



WHAT'S NEW

The quarterly newsletter of Waterloo's Anglican Church of the Holy Saviour. EASTER EDITION 2021

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FROM THE RECTOR

Christ Is Risen!
Christ Is Risen Indeed!

About a year ago I saw several postings on social media saying, "This is the Lentiest Lent I've ever Lented." Which was kind of a weird thing to say, but also true. In some ways it's like we're having a desert experience. And thinking about it now, I haven't seen any of those postings for this year, perhaps because it feels like Lent just never ended. It feels like part of us has died, and we're now waiting in a tomb, isolated and alone in our homes, or social distancing whenever we're outside.

So, I think it's appropriate that the first image of the resurrection is not bunny rabbits, rainbows, or Cadbury creme eggs. Rather, the first image of resurrection is darkness. The Gospel of John begins the Easter story with these words, "Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark..." (John 20:1). Which seems very fitting for us. This feels like a dark time.

But then everything changes with the empty tomb. And for the first followers of Jesus, they understood that the good news of Easter was not only that Jesus' resurrection was a victory for life over death, but that the power of the resurrection can transform our lives as well. This is our faith and this is the hope that we cling to as Christians. **The darkness that we experience right now will eventually give way to light and new life.**

We know the number of people who are vaccinated will increase and the number of new Covid cases will decrease. And at some point, we will be able to gather again in person. We will be able to come together to sing our hymns, be nourished by the Eucharist, and embrace each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. While we do not know when that day will be, we do know that it is coming.

In regards to our worship services, as long as Waterloo Region remains in the province's pandemic red zone, our worship will continue to be online only. Once the region moves to orange, yellow or green, we will offer both online and in-person worship. As for Holy Week, we anticipate that



Waterloo will still be in the red control zone. However, if that changes, we have plans and procedures in place allowing us to quickly transition to in person worship.

Our Holy Week services begin on **Palm Sunday, March 28th at 10 am** when we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Unfortunately, due to a widespread lack of demand, our palm supplier is not able to provide palms for us to distribute this year.

Then on **Maundy Thursday, April 1st**, our worship will start at **7:00 pm** to remember the last supper and Jesus' mandate (*mandatum* became *maundy*) to "love one another as I have loved you." Our liturgy will conclude with stripping the altar of all furnishings to

remind us of how the soldiers stripped Christ of his garments prior to his crucifixion.



Then on **Good Friday, April 2nd at 10:00 am**, we will hear the proclamation of Christ's Passion and reflect upon his sacrifice for us. The tone is solemn, but not somber, for our emphasis is on the victory of the cross. We will then celebrate the resurrection and mark the beginning of the fifty days of **Easter on Sunday April 4th at 10 am**.

Holy Week provides an opportunity for us to encounter our most powerful and transformative liturgies. Throughout this time, we continue to livestream our worship services on both our Facebook page and YouTube page. These services are saved and available for you to watch, or rewatch at any time. As we live in hope and with anticipation of light and new life emerging around us, it is my prayer that you will find your faith strengthened, and that you will be blessed with the peace of Christ throughout the Easter season!

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



FROM THE WARDENS

It is very difficult to believe that we have been living through the Covid-19 pandemic for more than a year now and while people are starting to be vaccinated and a possible end to our current way of life and a return to something somewhat more 'normal' is in sight, it's

hard to ignore those who are suggesting a third wave is still a distinct possibility. With the sun shining, the disappearance of the snow and tulips, daffodils and hyacinths starting to make their way through the soil, let's opt for the idea that everyone who wants to be vaccinated will be by the beginning of July and we will once again be able to enjoy each other's company from closer than six feet apart and without a mask.

Despite being in lockdown from December 26th to Family Day, life at Holy Saviour has continued, adapting to changes in the way we do things as needed. Weekly Sunday services continue to be live-streamed followed by a virtual coffee hour. Sunday School and Youth Group are meeting online and for those families interested, Sunday School Kits are available.

