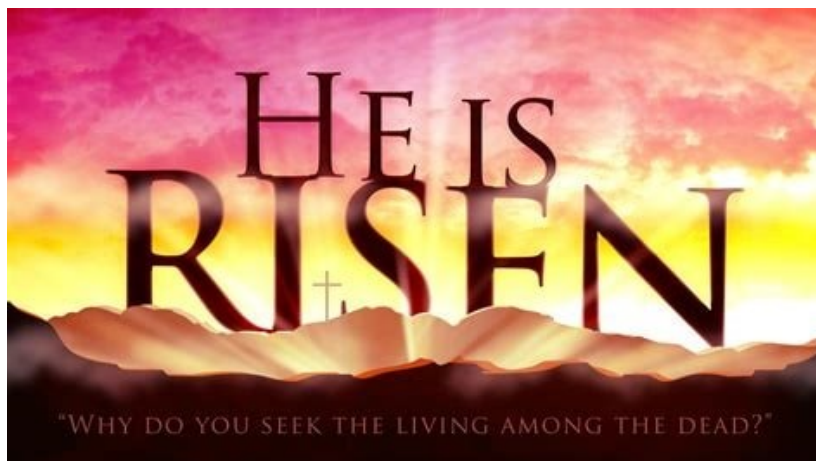


EASTER NEWSLETTER



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Parish of Emmanuel
287 Harrington Street
Arnrior, Ontario



Parish of St. Paul's
96 Argyle Street
Renfrew, Ontario

Rector's Reflection

submitted by Father John Stopa

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

I was reminded this morning of Julian of Norwich. Julian is actually Juliana – a 14th century mystic who on May 8th and 9th, 1373 had a series of visions received from God, that she spent the next 20 years writing about, published in *The Revelations of Divine Love*. We commemorate Juliana on May 8 each year in our church calendar. In our diocese, we even have a Parish named after her: the Church on Merivale Road and Withrow Avenue in Ottawa. The reason I was reminded of Juliana is of a simple prayer I have learned that is attributed to her, one that is so appropriate in times like these:

All shall be well,
All shall be well,
And all manner of
things shall be well.

It is a prayer that is very simple and beautiful. Strangely, it is also a prayer that doesn't have the words

"God", "Father", Jesus,... It is not addressed to any of the Godhead. It is a prayer of trust, of simple faith. It is an acknowledgement that indeed, "All will be well."

I will be honest with you and share with you that of all the prayers I say, **this** is the one prayer I pray the most often. I pray it more often than I pray the Lord's Prayer. I pray it when I am worried about someone, or a situation. I pray it when depression strikes. I even pray it in good times as a reminder that indeed: "all shall be well." And, I pray it in uncertain times when what the future holds is not quite clear.

See, this prayer reminds us, us – not so much as God – that God is with us, and that we need just have the faith to remember that. We need just to trust. This prayer does not mean that things are always going to go smoothly and wonderfully in life.

(cont'd page 4)

My Mexico

submitted by Karen Abbott

So blessed, I was able to spend 2 1/2 months in Mexico again this year. Over the years I've come to really enjoy the Mayan people and their sleepy fishing villages along the Gulf of Mexico shore. I stay in a condo complex of 4, 6-unit apartments



surrounding an enormous pool.

The same people come each year, from Canada and a few from the USA, and we have all become friends.

The largest costal town is Progreso, with a 4-mile-long pier enabling the oil tankers and cruise ships to access the Yucatan peninsula where the Gulf is quite shallow.

This year I went with friends to Jesus Presbyterian Church in Progreso and it was such a wonderful experience I got 5



more of my condo friends to come.

The Pastor, David Correa is Spanish speaking and has a large Spanish con-

gregation, but he also serves the snow birds and tourists with services in English (his English is excellent). As it happens, he was preaching on the Book of Revelation and what a teacher he was! It's good to know that there are active English congregations even as far away as Mexico.

These sleepy Yucatan fishing villages, Chixculub Puerto, Chelem and Chiburna surrounding Progreso are amazingly quaint. Although there is a lot of poverty the Mayan people, who seem to be the low-paid workforce for the Spanish descendants, who populate this area are the happiest, kindest folks imaginable. They are very family oriented and love their festivals and loud music.



Each town has a square and on Sundays they hold flea markets there and open coffee shops and snack bars. It's their main meeting place. Dur-

ing the week these squares are used by the kids to play football (soccer) and basketball and are a place for people to come together.

Another notable thing about this area is that the dogs are all loose in the streets and you literally have to drive around sleeping dogs. They are harmless, but there are too many of them. There are scooters and motorcycles everywhere and lots of original VW beetles in all states of repair. Entire families travel on the motorcycles, with babies tucked between Mom and Dad, and they also ride in the backs of pick-up trucks – all the time, even on highways!

