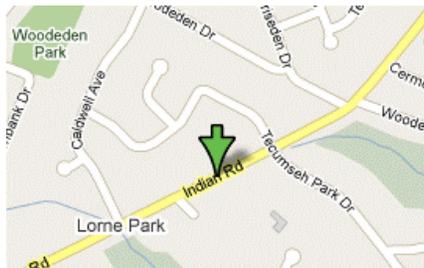


HOW TO FIND US

ST. STEPHEN'S ON-THE-HILL IS LOCATED AT 998 INDIAN ROAD JUST SOUTH OF THE QEW AND WEST OF MISSISSAUGA ROAD. THE CHURCH PROPERTY IS ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF INDIAN ROAD BETWEEN TECUMSEH PARK DRIVE AND CALDWELL AVE-



WE WORSHIP EACH SUNDAY AT 10:30AM WITH OTHER COMPLEMENTARY SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES AT TIMES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK DESIGNED TO ENGAGE INDIVIDUALS SEEKING TO LEARN AND GROW IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH. TO LEARN MORE ABOUT WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE BELIEVE VISIT:

WWW.STSTEPHENSUC.CA
WWW.UNITED-CHURCH.CA

OR CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE NEWSLETTER AT:

WWW.LOVEGROWSHERE.CA



St. Stephen's on-the-Hill

*From roots of faith to seeds of hope,
God's Love grows here*

PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

PREPARATION FOR BAPTISM IS LIKE TAKING STEPS ON A JOURNEY. IT IS EXPECTED THAT CANDIDATES FOR (OR PARENTS) WILL MEET WITH THE MINISTER AND BEGIN ATTENDING WORSHIP PRIOR TO THE DAY OF BAPTISM.

BAPTISM IS INITIATION INTO WHAT SCRIPTURE REFERS TO AS THE BODY OF CHRIST (THE CHURCH). IT'S ABOUT ESTABLISHING A RELATIONSHIP. ST. STEPHEN'S ON-THE-HILL TAKES THIS RESPONSIBILITY SERIOUSLY AND WILL ENSURE THAT YOU ARE ASSIGNED AN ELDER OF THE CHURCH. YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOUR ELDER BEFORE THE DAY OF BAPTISM.

OUR ELDERS ARE HERE TO KEEP YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY. THEY MAY CALL TO SAY HELLO OR KEEP YOU POSTED ON UPCOMING EVENTS.

A NEW CREED

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM



St. Stephen's on the Hill
United Church
998 Indian Road
Mississauga, ON
L5H 1R5

905-278-9772
office@ststephensuc.ca

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

FORMALLY, A LIFE IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH FINDS ITS ENTRY POINT AT THE MOMENT OF BAPTISM. FOR MANY, THIS HAS HAPPENED IN INFANCY. AND STILL DOES IN MANY PROTESTANT AND ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCHES. INFLUENCED BY THE WRITINGS OF THE SWISS REFORMER JOHN CALVIN, SOME PROTESTANT CHURCHES INCLUDING THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA, HAVE UNDERSTOOD INFANT BAPTISM TO BE AN EXTENSION OF GOD'S UNMERITED GRACE. BAPTISM IS NOT SOMETHING TO BE DENIED BUT EXTENDED IN RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACIOUS LOVE IN JESUS CHRIST. IT IS A SACRAMENT, (FROM THE LATIN WORD FOR MYSTERY) WHEREBY WE PARTICIPATE IN THE BAPTISM OF JESUS.



BUT STILL, WHY WE ARE BAPTIZED IS SELDOM CLEAR TO MOST. MANY SEE BAPTISM AS THE RITE OF FAITH THAT SAYS GOD HAS WELCOMED US INTO THE DIVINE FAMILY AND THAT ALL ARE WELCOME. IT IS A REPRESENTATION OF OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD INITIATED THROUGH CHRIST, A RELATIONSHIP THAT IS LIVED OUT IN THE BONDS OF THE COMMUNITY THAT WE CALL THE CHURCH. AS THEOLOGIAN KARL BARTH, DESCRIBES IT, BAPTISM BECOMES THE NEW EXPRESSION OF HOW THE "WHOLE" LIFE IS LIVED. AN EXPRESSION OF THE LIFE WE LIVE TOGETHER AS CHILDREN OF GOD. THIS MEANS BAPTISM IS NOT A PRIVATE EVENT, BUT AN OCCASION THAT MOVES ONE BEYOND THE SELF INTO A GREATER CIRCLE OF A LIFE SHARED WITH OTHERS.