On February 21st, Holy Saviour successfully hosted its first Zoom Vestry Meeting with 62 in attendance. It was chaired by Victor, our Zoom host was Chuck Erion and our Vestry Clerk was Bruce Johnstone. In a letter to all churches in the diocese, Bishop Townshend suggested that this year's vestry meetings be considered

“... a time to gather up all that has happened, good and bad, and offer it to God in thanksgiving ... a time to look forward with hope, in order to wisely steward all that God will bring us in the future.”

Our vestry meeting was successful in doing both as we not only reflected on the ups and downs of life at Holy Saviour in 2020 but also started thinking about all the potential 2021 may bring.

To that end, a **special vestry meeting** has been set for **April 18th** when the Design committee will present three possibilities for the congregation to ponder. These options range from simply fixing what needs to be fixed to maintain the building all the way to a more fulsome renovation that will see additional space created in the current courtyard. The format for this vestry meeting has yet to be decided and will be dependent on which Covid zone Waterloo region is in at the time. Regardless, the outcome of this vestry meeting will have a definite, long lasting impact on life at Holy Saviour so be sure to mark the date in your

calendar so you can hear the details of the three possibilities and be part of the conversation.

It has been suggested that we continue to live-stream services after the pandemic to provide a way for those who can't physically attend church to remain part of our weekly worship. To that end, a small group is looking into the various options to install permanent video cameras that will meet our needs.

Sun Life Financial has recently extended the term of their rental of the church parking lot from 2022 to 2026. This is good news as the yearly donation provided by Sun Life is quite substantial.

As wardens, we are ever grateful for the support the entire congregation continues to provide, making it possible for Holy Saviour to soldier on during this challenging time. We remain particularly grateful for the efforts of:

Jeff Enns and his rotating choral duos who provide musical leadership in Sunday services;

Dave and Taylor Barton for making sure everything 'techie' is in place for live-streaming each Sunday;

Chuck Erion who every week puts together an online newsletter containing the Sunday bulletin, and keeps the website and our Facebook page updated;

Jeanette Bell who continues to share her expertise each week as she takes care of things in the church office while rarely being in the office; and

Our priest, **Victor**, whose constant guidance and support have been ever-present and so amazing during this past year.

Wishing you all a very happy and healthy spring!

Richard Blumenauer, *People's Warden*

Tricia Siemens, *Rector's Warden*

Krista Parsons, *Deputy People's Warden*

Brent Hatcher, *Deputy Rector's Warden*

(who submitted this report)

MEET DR MICHAEL CASEY

Born in London England, Michael was just one year old when his family moved to Toronto. He attended

St Michael's College School, was active in sports, and left at 18 on a full hockey scholarship to UPenn. He played hockey for the first two years and graduated in cell biology. While pursuing his Masters at Queen's, he met Mary Spohn in 1973, who was in teacher training. They were married at her home church, Holy Saviour, in 1977.

He applied to Queen's Medical School and was on the waiting list when an acceptance letter arrived in late August 1975. He graduated with the Class of '79, followed by a two-year residency in family medicine. He and Mary moved to Kitchener where he joined the family practice of his father-in-law, Dr. James Spohn.



In those early years, he delivered about 35 babies a year, until 1987 when malpractice insurance premiums became too expensive. He was chief of family medicine at Grand River Hospital in 1985 and '86.

It was while trying to help a woman, with colon cancer that had metastasized to her bones, deal with her pain that Michael began the switch from start of life to end of life issues. Dr Donna Ward was the only palliative care doctor in the region at the time. He took courses in palliative care and pain management. For him, this was still family medicine — whether the patient is dealing with a heart attack or a terminal illness, the whole family is affected, and called on for support.

Michael continued his office practice but added palliative duties at Trinity Village LTC. Through the 1990s he expanded his palliative practice with duties at the local hospices, Lisaard House (Cambridge), Waterloo Region Hospice (on Park St, then at

Freeport, then on Lawrence Ave and the newly opened hospice near Rim Park) and at Innisfree (Kitchener). Dr Casey retired from his family practice in 2017 but continues to serve Trinity Village two or more days a week.

