to the position as a palliative care assistant.

"I used to think that my interest in theology was purely academic," she says. "I have come to realize one thing: unless we truly know and understand the fact that we are loved by God, we will never get to know our true self and our vocation."

So, it was back to school again, this time to study theology at the University of Toronto's Trinity College. "The mystery of the Eucharist fascinates, sustains, and motivates me to tell others about God, and the more I follow that path, the more I am assured of my calling."

Rev. Johanna says she's learned a lot from her own searching. Drawing from her own personal experiences helps her to understand people's struggles and serve them better. She's convinced people simply don't realize how much they're loved. "Starting from there, from that knowledge, makes all the difference," she says.

Peg Cassidy Kay

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Our purpose is to be a loving, caring community worshipping Almighty God, sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ and reaching out to others in the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are a family friendly and ethnically diverse family of Christians within a local context of an even more diverse neighbourhood.

Our mission is to build relationships and to provide service to our Scarborough community.

We welcome all those who have a hunger for a deeper connection with God and a desire for community.

CONTINUING OUR WONDERFUL TRADITIONS

St. Timothy's has always been known as a teaching church within the Diocese of Toronto. The people of St. Timothy's have been witness to a number of teaching curacies and ordinations in years past. This year will be no different.

On April 7, God willing, we will gather once again to witness and support The Reverend Johanna Pak as she welcomes the Holy Spirit to transform and change her life in a most wonderful and new way as she is ordained to the priesthood.

Whoever thought that Johanna, a woman who holds degrees in Economics and Management from institutions in England and Scotland and later was a licensed paramedic in Ontario, would one day follow a call to ordained ministry?!? Johanna, who worked as a Clinical Research professional prior to pursuing her Master of Divinity! Oh, the mystery and wonder of our God!

And what will happen to Johanna when the Bishop lays his hands upon her head? Many think of it as a perfectly magical moment.

Ordination is the process by which individuals are consecrated, that is, set apart as clergy to perform various rites and ceremonies. One who is in preparation for, or who is undergoing the process of ordination is called an Ordinand. Ordination is one of the seven sacraments, variously called holy orders or *cheirotonia* ("Laying on of Hands", when the Holy Spirit, through the hands of the Bishop, anoints the Ordinand for their work as a priest in the church of God).

And so, as an ordained priest, Johanna may then administer certain sacraments (most especially, hear confessions, anoint the sick- "unction", or celebrate the Eucharist). Great responsibilities, indeed.

Our support, love, and prayers will be with Johanna as she prepares for her very special day. We are delighted that she has become a great part of our lives, with her sense of humour, gift of music, laughter, and her love for God's people.

Blessings, Johanna!

Rev. Andrea Christensen

