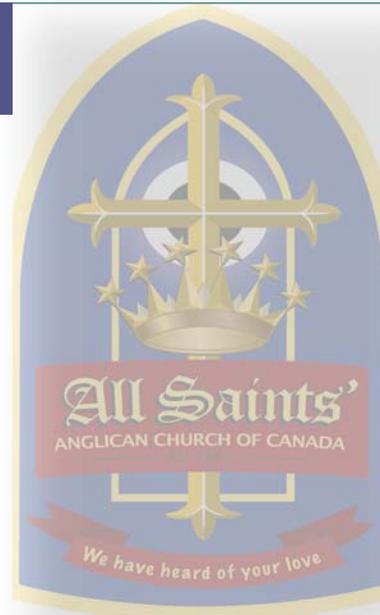


# Saints Alive!

Editor:  
A. Ralph

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Issue No.2



## What is God Calling Us to Do?

In 2015, Pauline Reid, Canon Vail and I led a successful workshop with All Saints' members, focusing on developing a set of parish values. That effort yielded the following values: Acceptance, Compassion, Faith, Generosity, Integrity, Love and Respect. These values, in part, serve as a vision for our future directions within the parish and in our wider community.

In 2016, a number of interested parishioners engaged in two evening sessions where we learned about possible focal points for external ministry initiatives in our community. The first session involved external public health, and social services and mental health professionals who addressed possible groups and areas where All Saints' could provide support through partnerships with community agencies as well as our own volunteer initiatives. The follow-up meeting with parish members narrowed down these possibilities into three areas of focus (see Visioning Goals on page 3). In the coming year these opportunities will generate further discussions with our community service contacts and assist in our ministry program planning.

~ Gary L. Gannon

## EDITOR'S VIEW: On Welcoming

I recently visited another church for a work-related event and was greeted as if I were a newcomer. "Welcome," I was told. *'You'll find we're really friendly here. And if you are looking for a church home, we're always interested in new people, so you'll love it here. I've been here for ten years and can tell you this is a great place.'*

It was an earnest, well-intentioned welcome, but something about it felt a little offputting to me. The problem was, it was

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### DON'T MISS ...

- March 4: Trent-Durham Area Day (in Cobourg)
- March 8: Christian Foundations begins
- April 16: Easter Sunday
- April 23: Blessing of Gifts to Northern Communities
- May 14: Mother's Day Apple Crisp Sales
- June 4: Pentecost & Confirmation (Bishop Shaw)

All Saints' Anglican Church  
[www.allsaintswhitby.org](http://www.allsaintswhitby.org)  
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## INCUMBENT’S MESSAGE

Last week I attended a quiet day for the clergy where we had the opportunity to hear our three new bishops speak on various Biblical characters found in the Gospels of Lent and Holy Week. All three talks were excellent in different ways, but I was especially

impressed with our own area bishop, Riscylla Shaw. The Bishops’ remarks are available for you to watch on the Diocesan webpage. (You can also find excerpts on *page 4*.)

Following the three talks, Archbishop Johnson opened the floor to questions. The first came from a priest who thought it was time to do away with the idea of parishes and parish boundaries. After all, he argued, people come from all over to various churches that meet their spiritual needs, so aren’t geographical boundaries a quaint hangover from the past we can do away with? The Archbishop’s reply, I thought, was one of the most impressive things of the day.

Basically, here is what he said. He replied that the people who don’t attend your

*continued on p. 4*

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*“He challenged us to see how we might carry out the mission of Jesus, to make disciples of all people, right where God has planted us.”*

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### A Lenten Prayer

Sovereign Lord, your hand has touched the dry bones of our faith,  
your Word has breathed new life where there was death,  
your spirit raised us up from where we lay,  
your love has brought us home and to your Cross,  
and by your grace we stand forgiven, free.  
Amen.

