



The Servant

St. Paul's Anglican Church - Celebrating 130 Years: 1885– 2015
12 Pine Street, Brockville, Ontario

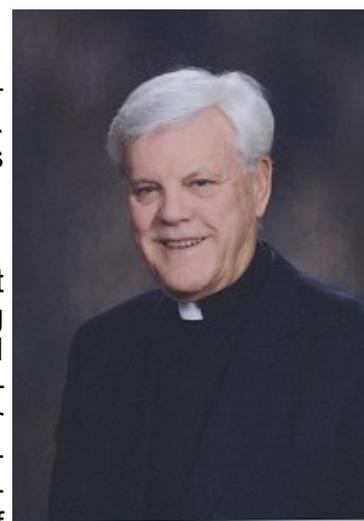
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Christmas 2015

Interim Priest's Message

Dear friends:

I started this brief note shortly after All Saints/Halloween and before Remembrance Day, but not before the first Christmas decorations appeared. On one day, I saw two houses lit up with the bright lights of the Christmas season.

The first sighting surprised and angered me as my mind immediately went to the commercialization of the season that has deep religious meaning for me. When I saw the second a few minutes later, I became aware that I had seen these lights - if not the accompanying Christmas decorations - all year round. I had not paid much attention to them. The home owner either had not bothered to take them down, or had left them up for a purpose. Whatever the reason, I was reminded just how much I need joggings for my soul to remain in the wonder and mystery of the birth of Christ year round. Instead of dismissing these early or even year round reminders as sales pitches, perhaps I and any like me, could use them to remind ourselves of the God who loves us and all of creation so much to come among us and walk beside us.



Nonetheless, God through the church in its many expressions, provides us with particular times to focus on the gift of Christmas, a focusing I also need every year. We begin in Advent to prepare to look again and anew at Jesus birth and at the promise to come again. In this season, Faye and I have an Advent tradition where we purchase a commercial Advent on-line calendar which has an underlying religious theme. We have also subscribed to AdventWord, an offering from an Anglican Religious Order which is an Advent online calendar that offers a meditation every day. It is free and those of you with an email account can, if you so wish, sign up at <http://adventword.org/signup/>.

I look forward very much to celebrating Jesus birth at St. Paul's on Christmas Eve at 7:00 and 11:00. My Christmas Day plan is to be in my home parish of St. Thomas', Kingston in the morning and with my family in Belleville later in the day. All of my family will be especially grateful because Joe, whose health issues recently brought great concerns for all of us, will be with us as he should be in health by that time. During the following twelve days of the Christmas season, Faye and I will have the opportunity to see and share how another culture celebrates God love in Jesus.

I hope this sharing of a bit of my seasonal early journeying and my plans for the season of Advent

Rector's Message Cont...

and Christmas do not appear to be too self-serving. I am thankful for God's gift to me of St. Paul's and to share in ministry with you.

May each have a holy Advent journey and a blessed Christmas.

Bob

St Paul's Anglican Church Women (ACW) News

The Bazaar this year raised over two thousand dollars that will be used for the benefit of the church and to support other worthwhile causes. The craft, bake and treasures tables this year reflected the generosity and talent of those who contributed items for sale. As usual, the Tea was a great success with many "regulars" as well as newcomers coming to enjoy the beautifully prepared dainties and sweets. The clever snowman families created by Nancy Clarke were not only admired as centerpieces for each of the tables but also proved to be a popular craft sale item.



Photo Credit: Kerey Bolton



Milestones and Memories at St. Paul's

Since the last edition of the Servant was published, we mourned the loss and celebrated the life of **Lula May Rennick**



Warden's Message

Each year it seems the Advent period arrives sooner than expected. The end of the summer turns into Thanksgiving, and then quickly becomes All Hallowed Eve/All Saints Day, then Remembrance Day and before you know it you can't walk into any retail establishment without being overcome with "Christmas". As the days go by the anxiety grows about not being prepared; about family, friends and those in more needy situations; about travel plans and visiting arrangements; about health, and weather and just life in general and progresses into a "rush, rush, rush" situation.

Within our Parish, while we are extremely fortunate to have Archdeacon Bob Hales as our Interim priest-in-charge, there is some anxiety about what is going to happen in the future as we look forward to welcoming a new incumbent and what effect that will have not only on the overall life of the Parish, but to each of us as individuals.