From his first decision to go into medicine, Michael has seen his calling to serve other people, rooted in and required by his belief in Jesus. He recalled priest-teachers in his Catholic high school who inspired him to that calling, as well as a lay teacher who taught Grade 9 Religion. This teacher asked lots of questions, some that had no simple answers. His liberal approach led to his leaving the separate school system and moving to a public high school. But asking questions is central to doing medicine. "Sometimes I saw it as a big detective story," said Dr Casey, collecting the story, physical symptoms and psycho/social factors as clues to solving a diagnosis.

Medicine is more than a scientific profession, it's an art. Michael has spent his career achieving the goal he felt as a teenager: **Be good at what you are called to do, helping others.** Much of that career was spent helping the dying, being present as they face "the final curtain." He talked about the need for forgiveness, given and received, as death draws near. And how too many people delay that opportunity to relieve their own guilt and that of those they have offended or grown estranged from.

I asked about MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying). Michael does not agree with it but is willing to refer patients to another doctor who does. He regards it as outside the scope of palliative care: "What lessons are still to be found in dying and enduring the transition, hopefully not in agony, but with full consciousness?" We also talked about Judgement Day, in the context of his own accounting for what he has done with his life, and in the context of what the dying are facing. He quoted from [Ronald Rolheiser's essay](#) on Judgement: "Perhaps we already intuit that when we finally stand naked in God's light we will also finally be understood and that revealing light will not just expose our shortcomings but also make visible our virtues."

Working in Long Term Care and hospices has left him concerned about how we treat the elderly. There is

rarely enough staff to reduce suffering by noticing symptoms and controlling pain. This is the hands-on work of being present, listening and noticing, in person, not over the phone. (Covid PPE has only made this more difficult.) But hospices are not sad places. There is lots of caring and love. "It's a gift and an exercise in humility to work there."

Mary Casey was baptized at our church at age four, and the two of them have been members since 1981, spanning four different priests. Michael has been a Lay Assistant for many years, and Mary a Lector. Their three children were all baptized and part of the church school at Holy Saviour. **Patrick**, 39, has a PhD in James Joyce from University of Western Ontario, but after a few years teaching at Fanshawe, went back to school to earn a Master's in Urban Planning at UW. **Andrea** has a M.Ed. from U of Ottawa and a B.A. in international development from Guelph. She is on parental leave from the PWRDF office at Church House in Toronto. She and her husband Chris have a toddler, Arthur. She is recovering from breast cancer. **David** is in medicine, the fifth generation in the Spohn family, now an internist working with Covid patients in Toronto.

Final words from Michael: "**It takes a village to raise a child, but it should also take a village to aid in the last steps at the end of life.**"

FROM THE TREASURER

It is early in the year so conclusions shouldn't be jumped to; however, as of February 28th, our envelope collections are down only slightly from last year and total income is slightly higher – mostly due to our recently received Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy payment.

Expense-wise, the lack of service-related activities is benefiting our bottom line and the fixed costs of our plant are as expected. The combined result is that we are tracking well to the budget we set at Vestry.

Given the COVID issues, Holy Saviour is truly fortunate to have such strong support from our parishioners. Please continue as best you can and help

us through this. There is a **special Easter donation envelope** enclosed with this mailing. You can mail it (address on p.1) or drop it through the courtyard doors of the church.

-David Embury, *Treasurer*

WE PRAY FOR OUR SHUT INS



Dorothy Gilbert,
Shirley McHugh,
Bernice Hodgson,
Arleighn Cook,
Pat Barry,
Ken Burn,
Sheila Macdonald,
Pat Fryer,
Veva Riley

THE JONAS FUND

When we read the December 2020 Anglican Journal's front-page article about a homeless retired Anglican priest, we were determined to do something about his plight.