*(www.faithandworship.com)*

“Rich as he was, he gave it all away for us—in one stroke he became poor and we became rich.” (2 Cor. 8:9)

## POWER of PRAYER: World Day of Prayer

This year Christians in more than 170 countries, and 2000 communities across Canada will gather together for **World Day of Prayer** to learn about, pray, and celebrate in solidarity with the women of the Philippines. Each year features a different country and theme, with the service written by that country’s World Day of Prayer Committee. The theme for 2017 is “*Am I am being unfair to you?*” What might we as Canadians learn from women of the Philippines, a country on the front lines of climate change, foreign mining and resource interests, regional insurgency, and social upheaval due to migration? How will we answer their theme question?

In Canada, the World Day of Prayer is coordinated by the Women’s Inter-Church Council of Canada. The event has its roots in an ecumenical day of prayer organized by women in Canada and the USA in 1920. It became an international Day in 1922, with Christians around the world celebrating on the first Friday of March. In Whitby there are 11 churches taking part.

Last year was my first time, and I’m looking forward to the service at Hebron Christian Reformed Church at 2pm this year, as well as the evening service at 7:30pm at St. John’s Port Whitby. Everyone is welcome, men and women. Youth are particularly encouraged to come to the evening service. Please join me in this very special day.

~ Catherine Bartlett



PHOTO CREDIT: ERIN RALPH

**Vestry  
2017**

## OUTREACH: Visioning Workshop Goals

As a result of the parish outreach visioning workshops in November 2016, the Executive has set three outreach goals for us to pursue in the next five years through specific initiatives:

**Goal #1:** Promote spiritual, emotional and social support to those experiencing mental illness/health concerns as well as support for their caregivers.

**HOW:**

- Explore “Stephen Ministry” as a way to provide specialized care to the abovementioned.
- Ensure that all staff and key ministry leaders have taken a Mental Health First-Aid course.
- Have a trained team of parish members who minister to the mentally ill at our worship and fellowship events.

**Goal #2:** Reduce social isolation of seniors in our neighbourhoods.

**HOW:**

- Build relationships with isolated residents, living alone or in area care facilities, who have no other church

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## The Biblio-File

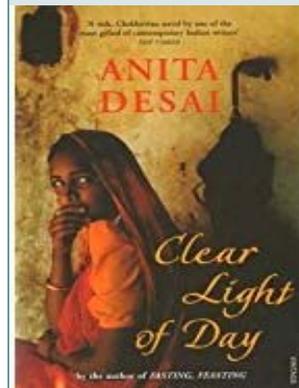
***Clear Light of Day***  
Anita Desai (1980)

Protagonist Tara grew up in the family home in Delhi, but left at eighteen to live a life of privilege and travel with her domineering husband Bakul. Her sister, Bim, remained behind in Old Delhi with a younger brother Baba with autism.

Desai creates an atmosphere as stifling as the Delhi heat and humidity, as Tara returns home and the sisters deal with their uneasy relationship. Meanwhile, husband Bakul is impatient with Tara’s attachment to her past, telling her, “I thought I had taught you a different life, a different way of living. ... Be strong. Face challenges. But no, the day you enter your old home, you are as weak-willed and helpless, and defeatist as ever.” Yet Tara is irrevocably drawn into her past, and cannot shrug off her family background.

*Clear Light of Day* is a timeless portrayal of family dynamics that brilliantly evokes the painful process of confronting and healing old wounds. The novel is beautifully written and the characters sensitively portrayed.

~ Jacky Bramma



## Incumbent's Message *continued from p. 2*

church within your parish's boundaries are, in many ways, more important than those who do. "Focus on them," he said. In other words, he challenged us to see how we might carry out the mission of Jesus, to make disciples of all people, right where God has planted us. So often, parishes revolve around the desires and preferences of those who are on the parish roster, hoping to keep



them there, while neglecting those who are hungry for the love and justice the Gospel proclaims.

