

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

HARVEST EDITION September 2017

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## FROM THE RECTOR

Jacob had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. There above it stood the Lord, and he said: "I am the Lord, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying." When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." (Genesis 28:12-13, 16)

This past July I had the amazing honour of being chosen by our Primate to represent the Anglican Church of Canada at an international conference in Windsor Castle on how we speak about God today. This experience lingers as I'm still processing two weeks of incredible discussions, debates, worship, and fellowship. It expanded my understanding of how the Anglican Church around the world is coming to

terms with an increasingly post-Christian society. As well, the friendships that were formed with the 23 participants continue through emails, tweets, and Facebook postings.

At the conference I spoke about a passage from Genesis that has contributed to my understanding of what it is that I'm doing when I talk about God. Jacob wakes from a magnificent dream and says, "Surely the Lord is in this place and I did not know



it." This, I believe, is a helpful analogy because I think as Christians we are called to be sensitive to the world around us. We pick up things that maybe others haven't seen and then we point it out, put words to it, tell stories about it, and make connections until people say, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." In my presentation at the conference, I explained that one of the ways in which I point to the Lord in the world around us is through the Harry Potter series.

I admit that I came late to the Harry Potter series. It was only 2009 when I picked up 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' and started to read it at bed-time to my daughters, and it was then that I began to appreciate how these stories are such a wondrous place to visit. For the next two years, we read all seven books together. We were drawn into this incredible world that J. K. Rowling created; a world that involves fantastical creatures and friendships, loyalty and first love, sacrifice and school yard bullies, hard work, homework, and a wee bit of magic. These novels provided us with a way to explore the moral and ethical choices that children are dealing with every single day while, at the same time giving us some wonderful daddy-daughter moments.

But as we moved from novel to novel, I realized that these stories, like any great work of literature, are layered with meaning and emotion. They explore, at a fundamental level, the universal struggle between good and evil and the redemptive power of love.

Now many have already pointed out the Christian undertones of the narrative. In fact, one commentator, Connie Neal, has said that Harry Potter has been the Christian church's biggest missed opportunity! And while I think she's overstating her point, she's not that far off the mark, because the only other book that has outsold the Harry Potter series is the Bible. And frankly, I don't know of anyone who would line up at midnight at a bookstore, eager to devour the newest translation of the Bible. So when it comes to speaking about God today, I have found the Harry Potter series to be an excellent means by which the foundations of our Christian faith can be taught and discussed in a diverse multi-generational context.

Fortunately my paper was very well received and the Genesis analogy I described became the focal point of our consultation's summative report. After the conference wrapped up, I spent a few more days in London touring historical sites and walking the south bank of the Thames until my feet were as flat as Donald Duck's. I also took the opportunity to visit the British Museum whose collection of ancient Egyptian, Greek, and Assyrian artifacts is absolutely astonishing.

When I arrived back in the parish, we were in the midst of renovations with all of the little surprises associated with any significant construction. At times it felt like we were part of an HGTV production and that Mike Holmes was going to suddenly pop up muttering, "make it right." Thankfully the wardens were keeping close tabs on the work, especially Richard Blumenauer who helped to come up with several solutions which kept the project moving forward and on schedule.

Now as we begin the fall season, our parish has seen an incredible amount of activity over the past few weeks with the return of several ministries and the launch of new ones. Throughout the newsletter you will find announcements about these ministries and I would invite you to join in as you are able. We have many special events to look forward to in the months ahead as we keep busy being family for each other and doing our best to live out our Christian calling in the world around us.

This Sunday, October 1st, is Harvest Thanksgiving, followed by Thanksgiving Sunday on October 8th. As always, your support of Holy Saviour and our many ministries is deeply appreciated. On Sunday October 22nd at 4pm we will have a parish celebration of new ministry with a reception in the parish hall. Then on Sunday, November 5th, we will observe Remembrance Sunday. As well, throughout the autumn and winter, I am excited to be able to present some of my lectures from the New Testament course that I teach at Renison University College.

