

WHAT'S NEW



The quarterly newsletter of Waterloo's Anglican Church of the Holy Saviour

HARVEST EDITION September 2016

FROM THE INTERIM PRIEST

In this issue:

As the first days of fall signal change in our environment, this issue has a theme of change: saying goodbye to the Townshends, anticipating new leadership both clergy and lay, and a career change for our organist.

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Dear Friends,

The next several months are a time to prepare for a new chapter in our parish life with a new rector. If there is an element of anxiety, it is understandable. Nevertheless, there are some positive opportunities.

Forty eight years ago, the rector of St. David's Church, Brantford, was transferred to the Parish of Wingham. The churchwardens asked Bishop Appleyard what he could do to provide them with



ministry during the vacancy. He turned the question around and asked them that same question - to consider how they themselves were equipped for ministry. When they asked who might lead them in worship, he identified me. I was a secondary school teacher sitting incognito in that congregation. Although I had been ordained as a deacon, I was pondering whether to continue as a teacher or to enter full-time parish ministry. That interim period of ministry gave me a chance to determine whether or not I could handle both.

According to our ability, not only myself, but each member of that St. David's was encouraged to identify and exercise a baptismal call to minister. I determined that what I witnessed of others during that brief period, I wished to make possible elsewhere. I also realized I'd be unable to combine the demands of a teaching career with those of a full-time parish priest. Bishop Luxton's encouragement and my subsequent ordination to the priesthood are the reasons I am here. I wish to encourage us to regard these next several months as a positive time of opportunity to discern the kind of leadership that can best direct the ministry of this parish into the future.

I shall challenge us to delve more deeply into our faith and spirituality so that we might better prepare for whatever lies ahead. Who are we? Why are we here? What is the purpose of life as understood by those of us who share in the life of Jesus? These are the questions each one of us must ask of our personal life. They are also the questions we are asked to ponder as a parish.

Blessings, Neil

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FROM THE WARDENS- CHANGE AND "LIFE AFTER PETER"

Change is a difficult process for most of us and it seems like all too suddenly, Peter has retired and is gone. Bishop Linda will be taking over from Bishop Bob at the end of the year, and many other changes are taking place in our parish. For easing us through these changes, the wardens would like to thank Sharla Malliff for helping during the summer and Neil Carver who has agreed to be our interim priest until Peter's replacement is found.

Selection Process

Archdeacons Greg Jenkins and Reverend Tanya Phibbs met with the Parish Council and the Selection Committee on Wednesday September 21. They outlined the selection process, which is triggered by this meeting and by a follow-on parish survey as well as the completion of a Parish Profile.

RENEW:

Property Over the summer months, under David Barton's direction, much progress has been made with the property infrastructure. Highlights include the new sound system (close to complete at this writing), the major re-painting done to the church and needless to say, a lot of clean out. The nursery is currently being re-done, carpets are about to be installed on the lower level and new flooring laid in the office, hallway and Fireside Room. A huge thank-you to David Barton (and family) who has spent many, many hours toiling on our behalf to make things happen.

Strategic Planning Marklevitz Architects have been retained for an initial Feasibility Study of realistic options for the church facilities. The target is to produce a report on this in time for Vestry, including concept diagrams and rough budget numbers for options.

Please remember as we approach year-end, to complete your Year 1 pledge commitment for the RENEW Fundraising Campaign. On a financial note, we are grateful for a very generous bequest to the parish, which we recently received. There were no conditions applied to this bequest so we are able to add this to our consolidated undesignated fund.

Sunday School Erica Schmidt Weller has taken over the reins from Louise and has started the fall program with enthusiasm and energy. Hers is a critical and vital role in the parish as we continue to see new young families joining our parish.

Nursery Jessica Schmidt is leading a group of parents to refurbish the nursery room and keep that

centre of energy alive and well. *Editor's note:* in case anyone was unaware, the real seat of power and energy in the parish has its roots in the weekly Sunday gatherings that go on in the Nursery Room.

Jennifer Ross
People's Warden

Glenn Brogden
Rector's Warden

Richard Blumenauer
Deputy People's Warden

Tricia Siemens
Deputy Rector's Warden

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Why Are the Creeds So Important?

Among the most common features of the liturgy are our Creeds: Nicene, Apostles, baptismal vows, even a strange-sounding document in the BCP (the Creed of St Athanasius). Have you ever wondered what you are saying, and why it is such an important part of worship? Are any of the words puzzling to you? Do any of the declarations give you problems? What other creeds exist, or have existed?