In this issue of *Saints Alive!*, you will see some of the visioning work we have been doing to more clearly define what God's call to mission might look like for us here and now. I am very excited that part of that moving forward will involve us hiring an assistant curate. This will not help me to do less, but help the parish to do more to be attentive to the needs of the wider community we have been called to serve. There will be an announcement made on March 5th about that. Thank you for your generosity in making this enhanced ministry possible. What exciting times!

~ Stephen+

### *Excerpt: Bishop Shaw's Lenten Address to Clergy*

"There are times when God slips into our world to be one with us. With no dramatic show of Godhood. Perhaps so quiet we don't even recognize God. So gentle, so small, yet often in retrospect, in looking back, so significant. God just lives among us, unrecognized.

Who else living among us unrecognized?

I looked in these Scripture passages for women on the fringes of the Scripture stories. We can find evidence of women's work: the bread for the last supper, likely made by a woman. That bread got to Jesus. Consider also the scarlet robe made for Jesus. It didn't likely have a little tag in the collar advertising where it was made, but I think the weave might have given it away. Think about the women who are in the story, but not front and centre. ... Think of the women around Jesus. Can you hear them in these passages?

How can we train ourselves to hear and to see those who live among us as unrecognizable?

Preachers, this is what you have to offer others—your experience of being on the

fringes, of recognizing God on those fringes. Share it. Tell them what you feel, a bit about where you were existentially when you experienced it, and how that experience brought you new life.

...

It is in working to help voices be heard, to advocate and establish a legitimacy for them, in having the ears to hear, that we find ways in the church, and outside it, to listen to the voice of God through the oppressed, through the downtrodden, through the underprivileged and the intentionally sidelined, who are also our sisters and brothers in Christ, who are also our families, our relatives, whose welfare and wellbeing are actually bound up quite intimately with ours, whose future is tied to ours.

Go to the fringes and share it."



## Curious about Curacy?

At our recent Vestry, our parish voted to take on a new member of the clergy—a curate. Those of us who are long of the Anglican tooth may be comfortable with the term, but you may ask, what does “curate” mean?

In its most traditional sense, the term refers to a person who is invested with the *care* or *cure (cura) of souls* of a parish. In medieval times, a curate could be considered broadly to be what we now know as a parish priest. Fr. Stephen might have been called our parish curate, for example. Many curates in larger parishes also had assistant curates. As new titles evolved for curates, such as Rector or Vicar and ultimately Incumbent, the term “curate” meaning parish priest disappeared, but the term “assistant curate” did not. Today, in the Anglican communion, “*curate*” is commonly used to describe clergy who are assistants to the parish priest and who, in their first posting after ordination, are

completing their training (not unlike an apprenticeship). As a bit of historical fun, these newly ordained priests continue to be called “assistant curates” even though there is no longer a main “curate” for them to assist!

By taking on a curacy, we will be assisting a newly ordained priest as he or she participates in this last step towards a solo parish. Though licensed by the Bishop, this person will be supervised by our own Fr. Stephen.

In our Diocese, assistant curates participate in Momentum, a 2-year program that provides professional development in the context of a supportive peer environment. Sessions are facilitated by experienced clergy. Coincidentally one of the current program facilitators is a former All Saints’ assistant curate, the Rev. Canon Paul J. Walker.

~Bertie Weatherbottom

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## Visioning Goals *continued from p. 3*

connection. This may include sending cards, visits or phone calls, providing small gifts, etc.

- Revisit the All Saints’ Café project and see if it can meet the needs of the lonely in our area (including those who are not seniors).
- Explore the possibility of Parish Nurse ministry at All Saints.

**Goal #3:** Establish mentor programming for young people, newly arrived professionals and others who have emigrated to Canada.

### HOW:

- Offer classes on various subjects such as cooking, basic budgeting etc. (offering free child care during such sessions) as well as mentoring programs for young, single parents.
- Work with area high-schools to provide outfits, haircuts/styling, associated with annual proms, to students who cannot afford such expenses.
- Liaise with the “Welcome Centre” in Ajax, as well as other professional associations in the Durham Region, in providing mentoring and/or social and professional links for newcomers to Canada living or working in Whitby.

