

WHAT'S NEW



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

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Honeyman who died two years earlier in a motorcycle accident on Highway 6 north of Warton.

Chad was 38 years old, and a friend of mine. We started ministry together back in 2004 when I was the Anglican student assigned to Sauble Beach, and he was the Lutheran student. Chad was an absolute goof-ball, which made me like him right away. But he was also

incredibly kind, a fierce friend, and a very gifted pastor.

His death was tragic. He'd done nothing wrong. The other driver was texting, crossed into his lane, and hit him head-on. And so as I paused to remember Chad, it just ripped me up on the inside. But I gave thanks for his life. He's dead at 38, and I gave thanks for his life. Not to argue that it should have been longer, or different in any way. Just to give thanks for what there was of it, to be glad that I knew him, and to say a blessing over as much life as he had.

Which is actually not a new idea – giving thanks for an apparent tragedy. Three thousand years ago the Israelite people formulated blessings for every circumstance of their lives. They had a blessing for everything. If it was good news, then blessed be God who is good and does good. And if it was bad news, then blessed be the judge of truth. As far as they were concerned, we have a duty to pronounce a blessing on the bad things of life, as well as the good, because all of life comes from God.

So I think our challenge every Thanksgiving is to learn how to give thanks for the messiness of life; thanks for the things we welcome, as well as the things we would do absolutely anything to avoid. And I think the answer to this lies in an action that we at Holy Saviour take every time when we stand together, raise our hands, and ask for God's blessing on something.

Because by asking for God's blessing, you start to think about what's involved. For example, you start to wonder whether your blessing makes something holy, or recognizes its holiness. You also think about which things you agree to bless, and which things you decline to bless, and on what grounds do you decide which is which. Like a couple years

FROM THE RECTOR

"Blessed be the name of the Lord from this time on and forevermore"
(Psalm 113:2)

As I sat down to write this letter, I found myself thinking about what it is that I'm thankful for. Because I believe we're called, especially on Thanksgiving, to offer thanks to God for the whole of our lives, for both the good and the bad, which is not always an easy thing to do. Sure there are those moments when there is joy and celebration, and there is this overwhelming sense that life is good. But then there are other times when our hearts are breaking, and we're stuck dealing with grief and sorrow and loss.

Last Wednesday afternoon as our annual diocesan clergy conference was starting, we gathered in the chapel at Mount Carmel in Niagara Falls, and during the Prayers of the People I found myself remembering the Rev. Chad

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ago I was asked to bless a Toronto Maple Leafs jersey, and I tell you as a life-long Montreal Canadiens fan that felt like *Sophie's Choice*.

Now we Christians bless things all the time. We bless bread, wine, water, oil, babies, marriages, the sick, and the dearly departed. But as Anglicans, we're extra lucky because we will even bless houses, church furniture, wall hangings, candles, books, bells, dogs, cats, cars, vestments, embroidered kneeling cushions, religious jewelry, and silverware. However, my favourite blessing of all is the one we offer for backpacks.

Just a few weeks ago our young people gathered together at the chancel steps with their backpacks to be blessed. When I asked how many were excited to be going back to school, a few hands were raised. (Don't think I didn't see all you parents sitting in the pews raise your hands!). When I asked how many were nervous or scared to go back to school, a few more hands were raised. Then with my own nervousness that I thought I hid quite well, I asked how many didn't want to go back to school, and the rest of them raised their hands.



We laughed, talked about the reasons why they go to school, and then with everyone standing, backpacks raised up into the air, we asked for the following blessing: *"Gracious God, bless these backpacks and all the children who will use them. Give them courage as they start a new school year. Be with them as they learn and grow. Show them how to serve you, and help them to teach us all about your love. We also ask your blessing on all teachers, parents and mentors who will work with and support them in their education. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen."*

Barbara Brown Taylor, an Episcopal priest and professor of religion, offers a few words of wisdom to those pronouncing blessings. She writes, "You say a blessing when you break a bone, the same as you do when you win the lottery. After all, the two events may be more alike than you know. Live with either of them for very long and you may discover that neither of them is as bad or as good as you first thought it would be."

