



WHAT'S NEW

The quarterly newsletter of Waterloo's Anglican Church of the Holy Saviour. SUMMER EDITION 2019

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Next year we will celebrate the 50th annual Earth Day. All around the world there will be events, rallies, and demonstrations to educate, inspire, and raise awareness about critical environmental issues and the ways in which we can all help.

Now many of you know that I love technology, and that my iPhone is very dear to my heart. Technology has been an incredible tool in documenting and educating people in environmental issues. But sometimes as great a tool as it is, our technology can have a dark side that actually separates us from some very key things in our environment.

For example, here is an aerial photo of a suburb in Markham:



For many people, when we leave our air conditioned house this summer, we enter an attached garage, get into our car, windows up, air conditioning on, garage door up, drive to a parking garage, get out, walk into an office building where the windows are sealed because it's an AC environment and we need to wear a sweater even though it's 30 degrees outside. Then at the end of the day, we leave the office building, back into the car, windows up, AC on, drive back home, garage door up, in, garage door down, walk back into our AC home, and then we say things like, "God just seems so far away..."

Well it's hard to "Consider the lilies of the field," (Matthew 6:28) or "Look at the birds of the air," (Matthew 6:26) when you're driving past them at 80 km an hour. But as Paul's letter to the Romans indicates, creation reveals to us the glory of God. But if you think about it, when was the last time you spent an hour simply looking up at the stars? Or when was the last time you

FROM THE RECTOR

"Ever since the creation of the world God's eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things He has created. So they are without excuse." (Romans 1:20)

Back in 2003, Life Magazine published a large coffee table book titled, "100 Photographs that Changed the World." And their number one photo was this one:



It's called Earthrise, and it was taken on Christmas Eve, 1968 by astronaut Bill Anders onboard Apollo 8 as they came around for their fourth orbit of the Moon. This photo stunned the

world. It was the first time we had seen the earth from this vantage point, as a smallish marbled globe, holding all that we have ever known.

This one photo was credited with changing how we understood the earth, and inspiring the first Earth Day in 1970. Later, when reflecting on this photo, Bill Anders said, "We came all this way to explore the moon, and the most important thing is that we discovered the Earth."

walked outside for more than twenty minutes? Or when was the last time you came across something in nature, and had the time to actually stand there and observe it. So I think it's no wonder we have a culture that's deeply lost and wondering if there's actually a god.

Jesus says things like, "Give us today our daily bread," (Matthew 6:11) and we don't even know where our daily bread comes from. We live in these worlds where we are isolated, insulated, and we can buy cucumbers in February when there is a snow storm outside, and we run the air we breathe through machines, and then talk about how God seems distant.

And yet, central to the life of a Christian has been this awareness that God is the source of all things, and so we need to be as connected as possible to this source. We need to care for His creation. I believe this is a sacred trust, and it is a sanctity of life issue. For in a world where our children have shorter life spans than we do because of our lack of judgment in managing this unbelievable technology that we have at our fingertips, we can no longer afford to be isolated from our environment.

I believe we need to be able to stand up and say the unrestricted exploitation and destruction of our environment is not acceptable. Because God's desire from the very beginning is that we would live in proper relationship with all of creation.



I know taking care of the environment seems like a big inconvenience and we don't like being inconvenienced. It costs us something to take care of creation with integrity. It makes us change our behaviours so that we're actually thinking about things other than ourselves, and that doesn't come easily for us. But

doesn't that sound exactly like

discipleship? And wouldn't it be beautiful if Christians, instead of always being behind and reacting to others... wouldn't it be beautiful if we were the ones out in front leading the way. Because we were the ones who understood how deeply God cares for the earth and how central it is for us to love and live in harmony with creation and the creator. So it is my hope this summer that you take the time to enjoy the gift of God's creation, and that by doing so, you will be blessed and inspired by the glory of God.