~Gary L. Gannon



# WHO'S in the PEWS

## Lee Elliott

**I've been at all Saints** all of my life, about 29 ... I mean ... 59 years!

**Once upon a time I** was a teacher, secondary and elementary. But I have been retired for three years now and love it!

**I find a lot of joy in** home things—gardening, decorating, reading and napping in my backyard.

**It's not fashionable but** I like to unplug. I like quiet,

reading a real book, not knowing all the latest tech.

**If my life was a book, the title would be** *How Can I Help You?*



**I came to All Saints because** my parents brought my sisters and me as children.

**One thing I love about All Saints** is being involved. I have met some wonderful people through various groups and activities.

## Janet Duke

**I've been at All Saints since** 1983, when we moved to Ontario from New Brunswick.

**Once upon a time I** worked at Brickin Canada, the gull-wing door car company.

**I find a lot of joy in** gardening, growing something beautiful from "nothing" (seed).

**It's not fashionable but** I don't Facebook, Instagram or Tweet, I use a telephone or ... can you believe it, I wrote a letter last week to my aunt in New Brunswick.

**If my life was a book, the title would be** *Connect the Dots - Things Happen for a Reason.*



**I came to All Saints because** one of my neighbours (I had been here only a few months) asked me to help in the nursery for a "ladies day event" and everything snowballed from there, church school teacher and St. Margaret's Guild that fall. I have been busy at All Saints' ever since!

**One thing I love about All Saints** is that it is my "other" family and I can count on someone to make me feel needed!

## Karen Carter

**I've been at all Saints since** December 15, 1991.

**Once upon a time I** used to be a ballet and tap teacher.

**I find a lot of joy in** afternoon tea, dancing (especially with my daughters), and singing at the top of my lungs to my favourite songs on long car rides BY MYSELF!



**It's not fashionable but** I like to read a hard cover book and knit.

**If my life was a book, the title would be** *Death by Chocolate.*

**I came to All Saints because** I had recently moved to Whitby and had been looking for a church. I liked the character of All Saints' building. It reminded me of my childhood church with the steeple and stained glass windows.

**One thing I love about All Saints** are my friends from St. Margaret's Guild.

Send your WHO'S in the PEWS responses (with a selfie) to [editorsaintsalive@gmail.com](mailto:editorsaintsalive@gmail.com)

## Welcoming *continued from p. 1*

a greeting that was more about the greeter than the newcomer. It was fine to be told that the church was “really friendly,” but it didn’t really get to who I was or why I was there. Besides everyone believes they are “really friendly” ... just like everyone thinks they are a good driver or have a great sense of humour. Furthermore I find it hard to imagine there’s any church in the Christendom that doesn’t claim to be friendly.

There was also my greeter’s vampiric presumption that I had come to find a church home and would necessarily be happy there because they were “interested in new people.” Imagine a first date where your partner opens with “I am desperate to get married, so you’re going to love me.” (I’ve seen movies like that and the right response is “run away!”)

The church’s interest in me wasn’t *about* me, or why exactly *I* had arrived on the doorstep for worship that morning. And while the fact that my greeter had been at the church for ten years was a strong endorsement, it didn’t help me at coffee hour when I ended up standing alone for ten minutes before slipping out a side door unnoticed.

If you had asked churchgoers in that parish, I am certain they would have all agreed that they had a positive attitude towards newcomers. But were they sensitive to newcomers? Could they go beyond “friendly”? The congregation had not actively engaged me as someone with an urge or need to be in church that day. That warm welcome, which lasted only as long as it took me to get seated in a pew, was clearly not part of an intentional ministry to attract and incorporate newcomers. Beyond first contact at the front door, there was no evidence of a purposeful or long-term plan for evangelism.



