

WHAT'S NEW



The quarterly newsletter of The Church of the Holy Saviour

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FROM THE INTERIM PRIEST

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Dear Friends:

Stars and angels ornament our Christmas stories. As a young child, I looked forward to decorating our Christmas tree. My little sister and I would place our handmade paper ornaments alongside the silver baubles, tree lights and glitter. It was not complete until someone placed a final ornament at the very top. This had to be either a star or an angel. Either one would suffice.

Angels are often depicted as stars in the apocalyptic literature of Daniel and Enoch as well as in the Revelation to John. Stars and their movements mirrored on earth the actions of people, especially rulers and kings. Christians identified Jesus with the bright Morning Star (the planet Venus), and as the angel who came at sunrise to seal the faithful before the fulfillment of the reign of Christ. Jesus promised his followers that they too would become morning stars, and Peter encouraged his flock to study the prophecies 'until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts'.



Stars shall shine and angels sing this Christmas Eve. They will have the faces of all in whom the Word has become flesh and blood.

They will be those whose lives proclaim peace on earth and

goodwill to all by a conviction that life is sacred and to be cherished.

The message is consistent, whether it be ascribed to stars or to an angel - "Be not afraid. The Lord God is with you." Receive and share that message, and may its assurance bring you and others peace, now and throughout the days that lie ahead.

Blessings, Neil

FROM THE WARDENS

It is hard to believe how quickly this year has gone by. Holy Saviour has seen a lot of busyness over the past several months, and a renewed sense of community. This is evident in many ways and here are just a few: the enthusiastic welcome our CLAY youth had when they created a thank you service in late October; the increasing number of adults who are coming to the monthly dinner and movie evenings; the volunteers

who helped move furniture, and moved it again (and again) when the walls were painted and the new flooring installed; the younger youth group and the prayer posters they hung around the parish hall; the volunteers who prepared a wonderful Soup Sunday meal and all the people who enjoyed it; other volunteers who prepared and served a meal for the Out of the Cold population; the dedicated work of the

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people on the Selection Committee for a new rector; and volunteers working on a strategic plan for our future. The energy it takes to do all this is awesome! We are grateful for The Venerable Dr. Neil Carver, our interim priest-in-charge, who is assisting us through this time of transition. His experience and wisdom have been invaluable.

We are also grateful for all the work our retiring Property Chair, Dave Barton, has done over the past few years. Our buildings are old and need a lot of TLC. Dave has worked through some of the upgrades as well as removal of hazardous materials, and soothing a cantankerous boiler. At times one could believe this is his full-time job but in fact, it is a volunteer position that he has performed with great dedication.

We are grateful that people have continued their Renew pledges and that we are on track with those donations. And we encourage everyone to **remember Holy Saviour in this season of giving.**

May you enjoy the various services the church is offering during this time of Advent and Christmas. And may you experience peace, joy, and God's blessing in this holiday season.

Jennifer Ross

People's Warden

Richard Blumenauer

Deputy People's Warden

Glenn Brogden

Rector's Warden

Tricia Siemens

Deputy Rector's Warden

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This autumn Holy Saviour developed a discussion group focusing on the Christian Creeds. Archdeacon Dr. Carver joined us for the last of our six gatherings, providing his experience and perspective. Without exaggeration, it required a sense of adventure to wade into the deep waters of Church history and theology!

We examined specific clauses of interest in the Nicene and other historic creeds, the various uses of the Creed, and especially fundamental questions: Is saying the reed a pledge of allegiance? A tribute to our shared history? A personal declaration of Faith? Or, traditionally, the essence of what it means to be "the Church"?

Are we captive to fourth-century vocabulary and concepts? Should we feel free to rewrite Creeds to reflect our contemporary and/or personal beliefs? Many issues; all relevant; few absolute answers.

Rob Lofthouse

YOUTH

Jeff Kischak continued to build on the LIGHT Youth Group momentum this fall, hosting more Harry Potter movie and dinner nights and completing the series in October. The program has been very successful under Jeff's leadership; the youth have really come together as a group and we owe Jeff our sincere appreciation for what he has accomplished. He will be with us through the winter during his last term at Huron College, which we are also thankful for.

