

Saints Alive!

Editor:
A. Ralph

Fall 2018
Issue No.7

Who We Are. Whose We Are.

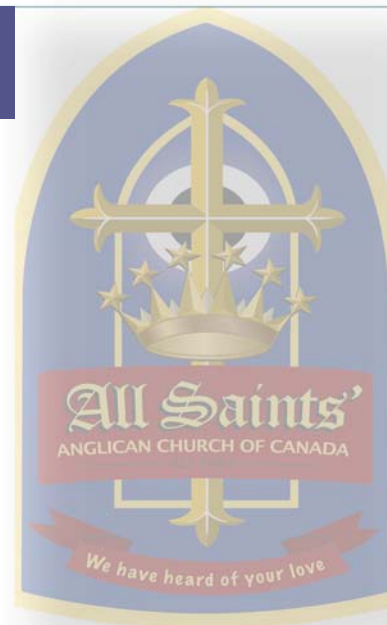
It is so easy to let the beloved, familiar words slip off our tongues as we recite the Apostles' Creed. For many years, when I heard "*the communion of saints*," I had a mental image of a long line of ghostly figures stretching behind me into the past, all the way back to Jesus himself.

Indeed, whenever I visit ancient places of worship in my native Britain, seeing physical evidence of those who have preceded me in the faith sends tingles down my spine: stone steps hollowed by the footsteps of countless worshippers in tiny Saxon churches and huge cathedrals alike; Reading Abbey, founded in 1121, still standing (albeit in ruins, thanks to Henry VIII and bombardment during the Civil War). Treading on the hallowed ground where monks once worshipped and went about their daily lives takes my breath away; ancient graves, with their poignant inscriptions, testimony to lives lived in faith; the
continued on p. 6

EDITOR'S VIEW: Jesus' Digital Footprints

Helping to manage All Sts' social media makes me slightly anxious. The tweets. The webpage updates. The Instagram posts. The digital reminders that pop up on my phone telling me it's been a week since All Saints has posted anything. The pressure to keep up a fresh digital presence for the church. Plus I foolishly devour alarmist articles such as "6 Deadly Phrases Your Church Should Never Use on Social Media," "Twitter Mistakes Every Church Makes and Needs to Avoid," "Parish Social Media Fails," or "How I Almost Killed My Church's Social Media Presence." (That last one really shook me.)

continued on p. 8



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Power of Prayer.....	2
Dreamcatchers	3
Bouncy Clergy	5
Notes/Reminders.....	8

DON'T MISS ...

- Nov 10: The Bazaar
- Nov 11: Act of Remembrance @ 11am service
- Nov 18: Gift Tag Trees Ready
- Dec 2: Evensong, 7pm
- Dec 5: Advent Oasis (Taize) Service, 7pm
- Dec 16: Lessons & Carols Service @ 11am service

See page 7 for a stand-alone shareable schedule of Advent/Christmas services.

All Saints' Anglican Church
www.allsaintswhitby.org





INCUMBENT'S MESSAGE

If you pay close attention to the ministry of Jesus in the gospels, you will see that there are two main groups that he teaches and ministers to—his disciples and the rest of the world. I think it is a wonderful thing that the Church has picked up on this

pattern and has allowed it to shape the two main groups the Church ministers to: Jesus' disciples and the rest of the world. Will I show my age if I say; Cool, huh!

Practically speaking, a parish ministers to those who are already disciples of Jesus through priests and to the rest of the world through deacons. In the lingo the Church, it is the role of the priest to focus on the gathered community and the role of the deacon to focus on the wider community, that is, those outside

our proverbial doors. These two ministries can look and feel very different, but they are both important as we seek to faithfully be the Body of Christ active in the world.

Over the past several weeks, articles were distributed (digitally and in print form) about what deacons do and don't do, so please read them. Recently we will held a town hall information session on the topic. At a Special Vestry on Nov 18 at 10:15am, we will be deciding whether or not we are called to have deacons as part of our ministry staff at All Saints.