Yours in Christ,

The Rev'd Victor Kischak
Pastor, Priest, & Rector

WARDENS REPORT

As the school year winds down and summer approaches, it's worth looking back on the last few months of events and work that have occurred at Church of the Holy Saviour since Vestry in February.

We've had a successful Sunday School semester under the direction of Erica Schmidt- Weller; we are very thankful and appreciative of her strong leadership in this important area of parish life. We are actively seeking volunteers to serve as Sunday School teachers this fall for the Grade 3/4 class. Please let Erica know if you are interested.

For older youth in our parish, the Youth Group has continued on with Friday evening events. Most recently, they helped Dave Barton with the spring plantings at the front of the church. We want to extend a public thanks to



Janine Noorloos for her work over the past two years with the group. She will be heading into her fourth-year at Laurier this fall, and we are currently seeking and recruiting for a new Youth Leader to take over the role this fall. Let one of the wardens or Victor know if you have anyone you'd like to

suggest or direct them our way.

The church Year-End Picnic and Quidditch tournament will be Sunday, June 9th (4pm) at Laurel Creek. This will be the culmination of this term's youth activities and an opportunity for all parishioners to share some outdoor fun and food together.

Other parish community events included the annual Women's Thank Offering Service on May 4th. This event continues to be a successful worship and meal time for



the women in our parish. Thanks to Allison Prittie for continuing this ministry.

Additionally, the annual Spring Sensations dinner was held Thursday, May 30th.

Coming up on June 22nd will be the Brotherhood Breakfast, including a brunch and worship for the men in the parish. Bernie Beleskey was inspired to start this based on a men's group at the church he visits each winter in Texas. These events help to foster a sense of community and we are thankful for all the volunteers that make them possible.

Dinner and a Movie wrapped up its third year, with a screening of the film "Leave No Trace." This past winter/spring season has been a continuing success, with films on the theme of "family," including *Tokyo Story*, *In America*, and *The Family Way*, capping off shared meals together in the parish hall. Attendance has been robust, with a couple of nights with more than 40 people in attendance, necessitating a move out of the fireside room into the parish hall! We will begin again on September 21st with a new series of films.

We celebrated Victor Kischak's second anniversary as our rector and priest this spring. We continue to be blessed by his ministries and leadership at Church of the Holy Saviour, and his sermons continue to be engaging as they call us to reflect upon our Christian walk. The launch of Victor's series on the Harry Potter books was well-attended: this chapter-by-chapter look at the books and their themes, as well as relevance to us as Christians, is a wonderful outreach opportunity and lots of fun as well! (On Tuesdays at 7pm til July 9).

We continue to be blessed by the music ministries at Holy Saviour as well. The choir is thriving under the direction of Jeff Enns.



We are very pleased to have Jeff with us on Sundays as he finishes his first year as organist and music director. Also, Lois Horst continues to provide an important ministry with

the Generation's Choir (and her monthly celebration cakes!), but has added a third choir to our parish with the children's choir, The Church Mice! It's wonderful to hear young voices worshipping with song. Thank you Lois!

On the property front, a new shed was erected behind the church on the east side of the parking lot in order to house a BBQ we will be acquiring to serve us for BBQs and Youth Group events going forward. The parking lot patching continues after a rough winter, but we are

staying on top of it. We are also soliciting quotes for a fence rebuild along the west side of the church parking lot and driveway.

We have a new digital sign thanks to a generous donation from parish members, and the wiring for the sign will be completed in the first week of June. Additionally, trenching and installation of permanent lights in the front of the church will allow us to enjoy the lighting we've had set up at Christmas the past couple years. The end of winter also means the boiler can stop operating; thankfully it was a relatively painless winter for boiler maintenance and all the valves have been fixed and regular blow-downs were maintained. The HVAC continues to be a solid investment, working well; it will be greatly appreciated at the heat descends upon us this summer. With the retirement of our sexton this past fall, the new cleaning service has performed well this past winter.