It is no easy thing to just say "Whoa, hold up a minute. Let's stop and take a deep breath." But that is exactly what we need to do at this time of year. Both collectively, and particularly individually, we need to remember the message of peace and tranquility the Advent and Christmas Seasons bring to us and to our community. We need to look around us, giving thanks for what we have and what we have to look forward to; and, what we, as Christians believe in.

Share the blessings of good will towards all people during this time of the year and may the same blessings be upon you as well.

Best of Christmas wishes to all of our Church Family from the Wardens

Rod and John

New Mobile Friendly Website

St. Paul's decided recently to keep up with the times and go "Mobile". More people are using tablets and smart phone to access the internet therefore we need our website to be compatible to those types of devices. We have changed our website to become a Responsive Website. What does that mean?

- Website responds to the size of the device that it is being viewed on
- The Full Site (all information) is included and displayed in a readable format
- Biggest Benefit ... people have access to ALL of our website information regardless of the device that the site is being viewed on.
- ONE domain name ... easier for Google to find us.

So check out our website at www.stpaulsbrockville.ca



St. Paul's Festival of the Arts

Baps, Bevvies & the Beatles

St. Paul's has a rich history of generous support for the Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) which provides aid and financial support to organizations around the world that are "on the ground" when war or natural disasters occur. Money raised this year has been directed to supporting refugees who have been forced to flee from war-torn Syria and who are living in camps in Lebanon and Jordan. The funds go toward food and other basic necessities.

This year's fundraiser for PWRDF was a huge success raising over \$700.00. The Festival of the Arts Committee organized an evening of great food, music and fun on October 17th. Those who attended that Saturday enjoyed Baps (buns), Bevvies (drinks), award winning Shepherds pie, and an outstanding "Beatles" concert featuring members of the choir and their friends.

A service further celebrating joyful music was held on October 18th with Major Malcolm Robinson of the Salvation Army as guest preacher.

With thanks to Pat Alexander



Photo Credit: Anne Cameron



New Incumbent Selection Process

The process for the selection of a new Incumbent is ongoing. While it seems to be taking forever to engage a new incumbent to replace Reverend Barbara, the Anglican Church in the Episcopal tradition, has a “process” that needs to be followed and all of this takes time – time, we trust will be well spent as we achieve the best result for St. Paul’s.

With the departure of Rev. Barbara, the Bishop met with the Parish Advisory Committee (as set forth in the Canons for the Diocese of Ontario) to outline the process that he has established for the selection of a new Incumbent. It should be pointed out that each Diocese sets out its own process, which varies not only from Diocese to Diocese, but also Bishop to Bishop within the Diocese.

The Bishop appointed Archdeacon Bob Hales as the Interim-Priest-in-charge until the appointment of a new incumbent, a very fortunate arrangement for St. Paul’s as Rev. Bob brings a tremendous amount of experience in this capacity.

In accordance with the step-by-step process of the selection, the PAC prepared and conducted, over the summer, a New Incumbent Survey. Once completed – although not as many responses as desired – the results were analyzed and provided to the Bishop’s Advisory Committee (BAC), the group that will be helping the Bishop vet the candidates and prepare the short list for interviewing.

The next step was to prepare the Parish Profile, which represents our “sales pitch” to prospective candidates. This involved all of the groups/organizations within the parish putting information together on their respective activities so interested that applicants know what is happening in this parish to help them discern their interest and ability to take on the role of Incumbent at St. Paul’s.

The Parish Profile was completed early in November and now the position has been “advertised” throughout the Diocese, and the Bishop has also gone to the House of Bishops so that candidates can be submitting an expression of interest from across Canada. The deadline for Expressions of Interest is December 31, 2015.

The final steps are for the BAC to vet, conduct reference checks as necessary, and to prepare a short list for interviews by the PAC. Following that, the PAC will advise the Bishop of their choice and the Diocese will conduct any necessary negotiations on behalf of the Diocese and Parish.

Last step is the appointment of a new Incumbent, which we trust will be early in the Spring of 2016

To view the ad go to www.anglican.ca , click on job postings and enter Brockville, Ontario.

PARISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Our Refugee Families

Since the last edition of The Servant, we are delighted to report that the two refugee families from Eritrea have arrived safely in Canada and, as of the twenty-third of November, have been set-up in their new homes thanks to the generosity of members of the congregations of all three churches and the local community. A special thanks goes to the members of St. Paul's A.C.W. who donated kitchen items and food for the family of five (mother, her younger brother and three teenaged daughters) and additional financial support.