I am grateful to Deacon Marilyn Metcalfe and our Parish Discernment Group for helping us move forward toward a decision. Please pray for God's guidance as we discern God's will for our ministry.

~ Stephen+

"he teaches and ministers to his disciples and the rest of the world"

A Prayer for People of Courage

We offer to you, O God, our prayers for those who seek justice and resist evil. We pray for those who need your presence and strength to stand firm; for those who oppose the use of violence in any form in faithful response to the Prince of Peace.

We pray for those are prepared to be firm to protect those in danger. We pray for those who walk with others who need strength. We pray for those who protest, those who organize letter campaigns, those who give sacrificially on behalf of others.

We pray for those who speak the unpopular truth; who protect the unpopular victims; who choose the unpopular path of peace.

We pray for those who do not let their desire for peace hinder the requirements of justice, and for those who do not let their zeal for justice override the call for peace.

—from "On This Day of Remembrance," prayers for Remembrance Sunday, by military chaplain Rev. Dr. Neil Parker, 4th Canadian Division

POWER of PRAYER

God cares deeply for Creation and wants to be in a relationship with each of us. Prayer is essential to that relationship. God invites us to come to him with our cares, but not because God needs our petitions to be informed or empowered to do anything. In prayer, we talk to God intimately, and through that conversation we indicate our relationship with God is our highest priority.

Prayer is not about telling God what we want, or so that God can precisely give us the answers we think we need. It's about communicating with God and living with God at the centre of our lives. Prayer is talking to God as we would a parent or beloved friend or significant other ... intimately, hopefully, earnestly, in the belief that the listener loves us and will ordain things to come to pass for our well-being.

"The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with."
~ James 5:16

The Joys of Being “Locked In”

Being paralysed and speechless doesn’t hinder an alert and inquiring sponge-like mind. It enhances it rather than diminishing it. Tears and frustration welcome a joy that knows no bounds, while time breeds steadfast faith.

Inevitably over the months and years a network of guardian angels (a myriad of individuals whose wealth of inner beauty wells up eternally) exercises and feeds my mind. Though each day brings a challenge, another Everest to climb, I’m well prepared to face the summit. Yes, I may ski a mountain. Yes, I may fly. Yes, I may read books, attend concerts, theatre, and symphonies, and dictate or use a computer. Yes, I may paint by forehead. I am my own boundary. It’s a wonderful life.

~ Margaret Gourley

“Dreamcatchers”

Work & Photo: Jorge Barrios



The dreamcatcher is one Indigenous piece of artwork that is now seen widely in many places. It has been appropriated and interpreted as something that catches bad dreams and lets the good through.

In some Native American cultures, a dreamcatcher is a hand-made willow hoop, on which is woven a net or web. The dreamcatcher may also include sacred items, such as feathers or beads. Traditionally dream catchers are often hung over cradles as protection. It originates in Ojibway culture as the "spider web charm - a hoop with woven string or sinew meant to replicate a spider's web, used as a protective charm for infants."

In an Ojibway legend, the "spider webs" protective charms originate with Spider Woman, known as Asibikaashi, who takes care of the children and the people on the land. As the Ojibway Nation spread to the corners of North America it became difficult for Asibikaashi to reach all the children so the mothers and grandmothers would weave webs for the children, using willow hoops and sinew, or cordage made from plants.

The purpose of these charms is not explicitly connected

continued on p. 4

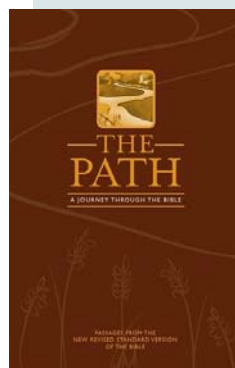
The Biblio-File

The Path – A Journey Through The Bible by Melody Wilson Shobe, David Creech

I often have had difficulty reading books of the Old Testament. Too many “smites” and “begats,” I think. At the spring Diocesan Volunteer Conference, I mentioned my lack of enthusiasm for OT readings and was encouraged to give *The Path* a try. I spent the summer reading it. Although I’ve worked through other volumes crafted to help reluctant Bible readers, they have never sparked the enthusiasm and, yes, excitement I found in reading *The Path*.

