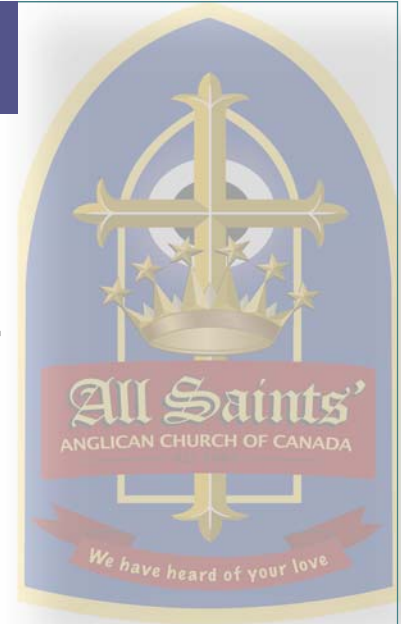


Saints Alive!

Editor:
A. Ralph

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Issue No. 9



CHURCH OPEN

Started in the summer of 2018 and formerly known as “Open for Prayer,” this once-a-week, year-round ministry is intended to open the worship space at All Saints’ to members of the public (as well as the congregation) who are seeking a time for peace, quiet, or prayer.

Every Thursday from 12 to 1PM, a dedicated group of ministry associates welcome those who are seeking a quiet space, offer information about the church, and on occasion just let interested persons view the inside of the worship space. *Church Open* signboards at the two entrance ways alert passersby to this opportunity. Between Easter and Thanksgiving, one additional ministry team member is located outside the church’s main entrance to encourage visitors.

Church Open is supported by a current ministry team totaling sixteen All Saints’ members. Two- or three-person teams rotate

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EDITOR’S VIEW: I Hear You

A portion of my everyday at the office involves phone calls from priests and parish lay leaders, who are seeking guidance and support on some dilemma related to their parochial life—a broken-down boiler, a conflict with a fellow parishioner, a nervous curiosity about new liturgies, a burning desire to start a missional project, planning a farewell service for a departing priest or a welcoming party for a new one. A lot of these conversations require me to do as much listening as talking, allowing the caller to work through the problem and arrive

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DON’T MISS ...

- Nov 3: Voices & Pipes Concert, 7PM
- Nov 16: Annual Parish Bazaar
- Nov 24: Evensong, 4PM
- Dec 1: Episcopal Visit by Area Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Riscylla Shaw, 10AM
- Dec 4: Advent Oasis Service
- Dec 15: Lessons & Carols Service

All Saints’ Anglican Church
www.allsaintswhitby.org



GOOD TRANSITIONS by Hope Eakins *(excerpted)*

Five ways a congregation in transition can prepare for the future

1. Trust that God is on the journey with you and that God has something new in store for you. Don't forget to say your prayers and to listen to God and to each other. Continuing to pray purposely and intentionally during an interim period embodies the conviction that you are living out God's word and that you are a part of God's mission.

2. Be adventurous. Try something new and remember that it is only a trial. Have a plan to assess the outcome and be swift to revert to form if the new effort fails. ...

3. Be generous-hearted to the former clergy leader. Praise the good and ignore the bad. Be diligent in following diocesan recommendations about your relationship with the former priest and let him or her go. Both priest and parish need to focus their time and energy on the future and not on the past.

4. Use the interim period to make needed changes in personnel and staff structure so the new rector will not be burdened. ... You might consider inviting parishioners to fill in temporarily and serve as trainers. It can extend and invigorate their involvement in the parish.

5. Be there. It's your church, and if you don't support it, who will?

Hope Eakins is a Priest Associate at St. John's, West Hartford, Connecticut. She has served as interim priest to several parishes and views interim ministry as a time for real growth "in wisdom, age, and grace" for parish and priest alike. See the full article at www.ecfvp.org/vestry-papers/article/687/good-transitions

*"It's your church,
and if you don't support
it, who will?"*

Praying for Newcomers

When we pray for seekers and visitors who come to All Saints, we are not asking God to increase our numbers so the pews aren't so empty or because we need "more young people in the church" to keep it alive, or because the 9:30 Greeters team or the Chancel Guild need more warm bodies. We are praying for people to come to know Christ more fully. That's the primary goal. And here's a straightforward prayer to articulate that desire:

"Lord, I can't know the spiritual condition of this person, but I pray that You will make Yourself known to them this day. And, if it's Your will, use me and this church to do it."