Reverend Jonas Allooloo served the church in the Arctic for 44 years. Until retirement, he was Dean of St. Jude's Cathedral in Iqaluit, Nunavut. In 1978, Rev. Jonas began translating the Bible into Inuktitut. The New Testament was completed in 2012 and he continues, with others, on the translation of the Old Testament. When Jonas retired, he had to leave the mission house to make way for his replacement. Housing in the north is very expensive and Iqaluit has one of the highest rents in Canada: a 2 bedroom apartment is nearly \$3000 per month.

This January, the Anglican Journal conducted a follow-up interview and found the housing situation had not improved for Rev. Jonas and his wife Meena. The most recent update has them living in an extremely small one-room apartment Rev. Jonas describes as a 'cube'. Their possessions remain in storage. They are reluctant to leave Iqaluit as it is the community where their children and grandchildren live. This is their reality, and while many will

sympathize, the dire housing situation for this retired priest will not be solved without assistance.



We first contacted The National Church who were not able to assist at the time. Paul Rathbone, Diocese of Huron Treasurer, suggested a motion to Parish Council allowing all donations made to the fund be tax receipt-able (similar to how parishes have raised funds for refugee families). The motion to establish **The Jonas Fund** passed unanimously at Parish Council in February. Appreciation is given to Bishop Todd Townshend, Archdeacon Megan Collings-Moore, Rev. Dr. Eileen Scully, Ven. Peter Townshend and Rev. Victor Kischak for their help and advice. Reverend Jonas has been in touch several times and expressed his gratitude.

The Anglican Journal requested a Zoom meeting in mid-March with Tricia Siemens and Jennifer Ross, members of Outreach Committee, to ask about the history of the fund and its current status. Matthew Gardner's report will be published in the May issue.

Jonas Fund goal: \$50,000
Donations as of mid-March: \$3,400

Any amount you donate will help Rev. Jonas and Meena Allooloo. Here are two options:
> Send an e-transfer to infoholysaviour@gmail.com with Jonas Fund in the message and your name and address **or**
> Send a cheque to Church of the Holy Saviour, 33 Allen Street East, Waterloo, ON N2J 1J1 with Jonas Fund on the memo line.

Thank you for your support,
Tricia Siemens, Jennifer Ross *Outreach Committee*

MUSIC IN CORONATIDE

Well, here we are, having passed the first anniversary of the official announcement of the pandemic. We have managed to invent a whole new set of clichés, slogans and catchphrases. I personally was hoping to give up pandemics for Lent - and forever, but it seems that I'll have to wait for another season. Despite the upheaval that we have all experienced, Holy Saviour has managed to hold our regular services and thrive as best as we can given all of the restrictions.

As a musician, it has certainly been challenging to feel motivated much of the time. I am thankful that we have weekly services that I need to prepare music for and try to think of ways to use two singers to the best advantage. I find myself daydreaming about any kind of live music, and overjoyed to sing at all. How will we as a church look after we can go back to somewhat regular services? How will the choir look? We certainly need to keep live streaming our services. That has been an unexpected bonus for us to reconnect with former parishioners and engage with new members that have never even physically been to the church.



I long for the choir to be able to sing again together, since choir is so much more than just singing notes. It is a community within our community of Holy Saviour, full of very diverse people with a common love of singing that brings us together. Where else can you find a group of people who have an age range of sixty years that enjoy getting together twice weekly. Choir is a place where you can leave all of your

troubles for a short time, or bring them with you and be enveloped by the balm of music. We can laugh, cry,



pray, worship, and uphold each other and our parish in our ministry of music. Psalm 19:10 must be talking about choir and singing: "More to be desired are they than gold, yea than much fine gold: sweeter also than the honey and the honeycomb."

Both of my parents have now been vaccinated, and even though I am probably closer to the bottom of the list, the fact that it is happening gives me some hope that we will be back together again. As we move towards the season of Easter, let us look forward to the season of spring, rebirth, and hopefully reconnecting.

Peace and blessings to you all,

- Jeff Enns, *Organist and Music Director*



1 Easter Sunday April 21, 2019