So as you can see, we have a lot going on right now, and I invite you to join us at Holy Saviour this autumn as we gather to be the church. May God continue to bless you and your family this Thanksgiving season, and may you experience His peace, comfort, and joy.

Yours in Christ, The Rev'd. Victor Kischak Pastor, Priest & Rector

# FROM THE WARDENS

Whew, it has been a very busy summer at Holy Saviour! Tradespeople have been coming and going with upgrades to the electrical system as well as a new heating system for the sanctuary. And....ta dah!....air conditioning!

A big thank you to Richard Blumenauer, Joan Pries, David Barton, Jeanette Bell and all those people who kept things moving, and on time, and put up with inconveniences. As well, a big thank you to the parish for your patience and good humour when the renovations changed how and where we worshipped.

Now we can look forward to the fall and all the activities that start up again. The youth group meets on alternate Fridays, adult Dinner and a Movie meets the 3rd Saturday of each month, book club is the last Wednesday, and we have new and returning teachers for the Sunday School. There are many more events so please check your bulletins on Sundays for other items of interest.

On October 22 at 4 pm we will be celebrating Reverend Victor Kischak's induction as rector of Holy Saviour. Please consider attending this event and let <u>Jeanette Bell</u> know if you are planning on staying for the meal. (519-743-8772)

We are an active and thriving parish. We have much to be thankful for! As well, we do have visitors coming almost every Sunday. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and give a welcoming smile to people you do not know. It may just be an act of grace that is a turning point for that stranger.

Tricia Siemens, Deputy Rector's Warden

## FROM THE TREASURER

How are the finances now that Fall is upon us?

On the Expense side, comparing totals year over year is not helpful since we were paying Peter his full time salary and benefits until the end of June last year while Victor did not start until May this year. Thus our personnel costs for 2017 (always the lion's share of our operating expenses) are well within our budget. Other expense items are mostly in line as well; however, the construction work has uncovered all manner of ugliness with the result that our maintenance costs are substantially over budget.

Income-wise, our basic envelope donations are lagging behind 2016 by almost 10%; and our monthly PAC givings have dropped back to levels last seen three years ago.

Assuming these trends continue to year end, the one-time reduction in personnel costs will probably allow us to avoid a significant deficit; however, the dropping off on the income side is a worrisome trend and does not bode well for our finances going forward.

On the Capital side, there are always surprises when you start a large construction project, especially on an old building; however, the costs of replacing our church heating system, although larger than expected, are not ballooning out of control. Having said that, our RENEW pledges will not be sufficient to pay for the whole project so we will need to dip into our capital savings invested with the Diocese. However, we know that this is money well spent. Not only will the new heating/cooling system be more effective than what we have now, we also expect ongoing maintenance costs to be much less, which is good news for our future finances.

Thanks to all of you for faithfully supporting Holy Saviour. Please continue to honour your RENEW pledges and at least maintain if not increase your regular givings to our operating fund.

Dave Embury, Treasurer

# THANKSGIVING ENVELOPES

If you are receiving this newsletter by mail, please find a Thanksgiving envelope enclosed. If you are receiving this newsletter by e-mail, an envelope will be available on Harvest Sunday and Thanksgiving Sunday at the back of the churh or handed out with the weekly bulletin.

## MEET JEAN JACKSON

Most of us have one or two significant dates by which we measure our lives. For me, it is 1969, the year I started university. For Jean Jackson, it is 2002, the year she gave birth to her second child, Peter, and was diagnosed with an aggressive form of breast cancer. She was a doctor with a rural practice and her husband, Jordan Golubov, a gastroenterologist. Their daughter Julia was just two years old. It was an especially challenging time as another member of Jean's family was undergoing cancer treatments as well.

The prognosis was not good, and Jean underwent extensive treatment over the next several years. Her surgeon would only give her a one-year timeline. "If you can stay well for one year then you can aim for two. If you can stay well for two years then maybe you can aim for five." She recalls clearly the hours spent in prayer, beseeching God that she

could live to raise her two children. With her own medical training, Jean knew that her situation was "just shy of hopeless. It's a miracle that I'm here today," she says with deep gratitude. It is such a joy to help raise our children....I feel deeply blessed."