If you would like to discuss views and interpretations of the traditional Christian Creeds (and a look at some others) consider joining us in an exploration of such topics. This is not primarily for theological instruction, nor a challenge to dogma; this is an opportunity for growth in understanding through discussion and listening.

Sign up on the clipboard in the Parish Hall (beside the Served counter). Meeting time to be arranged, probably on Tuesdays.

Rob Lofthouse

YOUTH

Jeff Kischak, who is in his final year at Huron College, is continuing on this year as leader of our LIGHT Youth Group (Grades 5 to 8). His successful experiment with dinner and Harry Potter movie nights is continuing this fall and he is currently recruiting and training a Quidditch Team to play against a parish youth team from Paris in October. We are hopeful the leadership model we are using this year with Jeff will carry us forward for the next few years. All Saints has recently hired a young woman, Tory Poole, as Youth Pastor for Sunday School and Youth Group; we are coordinating our work with the LIGHT Youth Group to include youth from All Saints.

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CLAY 2016

Four of our youth and two volunteers from Holy Saviour joined a busload of others from our diocese on August 15 for the week-long pilgrimage to Charlottetown, PEI. We had an amazing experience and want to share our adventure with the congregation. Please join us at the 10 am service on Sunday, **October 16** to hear what happened. We will have pictures and music to tell about our faith journey.

Tricia Siemens

PETER'S FAREWELL

Dear Friends,

I want to take this opportunity to say thank all of you for your many expressions of love, kindness and support as both Jane and I have transitioned into retirement. The evening of celebration and thanksgiving on June 17th was a very special night for us. I know that events like that do not happen without a lot of planning and hard work. It was a great time and the contribution of the organizers, both choirs and all of the speakers have provided us with many wonderful memories to last a lifetime.

The various gifts from individuals and the collective gifts from the parish were very thoughtful, generous and much appreciated. Your kindness will be in our thoughts the next time we travel to visit our family in New Zealand.

I was not looking forward to my final Sunday at Holy Saviour on June 19th. However worship and praise to God for God's love of us has been a central theme of my life so it was appropriate and indeed a great joy to close my ministry at Holy Saviour, in an act of praise, worshipping God together with all of you.

It was my honour and privilege to serve as your parish priest. You have been a blessing to me, to Jane and to

our family. The Holy Saviour parish family is a very special community of love and faith. I will continue to pray for all of you, and I am confident that God will continue to bless the Church of the Holy Saviour, now and as you move forward into the future.

Yours in Christ, Peter

BOOKS

Do you enjoy reading and chatting or hearing about books? Come out to our book club which is usually held in the Fireside Room on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:30. All parishioners and friends are welcome. Call Jane Beleskey 519-745-2353 for more information or a list of upcoming titles for 2016-17.

Books Wanted. Some of our younger children have been looking on the shelves at the back of the Parish Hall and asking if there are books for them. Do you have a few books at your house which your toddlers to about age 10 have outgrown? Could you please donate them to the bottom shelf? Thanks for your generosity.

Books that have recently inspired Neil and are reflected in his recent sermons:

Life's Great Questions by Jean Vanier

The founder of L'Arche, invites us to ponder existential questions and to delve more deeply into our personal faith and spirituality.

Cast Away by Charlotte McDonald-Gibson

With vigour and compassion, this foreign correspondent documents the personal stories of those who have survived the perilous journey across the Mediterranean and lived to speak of their experience.

ALTAR GUILD

As the fall season approaches, we begin thinking of Thanksgiving and all this time of year offers us. The Church will again show the bounty of the harvest. Along with fruits and vegetables there will be the fall flowers. Your contribution will go towards the cost of these flowers. Make your cheque payable to "The Church of the Holy Saviour" and mark donation for Thanksgiving flowers. Your cheque may be placed in the collection plate or given to Jeanette in the office. Thank you for your ongoing support of the work of the Altar Guild.

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PASSAGES

On Sunday, September 18th, we welcomed two infants who were baptized and received into the household of God:

Lillian Bedford, daughter of Ashley and Brendon Bedford (photo), and Dakota Rounding, daughter of Jenn and Shaun Rounding. Rev. Megan Collins-Moore, chaplain at Renison, assisted.