Lastly, the Design Committee, commissioned at this past Vestry meeting, is interviewing firms applying to prepare design work for any potential renovations to the building. We thank the committee for their work in assessing the financial and logistical needs of our property going forward.

Wishing you all a restful and pleasant summer,

Richard Blumenauer, *People's Warden*
 Tricia Siemens, *Rector's Warden*
 Anders Bergstrom, *Deputy People's Warden (author of this report)*
 Brent Hatcher, *Deputy Rector's Warden*

WE PRAY FOR

Our Shut Ins

Dorothy Gilbert, Shirley McHugh, Bernice Hodgson, Esther Hodgson, John Ford, Arleighn Cook, Pat Barry, Barbara Stendahl, Ken Burn, Sheila Macdonald, Pat Fryer, Angie Liddicoat, Ross Liddicoat



We join the worldwide prayer circle

The 10-day series of "Thy Kingdom Come" began May 31. Holy Saviour is offering a service of Evening Prayer each day at 7:30 pm between Ascension Day and Pentecost. These 10 days of prayer are part of the global time of prayer called "Thy Kingdom Come", created by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Join us for a quiet, contemplative service of prayers and readings as we join together as a community to deepen our relationship with God and ask the Holy Spirit to bring forth God's Kingdom. All are welcome to join us for one service or as many as you wish. - Brendon Bedford

TEACHERS NEEDED

We are looking for two Sunday School teachers for the **Grade 3-4 class** (ages 8-10) for next year. This class uses the Bible (rather than a children's picture version) as the basis for its curriculum and has great lesson plans to guide your teaching. You're also welcome to use your own creativity to bring the weekly lessons to life. You share teaching duties with another teacher, so you're only required to teach two of the four Sundays in a typical month.

This is a fun and important ministry! Please let me know if you have more questions about this ministry, if you are interested in sitting in on a class to see what it's like, or if you'd like to sign up to teach!

Many thanks,
Erica Schmidt-Weller, Sunday School Coordinator
e.schmidt.weller@gmail.com

THE UNCOMFORTABLE PEW

Tricia and I travelled to the Holy Land for two weeks in May. This was the trip of a lifetime, an experience that we will continue to process for years to come.



The Holy Land Tour was led by the Rev. Canon Vicars Hodge, recently retired from an Anglican Church in Sarnia. Vicars has lead six tours like this, dating back to 1999. His co-leader was retired Bishop of Norfolk, Terry Dance. This was Terry's second visit to Israel. When we first saw an ad last November for TrinityTour.org it was Terry's name that we recognized. But a phone call to Vicars assured us both that such a trip would be both safe and worthwhile. At that point he did not have enough pilgrims signed up and I was not sure we would be going. But by late February, the break-even number of travellers had been reached and we started getting excited.

We met most of the 26 people on our tour at Pearson Airport on April 30th for an overnight flight to Tel Aviv. Three were Americans, one from Newfoundland, five from New Brunswick (where Vicars had served earlier in his ministry) and the rest from Huron Diocese. A few had

been on the same tour previously.

To say we hit the ground running is an understatement! Our first full day in Jerusalem took us to all the sites of The Passion: Jesus' final week from Palm Sunday to the Holy Sepulchre. And the next day, we visited Bethlehem and his Nativity! The third day we headed south to Masada, the Dead Sea, the River Jordan where Jesus was baptized, and Jericho. This pace never let up for the full two weeks. Our venue shifted north to the Galilee region: Nazareth, Cana, Mounts Ebal and Tabor, Capernaum and Tiberius. Then west to Haifa: Mount Carmel, Acco, Caesarea and back to Jerusalem.

We had one day visiting a Palestinian refugee village and an Israeli settlement, accompanied by two guides, a Palestinian Christian and a Jew. The final three days were spent in Jordan, visiting Petra (temples and tombs carved centuries before Jesus from the sandstone cliffs). The last night was spent in a Russian Orthodox pilgrims' hotel in Bethlehem before our return flight from Tel Aviv.