When we pray for newcomers, it's not for our sake; it's for theirs.

POWER of PRAYER: LOOKING UP

The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!"

No one gets through this life without at times feeling shaken or inadequate in their faith. Even the apostles, who walked alongside Jesus and were audience to his miracles and teachings, had to ask for help staying strong. Our faith will have low ebbs, especially when we look around us at the grief in the world, when we look inward to our own heartaches, when we look askance at another's brokenness and then have to look away.

Like the apostles, we constantly wrestle with our doubts and questions. Like the apostles, it's okay to ask God to increase our faith. And we do this through prayer. We can't not look at the troubles around us in the world, in our relationships, in our hearts and minds. But the power of prayer, in good times and bad, is that when we pray, we also look up, up to God and His purpose for us.

~ Staff Writer

SHAPSHOTS FROM ISRAEL



Throughout the fall, many at All Saints had the opportunity to hear firsthand from Jacky the itinerary and highlights of her trip with her daughter Claire to Israel in April 2019. For those who missed those talks, here is a mere glimpse of Jacky's experience:

We went to so many biblically significant places, from both the Old and New Testaments, but here are just some of the powerful images that will be forever etched in my memory:

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Editor's View *continued from p.1*

at a decision they probably already knew in their hearts. Of course, many of the calls don't ever arrive at satisfactory answers, and in those cases listening becomes more important than anything else. It is, of course, a certain kind of listening. It is not judging, not critical, not suspicious. It is listening with empathy. It's listening and understanding what it must feel like; it's being willing to comprehend or

enter into the experience of the individual without a "been there, done that" attitude.

This issue of *Saints Alive* seems to be a lot about empathy and hearing where others are at. I think of the simple premise of the newcomers prayer (p.2), and of Adriaan and Jeff's tender sharing of their journey to equal cv marriage in the church (p.4). I think of

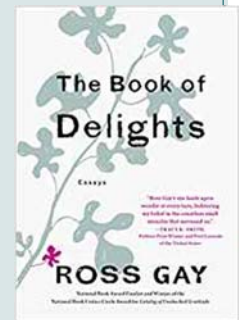
the gracious ministry of *Church Open* (p.1), and of Jacky and Claire touching the walls and foundations of the early church in Israel (p.3). All of these seem to evidence the depth and breadth of empathy that we as Christians are capable of. We can never say "I know exactly how you feel," but we can say: I hear you, I will walk where you must you, and I will stand for you. And we can say that because Jesus said it—to his fragile band of followers, to the marginalized, the frustrated, and the uncertain, and to us from the cross. Our God is the ultimate empathizer, and "he became as we are in order that we might become as he is."

~ Arlene Ralph

The Biblio-File

***The Book of Delights* ~ Ross Gay**

This is a genre-defying book of essays—some as short as a paragraph; some as long as five pages—that record the small joys that occurred in one year, from birthday to birthday, and that we often



overlook in our busy lives. ... Among Gay's funny, poetic, philosophical delights: the way Botan Rice Candy wrappers melt in your mouth, the volunteer crossing guard with a pronounced tremor whom he imagines as a kind of boat-woman escorting pedestrians across the River Styx, a friend's unabashed use of air quotes, pickup basketball games, the silent nod of acknowledgment between black people. And more than any other subject Gay celebrates, the beauty of the natural world—his garden, the flowers in the sidewalk, the birds, the bees, the mushrooms, the trees.

The Book of Delights is about our connection to the world, to each other, and the rewards that come from a life closely observed.

~ Goodreads

ALL SAINTS' STANDS UP FOR LOVE



On October 12, Jeff and I were married at All Saints, making us the first same-sex couple to be married in the church. To get to this point of joyful celebration, we went through periods of excitement punctuated by upsetting, somewhat dramatic, and heartbreaking moments.

At Arleane's request and with Jeff looking over my shoulder, I have endeavoured to put our thoughts and feelings on paper.

