

Church of St John the Evangelist Anglican Peterborough: A ministry for the whole city

Faith & the Common Good

June 9, 2020



The Spark

The church is a classic “Church on the Hill” serving generations and generations in the community. As the neighbourhood changed, the Deacon at the time felt the Church needed to start looking beyond its walls for a mission and meaning of being a church and felt the location dictated that mission. The first missional event was a soup and sandwich lunch 20 years ago for anyone who needed it in the neighbourhood.

Their Journey to Here

The single meal grew into a meal a week, and in a similar fashion, other congregations tried to do similar efforts. The difference was the location, as the building was located where the need was the strongest. In 2009 St Johns underwent a massive renovation of the basement to serve the need of food insecurity, with a large open space, washrooms and a huge commercial kitchen. By 2012 Canadian Mental Health Association was running the Lighthouse Program 11-2 every day with services for people who were homeless, as well as lunch. This was the first partnership with a non-profit organization to help them deliver their missional work.

In 2015 the Warming Room was operating in the building, from November to April with 2 full-time staff, some part-time staff, and \$80,000 budget. There was now a safe place for people who were homeless to stay in the colder weather safely. This was a partnership model of funding and leveraging donations and again more volunteers.



An RFP came out in 2016 from the City asking for an organization to be open 4 hours a day and serve one meal all year, with funding to accomplish that. St John the Evangelist felt that wasn't enough and wanted to be open 8 hours a day and serve 2 meals. It was at this point that they dug deep inside and felt that they wanted to be the delivery agent themselves, instead of just the space renter and supporter.

When 2018 arrived St Johns had One Roof operating from the City's original RFP, One City Peterborough, a new venture to help support shelter insecure people, the HOME program that rented a home for high support needs people that still operates today, and the Warming Room became all year programming, instead of just 6 months. At this point, they had 2 full-time staff, 40 part-time staff and a budget of \$1.7 million. It took 2 decades from that original idea to this point.

Today, One City Peterborough is its own entity. This made sense from an operations and management perspective for both St John the Evangelist and the activities of One City Peterborough. The two are close, in fact, the Executive Director is one of the Deacons for St Johns.

“*St. John the Evangelist was an important incubator for Warming Room Community Ministries and now One City Peterborough. By starting out under their structure it allowed us to focus on the work of supporting the most vulnerable in our community and then develop a structure of our own. Without the support of St. John's, and the many other faith groups that have partnered closely with us over the years, we would not have been able to do the work we do. Faith communities have supported us financially, with space and with volunteers.*”

ED One City Peterborough – Christian Harvey

“ *St Johns owns the program, staff, budget, building, but people of Peterborough really own the ministry. This allows others to maximize where they can participate and not have to deal with logistics; they can just show up and do the work. People are invested on so many different levels here, some volunteers help staff, companies donating food and spices and such. All walks of life participate in this ministry and it enriches everyone's lives.* ”

Rector, Rev - Canon Brad Smith



Inspired by our lectionary readings, let us embark on a

PARISH-WIDE LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECT

to support the work of Warming Room Ministries

- Please consider adding one or more of the items to your weekly shopping list and bringing them to church. There will be a basket for each week on the welcome table in the Narthex.
- Feel free to participate each week, one week, or however many weeks you would like!
- For the second Sunday in Lent, look through your linen cupboards to see if you have something "nearly new" that you can donate. Or feel free to look for something new.

First Sunday in Lent: March 10th

The word is very near to you, on your lips and in your heart. *Romans 10: 9*

- Chapstick
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste

Second Sunday in Lent: March 17th

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram. *Genesis 15:12*

- Bottom sheets
- Top sheets
- Pillowcases



Keys to success

Strong leadership

A strong leadership with a crystal clear vision and ability to lead in new directions.

Elastic and resilient congregation

An elastic, resilient congregation willing to see beyond their walls to the needs of their community.

Willing to broaden the perception of church

A willingness to look at “church” as more than just Sunday.

Effective partnerships and building connections

Drawing in volunteers and money from other congregations and community groups is due to walking the walk and talking the talk.

Learn more

You can learn more about the Church of St. John the Evangelist Anglican Peterborough on [their website](#) and through the City of Peterborough [One City webpage](#).