The Path is the story of the entire Bible, condensed for easy reading. It reaches all the major landmarks and connects the biblical journeys to provide a narrative that is highly readable and, yes, exciting. Summaries are given and “points of interest” are noted in boxes throughout the volume, and at the end of each chapter there is a list of questions and suggested further reading.

The Path would be an excellent text for a class or small group. But I tackled it on my own, concentrating on

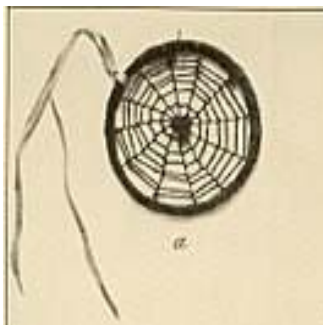


continued p. 6

Dream Catchers *continued from p. 3*

with dreams. Examples of these are the "spider webs" hung on the hoop of a cradle board. In old times this netting was made of nettle fibre. Two spider webs were usually hung on the hoop, and it was said that they "caught any harm that might be in the air as a spider's web catches and holds whatever comes in contact with it."

While dreamcatchers continue to be used in a traditional manner in their communities and cultures of origin, a derivative form of "dreamcatchers" was also adopted as a symbol of unity among the various Native American cultures, or a general symbol of identification with Native American or First Nations cultures.



The name "dream catcher" was published in mainstream, non-Native media in the 1970s, and they became widely known as a "Native crafts item" by the 1980s, and by the early 1990s were "one of the most popular and marketable" ones. Many Native Americans have come to see these "dreamcatchers" as over-commercialized, offensively misappropriated, and misused by non-Natives.

Author's Note: It is often difficult to move sacred objects from one culture to another without offending.

~ Keith Wagar

Hampers Happening Soon

All Saints Anglican Church coordinates the Christmas hampers for the Town of Whitby. We jointly cooperate with Social Services to get a list of families who are in need of Christmas assistance. This list is then divided up amongst the other Whitby & Brooklin churches. We also help out families who get assistance from our own Deacon's Cupboard.

All Saints usually puts together hampers for 75 to 80 families. The hampers include food certificates, toys, and clothing items for the children up to the age of 16.

We accomplish this with parishioners' help. Beginning on November 18 this year, Christmas gift tags will be available on the trees in the narthex and parish hall. These tags indicate the age and gender of the child, and whether to purchase an age appropriate toy, clothing item, or gift certificate. The gift certificates are especially suitable for older children.

Donated gifts should be brought into the Church by December 5, 2018. That gives the volunteers time to put the hampers together for distribution on December 11th and 12th.

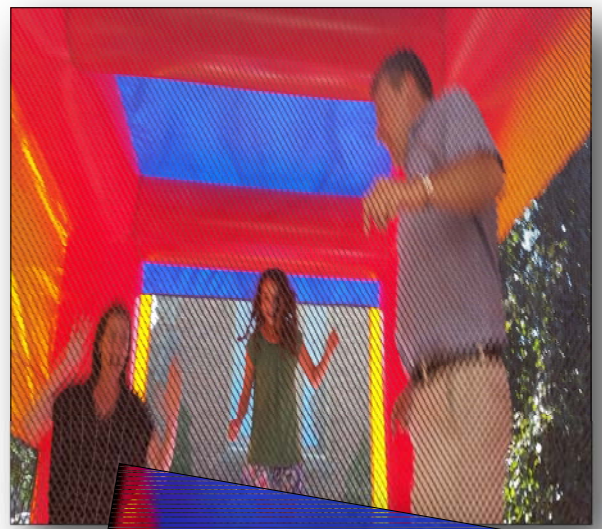
~Dianne Townson

****See page 5 for four easy ways you can be involved.**



Four Easy Ways to contribute to the Christmas Hamper Campaign

1. Take tags for the Christmas trees on Nov 18 & purchase gift items for the children.
2. Sponsor a family; indicate your interest to Dianne Townson.
3. Make a financial contribution to the Christmas Hamper fund.
4. Volunteer for the setup, distribution, and cleanup of the hampers.



Brunch, Balloons & a Bouncy Castle

September 16 marked the launch of the 9:30 contemporary service. While some members of the congregation have been attending this service from its “soft launch” this spring, this event provided an opportunity for our congregation to welcome new members and show them just how great we are!

A yummy brunch was organized by Marilyn Campbell and our Youth group. Activities included face painting, button making and glitter tattoos from Sunflower the Clown and her team, and a jumping castle for children of all ages. While the children enjoyed the jumping castle, the highlight for sure was watching Archdeacon Stephen Vail and Assistant Curate Molly Finlay join in the fun for a jump!

It was wonderful to see members connect, indulge in delicious eats, and enjoy the various activities. I am pretty sure there were a few “older” children that left the festivities with a new tattoo – or two!

Thank you to all of the organizers of this wonderful event!

~ Kelly Reeves



EDITOR'S NOTE

Mr. Bertie Weaterbotton, our regular columnist and resident history buff, is on hiatus for this issue. He is presently on a book-signing tour for his recently published anthology (and lifetime work) — Sanctuary Front Door Knockers & Rectory Back Door Bells: A Complete Chronicle — now available in a limited run through select booksellers and amateur ecclesiastical history societies. Bertie's charming musings on Anglican customs and church furnishings will be back in the spring.

Who We Are *continued from p. 1*

However, more recently, I have come to realize that the golden thread which binds us to the past is also a guide line towards the future. Although the language of our modern liturgy has changed greatly over the centuries, and continues to do so in order to be inclusive and to reflect our culture, the basic tenets of our faith have not changed, and neither should they. Our ancestors would surely find the outward trappings of present-day Sunday services somewhat disturbing—relaxed dress code and contemporary music, for starters—but the foundational truths are immutable: God created us and loves each of us in our uniqueness; He wants to be in relationship with us; He sent his son, Jesus, to reconcile us to him in our brokenness. He wants us to love him and each other.

As Christians we are called upon to share the Good News to those who don't yet know Jesus. Our most recent 9:30 service has been a blessing to many new families who find that liturgy more accessible. In an age of declining church attendance, All Saints has actually increased its membership by 10% since May! At the same time, we still rejoice in the more traditional worship services. What a blessing to have such a rich banquet. The golden thread continues to draw us forward, even as we give thanks for our heritage.

~ Jacky Bramma



The Biblio-File

continued from p. 3

the Old Testament chapters first. I found that it was best to have a copy of the *New Revised Standard Version of the Bible* so that I could follow up on the 'points of interest' and cited scripture. I used a notepad to jot down my own thoughts and to remind me to pursue chapter and verse notations for future in-depth reading.

I highly recommend *this book* to both seasoned and new Bible readers. It is a great read!

~ Eleanor Stevenson

GIVE SUNDAY SCHOOL A WHIRL

In case you missed it, our Sunday School program has moved to the 9:30 service. Children meet their teachers by the pulpit at the beginning of the service and re-join their families in time for communion. We've taken up a new curriculum called *Whirl*. It's lectionary-based so that all of the congregation is learning the same lesson each week. The bonus for the children is the lesson is summarized in a five-minute animated video which



they can relate to. Charming characters like Otto, Chet, Jax and Mimi learn things like the importance of prayer, and what or who is important to Jesus!

We are off to a great start and are looking forward to an amazing year!

Talk to Kelly Reeves to learn about our Sunday School or how you can be involved.

Advent and Christmas Services at All Saints

Journey with us this season.



We start **Advent** on Sunday, December 2 with the services at 8, 9:30 and 11am. The chancel is decorated in royal blue, the first of the Advent candles is lit, and we begin to set the stage for the arrival of the Jesus child. We also have a short **Evensong** service that evening at 7pm.

Enter into the Advent season with a contemplative awareness of the great gift that God has given us. Try our **Advent Oasis** service on Wednesday, December 5 at 7pm.