By way of background information, Jeff has been 'out' his whole life and was partnered for 34 years to Rick, who passed away from cancer the fall before we met. I only came out in September of 2014 after a marriage of 28 years. I am a proud father of two amazing daughters who have supported me from the beginning and continue to support me, and Jeff, as we move forward.

When Jeff proposed marriage on December 30, 2017, we knew that getting married in the Anglican Church, particularly at All Saints', was a non-starter, so we opted to wait until it was a possibility. This spring when it looked like my mother was failing, we opted to move the wedding forward and made arrangements to have the wedding in the fall of 2019 at Simcoe Street United Church, hoping that in the meantime the changes to the Marriage Canon would be approved and we could have the wedding at All Saints'.

For a time, it looked like that possibility might come to fruition this past July at the National Synod. But the motion to change the Marriage Canon failed and we were devastated. Our non-Anglican friends didn't fully understand the politics around: why it failed and explaining while trying to put on a brave face was very difficult. Then something happened—an amendment was approved to allow for a "local option" that would make it possible for local Bishops to authorize same-sex marriages as they saw fit. This passed and within a few days Bishop Asbil posted a video indicating that the only thing parishes had to do was ask his office for permission if they wanted to proceed with equal marriage. I tagged our Wardens on the video and within a day or two they indicated they were 'on it.' We began to see hope. Letters of permission were written within a week and sent off to the Diocesan Bishop's Office.



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Church Open *continued from p. 1*

through a six-week schedule. This is a wonderful opportunity for parish members to become involved in church activities. Several team members have said they too look forward to their turn on Thursdays as it offers them a chance to be still, relax, or pray.

Matthew's Gospel states "I was a stranger and you invited me in." *Church Open* does that for those who are seeking God, others who have something on their mind that they wish to share with Him, or individuals who wish but a few minutes of calm and quiet in their busy everyday world.

~ Gary Gannon



Editor's Note:

If you are looking for a way to support this valuable evangelical ministry, please contact Gary.

"BRIDGES"

There are bridges of stone,
green, with moss overgrown
supported by structures
with rust and old mould.

there are sleek new designs
with the smoothest of lines
spanning roads, rails and streams
and invading our dreams

The bridges of worth
the most precious on earth
are the times that one spends
with loved family and friends
cementing relationships, sharing ideas
renewing old memories, defining our years.

July 19 2019
L Patricia Bayley





CROSS OVER COFFEE HOUR

Hospitality, or more commonly “coffee hour,” has been a long-time tradition within All Saints. It’s the time to come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and some treats while being

able to socialize and catch up with members of the congregation.

There is no doubt that having coffee hour between the 9:30 and 11:00 service has altered things, but it’s no reason to stay away and here are some reasons why you should attend:

- ◆ The members of hospitality often bring in fresh-baked treats to serve other than boring boxed cookies.
- ◆ On the first Sunday of the month, we celebrate birthdays of the upcoming month by serving cake!
- ◆ Members of the hospitality team are in the kitchen and ready to serve coffee by 10:15 as the second service of the day is ending, so for 30 minutes attendees of both services can overlap and discuss what a great job

Geoff is doing as interim priest-in-charge.

- ◆ The hospitality team on duty still has to make the same amount of tea and coffee, so why not come and enjoy a cup and make them feel good about their efforts.

And most importantly:

- ◆ As we are going through a transition in searching for a new priest for All Saints, now more than ever is the time to come together and bond as a congregation!

Help keep this amazing All Saint’s tradition alive and well attended by enjoying a beverage and treats between 10:15 and 10:45 with your fellow parishioners.

~ *Liz Leishman*



STAND UP FOR LOVE *continued from p.4*

Finally, a ‘YES’ response was received. It was a ‘YES’ in part because All Saints’ had voted to become an affirming parish at the Vestry of February 2018. We cried.

For a same-sex couple to be married in their own parish home without having to go anywhere else is such an affirming, welcoming, and loving thing. The closer we got to the date the more excited we became about standing in front of our family, church and non-church friends, excited because we are showing others what All Saints’ stands for. All Saints’ has stood up for Love, Acceptance, and Diversity. We are grateful.

