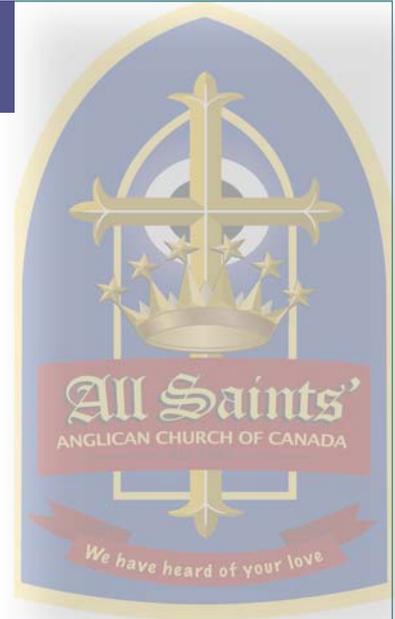


Saints Alive!

Editor:
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Psst! Pass it on!

Evangelism: the preaching or promulgation of the Christian gospel; zealous advocacy of a cause or doctrine
(*Cdn Oxford Dictionary*)

Unfortunately the very word *evangelism* strikes fear into the heart of many of us, with images of standing on street corners, knocking on doors, or speaking to complete strangers about Jesus.

At the end of Matthew's gospel, Jesus' last earthly words to his disciples instruct them to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations" (28:19). As Christians, we too are disciples of Christ and are called upon to share the Good News with others. So why do we find it so difficult?

Some might say it is the fear of rejection or ridicule, or perhaps feeling inadequate when it comes to theology and answering questions.

If we have discovered a great restaurant, seen a beautiful movie, or travelled somewhere amazing, we will naturally tell all our friends and family about it. How about the accomplishments of our children, or the birth of a grandchild? Just go to Facebook read all about it!

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EDITOR'S VIEW: Vestry Buzz

If you are a church junkie as I am, you are probably still feeling the happy afterglow of this year's annual vestry—the thrill of budget review, the artistry of motions, the exquisite pleasure of gnoshing on little sandwiches while turning report pages. If you are rolling your eyes right now, let me tell you it's very hard to read while you're doing that. Let me also assure you I am not kidding and I am not being sarcastic. I love the annual Vestry!

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DON'T MISS ...

- April 1: Easter Sunday
- April 8: Blessing of Gifts for Northern Connections
- April 29: Steven Bell Concert
- May 13: Mother's Day Apple Crisp Sales
- May 13: Change to 3 Services Schedule
- June 24: Bursary Award Sunday

All Saints' Anglican Church
www.allsaintswhitby.org





INCUMBENT'S MESSAGE

Archbishop William Temple wrote that “the Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members.” I find these words powerfully applicable in our day. They remind us of two things: the Church is meant to be counter-cultural and it is

meant to serve the surrounding culture.

Sometimes it is difficult to see where popular culture ends and the Church begins. The Church is called to speak against the wave of popular culture and call people into a new way of being. In other words, the Church is not meant to be shaped by society so it is relevant, but to shape society so it is in tune with God’s vision for human existence. The question for us is, how can we live in a way that is proof of a

loving God — a God of justice, peace, compassion and forgiveness?

A large component of being counter-cultural is avoiding the temptation to be self-serving. Jesus teaches us that he came to serve, not to be served and that we must operate from the same understanding. What can we do to serve those in need around us? How can we be the love and compassion that they long and pray for? How can we help show them that there is more to life than striving for status, things, titles and money?

The first step in all these things is to live them ourselves. Only when we surrender ourselves as disciples of Jesus to his example, can we be examples and witness to his power to free us to be children of God.

May God bless us on the way as we follow the One who is the way, the truth and the life.

~ Stephen+

“Only when we surrender ourselves as disciples of Jesus his example, can we be examples and witness to his power.”

A Prayer for Earth’s Teachings

Earth teach me freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky.

Earth teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring.

Earth teach me to forget myself, as melted snow forgets its life.

Earth teach me to remember kindness, as dry fields weep with rain.

(Excerpt from a Ute prayer; www.cbmidwest.org/documents/PrayerforEarthDay.pdf)

POWER of PRAYER: About Prayer Chain

what? The chain addresses prayer needs that are urgent and time-limited, like a surgery, a hospital stay, a death, job loss, or court date.

how, when, and where? Periodically prayer chain members receive an email (or phone call, if preferred) that says who to pray for, why, and for how long. Chain members each pray daily in their own way and on their own time for that need. The prayer is that the subject may experience healing or peace or comfort; and that their supporters and caregivers will be skilled and tender and equally cared for by God.

why? Because prayer makes a difference for the subject. Because it reminds us that we do not have to go through the trials of life alone. Through prayer, we fulfill Jesus’ call to us to care for others. Prayer glorifies God, and it makes us strong in the promise of God’s love while at the same time requiring us to surrender in faith to God’s will.

who? You can be a prayer chain team member if you pray, have email (or a phone), and can keep prayer requests confidential. Contact Arleane R. or Sarah H. to sign up.

Vestry Highlights

We unanimously passed a motion to become an affirming parish that embraces and accepts LGBT+ persons into the full life of our community.

We unanimously passed the Diocesan Social Justice and Advocacy motion to petition the Ontario government to do more to end homelessness in our province. We also decided to see how we can better help the homeless in our area.

We learned we have the capacity to expand our Sunday schedule to three services: 8:00, 9:30 & 11:00. The services change will begin on May 13. *(Read more about this on page 4.)*



PHOTO CREDITS: ERIN RALPH/ARLEANE RALPH

Sage Truths

During the dedication of the acknowledgment plaque in 2017, we partook in an indigenous “smudging” ceremony. Smudging is a form of cleansing. The smoke from sacred medicine plants – sweet grass, sage, tobacco and cedar are used to wash away the negativity we carry and which surrounds us.

We ask the creator to

- cleanse our eyes so that they will see the truth around us and to see the beauty of mother earth,
- cleanse our mouths so that all we speak will be truthful and said in a good way to empower the positive,
- cleanse our ears so that we will hear the spiritual truths given us by our creator to request assistance from others and to hear only the good things and not the negative; and
- cleanse our hearts so that we may feel the truth grow within us to be good and pure, open to kindness compassion, gentleness and caring.



~ Keith Wagar

The Biblio-File

Brother Lawrence’s *Practice of the Presence of God*

The Practice of the Presence of God is a collection of letters and conversations that capture the wisdom and teachings of Br. Lawrence, a 17th-century Carmelite monk. It is a short, simple, and straightforward devotion that has inspired millions. Beginning with pure faith in God, Br. Lawrence teaches that we should always draw near to God, and that God should so occupy us that we leave aside all other thoughts. The advice is practical, focused, and wise, and dedicated to the single theme of learning an awareness of the presence of God in everyday life.

Br. Lawrence was Nicholas Herman of Lorraine before his acceptance as a lay brother among the barefoot Carmelites of Paris. His conversion, described in the first letter, took place in the winter when he was about eighteen years old: “seeing a tree stripped of its leaves, and considering that within a little time, the leaves would be renewed, and after that the flowers and fruit appear, he received a high view of the Providence and Power of God.”

The book is available in many excellent editions and translations.

~ Staff Writer

Pass It On *continued from p. 1*

Apart from **THE GOOD NEWS**, the good news is that we don't have to do anything weird in order to tell others about Jesus. There are more intuitive ways.

First and foremost is showing what it means to follow Jesus by the way we live our lives, not only on Sunday, but every day. Do we reflect God's love by treating others with respect and dignity, sharing our resources with people in need? Are we ethical in our business practices? Do we make worship and prayer a priority?

When it comes to telling others about God's Son, we can do this without being overbearing. We need to be sensitive to where other people are in their spiritual journey. It could simply be a matter of telling about something interesting going on at church, when people at work are talking about their weekend. We also need to be prepared to answer questions about why church plays an important part in our lives, and, *if asked*, to tell about our own journey. With practice this gets to be a natural thing to do!

Probably the easiest thing we can do is to *invite* a non-churchgoer to a special event. If you don't think they are ready for Anglican worship, try asking someone to a special concert, such as Steve Bell at All Saints on April 29, or to the next Alpha course.

It is not our job to twist anyone's arm. All we have to do is offer the invitation, and leave the rest to God. We can simply invite a friend to come to supper, and to try Alpha for one week, and see what happens. Pass it on!

~ Jacky Bramma

Here We Grow Again

We are excited to announce that we will be moving to a three service schedule on Sunday mornings, beginning May 13. This is a great opportunity to experiment a bit in an attempt to reach out to those in our community who do not belong to a Church or have faith in Jesus Christ.



