

WHAT'S NEW



The quarterly newsletter of The Church of the Holy Saviour

ADVENT EDITION December 2018

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we remember the dreams we used to have and dreams that we long ago gave up on.

And often our hearts build up layers of resistance, and we close ourselves down because we avoid being hurt or having our hopes crushed. But when we close ourselves down like that, we lose the ability to be surprised, to be filled with wonder and awe and anticipation, and to be genuinely grateful.

And so Advent is a season where we open ourselves up to God, and where we ask God to heal those places where our hearts have been broken; where we've been beaten up and knocked around, and have become cynical or bitter or frustrated, or maybe have even flirted with despair.

Advent is a season when we practice the discipline of anticipation. It's when we become acutely aware that there still are new things to discover in this world that can awaken our souls. Advent is the season when we embark on our own spiritual pilgrimages. You can read about Sue Lafreniere's 600-km Camino pilgrimage in this newsletter.

Advent is the season in which we live with an expectation that Jesus is going to come. We don't know how, but we take this moment before the moment to invite him into areas of our life that are deeply personal, areas that aren't fun to explore, areas in which we grieve, and we ask him to heal us, because we can't do it on our own.

FROM THE RECTOR

Christmas 2018: Joy to the World!

Here at Holy Saviour, we just marked the beginning of the season of Advent with an amazing service of lessons and carols. Now Advent is my favourite time of year, when my thoughts turn towards Christmas and all the preparations I want to do and need to do. Sure, there is the usual home baking and setting up the Christmas tree and decorations. But more importantly, Advent is also when we the church take these four weeks as a time of anticipation and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity. The theologian Frederick Buechner put it this way: "The extraordinary thing that is about to happen, is matched only by the extraordinary moment just before it happens." This extraordinary moment we call Advent. It is where we live in the moment before the moment.

However, this time of year can be very difficult for some people. It can be a time when we deeply grieve the loss of loved ones. It can be a time when we recall family fights or relationships that have dissolved. Or it can be a time when



Edward Hays writes that Advent is a season in which we should, "take time, slow down, be still, and be awake to the divine mystery that looks so common and so ordinary, and yet is so wondrously present." And yet for so many of us, Advent is the busiest, craziest, most stressful time of year. And if we can get through it without ending up on the six o'clock news, we are oddly pleased.

And so I invite you on behalf of our church family to join us at Holy Saviour throughout this season of Advent and Christmas, to take the time you need to slow down, heal, and rediscover the hope, peace, joy and love that we celebrate during this time.

In addition to our Sunday and Wednesday services, we will also be holding candlelight Advent Vespers every Friday

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from 4pm - 4:45pm. This liturgy is a beautiful way to create some additional space for prayer, reflection, and contemplation. We are also offering a Christian education event titled "Reading the Psalms" for the next three Tuesday evenings starting December 4th at 7pm.

Next Sunday, December 9th, we will be celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas. Then on Sunday, December 16th, we will all gather together in our parish hall for a very special Christmas pageant and Eucharist service. The following Sunday, December 23rd, we will be offering a traditional Nine Lessons and Carols service at 10am which will feature our amazing choirs.

Then on Monday, December 24th, our Christmas Eve liturgies begin at 4 pm with a Family Eucharist, followed by our more traditional service at 10:30 pm. On Christmas Day, we will also be offering a Eucharist at 10 am.

It is my prayer that you will experience all of God's peace, presence and joy that your church can provide during the Christmas season, and that you will be moved and inspired by our worship. I look forward to seeing you and I wish you and your family a blessed and merry Christmas.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev. Victor Kischak
Pastor, Priest & Rector

FROM THE WARDENS

It's the start of Advent here at Church of the Holy Saviour and everyone is busy preparing for the wide variety of programming and liturgical events over the next month. It's an exciting time for the church when we can expect many visitors to our parish. We're very pleased to share all the events and work happening around our church over the fall season.

The fall has meant a return to regular Sunday school lessons on Sunday morning. Our Sunday school and nursery remain busy places on Sunday mornings. The children and youth will be working with other members of the parish to put on a Christmas pageant on December 16th. It remains a highlight of the Advent season for many of us. Please see the schedule of services for December for the dates of other special Advent and Christmas events and services.

