

Saints Alive!

Editor:
A. Ralph

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Molly & Sam, Joyfully Giving

I think it's fair to say that we had a real shift in our perspective around giving since we were first married. Sam didn't grow up with a lot of discussion around proportionate giving, but I did, so we really had to negotiate that! It wasn't really a "joyful" thing for us early on, but a matter of obligation. As we grew in our spiritual journeys, however (and I should add that both of us are at different places in those journeys, which I think is totally normal in many relationships), our feeling around giving changed. We began to see it as a symbol of our gratitude to God for our life of faith. And the more we gave, the more grateful we felt. We never felt deprived, but began to see stewardship as a great privilege. When Sam moved along in his career, we were delighted that it meant we could do a bit more. We didn't get overly legalistic about it, but we would intentionally budget a percentage of our income with the goal of moving that up each year. And pre-authorized giving made a huge difference for us. The giving came off the top and right out of the bank account so we didn't think about it. We would say that when we relaxed the grip that we had on what we thought was "ours," we truly became joyful givers and had a great sense of God's abundance in our lives—not just in a material sense, but in our feelings of gratitude towards a loving and gracious God.

~ Molly Finlay

EDITOR'S VIEW: Ordinary Time

There is an old chestnut of a saying—"May you live in interesting times"—that it is understood at once to be both a blessing and a curse.

I absolutely feel as if I live in interesting times, on the home front with two teenage children, an elderly parent, and the unique dynamics of a large extended family, and on the

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DON'T MISS ...

- October 21: TRC Blanket Exercise
- November 5: All Saints' Day (*trans.*)
- November 18: Parish Bazaar
- December 3: First Sunday in Advent
- December 5: Advent Oasis Service
- February 11: Annual Vestry Meeting

All Saints Anglican Church
www.allsaintswhitby.org





INCUMBENT'S MESSAGE

The other day a friend asked me, "What is it all about?" He is restless and wondering if he is doing something that matters.

Trying to find meaning in life is part of being human. It is one of the reasons that our hearts are restless until they rest in God.

Questions about meaning and purpose are good for the Church to ask as well. Why are we here? What is our purpose? What are we about?

I think the answer is that we are here to demonstrate the love of Jesus

Christ in the community we serve. So many churches, including our own at times, focus inward on what we like and want. But Christ calls us to look outward and ask how we might show his love to the people around us.

What more can we be doing to fulfil this, our purpose? And, what can YOU do? It might be as simple as bringing a friend to church or the Alpha Course. Maybe it is volunteering in a outreach-based ministry? You will know what works for you, but remember we are all called to do something! That is why God planted us here.

~ Stephen+

"we are here to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ in the community we serve"

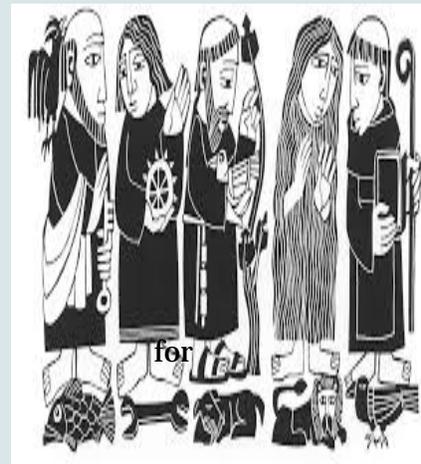
A MEDITATION FOR ALL SAINTS DAY

We give you thanks, O God, for all the saints who ever worshipped you
Whether in brush arbour or cathedrals,
Weathered wooden churches or crumbling cement meeting houses
Where your name was lifted and adored.

We give you thanks, O God, for hands lifted in praise:
Manicured hands and hands stained with grease or soil,
Strong hands and those gnarled with age
Holy hands used as wave offerings across the land.

We thank you, God, for hardworking saints;
Whether hard-hatted or steel-booted,
Head ragged or aproned,
Blue-collared or three-piece-suited
They left their mark on the earth for you, for us,
our children to come.