But more importantly I think, she suggests that the more we offer blessings, the closer we draw to God. Again, she writes, "by pronouncing a blessing, you learn to look upon someone else with compassion. You look past their terrifying demeanour to see the brokenness within. You

open your arms to what is, instead of waiting until it is what it should be. You sacrifice control, to extend love and grace. And when you do this, you occupy God's own heart."

Every single occurrence in our lives, good or bad, is to be understood as an invitation to draw closer to God. Ultimately our challenge is to embrace all that God has given us and offer thanks, recognizing our lives as living sacraments, as outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual grace.

It is with this spirit of gratitude that we come together here at Holy Saviour to celebrate **Thanksgiving Sunday** on **October 13th** at both our 8am and 10am services. As always, your support of Holy Saviour and our many ministries is deeply appreciated.

Then on October 27th at 10am we will have a very special **confirmation service** at Holy Saviour with Bishop Bob Bennett as our presider. Nine of our teenagers were prepared this past spring and we are very excited to be able to celebrate with them this important moment in their spiritual lives. Later this autumn on Sunday, November 10th we will observe **Remembrance Sunday** at both our 8am and 10am services.

You will see from the announcements in this newsletter that we have a lot of additional ministries going on right now, and lots of opportunities for you to get involved. I invite you as you are able 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 always experience His peace, comfort, and joy.

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

FROM THE WARDENS

The first day of fall arrived a few days ago although it's hard to tell with the beautiful weather we continue to enjoy. The fall often means the return of a busier schedule but also the sense of routine. One of those routines is getting back to church on Sunday mornings. While attendance during July and August was steady it certainly didn't compare to the number of parishioners we saw on September 8th, aptly known as 'Welcome Back' Sunday, when over 160 people were at church (at both the 8:00 and 10:00 services). Victor shared with the wardens that the number of people at this Sunday has increased every year for the past 3 years which is awesome! It's great to see the pews full and people reconnecting after being away throughout the summer. How opportune it was to have a new BBQ available to cook up the many hamburgers needed that Sunday for the lunch after the 10:00 service. Thanks to Anders Bergstrom

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and his crew of line cooks who shared their grilling expertise with us all, to Lois Horst for providing the celebration cake and to everyone else who helped with preparation and clean up. Sharing a meal together is the ultimate form of fellowship! (*see photos on p.6*)

Besides the new BBQ we also have a new fence that runs along the driveway off Allen Street. It was built during the summer, replacing the old fence which had seen better days.

We also had a new electronic sign installed. It looked great for a while but we've run into some technical difficulty that needs to be sorted out. Hopefully it will be up and running again soon, advertising our weekly services and special events. There is also, finally, a blue sign for Holy Saviour on King St at Allen St. The original was taken down for the LRT construction and somehow was lost. Thanks to Brian Knight for pushing the city to replace it.

Throughout the summer the Church Renew Committee under the leadership of Bill Green continued its work concerning a possible renovation. Bill has provided an update in this edition of *What's New*.

On the Sept 27-28 weekend, the city placed a heritage sign on the front lawn again this year detailing construction dates for the church just in time for the Mary-Allen Studio Tour. Similar signs have been placed at homes with historical significance throughout the neighbourhood. MAST used the parish hall to display works from five artists that weekend.

As a form of outreach Holy Saviour is running a Food Bank drive from September 23rd until October 9th. Please bring non-perishable items to church and place them in the baskets in the Narthex. A small way for us to give back to the community!

Finally, the search is on for an office administrator. After many years of service our current administrator, Jeanette Bell, has decided to retire. Jeanette is the voice people hear on the phone when calling the church. She's often the person who greets them during the week when they come to the church. And she's the person who takes care of a host of other things that help Holy Saviour run smoothly. After one attempt at finding a suitable replacement we are finding out just how hard it is to fill Jeanette's shoes! Once a replacement is found we will recognize and honour Jeanette's time with us. Stay tuned. We also continue to advertise for a youth leader.