Trying to connect to the wider community is a gospel imperative. In fact, it is Jesus' last word to His followers: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19-20)

Here's what our Sunday morning schedule will look like:

- ◆ 8:00 am – BCP said Holy Communion
- ◆ 9:30 am – Seeker-oriented service with contemporary music and lasting about 45 minutes
- ◆ Coffee time between service for 9:30 and 11:00 folks
- ◆ 11:00 am – Traditional Anglican worship with choir and organ, using both the BCP & BAS

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A Decidedly Good Day

Sitting quietly and enjoying a mid-day break at The Café Nervosa, my local coffee emporium, I was surprised to hear two regulars discussing Good Friday and whether they would attend a service at their church this year.

“We really should,” one of them suggested, “go back to calling it by its original name. It should be ‘God’s Friday.’” Those of you who know me will understand that it took every ounce of my being not to step in and correct this common misbelief. Even so, my cup of Kenyan Top AA Dark Roast shook briefly when I heard this remark and I was spurred to put pen to paper and put this misconception to rest.

I’ve always been struck by the solemnity of this one very different day in our liturgical calendar. The mournful music, the starkness of the stripped altar, the black vestments, the silent procession in and out of the church. It is one of

most Holy days we celebrate – and of course, thus the term, ‘Good Friday.’ The word ‘Good’ takes us back to Old English where ‘Good’ meant ‘Holy’ and therefore ‘Good Friday’ should rightly be translated to ‘Holy Friday.’

The wonder of the transition from Holy Friday to Easter Sunday – from death to life – winter to spring – night to day – is that which sets us apart as Christians from those who proclaim to be spiritual but not religious. As Anglicans we are most definitely spiritual, but we also believe that our lives and deaths are mirrored in this beautifully sad wonder – the wonder of Holy Friday.

A blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter to all of you! Enjoy each Very Good Day.

~Bertie Weatherbottom

“For the Beauty of the Earth” Day

Earth Day (April 22) is dedicated to increasing awareness about care of our planet and its issues and problems. More than 1 billion people in 192 countries participate in Earth Day activities each year to help our Earth. It is the largest civic observance in the world. This year Earth Day is on a Sunday. It is not a religious holiday, but as Christians we should be working to protect God’s creation. Here are some ways to help:

1. Learn as much as you can about climate change.
2. Plant a tree in your community.
3. Spend more time outside. Pray or read Psalm 104 in a park.
4. Support farmers and their families. Go to a farmers’ market.
5. Leave the car in the driveway. Walk, cycle, or ride the bus.
6. Reduce your use of plastic bags, bottles and packaging.
7. Connect on social media and share.

Learn more at www.earthday.ca (@EarthDayCanada) or www.earthday.org (@EarthDayNetwork).

~ Erin Ralph



Vestry Buzz *continued from p. 1*

What a chance to review the past year together, celebrating magnificent lay leaders and remembering events and changes to our membership. We perform essentially “a ministry scan” and justifiably pat ourselves on the back for another successful year. Plus there are little sandwiches. Did I already mention the sandwiches? Even more importantly than looking back over the year, we dare at Vestry to imagine how our present resources are going to meet our future vision, and we make corporate decisions that answer Jesus’ command to us to go, to love our neighbours, to continue to be fishers of people.

Of course, All Saints is particularly blessed right now with fiscal stability and sustainable membership. Not all parishes in the Diocese can say the same. We do not presently face any challenges to survival. The budget is done and dusted. The boiler is ticking along. And we’re all

“staffed” up for another year. God willing, this will remain the case as we go forward into the future to which we are called as a church.

It is heartening for me to know that while All Saints is comfortable, this parish is not complacent. Take a look at the Vestry highlights on page 2. We have the resources to add a youth ministry coordinator to our clergy team; Stephen and Molly are adding a “seeker-friendly” service; and we are spreading our wings in terms of local outreach and social justice opportunities. I definitely sense a will and a potential here to be a “go-ing” church! I find that super exciting. I hope you feel the same way.

~ Arleane Ralph

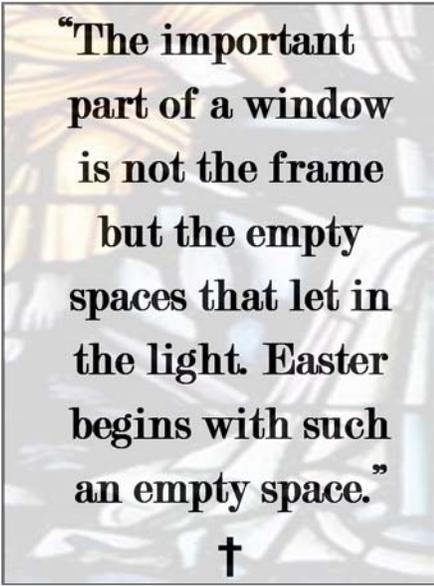
Post Script: If it’s your practice to skip annual Vestries, I am sorry you do. Come next year. Sit by me and I’ll share the churchland buzz!