Jean grew up in Toronto with her parents and three sisters. Her mom, who now lives at Luther Village, worked at home to care for the family. Her dad, who died in 2009, was an aeronautical engineer who helped design the Dash 7 and Dash 8 planes for De Havilland. The family were regulars at St David's Anglican Church (near Lawrence and Weston Rds.).



Jean did her undergrad in Life

Sciences at Queen's University, and completed medical school at McMaster in 1989. Her training continued at Ottawa's Civic Hospital before she began in rural general practice in Nova Scotia, later moving to the Kawarthas. By 1994, she was practicing in Waterloo Region, where she met Jordan at Grand River Hospital. Last year they celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary, a truly special milestone.

Jean and I have chatted over the years at coffee hour and discovered some parallels in our spiritual paths. While I have nothing comparable to her cancer, I've dealt with the deaths of two brothers and a brother-in-law. We both have found help in coping with such crises from our faith. And we both have benefited from the help of spiritual directors, Margaret Nally for her, and the Rev. Julia Gill for me. Jean has been taking a course towards training in spiritual direction through a program called Ontario Jubilee (ontariojubilee.ca). She is also starting to help out with the youth group at Holy Saviour this year. "I look forward to contributing more at church....a place of such meaning to me."

I sensed that Jean felt very much in control of her life until that day in 2002 when everything changed so dramatically. Her faith was confronted but ultimately strengthened and she lives in deep gratitude for each day, looking carefully to discern what God is calling her to do next.

## THE NEW HEATING SYSTEM

The journey, which started in June at a Special Vestry to approve a new heating system, resembled a profile in geriatric medical care as worked progressed over the summer. Many of us are all too familiar with the progression of ailments and failing body components as we get older. But none of us are as old as our church building.

It all started when we discovered corroded and leaking pipes in the music room in January. Based on testing and the Building Condition Report (BCR) we were reasonably assured of no more asbestos – well, we were wrong. But let's not get ahead of ourselves.



In mid-August, the pews were moved and the wood panelling removed to get at the asbestos behind the radiators. We found some old stencilling there as well.

The basement ceiling was removed and we even found a good luck omen (see photo.) But by then we had also exposed the inside of

our aging patient.



Arterial sclerosis, a.k.a. clogged pipes and radiators nearing the point of failure... seizure! (This confirmed the wisdom of moving forward with a forced air

system.) And more asbestos appeared as we removed the basement walls, in the wrapping of pipes to the radiators. Of course our asbestos remediation company was fully booked in the middle of the summer so our Property Manager had to scramble to find another hazardous materials firm.

While applying for a building permit in July, the city wanted an architectural firm to certify the floor structure met fire code standards. Which lead to the need for a double drywall layer on the basement ceiling and several other unexpected items. When the drywall people and the heating system staff met to figure out how to build duct work with drywall above it, we had to a completely re-work the approach to that design. And then another attempt to communicate with the city bureaucracy...

Back to our aging patient. Tearing out the basement walls also exposed moisture and dirt but fortunately not mould. Heavy rain in the summer highlighted some "bladder leakage" with a sump pit that was overflowing. This mandated excavation of the rear wall (behind the altar) to install new weeping tile and a waterproof membrane, as well as a new sump pump.

The electricians diagnosed several "neurological problems," most of which required surgery in order to pass electrical code. A light bulb that kept blowing pinpointed conduit that had become detached, frayed wire wrapping, and faulty connections that caused "minor strokes." Wiring in the

basement joists resembled snake nests, with some of the unused wiring turning out to be live. There was more to the story, but suffice to say that we are close to the point where the provincial inspector will issue a good health permit to our aging patient.

Meanwhile, the heating company when cutting holes in the floor for vents noticed the pew spacing did not match the joist spacing below. This triggered a major conference with all the vendors and the engineer; a solution was mapped out with a return air grate in the altar area. A few more glitches were in store to satisfy our heritage woodworking people doing the panelling. The return air was supposed to come 10" out from the wall, but a structural joist in the floor added another 3". The 10" became 16" in order to match the panelling on the back wall. But the good news is that the humidifier on the east wall is gone so more than a foot of space was freed up over there. Ductwork inside the church should be complete by the end of September and the entire system should be ready and functional for Thanksgiving weekend.

Our thanks go out to Joan Pries of CITYCORP who was at the church almost full-time for five weeks, deferring her summer vacation. Lots of bumps and pot-holes in the road were encountered, but Joan successfully managed the chaos to keep us on schedule. The sanctuary was re-opened as projected for worship on September 17<sup>th</sup>, an extremely warm day. Too bad the AC was not ready.

Richard Blumenauer

# PARTNERSHIP THROUGH SYMBOLS

Holy Saviour, founded in 1898, has witnessed the creation of a number of organizations, institutions, and places over the past 119 years. It has also been directly involved with the creation of some of these institutions.

In 1959, Holy Saviour parishioners were heavily involved in founding a small Anglican college in Waterloo, at the then newly minted University of Waterloo: Renison College (now Renison University College). The founding parish of the College had a leading role in the fundraising, development, and establishment of this place of learning, including its first principal, Dr. Wyn Rees, who was a member of Holy Saviour, and the parish's Rector, The Ven. Harvey Southcott, who was one of the ten Founders of Renison.

In recognition of this fact, when Holy Saviour was granted a coat of arms by the Crown in 2001, through the Canadian Heraldic Authority, one of the symbols used in the *chief* (the top section of the shield) was a moose. The mascot of Renison University College, the moose represents the parish's role in creating Renison and its ongoing relationship with the local Anglican college.

Reciprocally, in 2014, when Renison University College was granted *supporters* (the animals or figures that hold up a coat of arms) for its coat of arms, each animal was portrayed wearing the wagon wheel and communion wafer inscribed with the 'divine monogram' of IHS (the first three letters of Jesus in Greek), which is found at the centre of Holy Saviour's shield. This was to honour and recognize Holy Saviour as the founding parish of Renison University College and its ongoing relationship with the college. Like heraldry, Christianity has a long history of using symbols to convey important

relationships, concepts, or events. We have a plethora of such symbols surrounding us each time we attend a service at Holy Saviour. It's wonderful to see our two institutions of the Waterloo community tipping their hat to each other, to the roles we have played and continue to play in each other's stories, in our most elevated symbols.

The following is the official description of the two coats of arms.

#### **HOLY SAVIOUR**

Arms: The red cross on white is the traditional emblem of the Anglican Communion. The wheel is a local reference to the Conestoga wagon, which brought the first settlers into Waterloo. Theologically, it represents the liturgical year, as well as wholeness and community. Where the wheel is coloured gold, takes the shape of a cross

potent, the shape of the altar cross of the parish. The fleurs-de-lis represent the Trinitarian faith of the members of the parish reaching out into the community. They are also to be found painted on the ceiling of the sanctuary of the church. The disc with the Divine monogram (the name of Jesus in Greek) represents the centrality of the Eucharist in the community's worship. The chief incorporates design elements reflecting the descent and outreach of the parish. The eagle's head is from the arms of the parish of St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener, Holy Saviour's mother parish; the celestial crown, an emblem for All Saints, reflects Holy Saviour's founding of All Saints Parish in north Waterloo; and the moose head is a reference to Renison College in the University of Waterloo. The motto means "O sing unto the Lord". (Ps. 149:1).

**RENISON UNIVERSITY COLLEGE Arms:** These are the arms of Archbishop Robert John Renison, granted in 1935 by Ulster King of Arms, differenced by the addition of a green border charged with maple leaves and buckles. The buckles are from the arms of Canon Archibald Howard



Skirving, the Chairman of the Board of Governors at the time of the grant (1978).

**Crest:** The moose's head comes from the arms of Archbishop Renison. The cross on the neck is an allusion to the arms of Ian L. Campbell, the Principal at the time of the grant.

**Supporters:** The red lion is taken from the arms of the University of Waterloo, and thus symbolizes Renison's affiliation with the university. The red lion is also found in the arms of Bishop D. Ralph Spence, Chancellor

of the College at the time of the grant. The beaver is taken from the arms of the Anglican Diocese of Huron, the Bishop of which is the Visitor to the College. The wagon wheel is taken from the arms of the Church of the Holy Saviour, the founding parish of the college. The grassy green mount represents Renison's verdant campus. The

trilliums recall the college's location in Ontario and the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, because they are the provincial flower and are found in the Region's arms. The maple keys symbolize the founders of the college and their vision that those being educated will grow and develop for the benefit of their communities. (2014)

**Motto:** Meaning "But under one sky", this Latin phrase was the motto of Archbishop Renison, who favoured it in the form "One sky over all".

Brendon Bedford,

an admitted history and heraldry nerd, works in External Relation and Internal Communications at Renison University College. He is also pursuing a Masters of Divinity degree in his spare(?) time.

#### 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.

#### WE PRAY FOR

#### **OUR SHUT INS**

Dorothy Gilbert, Shirley McHugh, Bernice Hodgson, Esther Hodgson, John Ford, Veronika Embree, Margaret Goodwin, Arleighn Cook, Pat Barry, Barbara Stendahl, Ken Burn, Bill Sutherland, Sheila MacDonald WE REMEMBER our brothers & sisters departed this life, who now share in our Lord's eternal life:

#### Grace Weinstein

## A LEGACY IN STAINED GLASS

Bill Weinstein (1932-2013) left a lasting legacy at our church: the stained glass windows found in the narthex and in the Fireside Room. My favourite is the one he did of St Francis found on the back of the church near the ramp. Bill and Grace were long-term members of Holy Saviour. Grace died in July at age 83.

I asked Pat Fryer to share some of her memories of this

couple. She and her late husband Ken became close friends, along with Dick and Nonie Dennison, and Helen and Eldon Attridge (all deceased). The Rev. Jack Peck, rector and later bishop, and his wife were also part of this group. They shared meals and many happy times around the church. They also helped with the evangelical crusades in KW in the 80s and 90s.



Bill was a hair dresser and Grace assisted him in his salon.

They had one daughter, Pennie, and an adopted daughter Rebekah. They moved to Kemble, near Own Sound, to be closer to Pennie's family. Their small-town grocery store could not compete with the bigger chains so they moved back to Waterloo. Bill bought and completely renovated a house on Menno St, where they rented out the basement and main floor and lived on the second floor. "Gracie" assisted in the renovations.

Bill's hobbies included ceramics and stained glass. He proposed to the dinner couples that he design and install memorial windows in the Fireside Room. Pat notes that each of her grandchildren has been photographed in front of their family window after their baptism. More of Bill's artful glass can be found in the entrance to the church. Ask Pat for more of her memories of Bill and Gracie.

## **DINNER & A MOVIE**

Last Saturday, Sept 23, marked the second year for our monthly Dinner & a Movie Nights. We gather at 5:30 for a simple meal and then watch a movie together, followed by a short discussion. Please come to find a warm welcome to this time of friends, food and film ay Holy Saviour.

The next movie (usually on the third Saturday of the month) will be on Octber 21st. We'll watch a French movie called Summer Hours. RSVP to <a href="mailto:erion.chuck@gmail.com">erion.chuck@gmail.com</a> by Oct 18.

## **COMING EVENTS**

- Parish BBQ Sunday October 1st after the 10-:00 am service. Gluten free and vegetarian option available.
- Thanksgiving Sunday Oct. 8th at 10 am
- Bishop's Friends Dinner—at the Westmount Golf & Country Club, on Tuesday October 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm - Reception and 6:30 pm - Dinner.
   Information packages are available on the bulletin board in the parish hall.
- Induction Service Sunday Oct 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4 pm. Our new rector will be inducted, dinner to follow. If you plan to attend the dinner, please RSVP to Jeanette by Oct 17<sup>th</sup>.

