

# WHAT'S NEW



The quarterly newsletter of Waterloo's Anglican Church of the Holy Saviour. June 2016

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priest and to share with all of you in our Lord's ministry in this wonderful parish family.



I also give thanksgiving for the present, this strange time frame as I approach retirement which opens up the possibility of a wonderful future. I am confident that there will be much for which to be thankful as we experience the freedom of time, to spend with our family, and hopefully for a little time to travel and to experience this amazing world of God's creation.

I pray that you will also find much for which to be thankful, both in our shared past but even more so in the potential and opportunities of the future.

Each year as the summer approaches and we all look forward to a time of re-creation I always encourage us all not to take our blessings for granted. It is important that we continue to come together in worship and fellowship as an expression of our thanksgiving to God and also to support each other in our parish family. That support, a very special ministry which we offer to each other, is needed just as much in the summer as in other times of the year. This is especially true as you enter into a time of transition and begin the process of prayerful discernment in determining the right person to invite to share in ministry with you as your parish priest and Rector.

May God continue to bless you and all the family of Holy Saviour. May God's love and peace be always with you, and may you in thanksgiving reflect God's love to others by the life you live each day.

Yours in Christ, Peter

## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter I am fully aware that I do so for the last time as your Rector. That reality creates a strange and unfamiliar feeling within me. I will not elaborate further due to the limitations of this letter and with the knowledge that Chuck Erion is providing some reflections based on interviews with both Jane and me. I want to simply quote from a wall plaque which hangs in our hallway at home, just under the wooden cross which I was presented with at my graduation from Huron College. The plaque quotes the Apostle Paul from his first letter to the Thessalonians. "In everything give thanks" I have tried to live by this admonition, and so, I do now!

I give thanksgiving for the past years of ministry which seem to have past far too quickly. I am very thankful for the nearly thirteen years which Jane and I have shared in ministry here at Holy Saviour. It is now the longest tenure which we have spent in a parish since I was ordained. It has been a great privilege to serve as your parish

## FROM THE WARDENS

After a winter of strange weather, we finally have weather that actually looks like spring. Never fear; the long range forecast tells us we will have a "warmer-than-normal" summer. We have endured some chilly Sundays in the church recently. Thank you for putting up with our cranky boiler. It should be fixed in time for our warm summer!

Again this year our parish shut-ins were treated to a wonderful Spring Sensations dinner and a social time followed by a Eucharist with a full choir. Thank you to Neil Carver who filled in for the rector who was under the weather. Thanks also to Joy Prittie and her many helpers for a job well done.

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As you know we have a very active Sunday School under the leadership and direction of Louise Finlay with the help of many volunteers. Louise has decided to step down from this position. Thank you, Louise, for your hard work over the past few years.

Congratulations to the CLAY committee for reaching your financial goal as you look forward to a wonderful conference on Prince Edward Island in August.

Thank you again to all of you who contributed to our Renew campaign. The new sound system has been installed. Thank you to David Barton. You will soon notice some sprucing up as we move forward with our plan to revitalize our buildings.

The big news for our parish family was the Rector's recent announcement that he will retire in July. His last day in the pulpit will be June 19 and he will then be taking his pre-retirement vacation. Peter, we know that you will be missed. You have provided us with strong leadership and ministry since you joined us in 2007. You and Jane have contributed very much to the growth and vitality of our parish and we wish you well.

Please join us for the reception for Peter and Jane on Friday June 17<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 p.m. to 9:30, at the church.

Jennifer Ross

*People's Warden*

Richard Blumenauer

*Deputy People's Warden*

Glenn Brogden

*Rector's Warden*

Tricia Siemens

*Deputy Rector's Warden*



CLAY news: A huge Thank You to everyone who bought cookies, ate baked potatoes, ordered spring bulbs, and more, to help our older youth raise funds for their trip to PEI. Between All Saints and Holy Saviour we have enough funds for the ten youth and three adults to board the bus

and back to the Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth conference in Charlottetown. We will be leaving our parish on Monday, August 15, and returning one week later. This is a wonderful opportunity for our youth on their journey in faith. It would never have happened without the support of all of you! When we reconvene in September we will be happy to share our experience.

Tricia Siemens

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Among the most common features of the liturgy are our Creeds: Nicene, Apostle's, baptismal vows, even a strange-sounding document in the BCP (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?

In the fall, there will be an invitation to join with others in discussion of our views and interpretations of the Anglican Creeds (and a look at some others). This is not primarily for instruction, nor a challenge to dogma; this is an opportunity for understanding through discussion and listening. Watch the bulletin and the notice boards in September for sign-up.

Rob Lofthouse

## 2016 SYNOD REPORT



The 175<sup>th</sup> Synod of the Diocese of Huron met May 15-17 at the Cathedral and London Convention Centre. Holy Saviour was represented by Paul Henderson, Alison Prittie, and Rob Lofthouse, as well as the Rector.

Opening proceedings after registration were followed by a barbecue on the cathedral grounds, and a Eucharist on Sunday evening, at which Bishop Bennett delivered his Charge. The next two days were filled with reports, proposals and motions, Bible study, and fellowship designed to share with diocese the ongoing activities, priorities and challenges for the Anglican Church of Canada in Huron.

## YOUTH

The LIGHT youth group, grades 5 to 8, have been meeting on alternate Fridays, enjoying dinner and a movie. With Jeff Kischak leading the discussions, they are working their way through the Harry Potter films. In early May we enjoyed time with Jeff's brother, Reverend Victor Krueger-Kischak from St James, Paris. He taught our LIGHT group the finer points of Quidditch, the game that is played at Hogwarts, Harry Potter's school.

On Sunday, June 12, 2 pm, we will be meeting at Laurel Creek Conservation for a picnic and another round of Quidditch. All grades 4 through 8 and beyond are welcome to join us for the fun. We plan to continue this format of dinner and a movie on alternate Friday evenings in the fall.

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For the first time, Synod met the incoming Coadjutor Bishop, the Right Reverend Linda Nicolls, elected this past February, who was present at the Monday sessions.

Detailed, but very accessible, summaries of the proceedings are available on the Diocesan website ([www.diohuron.org](http://www.diohuron.org)), called "[The Popular Report](#)". Also available are the texts of the Charge by Bishop Bennett and the address by Bishop Nicolls. Please peruse these documents to become familiar with the issues and activities presented to the Diocese from its various organizations and committees.

Rob Lofthouse

### WE PRAY FOR

Jessica, Angela-Marie, Ruth, Matthew, Stephanie, Angie, Lauren, William, Daena, Wendy, Elyse, James, Val, Kevin, Tony, Mabel, Michelle, Ross, Joanne, Sophia, Shirley, Joy, Lawrence, Martin, Noel, Anthea, John, Judy, Kristopher, Jim, Ella, Dave, Danny, Jason, Diana, Erin, Albert James, Hilda, Linda, John

### AND FOR THOSE IN LONG TERM CARE HOMES AND SHUT-INS:

Dorothy Gilbert, Doris Leland, Shirley McHugh, Bernice Hodgson, Esther Hodgson, Shirley Beaudry, John Ford, Veronika Embree, Margaret Goodwin, Arleighn Cook, Pat Barry, Barbara Stendahl.

### WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM OF:

Adelaide Dixon, Jason Denhart

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

[Franz Schadlinger](#)  
[Marion Thwaites](#)  
[Eleanor Leask](#)  
[Mary Culliford](#)  
[Manley Richardson](#)

## OUR SYRIAN FAMILY

*The Waterloo Diocesan Refugee Committee (13 parishes) was formed in December 2015 to provide financial and personal assistance to up to four refugee families from Syria. Rebecca Short is Holy Saviour's representative and heads the shopping team.*

When Thaeer, Rim, Moneir and Anwar Abo Nubwt arrived at Pearson International Airport on February 28th, they were greeted by translators Kathi and Roy Thibodeau (Trinity, Cambridge), with a sign in Arabic that said "Welcome to Canada". They were happy to get to their destination, a fully-furnished 2-bedroom apartment in Kitchener that will be their home for the next year. A home-cooked Syrian meal was in the fridge, prepared by a lady from Sham-Rose, a local Syrian organization.

The Abo Nubwt family is a young: Thaeer turned 25 on March 16<sup>th</sup>, his first birthday in Canada. Rim is 20, Moneir is 3 ½ and Anwar is 1 ½ years old. Thaeer managed a computer company in Syria and is tech savvy. He is ambitious and wants to create a good life for his family in Canada. They are a friendly and happy family, and the parents delight in their sons.

But they have known hardships. They and their extended family were forced from their home in Dar'a by armed gunmen. Thaeer wasn't even sure who these men were fighting for. He saw his neighbour killed in front of his family. When this happened, they fled to Jordan. They were in Jordan for four years before coming to Canada. Thaeer's parents and his siblings are in Sweden, Jordan, and Lebanon; Rim's family is in Jordan. One of the first things Thaeer and Rim wanted was to get cell phones so they could contact their families. They now Skype regularly with them.

During weekly shopping trips, we have come to know the four of them quite well. Thaeer likes technology and exercise; he takes long walks with the children and loves to swim. He is fond of coffee, especially flavoured and Arabic. Rim is a lovely young woman, bright and usually smiling. Moneir is taking everything in, he is learning his ABC's, and Anwar is a cute and friendly toddler.

Thaeer and Rim had an English language assessment and started ESL lessons within the first two weeks. They attend five days a week and are progressing.

On May 15, Thaeer and Rim hosted a lunch for volunteers who have helped them since they arrived. The front room was filled with tables; they invited 28 people! We feasted on tasty Syrian food and enjoyed the fellowship of Thaeer, Rim, the boys, their Arabic friends and our volunteer group. It was a happy occasion and shows Thaeer and Rim's willingness to give back, make friends and work to build a new life in Canada.

## PETER TOWNSHEND

*I met with Peter on May 19<sup>th</sup>, joined by Glen Brogdan who had to leave part way through). I began by asking about his decision to retire, expressing my dismay and surprise at his announcement at the end of the service on April 10<sup>th</sup>.*

All through my ministry, I have focused on retiring after 35 years. This was the earliest I could go without penalty to my pension. (That system has changed now but for me to continue during the next five years, I

would incur a penalty to my pension of ½% per month.) I've always felt that you should retire when you're healthy, and if you wish to continue, the bishop will have opportunities for interim ministries. When Rob Lyons and I knelt beside each other at ordination, we agreed to that 35 years. But when he retired last year, Jane had one more year to optimize her pension. Then I decided to go another year, then the bishop election came up. So I've reverted to plan B. It's also that this is the longest time I've been in one church. It was not a sudden decision.

As I said that Sunday, I feel called now to be the best grandfather I can be. With grandchildren both here and in New Zealand it will be good to spend more time with them when we want to, not just in their winter which was dictated by Jane's school holidays.

*I talk about my dad's "unretirement" from ministry. Peter responds:*

I've given my all to ministry but I don't feel that it defines who I am. I'm very much a family person. Growing up with a grandfather who was a bishop and an uncle a priest, I saw the toll that it took on their families and I worked very hard to not see that happening in mine. I strove to get to our kids' sports events and kept my schedule open on those days. I believed in taking my days off; I would give it up if necessary for a crisis but make it up later. Summer holidays we spent camping on the east coast, too far to be called back for emergencies.

But my family doesn't know what a weekend is, so retirement is a chance to alter that pattern, to experience that with my family. This is true for Jane too. I've made it clear to the bishop that I'm retiring from all the diocesan committees. I need a complete break. I've told both bishops I'll be available for consultations, open to one-off tasks, but not ongoing committees.

*Glen asked: There are priests who don't feel they get a chance to worship. Are you looking forward to that?*

I am looking forward to worshipping without checking to see what's happening next, and the chance to sit in the pew with Jane. It will be a challenge to find a new church in this community and with all the clergy turnover it may be a little while to see what a flavor a new rector will bring. We need to find a place where the liturgy style meets both Jane and my needs, for contemporary and prayer book as well as music.

Here at Holy Saviour, in the early days when I came, we had large numbers and had "silos" of separate congregations at the 8, 9:30 and 11 services. As you know some of the 11 o'clock congregation began to die or move into nursing homes and our wonderful choir was outnumbering those in the pews. Moving to one service I think was the right thing to do, while retaining at least two BCP services per month. For a congregation to experience that much diversity...it is still a special place.

*Have you got some insight into what is drawing the younger families to this parish?*



I was so pleased that Bishop Bob could see this before I announced my retirement. The parish has had a traditional liturgy reputation and we have that but so much more – the number of children

and younger families is one of the highest in the diocese. There are two things going into future. We don't have a steady stream of Anglicans moving into the area; many don't have any church background.

**They seek a place that is welcoming especially to young people and children, and that we try to do what we talk about, by supporting**

**outreach ministry** with SHOW, Out of the Cold, Monica Place and the refugee sponsorship. People will respond to that and to a good liturgical experience, both traditional and contemporary. We are a community that cares for one another, and is welcoming.

We've developed a critical mass of young families. And I'm proud that we joined with All Saints to hire Sharla for youth ministry. That was another critical mass, to have enough young people across two parishes.

But we also have a wide range of ages from infants to elderly, and establishing relationships is crucial in a large congregation. That's why coffee hour is so important. I've tried to foster a personal approach, to make people feel that I'm approachable with no airs about who I am as archdeacon, I'm just Peter. And we have some people in this parish who are very good at reaching out to others as well. I've tried to nurture that. Welcoming newcomers happens but it's not too orchestrated... You mentioned that I'm always the last one to leave coffee hour but it's because people linger, they want to be there. To measure the health of a congregation, listen to the energy, the buzz at coffee hour.

*Looking to the future?*

There are huge decisions to be made and also huge opportunities like the Renew campaign. Coming back from Amazonia last year, I realized how little resources they have. Marcos and his wife loved seeing the facilities we have, but could not believe that All Saints building may be coming down. We have significant fiscal challenges but they are not beyond our reach, if we have the commitment to keep building a community of faith. We've been talking about the challenges of our building for years but the Marklevitz Report takes the issues seriously. Unlike the post-war, baby boom years, when socially you were expected

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to be part of church, people now are coming for the right reasons. We are a minority in this culture.

And churches are realizing that we can do more things better when we do them together, like the deanery sponsorship of refugees. I'm excited by the new opportunities all this presents. We need to assess what building(s) the community of faith need and what can it offer to the larger community. Plus we have a very beautiful building.

## JANE TOWNSHEND

*I realized that both Townshends are retiring and that Jane has been a very important partner in Peter's ministry. So I interviewed her too, asking first about retirement plan.*

We'll be able to travel away from the school calendar, see New Zealand in January, their summer. Fortunately we get along with Chris's in-laws. *When I asked about Peter retiring, she pointed out that Peter's dad retired from teaching at age 54 and encouraged his kids to set a goal and stick to it. It's always been a calling for Peter, whether to go into the ministry, or move to a new parish; you don't orchestrate it. Both of us*



*have seen it as a calling and because I was quite involved in the church growing up. We lived two doors away from our church in London, where I was supported by my priests, Terry Findlay and Terry Dance to work at*

*Camp and the National Youth Council). I'm the youngest with four siblings,...I'm the one with the most grandkids. I went to Western for biology, lived at home, then left after third year to enter teachers college because school boards then wouldn't hire you with an honours degree, they'd have to pay you more. It's not that way now.*

We got married, Peter graduated, then I graduated, all in 1980! I taught for 14 months. Then we moved to Walkerton when I was pregnant with Anna, where I stayed and worked at home. I returned to teaching after 13 years, when David was three. The government limited how long you could take time off teaching or lose your certificate. Teaching was always my fallback if anything happened to Peter, so I went back and upgraded in Brantford.

We were in Walkerton for 3 ½ years, then Leamington for 6, Brantford for 12 and here the longest.

*You and Peter are partners in network or community of faith, you are equally important in that, spotting and reaching out wherever you are in the church.*

I found in Peter the perfect mate that would allow us to be a team, we complement each other, I can support you in this way so you can do X.

*I asked about the source of her empathy.*

I got it from my mom; she was that person in the parish who was the ear for people, the one they could talk to and not feel judged. "There but for the grace of God go I" she always said and I used to scoff, but now I get it. You don't know people's story and the issue's often not the real issue. You have to be willing to go beyond just saying hi.

*I asked about the challenges of the ministry.*

We gave up a lot but at least always had a house. Peter was away often in the evenings, meaning I had to be a buffer with the kids, staying home [from work] to help the kids as much as possible. At sports events Peter would pop the collar out, run down and cheer on the sidelines, then run back to work with the collar on. When they were in High School he could get to more events than I could in the after-school hours, and have those important conversations in the car.

Peter's kids are the best and worst critics after church. He and I would talk and debrief on the way home but not spend a lot of time dwelling on it. At the beginning I heard his sermons the night before, not so much anymore.

I know there is a second congregation in the nursery, including Anna. It will be hard to not be worshipping in the same congregation with them. She's grieving our departure too.

In the past, we looked forward to the challenge of another parish but retirement will be different. That sense of why we were called usually did not emerge until five years later, "oh, so that's the reason we're here."

*What other activities are you anticipating in retirement?*

I don't have real hobbies but I love volunteer work and plan to volunteer in a one of the more needy schools in KW and increasing my time with the Diocesan Refugee Committee. Maybe Peter and I will find time together with music. **We're going to just be**, as opposed to always doing, and Peter will be better at that than I am!