Now in its third year, our monthly **Dinner & a Movie** night continues, with typically more than 20 attendees on Saturday nights in the Parish Hall. This fall we watched films on the theme of "Fairy Tales," in the context of stories that help us to make meaning, including *The Red Shoes*, *The Princess Bride*, and *Pan's Labyrinth*. Our December film will be the Christmas classic, *It's a Wonderful Life*, on **December 8th**. Dinner starts at 5:30 pm, followed by a screening of the film and a discussion led by deputy warden (and film scholar) Anders Bergstrom. Chuck Erion, with a

team of volunteers, continues to coordinate the wonderful meals. If you're interested in helping, please see Chuck.

Twenty people attended the Out of the Cold **community dinner** on November 25, hosted in the Parish Hall. A big thank you to the volunteers who cooked, served, and cleaned up afterwards. This is the third year Holy Saviour



has hosted a dinner on the last Sunday in November, and it has always been well received by the diners.

On the **property** front, we continue to work to maintain the historic elements of our building and improve the functionality and safety of the property on the whole. A new back door to the parish hall, with an electronic door opener improving our accessibility, was installed this fall. We managed to get it installed and painted just before the cold weather hit. Additionally, the exit lane at the rear of the parking lot was repaved and repaired. Unfortunately, the early cold weather meant we were unable to get the parking lines and symbols painted in time. The same goes for a permanent solution for the lighting in the churchyard, though we plan to once again have lights illuminating the church for the Advent and winter season.

Last spring's information sessions on the **architectural study** culminated in a survey of the participants. In summary, there was strong interest in creating a new expanded entrance from the parking lot, removing the tower (which is deteriorating), and filling in the courtyard area with a new parish hall and glass frontage on Allen St. In June a revised layout and broad, estimated budget were presented by Marklevitz Architects. The estimate pointed to a cost of around \$2 million. Following this, a group was commissioned at the June Parish Council meeting to conduct a financial assessment to determine what the parish can afford and how to raise the money needed. The members of this financial assessment group (Greg Clark, Gord Rice, Steve Moore, and Mike Casey) along with Bill Green, David Embury and warden Richard Blumenauer, plan to present their assessment at the December Council meeting, along with a road map for next steps, including a detailed report to vestry in January.

The wardens would like to remind everyone that this is the end of the third year of our five year **RENEW fundraising campaign**. Please review your financial commitment pledge and ensure you are meeting your pledge going into the New Year. Additionally, starting with this issue of "What's New,"

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we are introducing a series on church related giving and financial issues, entitled "Stewardship and You." The first subject this issue is on donation via stock transfer, something that may translate into potentially large tax benefits for you if you are in position to do so.

In October our long-time **sexton** (the traditional title for the individual who cares for a church property and churchyard) Peter Capindale announced his resignation from the position. We would like to extend our thanks to Peter for his years of service to the congregation. In the meantime, we have reached out to Sunset Cleaners to look after the cleaning and maintenance of our property. This company specializes in church cleaning and is able to provide us with a broad range of services. We will continue to evaluate our needs in this area.

Thank you again to everyone and have a wonderful Advent and Christmas season!

Richard Blumenauer, *People's Warden*
Tricia Siemens, *Rector's Warden*
Anders Bergstrom, *Deputy People's Warden*
Matt Bondy, *Deputy Rector's Warden*

OUTREACH

Soup Sisters/Broth Brothers Event

On October 30, ten parishioners joined with members of the Wellington Home Economics Association at Relish Studio in Kitchener to make soup under the direction of in-house staff. Five soups were prepared that night for next day delivery to Anselma House where women and children seek shelter from violent and abusive situations. The value of this outreach is summed up by one of the Soup Sister Coordinators: "Every time a group comes together and makes soup, the women and children at the shelter not only become better nourished but are also nurtured by members of their own community."

The evening was marked by caring, supportive enthusiasm as seen through lively conversations and spontaneous friendship. Our volunteers enjoyed a simple meal and wine for their work in preparing 80 litres of soup. There was an opportunity for parishioners who attend different services at Holy Saviour to meet each other. The venue was reviewed as 'fantastic.' Soup Sisters reports that since its launch in Calgary in 2009 more than 1.5 million servings of soup have been delivered and chapters now exist in 25 cities across Canada and the U.S. Many thanks to all those who were able to participate.

