# CHURCH CHAT

# The Plans Are In

On June 13th the Development Committee presented the plans for the new church at a town hall meeting. These plans were prepared by Dickson & Hicks, who have experience building over 400 churches.

The main floor sanctuary seats 230, and the gym/hall has a retractable wall to allow for overflow seating for large services. Adjacent to the gym is an

industrial kitchen and a larger narthex space for gatherings, such as coffee hour.

The rest of the main floor is dedicated to office space for the clergy and administrative assistant as well as a board room that is flexible to host outside groups, bible studies, meetings and prayers during worship services.

Youth Ministry

Evangelism Moment

Book Club

Stewardship

Anger

Lay Delegates Report

Crossword

Funnies

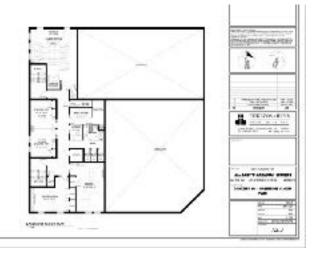
**Sponsors** 

The 2nd level has more program space for the church and the greater neighbourhood. This space features a party room for mid sized events and conferences. There are 2 Sunday School rooms and an expanded Youth Room with additional meeting rooms and storage for outside groups.

In all, the design allows for a 50% increase in the overall size of the church and will allow us to better serve the mission field for years to come. Key to serving the mission field is providing space for the various groups that are active in Lakeshore Villages. Most obvious are the gym and the industrial kitchen, both spaces our partner organizations are very excited to make use of. Second to that is the party room and additional program space that will be available to the neigh-

bourhood and various groups. The party room will be able to host baby showers, small groups and will also serve FourSquare on Sundays.

There are still a few decisions to be made in relation to the second level. Namely the parish has engaged geotechnical work to determine the level of the water table. We may not be able to construct a basement with the required height for the ceilings. The flexibility of this design allow us to create that second level on top of the office/narthex/kitchen area instead of a basement which sacrifices none of the design features.



Over the summer, the pre-consultation with the city will be complete and the site plan will be submitted. The deal will close with Cook Homes on July 6th. And the geotechnical work will help us finalize our decision on the second floor. We are anticipating receiving construction permits late in the fall, and therefore would wait to break ground until spring 2022.

While this is an exciting time for the life of All Saints and the neighbourhood, it will also be a time of goodbyes. This year most likely will be the last Christmas in our current building and the last Easter in 2022. So many baptisms, weddings and funerals have occurred over the years, in both Laurel Hall (the old sanctuary) and in the current sanctuary. There are many memories of Christmas services, Easter Triduums and serving our neighbours in the current church.

While we look forward to the exciting times ahead, let us also be very conscious over the coming year to truly appreciate the great gift our current building has been to our life in Christ: our worship of God and service of God's people.

~Rev Marty Levesque

# A Dash of S.A.L.T.

As the summer vacation starts on this another new normal year it also marks another end of youth group virtual meetings and Sunday school church in a box for the year 2020-2021.

Though it was a real challenge to create interesting activities for both youth group meetings and church in a box in this time of pandemic, we could say that we were still able to meet our goal of bringing the church and making Christ present in the lives of our children through our available resources.

On Good Friday for instance, our Youth had the opportunity to have a short virtual retreat by learning and meditating on the Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross followed by other lessons such as the the Seven Roots of Sin and the Seven I AMs of Jesus.



Now, while our youth is on break on their virtual youth group meetings they are still being encouraged to sign up and join the CLAY 2021 Virtual Youth Camp on August 20-22, 2021. This youth gathering will feature worship, workshops, keynote speakers and late-night spots which considered to be a CLAY participant favourite. Prayers are then being solicited to make this upcoming event a success for our youth and to all participants across the country.

~Pastor Rambie Bernardino

# **Evangelism Moment**

If you're anything like me, evangelism comes super-easily. I can turn almost every conversation I have back to the foundations of the gospel, have people laughing, nodding their head in agreement, and saying, "Amen!" within just a few minutes. I quote a verse, and people cry out. I sing a hymn while walking down the sidewalk, and people begin singing along, raising their hands in worship. I just have to encourage them not to close their eyes while they're walking! I always have the perfect word to say, the perfect prayer to pray, the perfect timing, and the perfect closing. Don't you?

No?!? Yeah, me neither. To me, evangelism is hard. It often feels forced and unnatural. I never seem to have the right timing. Remembering each point about the gospel, combined with the fact that I'm nervous – I feel like the other person isn't listening, that I feel woefully inadequate to share the good news, and I just know that the other person has somewhere else to be that makes sharing my faith one of the most difficult activities I do.

I think we make it too difficult. I know I do. When it comes to sharing the gospel, let me offer you three steps to think through.

- 1. **Follow Christ.** That's what Jesus invites each of us to do. Living the life God has invited us to live and being the persons God has uniquely gifted us to be is a great testimony in of itself to God. Each of us is a walking billboard for the goodness of God and a testimony that God can redeem, and give purpose to life. You don't have to be perfect. Nobody expects you to be flawless. And if you try to portray perfection to people, you'll come across as arrogant and fake. You don't have to have a perfect testimony, but you do have to follow a perfect Saviour. That's essential.
- 2. **Share your story.** Your story is amazing, riveting and life-changing. And sharing your faith involves sharing your story. Be honest, transparent, and vulnerable. People will connect with your brokenness more quickly and fully than they ever will with your awesomeness. Share the junk God's redeeming you from, the bigger picture God is inviting you into, and the ways God's grace is sufficient and God's love is captivating.
- 3. **Invite other people into your story.** Build relationships with people. And not just so that you can "get them saved." Genuinely love people. Invest in them. Be their friend. Listen to their story. Value them as uniquely made by God. Look for ways to serve them, expecting nothing in return and with no strings attached. In so doing, you're inviting them into the story that God's writing through you. I'm convinced that people want to plug into something that's bigger than themselves. Inviting people into your story, showing how your story fits into the broader story of God's redemption of the world through God's church does just that.