Thank you, God, for the tremendous sacrifices
made by those who have gone before us.
Bless the memories of your saints, God.
May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples
of faith, dedication, worship, and love.



by Safiyah Fosua



PHOTO CREDIT: BEN RALPH; ARLEANE RALPH

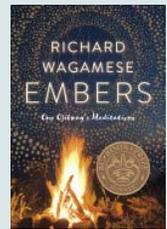
The Biblio-File

Embers

Richard Wagamese (2013)

Wagamese takes inspiration from many aspects of his life, from working in the bush to a smudge ceremony that brings him closer to the Creator. Honest, evocative and articulate, Wagamese explores the various manifestations of grief, joy, recovery, beauty, gratitude, physicality and spirituality—concepts many find hard to express. Within

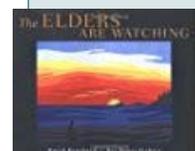
Embers, readers will find hard-won and concrete wisdom on how to feel the joy in the everyday things. Wagamese does not seek to be a teacher or guru, but these observations made along his own journey to become, as he says, "a spiritual bad-ass," make inspiring reading.



Parents of young readers might also want to check out:

The Elders are Watching Bouchard & Vickers (2013)

David Bouchard's beautiful poetry delivers a clear message about care of our environment and is illustrated by the stunning and vibrant



artwork of Roy Henry Vickers.

~ Embers review adapted from Google Books

Blessing of the Animals Service 2017

Safely “at home” in Canada

It's hard to believe it, but by the time you read this, one third of our sponsorship commitment will be behind us.

It has been a busy four months with the first weeks consumed by paperwork, house hunting, medical and dental appointments, the beginning of ESL lessons and, more recently, school registration. A word of thanks to the volunteers who made this happen, especially our tireless translators including Violet Seikaly-Srigley from All Saints. Thanks also to the miracle that is Google Translate!

While some ESL training was undertaken during the summer, that has now become the priority for both the adults and the children of the family. This includes formal training as well as participation in community-based activities.

The family is becoming more independent including being more comfortable on public transit and able to manage their own schedule of activities and appointments. The next big piece in the puzzle

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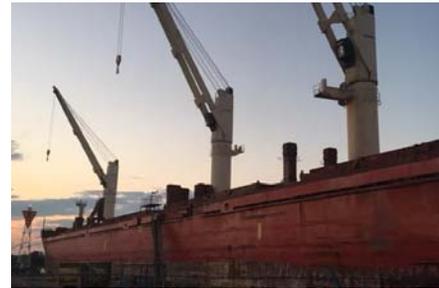
Mission to Seafarers, Oshawa Station

Little did I dream that this summer I would learn to say “hello” and “goodbye” in Bulgarian. Nor did I ever imagine that I would drive a young Indian man to the Sikh Temple in Oshawa, or go on board a merchant ship and be invited to have coffee in the officers’ mess. These are just some of my memories as a volunteer at the newly-opened Mission to Seafarers at the Port of Oshawa. The Oshawa mission is named in memory of the late Archbishop Terence Finlay, who for many years was involved with ministry to seafarers along the Great Lakes.



The Mission to Seafarers has been around for more than 150 years throughout the world, with the goal of providing a safe haven, assistance and support for merchant seamen when they are far from home. The Mission’s Chaplain, the Reverend Judith

Alltree, worked tirelessly for four years to find the resources needed to open the station in Oshawa. Thanks to monetary gifts received from the UK branch of Mission to Seafarers and from the Diocese of Toronto, a refurbished construction trailer now sits just down the road from the harbour gates, at the foot of Farewell Avenue. Here incoming seamen can find a quiet place to relax and socialize, away from the cramped, and often noisy quarters on their ships, while making use of the free, unlimited Wi-Fi that the station offers. Wi-Fi is not available to the men at sea, so this provides a vital link to their loved ones on the other side of the world, when they are away from home for months on end.



If you would like to volunteer, please contact Reverend Alltree: glutenfree-priest@me.com or talk to Jacky Bramma or Tim Ralph to hear about their experiences at the Oshawa station.

A small crew of volunteers work as needed at the mission, but the schedule is not a regular one. Some weeks there may be no ships in port, while at other times there could be three at once. Deacon Alltree would welcome more volunteers. As a volunteer you might find yourself going on board newly arrived ships to welcome them and tell them about the services provided by the mission;

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Seafarers *continued from p. 4*

however, much of the time is likely to be spent at the trailer as a host to sailors who drop by. Occasionally they will need a ride to the bank or to go shopping.