Sundays, January 15th and April 23rd, 2017 have been set aside for possible baptisms. Those who plan to either present themselves or to sponsor another for baptism are encouraged to share their intention with Archdeacon Neil Carver well ahead of these dates.

The marriage of David Townshend, son of Peter and Jane Townshend, and Chloe Tiedemann took place on July 23.

Diana Embury, long-time parishioner, passed away June 2nd. Condolences to her family, David and Janet.

MEET THE ORGANIST

Edward Phillips has been our organist and senior choir director for just over 21 years, serving under both Dennis Hayden and Peter Townshend. When he



began in 1995, he was a professor of music at University of Guelph. When I interviewed him recently, I was surprised to learn that he had left teaching in 2011 and begun a second career. He took courses at Conestoga College to become a Certified Interior Decorator and is also a Certified Aging in Place Specialist, a designation that signifies

his expertise in creating interior spaces that are both safe and accessible for clients who wish to remain in their homes as long as possible as they age.

What drew him to interior design? “I had lived, when I first separated from my wife, in a condo with white walls facing north, and then I moved into a townhouse that had colour and a southwest exposure, and began to enjoy myself and discover I had a real affinity [for design] and started taking courses. I’ve had a couple of clients from the congregation, and most recently have been marketing myself towards Burlington & Milton. I advertise on a website called Houzz, also on Facebook as Rooker Phillips Interiors.” (Rooker is his middle name.)

When I asked about leaving academia, Ed said that he was fed up with students’ sense of entitlement and not being backed up by the administration. Ed’s musical career stretches back to his undergrad at Amherst College, Massachusetts in 1971 and Yale for his two masters and then a PhD in music theory in 1978. He came to Canada that year to the University of Ottawa where he lectured in both English and French, having studied for two years in Paris. He was also an organist (currently at Metropolitan United in Toronto). They came to Guelph in 1985. They have two sons, and divorced in 1988. One son is a lawyer with the federal government, the other works for Rogers Sports Media.

Ed grew up in a Congregationalist church in the States, and has played organs in a wide range of Protestant churches, including a Danish Lutheran church in Paris and also in Toronto. I asked about the role of music in liturgy. “At all costs, music is a part of the liturgy, and although in some sections of the mass, it developed as a covering for the priest moving about, it had purpose. You can sense that purpose in a twelfth-century mass setting that is repetitive and trancelike; it went with the stained glass and the incense. I don’t like doing music if it’s separated from the liturgy or if it is put in a place in the liturgy where it has no purpose, because one constantly fights the notion that music is entertainment.”

Ed appreciates working for this Anglican parish which is supportive of its music component in the liturgy. He felt drawn to Anglicanism for its sense of history. He recalled participating in a service in Ottawa that was “choreographed” on short notice, with a minimum of movement. “If you make things flow,” the congregation experiences it as a lovely service. There is

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a subtlety to good liturgy that is only obvious in its absence.

“The BCP is well-choreographed; there’s been 600 years to work on that.”

He spoke about his new ‘aging in place’ certification and some of the innovations, like walk-in bathtubs, that allow seniors to stay in the homes rather than moving to long-term care facilities. The same focus on subtlety that he brings to liturgical choreography applies to good design of living space, making an environment safer.

We returned to stories of organs and churches. Edward Phillips has developed a high standard for music and liturgy at Holy Saviour over the past two decades, a blessing to all of us in the pews.

TREASURER’S REPORT

Operating Fund

Some people have been voicing concern that our attendance numbers at services were down over the summer. This must be purely a perception problem because the weekly statistics do not bear this out; and our financial situation is holding steady. Our basic envelope donations are keeping pace with 2015; however, in total, our income is essentially flat year over year. We are therefore just as far behind our admittedly-aggressive donations target for donations this year as last – to the tune of around \$22,000.

This year (and it looks like probably part of next as well) our expense picture will be slightly anomalous because we will not be paying a fulltime rector's salary. For all of the other expenses items, we are well within budget with no extraordinary cost items; but, we have also not been able to find any big savings. Assuming these trends continue to year end, we will again be looking at a significant deficit.

Renew

We want to thank everyone who made a pledge/donation to our campaign. You are continuing to come through for the parish and David Barton and his property team are working their way through the list of must do’s and should do’s to revitalize our facilities. Costs for the work are in line with projections and the sound system and the painting are just two of the 'new things' we are doing at Holy Saviour. Stay tuned for more renewal.