~ *Adriaan Bakker*

Snapshots, Israel *continued from p. 3*



* Standing on the shore of the Sea of Galilee, and taking a boat ride on it ... the very water that Jesus walked on!

* Looking down from the top of Masada over the barren landscape towards the Dead Sea.

* Visiting one of the sources of the River Jordan in the beautiful Tel Dan Nature Reserve. I imagine the Garden of Eden must have looked a lot like this.

* Singing “While Shepherds watched their flocks by night” at the Shepherds’ Fields chapel, whose beautiful dome enabled the sound to rise and reverberate.

* Visiting the Western “Wailing” Wall in Jerusalem. I didn’t expect to be so moved by it, but it was hard to stop the tears as I placed my prayer request in the wall, along with so many others.

* The City of David, and a private tour of the ongoing excavations deep under the ground, and seeing

the remains of dwellings dating back thousands of years, and touching the bedrock of Mount Moriah, where Abraham almost sacrificed Isaac.

* Walking and praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, just as Jesus and his disciples did after their Last Supper. Seeing the ancient olive trees took my breath away, as I imagined what agony Jesus must have suffered.

* Visiting the Garden Tomb, which many Christians believe is the site of Jesus’ tomb. We celebrated communion in this beautiful tranquil place.

* Seeing the divide between the Jewish and Palestinian people in the form of a high wall. On one section the graffiti read “There are God’s children on both sides, and no man made barrier can destroy that fact.” Will this ever be resolved?

There is so much more I could share. It is important to realize that all the ornate churches, though impressive, are not really the point. No one can prove for sure which exact spot an event took place, but for me what matters is paying homage to what happened. The landscape of Israel moved me in a way I never would have expected, and our time spent in Jerusalem really brought home the events of Jesus’ last week on earth.

Now I have a whole new perspective when I read my Bible, especially when I can visualize where something took place. It truly was a privilege and a blessing to be able to go.

~ Jacky Bramma



Parish Selection Committee (PSC) Update

In October, after a productive and laughter-filled “Town Hall,” All Saints’ PSC submitted the parish profile to Bishop Shaw, who will make it available to potential interested clerics. As the PSC process moves forward, please continue your prayers for the committee and for whomever God is calling to serve our parish.

Advent Conspiracy

This year at Advent, which begins December 1, our PSC prayer sequence on the “Prayer Life” webpage will take a back seat for four weeks as we explore the Advent Conspiracy, a global movement to guide individuals, families, and congregations through the Advent season. The “conspiracy” is built on four simple tenets—



Worship Fully



Spend Less



Give More



Love All

As the founders of the Advent Conspiracy observed, “the time of year when focusing on Christ should be the easiest was often the hardest.” The time has come to “make the Advent story personal again,” and “tell the story of Jesus to the watching world.” Keep your eye on the parish webpage and social media in late November as this unfolds.

NOTICES & OTHER REMINDERS

Staying Warm Together:

The Men’s Group annual drive for new & lightly used clothing for men, women, youth, children & infants is underway. Until Sunday Nov 10th, donations can be placed in the clear plastic drop boxes at the church front door & breezeway entrances or left on the parish hall stage marked “ATTN: Men’s Group.” Donated items are distributed to seven community shelters in the Durham Region.

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Shopping for All Saints :

Join the parish FlipGive team and then shop online as you normally would. Participating online retailers will give a

percentage of your purchase price back to the designated charity, i.e., All Saints. Learn more from Lee Carter.

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Sponsorship: We are delighted to confirm the safe arrival of our second sponsored family who touched down at Pearson on Oct. 3 to be reunited with their family already here in Canada. We are also delighted to report that they will be moving into a permanent home, an apartment in Ajax, by mid-October. While the initial flurry of activity to raise funds and gather household goods is now over, we will continue to update you from time to time on their

progress as we continue to support them until October 2020. Please continue to pray for this young family and their new life here in Canada.

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Still hearts: Remember that before the service starts, we are called to a moment of quiet as we prepare to hear God.



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**The next issue will be available in early spring.
The deadline for comments or submissions is
February 14, 2020.**