Although this is an outreach ministry of the Anglican Church, it does not involve proselytizing. It is a ministry of presence and welcome, acting as Jesus' hands and feet by showing kindness to strangers. Of course, if someone

wants to ask about Christianity, we are ready to respond. This summer a Bulgarian seaman, the only Christian on board his ship, was thrilled to talk to other Christians. He would linger at closing time when the crew had left, and ask me to pray with him, calling me "Sister Jacky." This was a humbling moment indeed!

~ *Jacky Bramma*

Safely at Home *continued from p.*

will be to work with the head of the household around job skills and opportunities in Canada including any retraining that may be needed.

As always, our goal is to ensure that by the end of our sponsorship, the family will have mastered the skills necessary to stand on their own as successful Canadians. Insha' Allah

~*Lee Carter for ROAD (Refugee Outreach Anglicans in Durham)*

Notes & Queries: Synodal Declaration

At a recent get-together of my trusty band of Anglican history buffs, we amused ourselves with a diverting pastime of rhyming liturgical terms, which inevitably led to the challenge of what rhymes with Synod.

Our poetic musings were overheard by a newcomer to Anglican terminology, who quite correctly asked, "What is a Synod meeting anyway?"

The answer is quite simply that it is an annual general meeting of a church's governing body. This of course prompted the next question: "Then, why the devil call it a Synod and not an AGM? Why not just use plain English?" Putting aside the uncomfortable invocation of Old Nick, I take the point. "Synod" may not be a familiar word to anyone outside or new to the Anglican Communion. As for plain English, I hasten to point out that "synod" is actually derived from the Greek

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WHO'S in the PEWS

Jim Finlay

I've been at all Saints since 1991.

Once upon a time I would never have dreamed of going to church on a regular basis.

I find a lot of joy in the support of others in my faith.

It's not fashionable but I am a Joyful Giver.

If my life was a book, the title would be *You Did What?*



I came to All Saints because it seemed to be the closest Anglican Church to our home at the time.

The things I love about All Saints the abundant variety of different people from different walks of life with different with differing opinions, but having a belief and commitment to the two creeds (i.e., Nicene and Apostles) in common.

Kenneth Armes

I've been at All Saints since 2015.

Once upon a time I was a joyful young man but now I'm just an old codger. I'm one of those guys that sits in the sun and begins the conversation "Back in my day ..."

I find a lot of joy in my lovely wife Carol, my grandchildren Benjamin, Elisa, Chloe and Matteo, my fine adult children, Andrew, Heloise, Stephen, Tarl and Jean Paul, and their spouses.

It's not fashionable but I believe we're in too much of a rush to change things for the sake of change. What

happened to good old fashioned debate?



If my life was a book, the title would be *How The Heck Did I Live This Long?*

I came to All Saints' because I met a few of the guys from All Saint's when I started inviting different churches to our Men's Breakfast at my old church. When the time came to find a new place of worship I already knew quite a few people and Father Stephen so the transition was an easy and smooth one.

One thing I love about All Saints' is the sense of community and the welcoming attitude of the congregation.

Mary Sano

I've been at all Saints since 1969, after arriving in Whitby two years prior from Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Once upon a time I spent 3 years in an internment camp in British Columbia.

I find a lot of joy in the precious time I spend with scattered family & being outdoors on the walking trails with friends.

It's not fashionable but I keep a daily journal.

If my life was a book, the title would be *Never a Dull Moment.*

I came to All Saints because my late husband Roy and I wished to have our infant daughter baptized, and to enrol our 2 older daughters in church school.

One thing I love about All Saints is it is such a welcoming, friendly spiritual home.



Ordinary Time *continued from p. 1*

work front with a challenging job with the Diocese where “periods of significant transition” appear to be the norm. I do consider these things to be a blessing, but when I say it’s “interesting,” it is with a healthy dose of irony. And don’t even get me started on the “interesting times” we are experiencing in North America in relation to political affairs, climate change, and issues of social justice.

Amidst all the interesting times in which I live, I find I am attracted to what in the liturgical year is known as Ordinary Time. The church year is dominated by Lent, Holy Week, Eastertide and Advent, but the rest of the year is commonly considered Ordinary Time. For Anglicans, Ordinary Time accounts for the days between Epiphany and Ash Wednesday, and then the period from Pentecost to the First Sunday of Advent. As I write this, it’s Ordinary Time.