Sunday, December 16 (11am) is our annual service of **Advent Lessons & Carols**. Enjoy readings and choral music to mark the midpoint of the Advent season. Hear the good news of Christmas.

On **the day before the eve of Christmas**, that is, Sunday, December 23, we have only two services: the usual 8am service and a combined 10:30am service. You might think that this would be a "low Sunday" in terms of attendance, but it's a joyful time of worship and fellowship as we recognize that **something wonderful is about to happen**.

Christmas Eve Services are the highlight of the year for many parishioners and visitors to All Saints. On December 24, the interior of All Saints is sparkling with colour and light and joy; the outside is still and majestic and dark. Once again, we are invited to put aside the rush and frenzy of secular seasonal preparations and instead put our relationship with God at the centre of Christmas. Recognizing it's sometimes tricky to fit it all in, we offer three services to make it work for you: the children's service at 4pm and the traditional Eucharist services at 7pm and 10pm. (Note the new 10pm time for the late service.)



And of course, **Christmas Day** is the day that crowns the season. On December 25, we offer the Eucharist Service will be at 10:30am. Come to church and celebrate that the infant king is born.

Embrace the spiritual riches of the season at All Saints. Discover how much the good news means to you at Christmas and enter into a relationship with God (again or for the first time) that will carry you into the year ahead.

Jesus' Digital Footprints *continued from p. 1*

Just look at the language in those title ... “deadly,” “fails,” “mistakes,” “killed.” Very menacing. Pointing out where a person can go wrong has always been easier and more sensational than saying something positive. That’s been true since before Facebook was born.

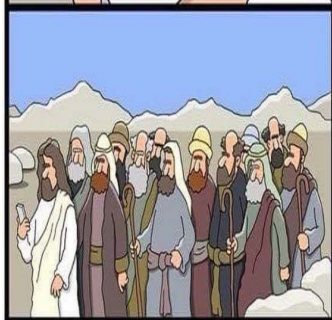
Then one thing I take away from these articles is that negatively sensational or confrontational themes can easily take up all the real estate in the digital realm. That’s why I take so seriously our church’s engagement with social media. It’s why I feel so strongly that all churches ought to have a social media presence.

Meredith Gould, author of *The Social Media Gospel: Sharing the Good News in New Ways*, reminds churches that “Christ has no online presence but yours. No blog, no Facebook page but yours. Yours are the tweets through which love touches this world. Yours are the posts through which the Gospel is shared. Yours are the updates through which hope is revealed.”

The social media landscape is vast, and the yahoos and naysayers will take up as much space as they are given. If Jesus is going to leave digital footprints in the virtual sand, it is our responsibility, our opportunity, our joy to walk with him in the social media realm. It is my joy. As Gould reminds me, “Our presence is His presence.”

~ Arleane Ralph

NOTICES & OTHER REMINDERS



whyatt.com.au

© Tim Whyatt

2019 is coming: Church Calendars have arrived (5\$ each). To purchase one, contact Joanne W. or visit the office during open hours.

++++++

But first, Advent & Christmas: As the Spirit beckons you to dig into the riches of Advent, consider how others might also be open and receptive to that spirit of invitation. See page 7 for a summary of Advent and Christmas services.

Sure, you can print this page and put it on your fridge. Or take a pic and keep on your phone for quick reference. But here’s a challenge: would you, could you send it to a friend or neighbour?

++++++

Staying healthy: A warm smile, a nod, or a fist bump are perfectly legit alternatives to shaking hands during the exchange of the peace. In order to protect those with compromised immune

systems and prevent the spread of colds and flu this season, consider these options in place of a handshake. We want everyone to be well and feel at ease.

++++++

Getting better: Please remember to let clergy know if you are in hospital and would like a visitor; if you have need of prayers for healing; or if you know of someone who would appreciate a card from our Card Ministry Coordinator.



Saints Alive! Editor: Arleane Ralph

Contact: editorsaintsalive@gmail.com

The next issue will be available in March 2019. The deadline for comments or submissions is March 8, 2019.