Your Legacy

I think everyone has imagined pulling a Tom Sawyer and attending their own funeral. How many people will attend? What will they say about me?

I can make no predictions about that but, as Holy Saviour's treasurer, I can guarantee that I shall miss you a lot! We should take pride in the fact that the excellence of our Sunday School and Youth Group enrollment is bucking the trend in the Anglican Church (and all the mainline denominations really). However, it is a fact of life that the number of funeral services being held in any year always seems to outstrip the number of weddings and baptisms.

And, given the relatively larger donation ability in later life, it also seems that every year-end when the Stewardship and Finance Committee meets to discuss current finances and next year's budget, someone will say: “I'm afraid we've lost some significant givers this year. We're going to be hard pressed just to make up for their donations, let alone keep up with expenses.”

While it may be nice to have the committee members remember you once, wouldn't it be better if the whole Vestry remembered you every year when with your name on a bequest that is continuing to support ministry at Holy Saviour? Do you feel responsible for supporting your Church? Does some of that responsibility continue after you are gone?

I'm obviously prejudiced on this topic which speaks to the long term financial viability of our Church. I think that our goal should be to see that our passing does not leave a hole in the parish income. Our investments earn a minimum of 4% per year so the size of the bequest you need to leave to continue your level of support equals your annual donation divided by .04. For example, if someone gives \$100 a month to the church, your bequest needs to be \$30,000. How is your Will Planning coming along?

Dave Embury

GOODBYE TO SNOWFLAKE TEA

The last few years the Snowflake Tea has seen a reduction in the number of people involved, both volunteers and tea-goers. A meeting was held in mid-September and after some discussion it was decided that we would not have a Tea and bazaar this year. Instead the participants involved in the Tea are excited to have a "Soupy Sunday" lunch right after church on Sunday, November 27. We will be offering different kinds of soup for people to try as well as buns. The lunch will be donation basis, pay what you can, and help yourself to warm, tasty, soup!

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We will have some knitted goods and preserves available for sale one Sunday in December.

DINNER & A MOVIE

Back in the spring, your editor came across a website and blog called [Movies and Meaning](#) which suggested a list of movies that would make for good discussion. When I mentioned the idea of a monthly Dinner and Movie night to various folks at coffee hour, they responded positively. Especially Anders Bergstrom, who has just submitted his PhD dissertation in film studies at WLU. The first movie was his suggestion – *Hail, Caesar*, the comedy starring George Clooney. I was thrilled when 19 people turned out for it on Sept 16th.



The October movie is the one chosen by the Movies and Meaning schedule: *In the Mood for Love*, a Japanese movie from 2000, directed by Wong Kar-wei.

Dinner starts at 5:30 on Saturday, Oct. 22nd with the movie at 6:30 followed by discussion. Please email Erion.chuck@gmail.com if

you plan to attend, or if you wish to be notified of future showings. A modest \$5 gets you food, fellowship and film

WE PRAY FOR



Our shut-ins:
Dorothy Gilbert, Shirley McHugh, Bernice Hodgson, Esther Hodgson, Shirley Beaudry, John Ford, Veronika Embree, Margaret Goodwin, Arleighn Cook, Pat Barry, Barbara Stendahl.

A Parish Prayer on behalf of our Search Committee

Almighty God, by your Spirit guide and direct the minds of those who, on our behalf, shall choose a faithful person for the ministry of word and sacrament in this parish; one who will care for your people and direct and support us in our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



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COMING EVENTS

This Friday, Sept. 30th, hear the Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald at Humanities Theatre UW, on *Dealing With our Darkness*, a series of four Muslim-Anglican dialogues sponsored by the Renison Institute of Ministry this fall. More information at <https://uwaterloo.ca/renison/dealingwithdarkness>

We will again be celebrating the **Harvest Thanksgiving with a church BBQ** following the 10:00 am service on October 2nd. We hope that you can join us! This event is sponsored by the Outreach Committee.

Thanksgiving Sunday Oct. 9 10 am

Youth Service Sunday Oct.16 10 am,
Choral Evensong 4 pm

Bishop's Friends Dinner– We welcome Bishop Linda Nicholls to this year's dinner, being held at the Galt Country Club on Thursday October 27th. Reception 5:30 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm. Information packages are available at the back of the church.

You can find information on all our events, and regular service times, at the [website](#). While there, check out recent sermons by Dr. Neil Carver and the Rev. Megan Collins-Moore.