Jennifer Ross



MEET ROBERT KRUSE

I noticed this new member of the senior choir earlier this fall, and, nudged by Father Victor, decided to interview him. In preparation, I checked his LinkedIn profile as a retired math professor. It includes the following: "My major continuing commitment has been The Jubilee Charitable Trust, a registered Charity in Canada, which I founded in 1994 with royalties from sales of textbooks I authored, and which I continue to support from these and other resources. The primary focus of the Jubilee Trust has been to support economic development, education, emergency care, and community development, all within a Christian context in sub-Saharan Africa, especially in the part of western Kenya described by the (former) boundaries denoting Nyanza province." Wow!

We met in his penthouse apartment on Ellen St. next to The Centre in the Square. I admired an antique piano which had come via his grandparents, who were American missionaries in China. His mother was born there. Robert



was born in 1941, and raised in Upland, California, where his mother taught in an Episcopalian private school. He went to a Brethren in Christ high school and then Pomona College for his undergrad, and to Caltech, completing his PhD in Mathematics in 1964, and entering a research position.

Robert has never married.

He told me, "I was visiting Chicago in 1968 just before the riots at the Democratic Convention, and I realized I would never again be at home in the U.S." He then taught in New Zealand for a couple years but it was too far away for research connections. There followed a few years teaching at Emory University in Atlanta, before he settled at St Mary's University in Halifax for 22 years (1976-1998). Canada combined many good aspects of New Zealand life with better resources and professional connections. His commitment to Canada has only grown through the years. Robert's spiritual journey is multi-faceted: from Episcopalian to the United Church to Mennonite Brethren evangelical in Halifax. He moved to Kitchener after retiring in 1998. At Waterloo North Mennonite he was active in a Matins service, but slowly transitioned to St John the Evangelist before finding Holy Saviour. He laughed when Father Victor, who also began as a Mennonite convert, described himself as a "Manglican." He is delighted to be singing in the Senior Choir under Jeff Enns' leadership and knows some of Jeff's musical, and Mennonite, relatives.

It was in 1990 at age 49 that Robert's life took a new course. He had written textbooks in computer science, and some years the burgeoning royalties exceeded his professor salary! In his non-academic life, he had been studying theology and

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was struggling with Jesus' declaration in Luke that his followers could not serve both God and money. What to do with his extra income? It was the beginning of the AIDS crisis in sub-Saharan Africa and he chose to help. "On returning from a sabbatical in New Zealand, I decided to donate my next year's salary through my small Mennonite Brethren church and call it the Jubilee Fund." The name was based on Leviticus and Isaiah, 'in the year of the Lord's favour'. "I enjoyed that first year so much that I set it up more formally, also for tax reasons. Ten years later I realized that, at age 49, 1990-91 had been my personal jubilee year." Jubilee Charitable Trust was registered as a charity in March 1994. Its efforts over almost 30 years have taken various directions but all focused on relief of poverty in developing countries, particularly Kenya.



Our discussion shifted to the challenges of assisting people in developing countries. Robert learned early that Western whites were perceived as wealthy

targets, and that corruption was to be found in both church and government officials. He began supporting an orphanage sponsored by a large indigenous Kenyan church, visiting it most years, and learning a great deal about Kenya. In 2007 he met a small rural group, who were determined to help their many neighbours who were victims of AIDS, both those dying and the many widows and orphans left behind. With no money at all, they committed to be faithful and honest in everything. They were in the Kenya Mennonite Church and called their group KEDHAP, which stood for "Kisumu East Diocese HIV-AIDS Project." Over the next several years, as ARV drugs became available and the AIDS epidemic lessened (although the area is still almost 50% HIV positive), KEDHAP's mandate broadened to include more development and educational work, until it now reaches over 5,000 people with its activities. With its broader mandate, KEDHAP registered independently and changed the meaning of its acronym to "Kenya Economic Development Human Advancement Project." For several years, MCC provided oversight of KEDHAP for Jubilee Trust, which continued as the funding agency. Robert asserts, "Now the time has come for better fundraising opportunities and for others to be involved." KEDHAP is registering with DevXchange.org, an international development organization based in Barrie, which connects Canadians with projects in developing countries, mostly in Sub-Saharan Africa. Jubilee Trust will

continue its support while trying to broaden the support base.