## ONLINE RESOURCES

Our website, [holy-saviour.ca](http://holy-saviour.ca), has a new audio section of recent sermons by Bishop Bob, Wendy Fletcher and Peter. Something to listen to one day this summer.

Recently I discovered [theworkofthepeople.com](http://theworkofthepeople.com), a video library of liturgy resources and interviews with people like Rowan Williams (former Archbishop of Canterbury), Brené Brown, Parker Palmer and Barbara Brown Taylor. A subscription is required but you can use the 30-day free trial to check it out.

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### A GRACE-FILLED SNOWFLAKE

When our visitors from Brazil were here on May 15, it was an exciting service. Reverend Marcos Barros preached about Pentecost in his native Portuguese, with each sentence ably translated by parishioner Paul Freston.



During the children's focus, Peter, aided by Jane on the guitar, had us all singing the baptism song, and we pointed to Marcos and his wife, Lourdes, as we sang "You are my sister, you are my brother..." Anna Beamer (Peter and Jane's daughter) was overcome, realizing that this was the last time her dad would sing this at Holy Saviour, and she slipped out of the



sanctuary. It was an unseasonably cold morning and Jane noticed a few snowflakes outside. She sent Anna back in to get Lourdes so she could witness snow for the first time (one of the goals she had in coming to Canada). She was overjoyed. And Anna caught a few flakes on a leaf to take back in to show Marcos, as he served the Eucharist.

## BOOK REVIEW

**Becoming Wise** - an Inquiry into the Mystery and Art of Living, by Krista Tippett, Penguin Press, 267 pages, \$37

Krista Tippett is the American host of NPR's *On Being*, an interview radio show similar to CBC's *Tapestry*. She has received a Peabody Award for her Broadcasting, and in 2014 was presented with the National Humanities Medal from President Obama for "thoughtfully delving into the mysteries of human existence." In the back of this (her third) book is a list of over 400 people she has interviewed since 2003. I subscribe to her podcast (at [OnBeing.org](http://OnBeing.org)) but recognized only about sixty of those names, so I have many more podcasts to catch up on.

The signature question that Tippett poses to her guests is about their childhood – was there any spiritual or religious pattern that influenced them? This question, coupled with her rapt attention, provides an entry point for deeper self-exploration. *Becoming Wise* traces her journey of her life in pursuit of wisdom through these encounters – what does life mean, how do we make it meaningful? Across five chapters (words, flesh, love, faith, hope) she sifts insights from poets, scientists, psychologists, philosophers, activists and theologians into a coherence with her own life journey. The result is a book in which I underlined more passages than any other book I've read, too many to summarize here.

The section on love bears the most underlining. Love is probably the most watered down word in modern English. Tippett looks back on her childhood where "fear squeezed the life out of love" despite her false memory of loving parents with a perfect marriage in a happy home. Tippett married for romance in Scotland, clinging to the Hollywood myths of her childhood. When the marriage ended, she still grieved the hole in her life where "love" should be.

She notes that grief is also surfacing on the level of public life where "division of race and income and class are freshly anguishing." In interviews with Elizabeth Alexander, the poet at Obama's 2009 inauguration, and John Lewis, a veteran of the civil rights movement, she traces love of neighbour as a civilizing force. Next up is Sister Simone Campbell, a Catholic nun and a lobbyist with a Zen practice who sees both contemplation and activity shoring up public love. Her rule of thumb: Am I responding in generosity or selfishness, in a way that builds people up or builds me up?

In the final section on hope, Tippett concludes by rejecting her own earnestness. "For there is in me, and in this world of burgeoning wisdom I spend my life watching, a newfound ease in play and pleasure and joy. Hope is not all heavy with meaning. Wisdom is not all apparently purposeful. It wouldn't be progress if it were." Delight in the lightness of wisdom. Amen to that.

When I retired from bookselling in 2011, I hoped that the pursuit of wisdom would be one of my "hobbies." My naïve expectation was that I could compile a small chapbook of quotes that simplified the Big Questions of Life. But every book I read in this search had transitory guideposts, often pointing to other writers. And yet, many of those writers have been Krista's guests. This book introduced me to dozens more.

In a recent podcast with the poet-philosopher David Whyte, Tippett points to the value of questions: "One way I've come to think about the power of questions is that questions elicit answers in their likeness...you call forth something beautiful by asking beautiful questions." So many books, so many podcasts, so little time. Spending some of that time with the insights of Krista Tippett is definitely worthwhile.