After the Harry Potter series we took a bit of a breather with prayer bombing, no less! Tricia Siemens lead the group at the end of November with a new way of experiencing prayer. This is something that members of CLAY learned during their time in P.E.I. this summer. "Prayer bombing" had the youth making posters with tear-off words for various needs (love, grace, forgiveness, etc.). They posted these around the Church and the neighbourhood for all to see and take from. We're sure you noticed.

Jeff, Tricia and Carol Motuz held a Christmas party on Friday, December 2, complete with dinner, a Secret Santa Gift Exchange, and Christmas movie. One of the mothers prepared supper that night. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" won out as the movie selection.

Several of our older Youth will be participating with the new Youth Pastor at All Saints in a Monday evening SALT program just underway. Planning for the 2018 CLAY event is going to ramp up in January.

ALTAR GUILD

That wonderful season of joy and sharing is fast approaching! As is our custom, seasonal flowers will once again adorn our sanctuary. If you would like to give a donation for these flowers, make your cheques payable to "The Church of the Holy Saviour" and

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mark donation for Christmas flowers. Thanks to all those who make it possible to decorate our church with Christmas colour.

Two trees adorn our church, ready for Christmas Day. The one at the back is for any parishioner to bring an ornament from home and add it to the tree. Please make sure you identify it as yours so that at the end of the season, you can take it home again ready for next year. Those that are not taken back will be stored until next year. Thanks for making this Holy Saviour's family tree!



Chris Schmidt

WE'VE GOT MAIL

The following letter was sent in response to the Evensong service on Nov. 27th, a choral service of Advent Lessons and Carols. You can find music from the service on our Facebook page. This clip has been seen by over 300 users!

Dear Archdeacon Carver,

My wife and I attended the choral service this evening at Holy Saviour. You greeted us afterwards at the door, but would have no reason to know us or remember the moment. I want only to remark on how moving the service was. We are fitful church-goers at best, and then almost always during times we have lived in England. But I was a member of Holy Saviour choir for a time ages and ages ago, in the time of the late Father Churchill and the organist and choirmaster Clement Carelse.

I looked you up when we got home and was pleased to discover your sermons. In particular the Remembrance homily, and the brave and forthright one on the recent US election. The sermon is a beautiful and under-appreciated literary form, and you touch in those works on themes of special importance to me.

I hope this note finds its way to you. You need not reply. All best wishes to you and your wife in retirement.

Stan
S.K.Johannesen <http://www.skjohannesen.com/>

MEET THE BONDYS

I spent an evening with Matthew and Jessica in their home in the Huron neighbourhood at the south end of Kitchener. It was a 20-minute drive to get there so I asked them what made them choose Holy Saviour, when there are four Anglican churches that are closer than ours. But first, some background.

Jessica and Matt met on their third day at University of Waterloo as teenagers in 2006. Jessica was taking Business and Therapeutic Recreation, while Matt studied Political Science. Despite co-op work placements that separated them, Jessica recalls the exact spot outside the Physical Activities building where Matt asked her to marry him — it was, in fact, where they'd first met. The wedding was at St Paul's Cathedral in October, 2010, during their first year as masters students.

Jessica grew up in London, attending St. Anne's Anglican Church with her parents and one older sister. Her dad was an early computer coder, developing software for the window and door industry, a career that required commuting to Toronto. Her dad is living with terminal cancer.

Matt grew up in Kingsville, in Essex County, alongside his one younger brother. His mom's family emigrated from Holland in 1952, bringing their Dutch Christian Reformed faith with them. Matt was raised Roman Catholic, the faith of his father's family, whose roots go back generations in the Windsor-Essex area. In high school, Matt served in the military reserve of a regiment that had been part of the Liberation of Holland in WW2. We talked of the longstanding gratitude of the Dutch people towards Canadians. Following graduation, Matt worked for MPP Elizabeth Witmer and has also been president of a federal riding association. He worked at Economical Insurance for three years before returning to UW four years ago. Jessica has spent all her career at UW.