The Holy Land is a magnet for Christians from all over the world. Although doing a pilgrimage is not a Christian obligation like it is for Muslims, there are thousands who do it each year. Unlike the rigors of walking the 300 km of the Camino de Santiago in Spain, most pilgrims in the Holy Land travel in air-conditioned buses, stay in comfortable hotels and eat well. This is like group tourism as you'd find it in Paris or any other popular destination. Each group has



a colored t-shirt, a hat or a scarf to identify themselves, and earphones connecting them to their leader's narration. We overlapped at several stops with a group from England. Other nationalities included Japanese, Filipino, Romanian, Mexican and Ethiopian (who were dressed in white robes). American too, in large groups: one group that shared our hotel in Tiberius numbered over a hundred all from the same church. I was impressed by the range of denominations and countries. While we may mourn the decline of church attendance in Canada, it was obvious that Christianity was thriving in other parts of the world.

The sites of Jesus life remain a draw, beginning from the fourth century when Constantine sent his mother to search out and set up churches on them. Some sites, like Magda on the shores of Galilee are new, with ancient streets and buildings being currently excavated. Others

have centuries of layered buildings built over the spot, for example, where Jesus was born. The latter may have one church or monastic order assigned to its preservation. But the most crucial sites, like the Crucifixion and Burial (The Holy Sepulchre) have half-dozen branches of Christianity ranging from Armenians to Lutherans co-operating to



hold services in the same or adjoining place/s.

It was the latter sites that I found less compelling. They were crowded with pilgrims and decorated in the extreme with icons, hanging lanterns, mosaics and murals. Some pilgrims were clearly moved by their proximity to where Jesus may have been. Most were determined to capture the moment with cellphone photos and selfies. (We likewise took over a thousand pictures!) But rare was the opportunity to just sit quietly in a church and absorb the atmosphere, trying to imagine the Gospel stories set there.

This is from Tricia's journal from May 5th, our first Sunday in Jerusalem:

A few people got up very early, before 6 am, to walk to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and from there to the Dome of the Rock. The rest of us met them at the Western (or Wailing) Wall. Men and women are separated by a smaller wall for their worship. Women could stand on a ledge to see what was happening on the men's side and to watch their son's bar mitzvahs. We waited for our turn at the wall, heads and shoulders covered, to pray and leave prayers in the chinks between the stones. I left a pray for CHS and for my family including those estranged from me.

We went to St George's Anglican Church, the Cathedral in the Diocese of Jerusalem. It also houses pilgrims and students. We had lunch there and in the afternoon bussed to the Israeli Museum. We spent time at an outdoor model of Jerusalem in Jesus' time. It helped make sense of the past few days. We also saw some of the Dead Sea Scrolls and heard the story of the Bedouin shepherd boys who discovered them in large urns in a cave. We visited a church marking the birthplace of John the Baptist as well as the Church of the Visitation, the spot where Elizabeth lived and met Mary. That church is atop a very

high hill with 300 or so steps. There is a beautiful statue of the two women embracing, both pregnant, one older, one younger.

As I said, we will be processing this experience for years to come. Vicars says if you leave the Holy Land more confused than when you arrived, the trip was a success! The tense background of the politics of Israel and the Palestinians eludes easy summation or resolution. But the politics in Jesus' time were no less embittered and confusing. It's comforting to remember that God's time is unlike our version of time, based on the hours and years of our lifespan. As we stood on Mount Nebo on the second last day to gaze, like Moses, across the land promised to his people millennia ago, I felt some reassurance that present-day troubles were temporary but nothing new. "This too shall pass."



I close with a quote from a favourite writer, Annie Dillard's book "Holy the Firm":

We sleep to time's hurdy-gurdy; we wake, if ever we wake, to the silence of God. And then, when we wake to the deep shores of time uncreated, then when the dazzling dark breaks over the far slopes of time, then it's time to toss things, like our reason, and our will; then it's time to break our necks for home.