I guess I love this part of Mexico because of the lovely people and slow pace of life. Swimming in the ocean is also a big draw. God willing, I plan to go back next Jan. & Feb. to spend another winter in Yucatan.



Emmanuel's Financial Report

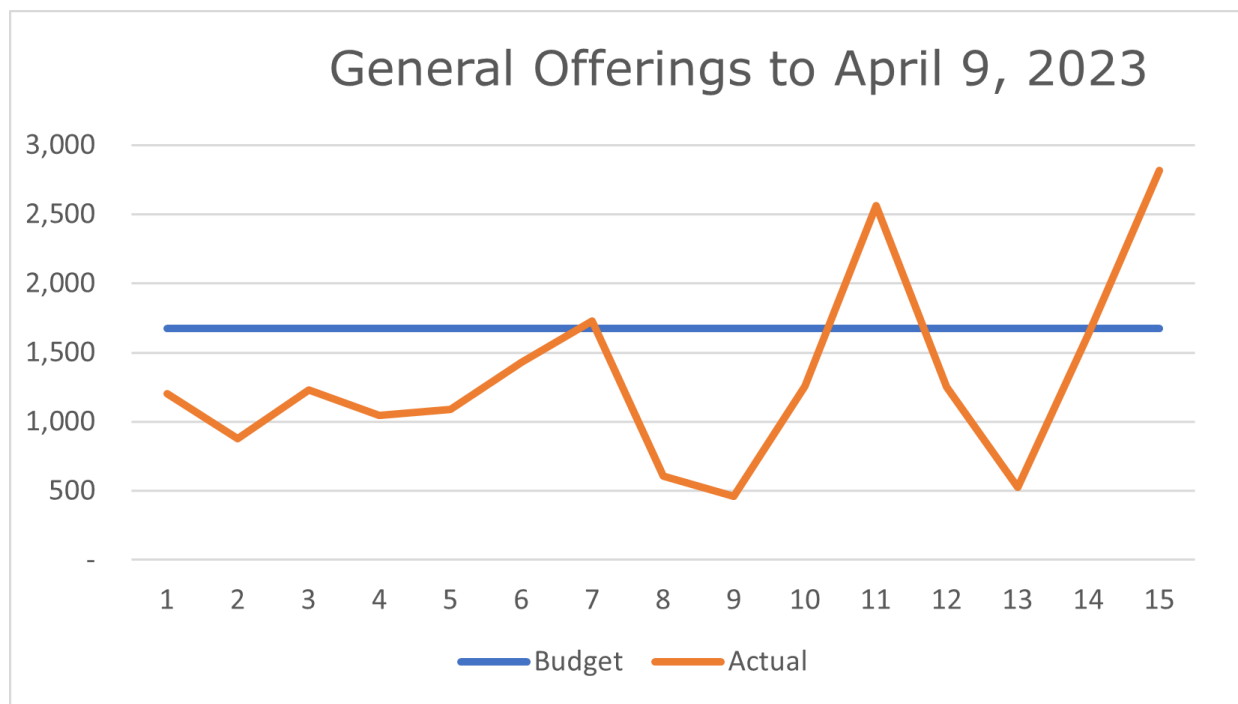
submitted by Geoff Booth

Thanks to the Diocese and the generosity of former parishioners, we did not begin the year by looking at a mountain of debt to the Diocese and a deep hole of a deficit. However, it did not take long for a deficit to reappear, and by the end of March it had grown to nearly nine thousand dollars.

If we are to achieve the total budgeted amount of \$116,300 for General Offerings, weekly offerings, after making allowance for offerings received by PAR, must average \$1,647. As can be seen from the graph below, General offerings

week after week, fell far short of the budget amount shown by the horizontal line. That was the bad news.

The good news is: At Easter we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord, we can also celebrate the resurrection of our General Offerings, and Easter Offerings, if the Open Offering for Easter Sunday are included, were close to budget. These very positive signs of new life should give us cause for optimism for the financial life of Emmanuel, yet it will require diligence for our hopes of a deficit free year ending to be fulfilled.



Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

1 Peter 1: 3

El Camino De Santiago

The Way of St. James



In May, Hal and Charlotte Leitch are travelling to Spain to walk a 255 km stretch of the Camino de Santiago. Christian pilgrims have been walking the route from France to Santiago for thousands of years. It was believed if they made the long arduous journey to the magnificent cathedral in Galicia's Santiago de Compostela they would reduce their time in purgatory! Hal and Charlotte's motivation is not based on "time in purgatory". They are joining thousands of people who take the pilgrimage each year as a means to look inside ones

self and take time to reflect on our lives and all we are grateful for. Each pilgrim has their own motivation....for some it is simply "on their bucket list". Mystery and legend are both key components in the history of Santiago. According to history, the body of St. James the Apostle is buried in Santiago's cathedral. It is said that the remains of James, son of Zebedee and brother of John the Evangelist were discovered in a field in Galicia by a shepherd named Pelham in the 9th century. St. James had died about 800 years earlier and according to legend, was transported to The Town of Flavia found on the Camino de Portugues. (Hal and Charlotte are walking the route from Porto to Santiago and will pass Flavia). His body was said to have been transferred by a boat led by two disciples and guided

by angels to the field where it was discovered a few centuries later. King Alphonso II ordered a small chapel to be built in Santiago to house the relics of St. James. At this time in history, religious buildings across Europe were competing for the best relics as a way to attract pilgrims to their town. The small chapel was eventually commissioned to be turned into the grand cathedral that Hal and Charlotte will visit when they end their journey. When the Leitch's re-



turn they will be happy to share stories of their adventure. We wish Hal and Charlotte all the best on their pilgrimage.

Charlotte will be sending email updates along the route to friends and relatives. If you would like her to add you, email Charlotte at charlotte@charlotteleitch.com.

Rector's Reflection (cont'd)

It is not a magical incantation, a hocus-pocus if you will. No, it's a powerful set of words that reminds us that whatever happens in life, however deep and dark it gets, or however scary it may be,



submitted by Father John Stopa

"all shall be well, all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well." We will pull through it, with God's help. We will be well. All will be well. Amen.

St. Paul's Financial Report

submitted by Bill Welsh

For the first quarter of 2023, offerings have increased compared to the same period last year. However expenses have also increased, and generally on a month to month basis our expenses are greater than our income. We rely on our quarterly Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) payment of approximately \$5,000. to help offset our expenses. For the January to March 2023 period, even with the CTF payment, our expenses ex-

ceeded income by approximately \$8,000. Some of our expenses are seasonal so there hopefully will be improvement going forward. Thus far our free bank balance has enabled us to absorb such deficits, but this cannot continue indefinitely. The 2023 Budget approved at Vestry projected a deficit of approximately \$18,000.

Parishioner generosity has continued with donations to our Celebration Tin. The Tin was recently

emptied and \$400. deposited in our bank account to support community outreach.

Offerings may be done by automatic bank account withdrawal: please contact the treasurer for complete details. Offerings may also be done by e transfer to donationspc@nrtco.net: no password required

Emmanuel Warden's Report

submitted by Helen Hall and Charlette Leitch

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia —so welcome to this present Easter-time following a challenging winter, weather wise, transportation wise and post-covid wise ---- yet a glorious time of worship and the entire congregation has stepped up and is gradually adjusting to regular 9 am Sunday Eucharistic worship. (A celebration of the Holy Eucharist is offered each Thursday at 11:00 o'clock.) After years and years of 8 o'clock and 10 o'clock the adjustment is taking possibly longer than many of us had anticipated—we will get there—**Alleluia!** Neither all too regular unfavourable winter road conditions or unexpected breakdowns have managed to stop the services, Sunday, with the faithful and effective ministry of our laity—Many thanks Geoff and Dick and all who remembered their reading and intercession and greeters and lay assistants (I have

missed some—you know who you are) who are so faithful to the volunteer schedule, regardless of weather and road conditions. **Alleluia** —God and His Son and that Holy Spirit get us through, no matter the obstacles! You turned out for the pancake supper, even though the food part was less than perfect, yet recognized 'how great it is to be together and are showing that togetherness, regularly in your worshipful attendance. **Alleluia** We, at Emmanuel are blessed with a caring and very informative pastor, Father John, **Alleluia;** a group of dedicated parishioners-the furnace was repaired in a week, **Alleluia** ; and beautiful buildings to gather in- **Alleluia**—Now, let's bring all of us to our community of Arnprior **Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Parish of Emmanuel

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People's Warden: Helen Hall –
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Parish of St. Paul's

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http://stpaulrefrew.online
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Rector's Warden: Heather Hayman—
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People's Warden: Shirley Yach –
shirleyyach@bellnet.ca

Upcoming Events

EMMANUEL CHURCH BBQ

Sunday June 11th 11:00 am

Please plan to attend a BBQ
After church, we will enjoy fellowship and lunch
Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided.

We ask that parishioners donate salads and desserts.

All are welcome.....we look forward to fellowship before
the summer holidays begin!

For more information call Helen Hall at 613-623-5406



Alleluia

Let Us Pray

submitted by Fr John Stopa (from: *For All the Saints*)



Source and Partner of the eternal Word, who brought to birth in the Lady Julian many visions of your nurturing and sustaining love, move our hearts, we pray, to seek your will above all things, that we may know the joy of your gifts and embrace the gift that is simply yourself; through Jesus Christ our Lord, our Saviour, Brother, and Mother, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen