

# WHAT'S NEW



The quarterly newsletter of Waterloo's Anglican Church of the Holy Saviour. HARVEST EDITION  
September 2015

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*Rector:*

The Venerable Peter T. Townshend  
[peter.townshend@holy-saviour.ca](mailto:peter.townshend@holy-saviour.ca)

*Editor:* Chuck Erion

[erion.chuck@gmail.com](mailto:erion.chuck@gmail.com)

*Layout:* Jeanette Bell

[jeanette.bell@holy-saviour.ca](mailto:jeanette.bell@holy-saviour.ca)

Church of the Holy Saviour

33 Allen St. E.

Waterloo Ontario N2J 1J1

519-743-8772

## FROM THE RECTOR

The transition from summer to fall happens very quickly. I hope that you were able to enjoy some time of rest and re-creation. During the summer, Jane and I had a wonderful trip to New Zealand to visit with our son Chris, his wife Laura and to meet for the first time our new granddaughter, Olive. We now have treasured memories of our time together.

It seems that from the moment we landed in Toronto life at Holy Saviour has been very busy. A number of people have been actively planning for our fall activities. The nursery, church school, and youth group are well underway. It is a joy to have both of our choirs rehearsing again and singing on Sunday mornings. The parish council has met and we heard reports from people working on a safe church and youth manual, property reports, Christian Education opportunities, and developing plans for a fall financial campaign to provide for the needs of our physical facilities and youth ministry for at least the next five years.



We have also experienced sadness in the past weeks as we mourn the death of both John Shilling and Frances Sutherland. John and Frances were both much loved members of our parish family. It was good to celebrate each of their lives in joyful liturgy which expressed our confident faith that they now share in the eternal life of our Lord Jesus.

We have quickly moved through the month of September, as we enter into October our thoughts to focus on Thanksgiving. I want to invite you to come and join your parish family in a service of Harvest Thanksgiving on **Sunday October 4<sup>th</sup>**. The service at 10:00 am will be followed by a parish **welcome back barbecue**. The service of National Thanksgiving will be the Sunday of the long weekend, **October 11<sup>th</sup>**. Certainly we have much for which to be thankful. This truth has been made very real to us in recent weeks as we have watched and listened to the news, aware of the enormous challenges faced by refugees around the world and the asylum seekers who are part of the massive exodus of people out of Syria.

The tradition of Harvest Thanksgiving has its roots in an exodus experience. Having led the Hebrew people out of slavery in Egypt, across the Red Sea and through the wilderness, Moses stops before entering into the Promised Land, to teach the people. The first principle of his teaching is to be thankful. He says to give an offering to God of the first fruits of the harvest in the new land, while reciting the story of their history beginning with "A wandering Aramean was my father." From Abraham to Moses the story of God's people reflected the plight of refugees today. Even Jesus and his parents were refugees fleeing Bethlehem for safety in Egypt. Moses told the people, "You shall eat your fill and bless the Lord your God for the good land that he has given you." He also warns, "Take care that you do not forget the Lord your God." "But remember the Lord your

God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth.” For most of us, whether it is this generation or seven or more generations ago, our own history begins in another country. Our ancestors endured hardship and persevered to provide us with the life which we enjoy in this new land. The question is “Are we thankful?” Do we remember God and give God thanks for the blessings which we have received?

I pray that you will come and join your parish family in giving thanks for the Harvest on **October 4th**, and for this great land of Canada on **October 11th**. Remember to bring non-perishable food items for the Waterloo Food Bank. I look forward to seeing you in church and together we can all give thanks to God

Yours in Christ, Peter

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

There are many opportunities to increase your awareness of the traditions of the Church through courses and other learning opportunities accessed through parish groups, through Waterloo Deanery involvement, through offerings from theological colleges (such as Huron University College and the Renison Institute of Ministry,) and through various online opportunities, such as the recently announced lay education course from Wycliffe College. Education for Ministry is a more extensive, learning opportunity, which will be offered in the Deanery in September 2016 through spring 2017. For more EfM information, contact Chuck Erion.

At Holy Saviour we are establishing a study group for the **Gospel of John**, to run through 2015-2016; for sign-up, contact Rob Lofthouse (loft@golden.net). Information on the other providers of opportunities is also available, and the Bulletin Board near the church hall rear exit will have various items posted as they become available.

## HOLY SAVIOUR BOOK CLUB

Attention all parishioners and friends: did you know that Holy Saviour has a book club? We would welcome anyone at any time to join our lively discussions. We meet at 7.30p.m. in the Fireside Room, usually on the fourth Wednesday of the month from September until May (except December). There are no membership dues or contracts; no fines or fund raisers. Just come and join the conversation or listen. We'd love to welcome both men and women. Don't be shy!

Here are the chosen titles for Oct. and Nov.

October 28 - *A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman

November 25 - *The Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie* by Alan Bradley

## 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 towards the cost of these flowers which add much to the beauty of our sanctuary would be greatly appreciated. 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.



## FROM THE WARDENS

Where did the summer go? Not to worry, it looks like we might be blessed with a wonderful fall. Since our last Newsletter we welcomed Huron College student Jeff Kischak to Holy Saviour. Many of you will have already met Jeff as he shares his ministry with us. It's nice to have you here Jeff.

As Peter has mentioned, Harvest Thanksgiving followed by our parish barbeque will be held on **Sunday, October 4th**. We hope you can join us. For those of you who receive the newsletter by email, Thanksgiving envelopes will be available on Sunday.

Our annual Snowflake Tea will be held on **November 21st**. As they say, many hands make light work so we hope that again this year many of you will volunteer your special talents that will help bring us another successful event.

Over the past year there has been much discussion about the comprehensive physical audit of our building and the upcoming RENEW campaign. Your parish council has formed a campaign committee, and will be hosting information sessions and lunches after church on **November 15th** and **November 22nd**. This marks the kick-off of the campaign. Pledge cards will be distributed.

Those who are unable to attend can request a personal visit.

As some of you know our Rector is travelling to Brazil in a few weeks. Peter is one of three people from the Diocese of Huron who will travel to our companion diocese, the Diocese of Amazonia. He leaves on October 19<sup>th</sup> and will return on November 5<sup>th</sup>. The intent is to develop a closer relationship and understanding of the two dioceses. Peter will be kept very busy working with and walking alongside the clergy and lay people of Amazonia. We look forward to hearing of Peter's experiences when he returns to Holy Saviour.

Jennifer Ross  
*People's Warden*

Glenn Brogden  
*Rector's Warden*

Richard Blumenauer  
*Deputy People's Warden*

Tricia Siemens  
*Deputy Rector's Warden*

## YOUTH

The new school year for the Youth Group kicked off with a "Welcome Back", event on Sunday September 20<sup>th</sup> in the Parish Hall. Organized by Carrie Murphy from All Saints, the Youth Group continues to include youth from both parishes. While the focus this year will be on the LIGHT age group - Grades 5 through 8 - we do have a few youth who have graduated into Grade 9 who wish to remain involved in the program and help in more of a leadership role.

Of note, Jeff Kischak from Huron College has joined our parish this year on a part-time student placement. Jeff is helping with the Youth Program and along with Mary



Shaw is organizing our second event, a farm visit on **Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Anyone who is not formally enrolled in the Youth Program who would like to attend this Harvest event can speak with Richard or Jeff.

A special thanks to those who have stepped forward in a leadership role this year: Carol Motuz, Tricia Siemens, Mary Shaw, Jeff Kischak from Holy Saviour, and Carrie Murphy and Ron Bender from All Saints.

## THE QUIET JOYS OF EVENSONG

Since joining Church of the Holy Saviour's community of faith four years ago, I have wrestled with a perplexing question: why do so few parishioners attend Evensong? To me the evening choral service, which is conducted on the third Sunday of every month from September through May, is Holy Saviour's best kept liturgical secret.

I'm not qualified to speak to the liturgical components of the late afternoon choral service, but I would like to offer a couple of personal observations to explain why I find Evensong so spiritually satisfying and fulfilling. I have always found something quietly thrilling about autumn, as daylight hours shorten and evening darkness lengthens. The evening hymn, *O Gladsome Night, O Grace*, describes this cyclical pattern as day fades into night, allowing us to see the evening light.

For me that quiet thrill is embodied and reflected in Evensong, a form of choral worship that dates back in its modern form to the Reformation, but whose roots extend back much farther, to the very beginning of the Christian Church. I love the word Evensong — a service of prayers, psalms and hymns conducted according to a set form at eventide, another word I love.

I love sitting in the pews of Holy Saviour as daylight begins its gradual descent into darkness. The church seems to become warmer and more welcoming, more comforting and consoling. There is something innately peaceful about the waning sun illumining the stained glass windows on the west side of the church. I take comfort in the warm glow that bathes the pews. I'm comforted and consoled by the sense of attentive contemplation that washes over me during the service.

There is something about the blend of words from the Book of Common Prayer and melody that speaks to me directly and immediately. That wise book poetically talks of "pure voice and humble heart." The combination touches my mind as it soothes my heart. When I wander off the path of life, sacred words married to holy music lead me back. Perhaps that is why Holy Saviour's choir never sounds better than during Evensong. Choral Evensong begins at 4 p.m. It's a relatively short service.



Robert Reid

## OUTREACH

Holy Saviour was very involved with Out of the Cold for two winters. Since the closure of the church sites, 115 homeless people have moved to either housing or other shelters, and 85 more vulnerable people have been helped into housing. A few churches have continued providing community dinners and St Louis has announced they will do so starting on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Their doors will open at 5pm with meals served from 5:30 to 6:30, followed by fellowship time until 8pm. Anyone can come to these regular Sunday night dinners. When the OOTC churches were serving meals, they realized the meals helped not just the homeless. They offer food and friendship to those who are lonely or marginalized, the working poor, or to anyone who wants a free, nourishing meal.

Holy Saviour will continue to be involved. On two Sundays, **November 22** and **January 3**, St Louis has asked that we host the meals in our Parish Hall. The food will be provided by St Louis. All we need to do is heat it, serve it, and clean up. If you are interested in volunteering for those two Sundays, or if you are interested in helping at St Louis on a more regular basis, please contact Tricia Siemens, 519-742-9724, [sietricia@gmail.com](mailto:sietricia@gmail.com).

## MEET JEFF KISCHAK

Jeff Kischak is in his second year of theology at Huron College, Western University. He commutes to London each day from the farm he grew up on outside Paris, ON and is excited to have his field placement at Holy Saviour. But at age 40, getting into the priesthood was obviously not his first career choice.



Jeff went to York for his BA in English and philosophy from 1995 to '99. His summers were spent working in warehouses, and his degree got him a promotion to supervisor for a warehouse company with branches in Nanticoke, Cambridge and Brantford. He was satisfied with the challenges and

benefits of the job but began to wonder if he would arrive at retirement feeling like something was missing. His older brother, Victor Krueger-Kischak, had entered the priesthood after university and is now rector of St James, Paris. Jeff and his parents had not been church-goers but went to Victor's first church in Huntingford (a village north of Woodstock) and Jeff, baptized in his early 30s,

gradually became convinced that he too was being called to the ministry.

Another part of his spiritual journey was via martial arts! When he was fifteen, Jeff was the victim of a violent attack on a Paris street by an older teenager. Jeff was not only physically hurt, he was crushed that no onlookers came to his aid. It would take another fifteen years before he discovered that this attacker was hearing voices at the time. Karate became an attractive route to prevent further assaults; he worked his way up through the karate belts to become a sensei or teacher. Gradually the meditation practice of martial arts became more meaningful than the physical training. Combining eastern meditation with western Christianity seemed a natural evolution for him. I wasn't surprised that we both have high regard for Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk who helped bridge Christianity with eastern religions. When some parishioners in his brother's church asked if he would consider entering the ministry, Jeff began to think seriously about changing career.

Jeff still lives on the farm that his Ukrainian grandfather started. His parents, now retired, have moved back into the farmhouse and are very supportive of both sons' callings. Jeff has a funny story to explain how they became Anglicans. When his father was born in the hospital in Paris, his grandmother was eager to have him baptized, given the infant mortality rates in the post-war years. The grandfather first approached a Catholic priest who informed him that baptisms required a \$50 donation. He then tracked down the Anglican priest who was willing to do it in exchange for a bag of potatoes! Baptized yes, but church-goers, not so much. Jeff wonders what it would be like to be a "cradle Anglican," to have grown up with a religious structure that informs and grounds your whole life.

Jeff's nickname around Huron College is 'Smiley' for his happy demeanor. And these days, his beloved Blue Jays are giving him lots to smile about. While he acknowledges having occasional doubts about his faith and calling, he impressed me with his self-awareness, his life skills acquired with 16 years in business, and his enthusiasm for the priesthood. He sees his time at Holy Saviour as an opportunity to share and lead a "vibrant faith community" (his words) and a chance to try out youth ministry. We wish him well.

## SAFE CHURCH

The Screening in Faith program has been revised by the Diocese of Huron and Holy Saviour is working towards implementing its many goals to ensure all organized activities are conducted within a safe environment. The Safe Church committee at Holy Saviour is comprised of one warden, Jennifer Ross, and one Parish Council member, Wendy McIntyre, with support from Reverend Peter Townshend and Jeanette Bell. The implementation of this policy began in January of this year and much has been accomplished. This includes:

- determination of positions within our Church deemed high risk
- submission of 35 names of Holy Saviour parishioners and Clergy to Xpresschek in the first round of police record checks
- reviewing and updating of position descriptions as written in 2002
- reviewing and updating of the 2002 Holy Saviour Screening in Faith policy document
- drafting of Our Sacred Trust: Children and Youth Manual for Holy Saviour based on the manual provided by the Diocese.

This work is ongoing. Upcoming in October is the second round of police record checks. More will be forthcoming shortly. In addition, feedback will be requested on position descriptions and the Children and Youth Manual.  
-Jennifer Ross.

## WHY DO REFUGEES LEAVE?

*Sanctuary Refugee Health Centre on King Street at Agnes offers primary care to newcomer refugees with interpretation on request. "Dr. Mike" Stephenson works with a nurse, Joanna and a social worker, Asmaa. Margaret Brockett is one of 20 volunteers who help with administration, reception, nursing duties, grant writing and advocacy. She asked Asmaa to share her refugee story.*

Why do refugees risk their lives to leave a relatively safe country like Turkey? This question has been at the forefront of many people's minds since the publication of the picture of a little boy face down in the sand.

In 2008, I visited Turkey with my husband, and we visited the resort town of Bodrum, where Alan Kurdi's body was found. As a tourist with the privilege of having Canadian passport, it's hard to imagine why people are desperate to leave Turkey. We will always remember our trip to Turkey as one of the most amazing trips we have done. We reconnected with my Turkish friends. Our days in Bodrum were idyllic. We breakfasted on our hotel rooftop under a canopy of grape leaves, with a view of the terraced white

houses leading down to the Mediterranean harbor. We browsed Bodrum's shops, toured the castle, enjoyed the beaches and warm blue-green water. In fact, we even took a day trip by ferry to the Greek island of Kos – the same route where Alan Kurdi and others drowned.

So I'll ask again: why are people desperate to leave Turkey? Turkey is a fairly safe country, a relatively wealthy country, a country that flirts with entry to the EU, and with a reasonably secular and liberal society. To answer this question, I have to go further back to my previous time in Turkey. I grew up as a Kurd in Iraq, and in a situation of conflict and persecution, my parents made the difficult decision to leave our country in 1994. We used smugglers to get us out of Iraq and into Turkey. To make a long story short, I lived as an illegal immigrant in Turkey from 1995 to 1997. My family's story is similar to that of many illegal immigrants to Turkey. Having arrived in Turkey and its relative safety, we found that we were not able to start a new life there. Due to its geographic position, Turkey is a common first destination for people fleeing conflict in the Middle East. So Turkey is flooded with illegal immigrants, and struggles to deal with the situation. On the one hand, Turkey has UN offices that process refugees and place them in countries around the world. On the other hand, Turkish police crack down on illegal immigrants and deport many back to their homelands. Our family was desperate to be accepted by UNCHR and sponsored to resettle in a new country. However, when we entered Turkey, we were only able (with great difficulty) to get a visitor visa or the period of two weeks. At the same time, the UN refugee placement process typically took from 2-6 years. The result is not hard to guess. People with a short visitor visa have a difficult choice. After 2 weeks, they have barely begun the process of applying for UN refugee status. They must then either return home, defeated, or join the large society of illegal immigrants hiding in plain sight all over Turkey. The illegal immigrant society had to live, work, stay healthy and find a place to live while trying to be invisible so it wouldn't attract Turkish police, or some Turkish people's attention to their existence. Immigrants' daily struggles were with lack of medical care, food, housing and employment opportunities. Many Iraqis fell victim to abuse by employers, sexual harassment by doctors or lawyers who find out about their illegal status, receiving lower pay or being cheated of earned money. As illegal immigrants, we were afraid to go to the police, so these crimes went unreported. Women struggled with harassment and rape. Many ended up arrested, beaten and deported to Iraq by Turkish police. Some ended up stealing food, milk, and sanitary products for their children or stealing medications from hospitals and pharmacies. Of course, these incidents worsened the image of immigrants in the Turkish view. Immigrants were exhausted and quickly ran out of solutions, taking any opportunity to get

out of Turkey. In 1995, if someone had offered me a seat on a boat to Greece, I would have jumped at the opportunity, no questions asked.

I do NOT mean to simply blame Turkey for this situation Turkey's situation is difficult, and they have limited resources to deal with the massive refugee influx. It is the responsibility of the whole world to work together to deal with this situation. Many countries are ignoring the situation out of fear or indifference, or failing to take responsibility for the important tasks the world faces today:

1. Stop creating conditions which create and prolong middle eastern conflict
2. Deal humanely with the results of this conflict
3. Many Western countries and Gulf states need to take their fair share of responsibility to deal with this issue

Asmaa Cober [asmaacober@gmail.com](mailto:asmaacober@gmail.com) (226) 747 1904

Have you ever wondered when you picked up a repaired hymn or prayer book over the past number of years, just who took the time to do this repair work? The person behind those lovingly repaired books was Frances Sutherland. She spent countless hours with her scissors and glue and wax paper etc. to make sure that the books did not fall into total disrepair. We all owe her a huge thank you for working so diligently at this task. Thank you, Frances, for a job well done. –Diane Medcalf

## *snowflake Tea and Bazaar*

Mark your calendar. **Saturday, Nov. 21<sup>st</sup>** 1 to 3 pm.

### WE PRAY FOR

Angela-Marie, Matthew, Stephanie, Angie, Lauren, Lloyd, Ron, Heather, William, Wendy, Elyse, James, John, Jessica, Jane, Michelle, Laura, Rebecca, Ross, Heather, Reta, Jennifer, Caroline, Joseph, Russell, John, Lisa, Susan, Sophia, Joy, Bob, Betty, Janet, Joanne, Shirley, Kevin, Anne.

### For those in Nursing/Retirement Homes and people who are Shut-in:

Dorothy Gilbert, Doris Leland, Frances Whittaker, Shirley McHugh, Mary Culliford, Bernice Hodgson, Esther Hodgson, Manley Richardson, Shirley Beaudry, John Ford, Veronika Embree, Margaret Goodwin

### WE CELEBRATE the Marriages

of: Jessica Bailey and James Steele, Philip Shilling and Riel Erickson, Brendon Bedford and Ashley Pelley And the Baptisms of: Patrick Graham Austin, Kane Charles Massel

### WE REMEMBER our brothers & sisters departed this life, who now share in our Lord's eternal life:

[Norman Peterson](#)

[John Shilling](#)

[Frances Sutherland](#)

You can keep in touch with your church family on Facebook. New posts will go out automatically to whoever "likes" the page. If you are not a Facebook user, the above message might not make much sense. But go to the link: <http://www.facebook.com/HolySaviourWaterloo> and it will give you an idea of what it is all about.

To simply look at the page, you DO NOT need to be signed up with Facebook. To add your own comments to our page, however, you will need to open your own Facebook account.