People's Warden Richard Blumenauer
Deputy Warden **Brent Hatcher**
Rector's Warden Tricia Siemens
Deputy Warden Anders Bergstrom

MEET JAMES GORMAN

We met in James Gorman's apartment on the 24th floor of one of the Barrel Yard towers near Waterloo Park. The apartment was sparsely furnished. I wondered if this was a bachelor's minimalism but it turns out that James was arranging for movers. He will be soon joining his wife and grandson in their house in Laurelwood.

Like many conversations among seniors, ours began with a medical focus. In March 2016, James was in an Ottawa hospital for cardiac surgery. When an IV site on his arm got infected, he was given an X-ray, which spotted something on his lung. The subsequent CT scan indicated that the lung issue was too small to biopsy but that there was a "hot spot" i.e. cancer on his esophagus. This led to an eight-hour surgery to remove part of his stomach and all of his esophagus. The surgery was successful, and the only side-effect is some difficulty swallowing.

Growing up in Cochrane, James went to a Presbyterian Church by himself. His parents were nominal Catholics but didn't go to mass. Going to church was what his friends did, so he tagged along. He has a sister eight years older, but she never went to church either. He became an Anglican when he had his wife started a family, and found a welcoming parish in their Ottawa neighbourhood. His wife had been baptized in the Catholic Church so "got an automatic entry, whereas I, a practicing Presbyterian, had to apply!"



James spent 35 years in Canada's Foreign Service, mostly in Asia. He graduated from Queen's in economics and worked with CIDA, Canada's development agency for 18 years, where he became a foreign service officer for the balance of his career. He worked in Pakistan during the first Afghan war against the then Soviet Union (1986-89), when the Americans were supplying arms but not troops. In those days, the Mujahedeen were the "good guys" in American eyes, coming to Pakistan for R and R, and to sell a few carpets. James tried to see all parts of Pakistan, from his favourite city, Lahore, to the Khyber Pass. Their daughter was born there in 1983, they had a son in 1986 while living in Toronto. Other assignments took him to India, Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Nepal, sometimes in immigration but mostly in development work. The family returned to Ottawa between these sojourns.

He moved to Waterloo in 2018 to be closer to his grandson and his wife, Silvia Maciunas. Until recently, she was deputy-director of international environmental law at CIGI. James, now 71, took early retirement at age 55 to care for

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his infant grandson: their daughter became schizophrenic and could not parent him. David is now 16 and a student at Sir John A. MacDonald Secondary School. Dealing with their daughter's mental illness "was like an atomic bomb going off in our family," said James. There are several families in our parish where grandparents have stepped in to raise a second generation. He finds Holy Saviour a very friendly congregation, whether at coffee hour or at the men's breakfasts or on the running track at the YMCA.

Whenever I do an interview like this, I realize how little we know about the people we share pews with on Sunday mornings. I hope you'll take the time to chat with James or someone else, new or old, who you haven't talked to before.

SIX OF US IN PORT CARLING

Where did you worship this summer? Imagine bumping into four folks from home!

My wife and I discovered a new Anglican parish in Port Carling, about an hour from our cottage. The little church near us in Mactier closed last summer. I'd heard good things about St James the Apostle in Port Carling from Jean Jackson. But imagine our surprise to find three other Holy Saviour members at this church. David and Marion Korrell were there that first Sunday, as well as Elaine Forbes-Ormston. Jean has been worshipping there each summer for the past decade, but the Korrells for all their married lives and Marion every summer since birth (close to 75 years!) Her parents donated the organ.



St James Church dates from the 1870s and is part of the Anglican Parish of Muskoka Lakes, which comprises several churches in small towns.

Some, like St James, are only open for worship in the summer months, plus Christmas and Easter. The incumbent is The Rev. GailMarie Henderson who also teaches in the School of Theology at Thorneloe University, affiliated with Laurentian University in Sudbury. The sanctuary is entirely paneled in wood, which makes for great acoustics. We enjoyed a folk concert there on Aug 21st, a fundraiser for the local hospice.