And, yes, there it is. I said it—“evangelism.” The E-word. I am not sure why this word gets everyone so worked up. The church has been on a mission of evangelism since 33AD. The word itself means simply, “bringing of good news.” We have been called and are still called to be messengers of good news and fishers of people. We’re not merely the sacred equivalent of Walmart greeters, shouting out ‘hello’ to anyone who comes across the threshold. We are the ones whom Christ has mandated to bring others into a vibrant relationship with God.

To do so, a welcoming ministry needs to actively attract and invite new people, not just wait for them to show up on a Sunday. And our purpose in being invitational is not about what we need—it’s not about putting more bodies in the pews or coin in the collection plate. It is about what the visitor or newcomer needs. This requires courage in welcoming ministry, to say not simply “Hello,” but also “How can we serve you?” It requires that we take responsibility for accepting and incorporating newcomers without regard to whether they will “fit in” or quietly follow the rules or if they will require accommodations we haven’t previously offered. This is how we go from attraction to retention; this is how we go beyond “friendly.” This is also how we extend the magnetism and gospel of Christ into the community and bring the community into our church so that we all might benefit from the fellowship of interesting, caring, and involved people.

~ Arleane Ralph

## *All Saints Church Bursary*

The All Saints Bursary Application Package 2017 is now available.

This financial award is offered to **children of All Saint's Whitby Vestry members and DDSB students in the seven local Whitby-Ajax secondary schools** who are graduating this spring and have been accepted at an accredited Canadian college or university. **Get a copy from the webpage or the office.** The deadline for submission of applications to the parish office is May 4th at noon.

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## NOTICES & OTHER REMINDERS

**Northern Connections** In partnership with Bishop Lydia Mamakwa of the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mish-amikoweesh, parishioners are invited to create care packages for new parents and their babies First Nation communities in Northwestern Ontario and Northern Alberta. Boxes for this Lenten program will be available starting Sunday, February 26 and collected for blessing on April 23. For more information contact Lee Carter.

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**Confirmation Classes** begin March 26th. Classes will run during the 10am services on March 26, April 2, 23 & 30, and May 14 & 28. Confirmation Sunday is June 4. Register with Joanne Warman.

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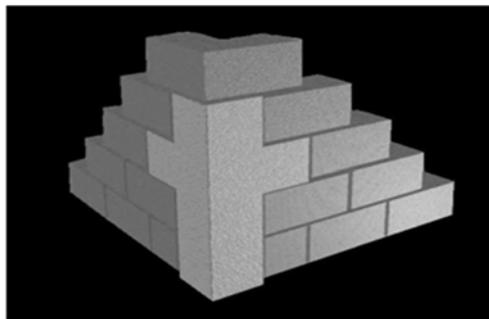
**Stamps for Leprosy** A reminder from Helen Bastarache to continue saving stamps from your mail. (Please no machine stamps as on business mail.) Just drop the stamps in the boxes at either of the church entrances.

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**Vocans Cantatrices:** The choir is in urgent need of women's voices. Rehearsals are Thursday nights at 7:30pm. Chat with Adriaan or one of the choir members to learn more.

**STOP!!**

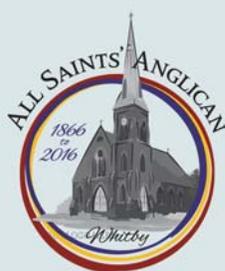
You're under  
a rest!!



### Christian Foundations Course

Starting Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup> 7:00-8:30pm

Join us for a study-and-discussion series on the foundations of the life of faith. There is a free dinner at 6:00 PM for those who can come, and the course starts at 7:00 PM, running on Wednesdays until April 26. The cost of the workbook is \$10. Please register by email to [jackybramma@rogers.com](mailto:jackybramma@rogers.com)



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***The next issue will be available in late June.  
The deadline for comments or submissions is  
June 4, 2017.***