IN OUR MODERN SECULAR WORLD PEOPLE CONTINUE TO SEEK GOD'S CLAIM ON THEIR LIVES. THERE IS DEEP WITHIN EACH OF US A CRAVING FOR A COMMUNAL EXPERIENCE OF THE SACRED. (AFTER ALL, GOD CREATED US TO BE IN A RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM.) AS THIS OCCURS, MANY OF OUR CHURCHES ARE RE-DISCOVERING THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING THAT INCLUSIVE AND SACRED PLACE WHERE WOMEN AND MEN CAN FIND THIS COMMUNAL EXPERIENCE. THESE ARE PLACES WHERE PEOPLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO "GO DEEPER" AND EMBRACE THE WHOLE LIFE OF FAITH. ONE IS MOVED OUT OF A SOLITARY EXISTENCE INTO THE SOLIDARITY OF A GATHERED GROUP OF PEOPLE FOUND IN THE CHURCH. FOR SOME ADULTS, THIS MAY EVEN LEAD TO THE DECISION TO BE BAPTIZED. ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT SOUND STRANGE, ADULT BAPTISM IS NOTHING NEW. IN FACT, ADULT BAPTISM IS SOMETHING THAT CAN ACTUALLY CONNECT US WITH THE VERY FIRST CHRISTIANS WHEN VIRTUALLY ALL CHURCH MEMBERS WERE BAPTIZED AS ADULTS.

IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA, THE BAPTISMAL RITE FEATURES A SYMBOLIC SPRINKLING OF WATER ON THE FOREHEAD. INDIVIDUALS ARE BAPTIZED IN THE NAME OF THE "FATHER, SON AND HOLY SPIRIT." THIS "BAPTISMAL FORMULA" IS UNIVERSALLY RECOGNIZED ACROSS DENOMINATIONS IN CHRISTIAN CHURCHES AROUND THE WORLD.

BAPTISM ALSO COMES WITH A COMMITMENT FROM THE WHOLE CHURCH COMMUNITY TO OFFER ITS LOVE AND SUPPORT TO ITS NEW MEMBERS. WE HOPE THAT ANYONE CONSIDERING BAPTISM AT ST. STEPHEN'S ON-THE-HILL WILL TAKE THIS PLEDGE SERIOUSLY AND MAKE THIS CONGREGATION THEIR SPIRITUAL HOME AS THEY SEEK TO GROW IN SPIRIT.



THE DAY OF BAPTISM

ON THE DAY THE BAPTISM, PLEASE ARRIVE AT THE CHURCH FOR 10 AM. YOU WILL BE GREETED BY A CHURCH ELDER AND THE MINISTER WILL BE NOTIFIED OF YOUR ARRIVAL. WORSHIP BEGINS AT 10:30AM.

BAPTISMAL CANDIDATES WILL BE INVITED FORWARD DURING THE SERVICE, BY AN ELDER OF THE CHURCH TO GATHER AT THE BAPTISMAL FONT.

PARENTS AFFIRM THE FOLLOWING VOWS:

DO YOU DESIRE TO HAVE YOUR CHILD BAPTIZED INTO THE FAITH AND FAMILY OF JESUS CHRIST?

DO YOU BELIEVE IN GOD, WHO HAS CREATED AND IS CREATING, WHO HAS COME IN JESUS, THE WORD MADE FLESH, TO RECONCILE AND MAKE NEW, AND WHO WORKS IN US AND OTHERS BY THE SPIRIT?

DO YOU PROMISE, ACCORDING TO THE GRACE GIVEN YOU, TO GROW (WITH THIS CHILD) IN THE CHRISTIAN FAITH, TO BE FAITHFUL MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST, BY CELEBRATING GOD'S PRESENCE, BY SEEKING JUSTICE AND RESISTING EVIL, AND ACCEPTING JESUS AS YOUR WAY AND YOUR TRUTH?

CONGREGATION'S PROMISE:
WE PROMISE OUR LOVE, SUPPORT, AND CARE.

PLEASE NOTE

IF YOU HAVE GUESTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING, ASK THAT THEY PLAN TO ARRIVE WELL BEFORE THE SERVICE BEGINS. THIS WILL ALLOW THEM TO FIND A SEAT, FAMILIARIZE THEMSELVES WITH THE SPACE AND REVIEW THE ORDER OF SERVICE.

SINCE BAPTISM OCCURS DURING REGULAR SUNDAY WORSHIP, WE SEEK TO RESPECT THE WORSHIP EXPERIENCE OF EVERYONE WHO IS PRESENT. THIS MEANS THAT WE HOPE TO KEEP DISRUPTIONS TO A MINIMUM AS WE PARTICIPATE IN THIS SACRED TIME.