All of the new arrivals are attending English as a Second Language classes three days a week as well as learning about their new community' and trying to adjust to the "cold". A group of volunteers provides coaching two days a week when there are no classes. The youngest girl is also attending public school. For all of them it is a long, long way from their former lives in their home country and in the refugee camps of Sudan. They are all eager to learn and become productive members of their new country

We just received news that the third family from Syria (parents and their three young children aged 6, 7 and 10) will be arriving in Canada on December 10th. We are thrilled that wheelchair accessible accommodation has been found for them as the man suffered polio as a child and has mobility restrictions. They too will require the support of a group of individuals from "friendly visitors", to drivers and coaches.

The Brockville Community has been very welcoming, including making it a point to greet the newcomers when they are out and about. One of the most touching stories is as follows: The family of three has been joining their temporary host who leads the Comforting Arts program at St. Paul's on Wednesday mornings. One of the members of the Comforting Arts group made a speech of welcome last week that concluded with "You are not Refugees anymore – you are our family."

With thanks to the Justice Committee: Julie Case, Linda Eckert, John Flegg, Virginia Glover, Bob Panter and Patricia Younger

We are on FACEBOOK!

www.facebook.com/pages/St-Pauls-Anglican-Church-Brockville

Keep up to date with coming events and breaking news by "Liking" US!

Did you ever happen to miss a service and wanted to find out what is going on and coming up at St. Paul's ? Then check the Weekly Bulletin on-line.

Go to the St. Paul's Web Page www.stpaulsbrockville.ca Select: Events – Weekly Bulletin to view the electronic version

Messy Church

On October 3rd, Brother John joined the children for a morning of food, fun and learning. They learned about pretzels and how the Monks in Germany created the pretzel as a symbol of crossing hands in prayer. The children also learned about many of the other ways we speak with God.



Photo Credit: John R. Flegg

Upcoming Special Services and Events

- Sunday November 29th 8:30 a.m. Advent Lessons and Communion
 10:00 a.m. Advent Lessons & Carols – Reception for new & returning members
- Tuesday December 9th 7:00 p.m. Christmas Taize Service
- Wednesday December 9th 11:00 a.m. Annual Seniors Service and Luncheon
- Sunday December 13th 10:00 a.m. Interactive Christmas Pageant
- Thursday December 24th 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
- Friday December 25th 9:00 a.m. Christmas Day Communion
- Sunday December 27th 10:00 a.m. Christmas Lessons & Carols (one service only)
- Thursday December 31st Once again St. Paul's will be hosting two concerts on Thursday December 31st. Murray Golledge and Friends perform at 8:00 p.m. and Dublin Road will be on at 9:00 p.m. All are welcome.

NOTE: Regular Services are held on Sundays at 8:00 a.m. Communion, and 10:00 a.m. Family Communion Service with Music. A Service of Healing Prayer and Communion is held each Wednesday at noon and a Taize Service is held the Second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m.

All are Welcome

A Year Living Generously

On November 22nd, the people of St. Paul's celebrated The Reign of Christ and Justice Sunday with noted author, Lawrence Scanlon who addressed the congregation at both services. Beginning with his deep Roman Catholic roots and ending with his providing rent-free accommodation for a University of Toronto student as part of a pay-it -forward chain of encounters, Lawrence employed everyday stories to talk about how "kindness" benefits both the giver and the receiver.

Lawrence posed the question "Is it really good to be good?" He then went on to have us imagine entering a penal institution to discuss kindness, compassion, and social justice. In Milhaven Penitentiary, where any sign of weakness including kindness is demonstrably dangerous, sixteen inmates have formed a book club and Lawrence met with these men to discuss just these issues.

Whether referencing Ghandi, June Callwood, Jack White, or Jean Vanier, Lawrence spoke about "helpers high" both eloquently and from deep within.

In his book, "A Year living Generously", Lawrence chronicled one year of his life spent with twelve different support agencies from soup kitchens, to radio stations, to Habitat for Humanity building housing in the aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

Thousands of copies of his book have been distributed, free, on Canadian university campuses to encourage students to break down the walls separating town and gown. He has been invited to speak across Canada about his book and the value of kindness. You may want seek to borrow one of the twenty copies of his book that were purchased by St. Paul's members who attended the Q and A session during coffee hour. I suggest that you read it. Then test out Lawrence's thesis for yourself -talk to a homeless person or a senior's home resident. See if it isn't maybe the best meal of your life.



With thanks to John R. Flegg



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