Growing Again *continued from p. 4*

Details are still being worked out with Bishop Shaw about exactly what the 9:30 service will look like. We will iron out the kinks through the spring and summer and plan for an official launch of the final product in September. A decision around Sunday School times will be announced at that time as well.

Please pray for the clergy and Launch Team as well as those in our area who are searching for the comfort of Christ’s gospel of love.

~Stephen+



“The important part of a window is not the frame but the empty spaces that let in the light. Easter begins with such an empty space.”



In Conclusion: The End of our 1st Refugee Sponsorship

It is hard to believe, but we are now down to the last couple of months of our sponsorship of the Aldibo family who arrived in Canada on May 24, 2017.

To all appearances now, they are just like any other Canadian family: school for the kids, work for the parents (ESL), home-work, swimming, soccer, shopping, laundry, mosque, visiting friends, etc.

In the background, we are now actively into the “Exit Strategy,” which is to secure jobs for Mohamad and Ahlam and enable independence by having the family manage all aspects of their daily lives, such as bill payments, making and attending appointments, and using public transit.

The family is amazingly adroit at social media (although shocked at the cost of data and cellular in Canada!) and this has allowed them to stay in touch with family and friends around the world but some things that are second nature to us have proven to be alien to them; for example,

- They have never needed a resumé to apply for a job.
- They have no experience with credit cards, debit cards, online banking, auto debits and direct deposits.
- The adults are not computer literate.
- The older boys missed 5 years of education and are far behind in numerical literacy – a must for college entrance.

All of these issues have been and are being addressed through tutoring,

workshops, employment counselling, and one-on-one coaching.

The family was without access to good medical and dental care and to good nutrition for many years, and so health and dental issues have been a primary focus. While there have been a number of health challenges identified, these have been addressed and the family is doing well.

While the “legal” commitment is for one year, this is not a hard-and-fast rule. While the formal and financial relationship will cease at the end of May, some informal support of the family will continue and individual friendships will endure between committee and family members.

Realistically a year is not long enough to have learned everything, but a strong foundation has been laid for the future Canadian success of this family of seven from war-torn Aleppo. Canadian citizenship in 2 years is the goal. And by then (Inshallah) we will have successfully re-united the family through our second Refugee Sponsorship with eldest daughter Fryal, son-in-law Abdullah, and granddaughter Maryam.

~ *Lee Carter*

Don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God. (Hebrews 13:16)

Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. (Romans 15:7)

Northern Connections 2018

We are now well underway with our major Lenten Program, Northern Connections.

This is the second year of our partnership with the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh and this year the community has asked us to support them with donations of clothing for children up to 10 years of age. They have also asked if we can include “stuffies” (stuffed animals) for distribution in the Sunday School.

It is not too late to participate. Your choice, boy or girl, 0 – 10, all seasons but no footwear please. Bring your donation to the church for blessing at both services on Sunday, April 8th.

NOTICES & OTHER REMINDERS

Steve Bell Concert: Internationally acclaimed Christian musician, composer and storyteller, Steve Bell performs to All Saints on Sunday, April 29. Tickets are \$20, of which 10% goes directly to the parish. Jacky Brama is looking for assistance with organizing this event, both prior to the concert and on the evening itself. If you are able to help, please contact jackybramma@rogers.com. Find out more about Steve Bell's ministry at stevebell.com.

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All Saints Bursary Application Package 2018: This financial award is available to children of All Saints Whitby Vestry members or DDSB students attending one of

the seven Whitby-Ajax secondary schools. Applicants must be graduating this spring and have been accepted at an accredited Canadian college or university. Applications can be picked up from the church webpage or the office in April. The 2018 deadline for submission is Thursday, May 11th (noon).

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Youth & Children's Ministry: All Saints is looking to hire a leader who will inspire and encourage our children and young people in their lives of faith. If you are looking for an opportunity to put your faith to work in the lives of youth while you pursue your

studies or other employment, this might be the job for you. Learn more at allsaintswhitby.org/nw-hiring-a-youth-childrens-minister. Interested candidates should contact the Rev. Molly Finlay at finlay-mallsaintswhitby@bellnet.ca or (905) 668-5101 ext. 24.



Dave was surprised at the variety of tasks a youthworker was expected to perform.



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**The next issue will be available in late June.
The deadline for comments or submissions is June 4, 2018.**