It’s all a little church nerdy to know these intervals, but what attracts me to Ordinary Time is that there are these moments in the liturgical year when Anglicans are confronted with the fact that there’s nothing “high holiday” going on, when everything is, well, ... relatively ordinary. In recent times, the word “ordinary” has somehow come to suggest things that are substandard, that is, without any special or distinctive features; commonplace, average, boring. Let’s face it, nobody wants to be ordinary; we all strive for extraordinary, special, above average. But ordinary is not a bad thing.

I think it’s instructive that in the liturgical calendar the combined periods of Ordinary Time comprise the longest portion of the liturgical year. It’s good for us to have ordinary time, moments when we are left alone with only the fundamentals of our faith. Without the happy distraction of Christmas or Easter, do we still engage? Do we still feel the extraordinary and significant presence of God, the Son and the Holy Spirit working on our lives and in our parish in the most ordinary of times?

I like ordinary times: the weekends when nothing is scheduled, the Saturdays without



any commitments, the moments when nothing particular is going on – just routine family dinners, unremarkable walks in the neighbourhood, afternoons of aimlessly pattering around the house. I suppose there are some, like my dear sweet widowed mother, who have a surfeit of ordinary times, and I empathize. But as an antidote to “interesting times,” I embrace those periods when everything slows down, the ordinary times. It is then that I can focus on, and truly appreciate, all that is extraordinary in our life as church and

children of God. As trite as it sounds, even the most ordinary moment is a remarkable opportunity to live out our faith before and with others.

~ Arleane Ralph

On Synod *continued from p. 5*

words for “walking together,” as in *syn-* “together” + *hodos* “a traveling, journeying; a manner or system (of doing, speaking, etc.); a way, road, path.”

But let’s put aside our Oxford English Dictionary and consider the purpose of a Synod meeting. This is a timely reflection as the Diocese of Toronto will be hosting its regular biennial Synod meeting this November and yet another electoral Synod in 2018. In each instance, the Incumbent or Priest-in-Charge of every parish of the Diocese and the elected parish lay delegates of the same will assemble (or walk together in person and spirit) to discuss the priorities and plans of the Diocese for the near future and to vote on changes to the constitutions and canons (essentially the bylaws of our organization).

Early Canadian synods were established in the 1850s, although full autonomy for churches in the colonies was only granted by the Empire in 1861. Even so, the first proper General Synod for all of Canada was not held until 1893. That Synod resulted in the “Solemn Declaration,” which describes how the “Church of England in the Dominion of Canada” is related to the mother Church of England. You can still find the Declaration on p. viii of the BCP.

In the Diocese of Toronto, in the years when the full Synodal body does not meet, Diocesan Council stands in for the larger body of the church for the purposes of day-to-day governance.

And as for what rhymes with Synod, well, I won’t spoil your fun. You puzzle it out.

~ Bertie Weatherbottom

NOTICES & OTHER REMINDERS

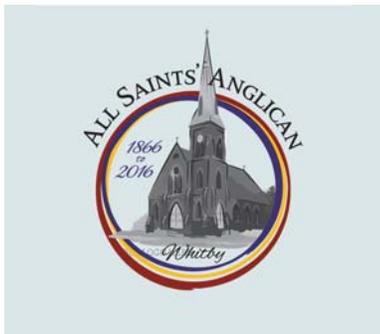
Joyful Giving: The annual stewardship review and parish relay will run from Oct. 15th to Nov. 5th. In October, route captains will be commissioned to monitor the movement of the route packages from house to house. When the relay package reaches you, please prayerfully consider your financial commitment to All Saints. The Joyful giving campaign culminates on

November 5 with a moment of dedication and thanksgiving during the 10:00am service. Be generous; be joyful.

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Area Pre-Synod & Synod: Your elected delegates to Synod (the Diocese’s AGM) are Ken Armes, Tim Ralph, and Michelle Hunt. On your behalf, they will be attending the Trent-Durham Pre-Synod meeting in mid-October and the Diocesan General Synod for two

consecutive days in November. Contact them for information on the major discussion items or to voice your position on the issues.



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The next issue will be available in late February. The deadline for comments or submissions is February 16, 2017.