So, what attracted them to Holy Saviour? Although their church attendance dropped off while at university, neither of them questioned their Christian faith. Though raised Roman Catholic, Matt eventually became attracted to the beauty of the Anglican liturgy,

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and together they found a spiritual home at St Bede's Chapel when the Rev. Gerry Mueller was the Renison chaplain. This was in 2009 when we were engaged, and beginning their masters programs. When they moved off-campus, they started 'church shopping.' We looked around at various services but it was the Eight o'clock Eucharist at Holy Saviour with its traditional liturgy that drew us. They chuckled that they are still greeted – always warmly - by some at the



Ten o'clock service who assume they are new to the parish, when they've been coming for six or seven years. This stems from the gap between the two

“congregations”

who rarely see each other [actually three, when you include the Wednesday service]. In fact they continued to feel welcomed at the early service with their baby; Rowan was born in January 2015.

For a young professional couple with a toddler, Matt and Jessica have found time to serve on parish council and the selection committee, respectively. Both work at the University of Waterloo. Matt is the communication advisor to the president and vice-chancellor, and Jessica oversees New Student Transition in the Student Success Office.

We talked about the many newcomers to the parish this fall, including one couple who used the church's Facebook page to contact and request donation envelopes. As millennials, Jessica and Matt were not surprised that social media worked to reach newcomers. We both wonder what works at Holy Saviour, what drew them to our parish and keeps them attending and volunteering. (As a serious home cook, Jessica was excited to be asked to assist with Caring Casseroles!)

Matt identifies with the “fairly orthodox” creedal theology. “At a time when many churches are going in a different direction, Holy Saviour is not ashamed,” Matt said, in a reference to Romans 1:16, “to proclaim

its belief in the redemption and resurrection of Jesus, as well as his call to look after the poor.” He's quick to add that Anglicans are a Big Tent church, wherein people of different viewpoints can discuss, break bread together and support each other. “The church is definitely counter-cultural right now. As a community we're driving against the grain by being selfless and community-oriented in an age of isolation where social media seems to reinforce our assumptions.” And we can no longer count on demographic momentum to fill the pews.

For Jessica, helping others began when she had an autistic friend in school, and continued with work placements in geriatric psychiatry, with brain injured clients, and with inmates at the Grand Valley Institute. She appreciates the mutual support that goes on between parents in the nursery [a fourth congregation?], and the welcome shared with the Fall BBQ, the monthly Celebration Cakes, and the children's focus during the service. As their own parents live out of town, the Bondys are grateful for the built-in grandparents at Holy Saviour.

Matt continued to explore the psychology of belonging. He cited Sebastian Junger's recent book, *Tribes*, about the effects of war on soldiers and the need for a tribal identity, including shared tragedies, in our fragmented society. He views our church as a “little platoon,” (in reference to Edmund Burke's philosophy of community,) going through some challenging times together, including the loss of Peter as rector. An example he and I shared was the camaraderie felt by a group of men as they moved furniture to make room for the new flooring.

Matthew and Jessica are coping with the shared grief around her dying father. Later I thought of the verse from O Come, O Come Emmanuel: “...and death's dark shadows put to flight.” As we wrapped up our conversation, I felt buoyed by their enthusiasm for our parish and its caring support that make the 20-minute drive to Allen Street worth their while.



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PRAYERS FOR HEALING

During our intercessions, a moment of silence is offered when we may name or offer silently from our hearts those who have requested our prayers and who need divine comfort and strength in times of trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

Those seeking the laying on of hands and/or anointing are asked to make such requests known to our clergy prior to their reception of Holy Communion which is itself the sacrament of healing.

Intercessory pew cards may be gathered with the offerings for the attention of our clergy.

Holy Communion with Prayers for Healing

Wednesdays at Ten O'clock

Recommended reading, Wholeness and Healing - A Theological Introduction, available on the Church of England web page:

<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-worship/worship/texts/pastoral/healing/healingintro.aspx>

Parish Health Council

There are recent articles published within the Huron Church News and the Anglican Journal that encourage parishes such as ours to coordinate and support ministries that nourish, sustain and support our physical, emotional and spiritual well-being, and that of our extended community.

I am impressed by those among us who minister care and concern to the sick and to those in critical need. Several of us quietly visit and offer that ministry of support and encouragement. We are grateful for the ministry of Joy Prittie has been delivering the Reserved Sacrament to shut-in members. Despite the assistance of those who drive her, Joy now finds it a challenge to continue and her diocesan permit for this ministry has long expired.

We must acknowledge our current resources and commitments while providing an opportunity to share our various gifts and experience in the ministry of pastoral care. I encourage us to explore the benefits of a Parish Health Council. Consequently, I have invited Elsie Millerd, a parish nurse, to share these with us in

the afternoon of **Thursday, January 19th at 2:30 p.m.** Interested? Come and join us.

- Neil

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.

PASSAGES

Rowe-Sleeman, Guy Francis
November 5, 2016

Fairweather, Ross Hunter
November 17, 2016

DINNER & A MOVIE

This is a series of monthly get-togethers organized by your editor. It's for adults – not to be confused with the youth group's Dinner & a Movie. The third Dinner & a Movie was held on November 19th with 24 in attendance. I was more than delighted with that turnout, especially after having a bad day trying to sell my woodwork at a church bazaar. The movie, chosen by Movies and Meanings website was Monsoon Wedding, so we ordered Indian dishes from a local restaurant. Great food and fellowship.

The next date (the third Saturday of the month) will be at 5:30 **on January 21st**, with **The Fisher King**,



starring Jeff Bridges and Robin Williams. Please email me [Erion.chuck@gmail](mailto:Erion.chuck@gmail.com) if you plan to attend. Cost is just \$5.00.

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SELECTION COMMITTEE

The Selection Committee, appointed to interview and select a candidate to become our new rector, has been meeting every two weeks since October. We have been working on two major tasks. The first was distributing and summarizing the Congregation Questionnaire. We received more than 100 responses. Our second task is to complete a Parish Profile. This document outlines who we are, what we do, and what is important to us. The Profile is based in part on your responses to the questionnaire.

We hope to finalize the two documents and submit them to the Diocese in mid-December. These documents will help the Bishop in proposing possible candidates. Holy Saviour's Selection Committee will then await feedback from the Diocese. We promise to keep the parish informed as this process moves along.

Tricia Siemens, chair

HOLY COMMUNION ETIQUETTE

We are entering the season of more frequent colds and influenza. Common sense and basic hygiene is our best defense. Occasionally for reasons of conscience or illness communicants will not receive the chalice.

I wash my hands and, along with others who administer sacrament, use an anti-microbial hand rinse. This should also be expected of those who receive communion by intinction (dipping the host in a chalice for this purpose). Intinction has been prohibited in the public worship of our neighbouring Diocese of Toronto for over a decade.

While long thought to be a practice which reduces the risk of contagion, intinction may actual increase such risk. Hands (children's and adults') are at least as likely to be a source of contagion as lips. Dipping the wafer into the wine may contaminate the wine with pathogens clinging to fingers, thus spreading contagion to others.

While Anglicans have asserted since the Reformation that receiving both bread and wine is normal practice within our Church, the doctrine of concomitance allows for the practice of receiving the bread only.

Those fearful or anxious at receiving in both kinds, (bread and wine) are encouraged to communicate the bread only. They may choose to receive the cup of salvation by simply touching the base of the chalice when it is offered.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Advent III Sunday December 11th

8:00 am Holy Eucharist & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

Advent IV Sunday December 18th

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (BAS) – Christmas Pageant

Christmas Eve December 24th

4:00 pm Family Eucharist with Carols (BAS), &
9:00 pm – Candlelight Choral Eucharist (BCP)

Christmas Day December 25th

9:00 am - Holy Eucharist with Carols

1st Sunday after Christmas January 1st

9:00 am Holy Communion with Carols

Epiphany January 8th

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP) with Sunday School



Find us on
Facebook

2016 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

In the past, our Christmas envelope has been used by parishioners to extend a thank-offering for the rector's ministry. While Archdeacon Neil Carver, our priest-in-charge, appreciates our good wishes, he has requested the Christmas offering be directed toward a specific outreach project at the discretion of our church wardens. This year it will support our ministries with the Out of the Cold dinners.