

PENNIES & SPARROWS

Easter Newsletter - by Terence and Jasmine Chandra



Weekly Programs

Mondays:

11am English as a Second Language Beginner Classes.
1-4pm: Community Drop-in

Tuesdays:

10am ESL Intermediate Classes
1-4pm: Community Drop-In

Thursdays:

1-4pm: Community Drop-In

Fridays:

10:30am-1pm: Foodie Fridays.
6-8pm: Youth Group

Monthly Programs

3rd Wednesdays of every Month: Seniors Step it Up.

2nd and 4th Thursdays of Every Month 10-11:30am: Seniors Craft and Chat

Monthly Brunswick Court Drop-in.

Monthly Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association Meeting.

The Apostle to the Apostles

If there's one word that comes to mind when thinking of Mary Magdalene it's *fidelity*. Having been healed by Jesus' touch, Mary remains with the Lord throughout the course of his ministry, accompanying him from town to town as part of a broader circle of followers. In our Lord's darkest hour, as he hangs naked and bleeding on the cross, Mary Magdalene is among the few to remain by his side, the eleven apostles having long since fled in fear. Indeed, her fidelity to Jesus persists even *after* he breathes his final breath and "gives up the ghost," for we are told that she was also among those who witnessed his burial in the tomb. Perhaps it's for this reason that Jesus chooses Mary to be the first to meet him on Easter Sunday.

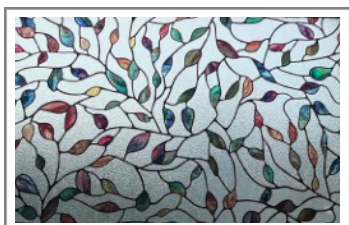
At first, she mistakes him for the gardener. "Sir," she says to him, "If you have carried away his body, tell me where you have put him, and I will take him" (John 20:50). It is only when "the gardener" calls her by name that Mary (a faithful sheep who recognizes the sound of the Good Shepherd's voice) realizes who this man really is. *It is her teacher and rabbi, Jesus.*
[continued on page.2....](#)





Foodie Fridays

Every Friday a group of 8-10 people gather to cook together. Some of the dishes we've made include: lasagna made with fresh pasta, lobster bisque, beef stew and sweet and savoury crêpes. After the meal is cooked we sit and eat together, welcoming anyone who comes through the door to take a plate and join us at the table. It feels like a family meal and the food is made that much more delicious because everyone has had a role making it. We are grateful to Miriam Westin who came up with the idea for Foodie Fridays and who leads the program, for all who attend, and for one special donor who has contributed funds to help buy the food.



...[The Apostle to the Apostles](#). Continued from page 1 - Indeed, it is Mary Magdalene (along with the other eyewitnesses to the empty tomb) who first bring the message of the resurrected Christ to the other disciples. For this reason, these women have been called *apostolae apostolorum*—that is, *the apostles to the apostles*.

From Mary Magdalene, we learn an important truth: in order for us to share in our Lord's resurrection victory, we must first share in his suffering. We won't all have to experience some terrible martyrdom (although some Christians have indeed been called to such a great sacrifice). We are, however, called to take up our crosses (small and humble as they may be) and follow our Lord daily. This means, among other things, admitting when we've screwed up and asking for forgiveness; extending mercy to others; loving and serving the needy, even when nobody praises us or even cares. This is something that we have been striving to do in our own imperfect way through our ministry with Pennies and Sparrows. Our hope is that, in bearing our own little cross, we may have a share in the same resurrection victory that all the saints (including Mary Magdalene) enjoy.

Partnership with the Saint John Pregnancy Resource Centre

Since Pennies and Sparrows was first launched in 2014, we've worked in partnership with a number of other organizations and non-profits – the Pregnancy Resource Centre of Saint John (PRC) being one of them. The PRC offers a number of free services to anyone impacted by an unexpected pregnancy or other pregnancy-related challenges. One of these services is a fatherhood program— a program which pairs young dads with more experienced male mentors. Over the course of the past year, Terence has served as one of these mentors, having worked with three clients to date. It's a ministry that he finds very rewarding, especially considering his conviction that present, active dads play an enormous role in the healthy development of children.