WE PRAY FOR

Our Youth Confirmees:
EJ Fleming, Collen Moore, Fadzai Katsenga, Nicola Peiris,

Lele and Makilda Addico; Jamie, Taylor and Kylie Barton.

Newlyweds: Paola Russo and Andrew Townshend

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, Liddicoat



Ross
(photo)

THE LECTERN IS DEDICATED

A year ago I was asked by Eileen Scully to do another woodworking project for the chapel at Church House in



Toronto. This was to be a lectern, in live-edge cherry wood, to match the altar that I built for them in 2017. The lectern was dedicated on July 4th, at the final service lead by the Archbishop, The Very Rev. Fred Hiltz, in his last "office" duty before his retirement at General Synod a week later.

And now we have a new Archbishop, The Very Rev.

Linda Nichols, who until Sept. 30th was the Bishop of Huron Diocese. Linda invited me back in March to do one of the "testimonials" at the diocesan synod in May. You can read what I shared in the September edition of the Huron Church News.

THE MARKS OF MISSION

In 2009, in the congregational visioning process (VIVA), Holy Saviour examined its values and practices, and constructed the following Mission Statement: "Holy Saviour will be a friendly, welcoming community helping each other celebrate and know the Mystery of God's Presence, working through our worship, teaching, and outreach." In the ten years following, this commitment has

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been regularly reviewed and examined in various contexts, such as Congregational Coaching; Appreciative Inquiry; Who is My Neighbour; Practices of Effective Congregations. Generally these have been individual parish activities, or Deanery of Waterloo workshops.

The Mission and Ministry initiative from the Diocese of Huron is, for Holy Saviour, a continuation of this process and an opportunity to review, perhaps to rethink, the direction and priorities of the past ten years. This project, with contributions from many parishioners working independently, has been compiled in a draft report which has been submitted to Parish Council.

After review, the Parish will be asked to endorse it at a Vestry meeting. As it is a profile of the continuing work of the Parish, it is not intended to be any sort of “summing up” or definitive statement, and can be continually revised, added to, and clarified. If you wish to contribute any ideas or suggestions, the questions addressed are below. If you wish to examine the current state of the collected responses, contact Rob Lofthouse at loft@golden.net.

The “Five Marks of Mission” and the Diocesan Questions are as follows:

1. Evangelism: “To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom” is to share the news that in Christ God is reconciling to world to himself (2 Cor. 5:19), in words. How can you speak the Good News to the world around you?
2. Discipling: “To teach, baptize and nurture new believers” and, indeed, all believers, is the work of discipling. How can your congregation foster the Christian development of new participants, long-time members, and everyone in between?
3. Service: “To respond to human need by loving service” is a central aspect of Christ’s call. The challenge for us is to remember that loving service engages us personally with those in need, so that we are changed by the encounter. Simply providing a building or sending a cheque misses the heart of what Christ asks of us, indeed, offers us. How can your congregation find real needs and offer service that is truly loving?
4. Transforming Society: “To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind, and to pursue peace and reconciliation” is a call to go beyond charitable giving and help to change the world that creates human needs. How can your congregation join in God’s work of building the Kingdom by participating in the transformation of society?
5. Safeguarding and Renewing the Earth: “As Christians, we are called to “safeguard the integrity of creation.” Our world is a gift from God. We bear responsibility for it. How can your congregation contribute to the work of

caring for the Earth?

CHORAL MUSINGS

Well, I have now been at Holy Saviour for a full year and think I’m starting to catch on.....

Fall is always a busy time as life transitions from summer normal to the rest of the year normal. The choir is back to regular rehearsals and increased service music. On Sept 22nd we sang a Mass setting by Margaret Drynan, who was an assistant to Healey Willan at St. Mary Magdalene in Toronto, and also organist and choir director at Holy Trinity in Oshawa for many years. It was very interesting to hear from some of our parishioners that had some connections with her. She passed away in 1999. We have lots of great music to share with the congregation which will include some world premieres of music written for us.