Visit Trinitytour.org for many photos and videos from previous pilgrimages. I will continue this travelogue in future issues.

Chuck Erion, Editor

MUSIC AT HOLY SAVIOUR

Introducing the Canadian Chamber Choir

For those of you that were in the packed congregation on the May long weekend, I'm sure that you will agree with me that it was a very special service. The Canadian Chamber Choir was our guest choir and is a professional level choir that consists of members from every province. For that reason, the choir is project based and gets together 2-3 times per year to tour a specific area for 7-10 days at a time. This past winter we toured the Ottawa/Kingston area, giving numerous concerts and workshops with choirs of all ages and sizes. In the fall we were in Manitoba, mainly in the Winnipeg and Brandon areas. I am a proud member of the choir and also the composer-in-residence.



As you can imagine, this is not the cheapest choir to operate. Up until recently we had received no federal funding, relying on other grants and fundraising. We have finally received some funding from Canada Council this past year but are still relying mostly on fundraising. The choir is truly a labour of love, since the choir members receive only a small honorarium for their time. Flights, meals and accommodations are covered but many of us give up holiday time and regular jobs for the chance to sing in this special choir and get into communities large and small across Canada.

This past May long weekend, the choir gathered in Waterloo to record a new album at Wilfrid Laurier University in the Maureen Forrester recital hall. We also had top notch instrumental players join us for a number of tracks. The choir had a number of meals at Holy Saviour and used the church as a bit of a home base. There were also a number of people that billeted choir members in their homes for the weekend. The hospitality was deeply appreciated and as a small thank you, the choir sang for the service on the Sunday morning. For me, it was one of the most moving services that I have taken part in. Having some of my best friends join with my Holy Saviour family to worship and make music together was truly a holy experience.

We sang two anthems in the service that we had recorded the day before. "There Was a Time" by Cy Giacomin from Sarnia (who was also singing in the choir) and "Antiphon" by Peter Togni from Halifax (his mother lives in Waterloo so he has close ties to this community). I was so thankful to have Jeff Reilly (who grew up at Holy Saviour) join us on bass clarinet for some extraordinary improvising in the Antiphon.

The album will be called "Seasons of Life and Landscape" with the pieces being curated as they might be in an art gallery, based loosely on the seasons. Most of the repertoire has not been previously recorded and we are excited to premiere a number of them. The choir is currently in the middle of a funding campaign - \$60K in

60 days. At the time of writing this, we have reached about 32% of our goal. The choir would greatly appreciate any amount of a donation so that we can finish production release the album in the fall. The last album was nominated for a Juno and a number of us travelled to Calgary to join in the festivities.

There are many perks available for donations as well as tax receipts through the website. Please visit <https://canadianchamberchoir.ca/welcome/ccccrowdfunding/> for more information and to donate. If you are interested in past recordings from the choir or have any other questions about the Canadian Chamber Choir, I would be happy to answer questions or sell CDs. Feel free to talk to me at church, email me - enns@golden.net or phone 519-589-6672.

Choral Evensong June 16th in Stratford

Join us for the final Choral Evensong before the summer recess. At 4 pm June 16 at [St. James Anglican Church in Stratford](#). Our choir will be joining choirs from St. James, Stratford and St. John the Evangelist, Kitchener. The music will include "Collegium Regale" by Herbert Howells and "O Lord Support Us" by Jeff Enns.

Jeff Enns, Music Director and Organist

Holy Saviour Brotherhood Breakfast

"Invitation to join Your Fellow Anglican Men at a Premier Event"

June 22nd 8 am to 9:30 am
Breakfast served at 8:05 with Grace by Victor Kischak

Menu: Juice and coffee, Fruit salad, Egg omelet with bacon and a side

A donation of \$5 to cover food costs would be appreciated.

RSVP * ASAP to organizer Bernie Beleskey
Bernie@Beleskey.com 519 745 2353