On the evening of Friday, March 31st, the Pregnancy Resource Centre collaborated with Stone Church to put on an evening of live entertainment featuring local musicians. Terence performed with up-and-coming local musician, Josh Osborne. Sandra Lockhart and Holly Joanne, executive director of the PRC, closed the evening with a few songs of their own, along with a brief description of the mission and vision of the PRC. In the end, all proceeds of this coffee house went to the Pregnancy Resource Centre. Special thanks to all those who attended and those who helped out.

The Emmaus Way

Most of our readers are well aware of the Emmaus Way– a program which pairs struggling people in the community with teams of volunteer support. So far, we've created teams of support around refugee families, people struggling with severe health issues, as well as those in recovery from various addictions. Most of the teams that we've launched, however, have been around vulnerable and isolated parents, struggling to raise their children on their own, without the support of a broader social network.

We are excited to be starting a formal partnership with the Pregnancy Resource Centre. In the future, when representatives of the PRC speak to churches or other community organizations about their mission, they'll invite people to consider serving on an Emmaus Way team. We (Jasmine and Terence) would then offer training to these volunteers, mobilizing them to support struggling parents in the community– particularly single mothers, coping with unexpected pregnancies. Pray that, through this partnership with the PRC, both of our ministries would be enriched.

Seniors Programs

The Seniors Learn and Groove program, which is run in partnership with the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association, has been picking up momentum with new seniors joining us each month. We are now getting 30-40 seniors at each event. We have received Federal Funding from the New Horizons for Seniors program to keep going for another year. This funding will help us to add an exercise component to the entertainment and information sessions that already take place at this monthly gathering. Our latest feedback from the group has been that they would like to have more time to gather during the month. On April 13th we will start a bi-monthly Craft and Chat time for seniors that will take place on the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 10-11:30am. We are grateful for funding from St. Paul's Foundation and New Horizons for Seniors that makes these programs possible.



Summer Camps

Last summer we ran two summer camps: Kids Lead - teaching kids about community development and an English language camp for the children of newcomers to learn some English before the beginning of school. This year we look forward to running both camps again, and expanding the English Language camp. We have hired Clare Andrews on a part-time basis to oversee the English Language Summer Camps and she is already hard at work coordinating things.

Community Drop-in Program

We continue to offer afternoon community drop-ins three times a week. Thanks to our partnership with Penni Eisenhauer of the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association we are making sure that these drop-in times are helping people take a step forward. Penni recently did a needs assessment and heard requests for hair cuts, art supplies, and literacy tutoring. We now provide free haircuts on Mondays from 1-3pm and have an Art table full of supplies for anyone to use. We are working on offering literacy classes. We are also grateful to have our community nurse - Kathy London-Anthony - come every Thursday.



We largely rely on donations to make our work possible. Tax receiptable donations can be made to the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton with a note that funds are to go to Pennies and Sparrows. This can be done in several ways:

Online through Canada Helps (using the drop down tab on the page to select Pennies and Sparrows) <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13778>.

By cheque sent to the Diocese of Fredericton with Pennies and Sparrows in the memo line - 168 Church Street Fredericton, NB E3B 4C9. Or by cheque sent to Stone Church again with Pennies and Sparrows in the memo line - 87 Carleton Street Saint John NB E2L 2Z2.

By etransfer to Stone Church with a note that the funds are to go to Pennies and Sparrows - stjstone@nb.aibn.com.

Financial details such as budget and expenditure information is available upon request.

How to Contact us:

Pennies and Sparrows

Terence and Jasmine Chandra

87 Carleton street, Saint John, NB E2L 2Z2

(506)721-8053

jasminechandra@gmail.com

tjchandra1@gmail.com

We are in need of daily prayer and have several volunteer opportunities, feel free to reach out for more information.