At age 77, Robert Kruse is looking for new trustees to carry on the work of Jubilee Charitable Trust. He had lymphoma in 2017, underwent chemotherapy, and was confined to home for several months with a damaged immune system. Now he is in remission and back in circulation. He left the Menno Singers during his illness but is glad to be singing in Holy Saviour's choir. He continues to study church history and theology, and has almost a thousand related books in his library.

I left our conversation in awe of a man who found a way to use his money to make a difference in the survivors of AIDS in western Kenya. As I write this it is World AIDS Day (Dec.1), and I recall Victor's sermon of Nov. 24th, about who is my neighbour and the AIDS epidemic. I am grateful for Robert Kruse's example, **a man who puts his money where his faith is.**

To enquire about KEDHAP or Jubilee Trust, contact Robert Kruse at 519-342-4140 or kruse@rogers.com. KEDHAP will soon be listed for donations at devXchange.org.

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 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

CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

Enclosed with this newsletter is a special Christmas offering envelope. They are also available in the pews and at the back of the Church. We hope during this time of year that you would consider giving a special donation to the ministry of your parish church.

MARATHON BRIDGE CLUB

The objective of our group is to provide an opportunity for each partnership pair to host or be the guests for an enjoyable evening (or afternoon) once a month playing one

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of the other pairs. I make up a schedule for who is to play whom in any given month; however, that is more of a guideline as the pairs decide between themselves what date and time are mutually convenient.

In a session the pairs play 20 hands of rubber bridge – not too long and not too short and definitely easy going. I tabulate the scores as the season progresses; and, if anyone asks, I will tell them where they are in the standings - but not who is doing better or worse. There are no prizes or awards or published standings – it's just for fun. The hosts may provide refreshments before, during and/or after the bridge playing; however, that is not mandatory.

Our group has been socializing over our bridge tables since before 2000. Since not everyone playing is a parishioner at Holy Saviour, we also consider this to be an outreach opportunity. Are you looking for a place to play this great game in a convivial atmosphere? We are not great players so there is never any pressure and we're great people to practice with if you are inexperienced. If you are interested in joining us, please contact

Dave Embury – emburyd@hotmail.com or 519.885.5545.

STEWARDSHIP AND YOU

Donating publicly traded stocks is a tax-smart way to support the Church of the Holy Saviour. You will receive a charitable tax receipt for the fair market value of the donated security and you will not pay tax on any capital gain.

As an example, consider a person in a 40% tax bracket who donates shares with a cost of \$10,000 and a current market value of \$40,000. The capital gain is \$30,000 and the taxable capital gain is \$15,000. By donating directly, this individual saves the tax of 40% of \$15,000, which is \$6,000, while also receiving a charitable tax receipt for \$40,000.

While there are a few steps involved in a share transfer, recent experience is that the steps are straightforward and happen quickly, as follows.

To proceed with this, you must first obtain a Diocese of Huron Share Transfer Form from Jeanette Bell. Let your broker know your plans ahead of time. Then complete the form, showing the name of the security and the number of shares to be transferred. The form should then be faxed to your broker and to the Diocese office. The shares will then be transferred from your broker to the Diocese brokerage account. The Diocese will credit the amount to our church and you may inform Jeanette as to which church fund you would like it credited. You will receive a tax receipt from the Diocese based on the closing price of the securities on the date the shares are received in the Diocese account.

Dave Embury and the Wardens

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, Sheila Macdonald

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

Victor Martens

CANDLELIGHT VESPERS



Advent is a mystical period that recognizes the approach of the winter solstice. Daylight decreases as we approach December 21st, the shortest day and longest night of the year. From that day onward, daylight lengthens and Christians recognize and celebrate light's victory over darkness with the birth of Christ. However, the weeks leading up to Christmas can overwhelm some with its anticipation and too often unrealistic expectations. It can especially challenge those recently bereaved or who have cause to be distressed or anxious for the future.

Archdeacon Carver is a founding member and a former regional director for the Canadian Christian Meditation Community. He will preside at this brief liturgy for prayer, reflection and contemplation as we approach our Christmas season. All are welcome. Fridays December 7th, 14th and 21st from 4:00 to 4:45 p.m.

SUE LAFRENIERE ON THE CAMINO

Sue Lafreniere was on the third day of her pilgrimage along the [Camino de Santiago](#)—also known as the Camino Way or the Way of St. James—in Spain when she received a text from her husband. Her brother Larry was in the hospital. He had suffered another heart attack.

A retired school assistant, member of Holy Saviour Anglican Church in Waterloo, Ont., and grandmother of eight, Lafreniere had been inspired to walk the Camino after watching the 2010 film *The Way*. She had prepared for the pilgrimage by joining a local Camino group, walking and biking 20 km per day for 2 years, and praying fervently. “My goal,” she recalled, “was to return stronger ... physically, mentally, and spiritually.”

News of her brother's heart attack, however, was something for which Lafreniere could never have prepared. Walking in silence, she prayed for Larry and his family. She asked God

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for more time with him—if his body was strong enough, and expressed her eternal gratitude even if this was not possible. “I asked God to share [Larry’s] spirit with me throughout my walk as he was an avid walker himself,” she recalled. “And I knew in my heart that he would not want me to quit.”

Sue ends her pilgrimage at Mile Zero, Finisterre, Spain



Later that morning, she got a call from her husband

informing her that her brother had died. Lafreniere was with a fellow pilgrim from Ireland and two women from Australia when she received the news. Her new companions were a great source of comfort during this time that she described as “my toughest ten-hour day of the whole journey”.

“Pilgrims walk for many reasons and I added an additional one to mine . . . my brother Larry,” Lafreniere said. “There were many mystical things that happened to me prior to and following his death and I truly felt his spirit with me.”

The 800-km walk along the Camino Way lasted for 40 days—from Aug. 12 until Sept. 25. During the course of her pilgrimage, Lafreniere met more fellow travellers and continuously pushed her physical limits. She walked an average of 20-25 km per day, through France and northern Spain. She also climbed the mountains of the Pyrenees—an arduous physical journey that served as the underpinning for a deeper spiritual journey.

“For me, it wasn’t about the 800 km,” Lafreniere said. “For me, it was getting up every day and being alone with God, and my prayers, and my solitude.”

This article appeared in the national church’s News from General Synod newsletter on Nov 14th, by Matt Gardner (used with permission).

MUSIC – A RICH TRADITION

Choral Evensong has a long history at Holy Saviour but a new page is being written under the musical direction of Jeff Enns, our new organist. Attendance at the October 21st and Nov 18th services exceeded 50 (including the choir.) And the Lessons and Carols service on Dec 2nd drew 84!

You can hear some of the anthems from the last two services on our Facebook page. Jeff, as mentioned in the fall issue of What’s New, is a very busy composer as well as conductor. In fact, one anthem for the Lessons & Carol



service, Prepare Ye the Way of the Lord, was composed just the previous Wednesday! Jeff’s choral oeuvre will be featured in a concert on May 25th at Calvin Presbyterian Church in Toronto. “The Oriana Women’s Choir features the work of Canadian composer, Jeff Enns, including several premieres as well as pieces that inspired him to write for women’s voices.”

Mark your new calendar now for the Choral Evensongs, always the third Sunday of the month.

DECEMBER SERVICES

Dec 9 - Advent II

HE 8:00 am

10: 00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)

Dec 16 – Advent III

HE 8:00 am

10: 00 am Christmas Pageant (BAS)

Dec 23 - Advent IV

HE 8:00 am

10: 00 am Holy Eucharist – Nine Lessons and Carols

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve

4:00 pm FAMILY EUCHARIST

10:30 pm CANDLELIGHT CHORAL EUCHARIST

Dec 25 - Christmas Day

HE (BCP) at 10:00 am

Dec 30 - 1st after Christmas

HE 8:00 am

10:00 am Holy Eucharist (BCP)



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