We will be having **Choral Evensong** on the 3rd Sundays of (October 20th and November 17th at 4 pm). We also sing the Choral Morning Prayer/Matins service on the first Sunday of the month at 9 am. (October 6th and November 3rd). Come and join us for all of these choral services if you are able. “Those who sing pray twice.”

Another opportunity to experience evensong is the **Bach Vespers** performed by Spiritus Ensemble twice a year at St John the Evangelist Anglican Church, 23 Water St in Kitchener. A Bach cantata with a professional chorus and small orchestra is performed in the context of a full choral evensong. Spiritus Ensemble was founded ten years ago by Dr. Kenneth Hull, who recently retired as a professor of church music at Conrad Grebel University. Bach Vespers for Peace: Sunday, Oct. 27th at 4 pm.

We welcome back Chelsea Bryn Davies-Kneis as a soprano choral scholar and are currently looking for another soprano, tenor and bass scholars.

For those of you that were in church on the May long weekend, you will remember the fantastic choral singing of the **Canadian Chamber Choir** who were in Waterloo recording an album at Laurier. Over Thanksgiving the choir will be on tour in the Northwest Territories and Edmonton. This will be the first time that the choir has toured the north and I am excited to be a part of it. We will be touring an all-Canadian program, which includes some works of Jeff Enns, as well as a premiere of our newest commission entitled Where Waters Meet. Carmen Braden is the composer and we will be performing in her hometown of Yellowknife. This multi-movement work will showcase the work of Ojibwe/South Asian poet Yolanda Bonnell and fiddler Wesley Hardisty while exploring various Canadian perspectives on water.

In other Canadian Chamber Choir news, the Governor General Julie Payette is now vice-regal patron of the choir. This is a great affirmation for the choir as we prepare to

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release our newest album that was recorded in Waterloo. I'm not sure of the official release date but we are hoping that it will happen while we are on tour. If you're interested in the choir or the new CD, please talk to me or go to canadianchamberchoir.ca

Jeff Enns

RENEW DESIGN COMMITTEE

After a slow start this spring, we are now making great progress having, (1) selected an architect – Facet Design Studio/Brian Shantz; (2) had a kick-off meeting in July to review the Parish goals and requirements, project schedule and budget; and (3) met in August to receive the architect's conceptual design proposals and provide feedback.

A preliminary site plan was prepared and submitted to the City of Waterloo and a pre-application meeting held to determine city requirements.

The architect and their engineers continue to work through specific design considerations including retaining the bell tower, providing barrier-free access through a new rear entrance, new office space, choir change rooms, Sunday School/meeting rooms and washrooms.

We will be meeting again in early October to receive the next phase of their work and a presentation to the Parish is planned for Wednesday, October 23rd in the Parish Hall at 7:00pm. We hope to see you there.

Your committee members are: Rev. Victor Kischak, Warden Richard Blumenauer, Deputy Warden Brent Hatcher, Debbie Koegler, Anna Beemer, Matt Weller, Tom Casher & Bill Green.

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 church or handed out with the weekly bulletin. We are grateful for your support.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Tuesdays from September to December at 7:00 pm – Harry Potter Series

Saturday October 19th at 5:30 pm – Dinner & a Movie “Paterson”

Wednesday October 23rd at 7:00 pm – presentation from the Renew Design committee.

Saturday October 26th at 8 am – Brotherhood Breakfast

Sunday, October 20th at 4 pm – Choral Evensong

Sunday, October 27th at 10 am – Confirmation Service with Bishop Bob Bennett, barbeque to follow.



BUSY SERVERY

In the space of one week (Sep 21-27), three meals were shared in the Parish Hall:

Dinner & a Movie served **30**

The Doctrine of Discovery served **22**,

and the Brotherhood Breakfast served **11**.