114021379 © creativecommonsstockphotos | Dreamstime.com

That's it. That's all. Sharing your faith is much less complicated than we (most especially church leaders) often make it. But it's also much more difficult. Much more engaging. Much more demanding of your time and effort. Much more challenging of your life.

The goal of evangelism isn't for the person to walk away with the "right" doctrine or have the right answers to life's many questions. While doctrine is important, it's not an end in itself. Right doctrine should drive us to love

others more, not less. Right doctrine should move us toward people, not away from them. Right doctrine should move us to condemn less, and love more. It should propel us toward kindness and patience, breaking our hearts for others. Right doctrine should drive us to serve others, looking for nothing in return.

"All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people." (Romans 10:21, NSRV). All. Day. Long.

God's hands are full of hope, love, mercy, grace, forgiveness, and blessing. He sent His Son to have a relationship with us. Let's not reduce the beauty and power of that to mere words.

Follow Christ. Share your story. Invite people in.

It's that simple.

~Pastor Marty

# **Book Club**

If you are interested in setting new reading goals for a year, you could think of joining our All Saints' Book Club. It's not really too strenuous, we read one book per month and meet the last Monday of the month for discussion.

Of course because of COVID-19 we have been meeting via zoom it is certainly not the same as in person discussion, but it has been a great way to keep in touch.

Since the start of book club I have been trying to set yearly goals and increase by one per year. Living with an English major who reads 50+ every year, I have to push myself and this year my goal is 25. I am 17 in so far, so ahead for a change.

Our next books for reading are:

"Becoming" by Michelle Obama for June

"The Vanishing Half" by Brit Bennett for July and

"A Promised Land" by Barack Obama as it is a larger book we are keeping this one for August and September.

In May we read "Indian Horse" by Richard Wagamese, an Indigenous author which was the telling of a young man who had been in a residential school, very sad, but an enlightening story.



We would look forward to having new readers join us for the June meeting.

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel" – Maya Angelou

~Joyce Harry

# **Stewardship Moment**

In the church we often talk about tithing. But have you ever asked what a Tithe is though?

In Biblical terms, a tithe is 1/10th of your income. "One tenth of all the produce of the land, whether grain or fruit, belongs to the Lord." -Leviticus 27:30.

Too tithe, is to put God first. This means that we should give our "first fruits" and not from what is left over. First fruits can be described in modern parlance as gross income. We often approach our gifts to the church either from our net income, or worse, from what is left over at the end of the month. Approaching stewardship this way puts God last. The tithe is meant to always keep our love of God at the forefront of our lives and represents a thank you for all the blessings we enjoy each day.

God does not necessarily expect us to start off tithing. God knows that there are many competing circumstances that may keep us from tithing. Tithing requires a plan, and a plan takes time. Using this scale you will be able to see how close or far you are from tithing. Then you can start to plan effectively.

As you currently give where you are able, plan what a 1% increase to your gift to God's church would look like this year. Some will be able to tithe and for others it will be struggle. The point is not to be legalistic and make sure that we give exactly 1/10 of our income, rather the point is to de-

# **Proportional Giving Guide**

Weekly Giving

Income	10%	5%	3%
\$180 000	\$346	\$173	\$104
\$110 000	\$212	\$106	\$63
\$90 000	<b>\$17</b> 3	\$86	\$52
\$60 000	\$115	<b>\$5</b> 8	\$34
\$40 000	\$77	<b>\$</b> 38	\$23
\$25 000	\$48	\$24	\$14
\$10 000	<b>\$</b> 19	\$10	\$6
Monthly Giving			
Income	10%	5%	3%
\$180 000	\$1500	\$750	\$450
\$110 000	\$916	<b>\$</b> 458	\$275
\$90 000	<b>\$7</b> 50	\$375	\$225
\$60 000	\$500	\$250	\$150
\$40 000	\$333	\$167	\$100
\$25 000	\$208	\$104	\$62
\$10 000	<b>\$</b> 83	\$42	\$25
Yearly Giving			
Income	10%	5%	3%
\$180 000	\$18000 \$9000 \$5400		
\$110 000	\$11000 \$5500 \$3300		
\$90 000	\$9000 \$4500 \$2700		
\$60 000	\$6000 \$3000 \$1800		

velop a healthy relationship and theology of money.

The most radical part of tithing is not giving 1/10 of your income to God. Rather **the radical nature of the tithe is to stop putting our self interest first**. By putting God first, we are able to also begin to see beyond our selves and our world to the needs that exist in the world.

~Pastor Marty

# **Anger**

#### A PRAYER CLOTH MOMENT

On May 26th a beloved member of my 'in law' family passed away peacefully at home at the far too young age of 54. I was able to view Luis' funeral service but felt very disconnected as all I saw were the backs of people except for the priest and the two readers who were, of course, masked. Not much to see there either. The next day his wife, who is like another daughter to me, sent me a text to say that Sarah, their son's partner, held the prayer cloth that I had knit for Luis to give her the strength to get through her reading. What a blessing that knowledge was to me!

#### **BUT I'M ANGRY!**



84929712 © creativecommonsstockphotos | Dreamstime.com

My anger started on May 14th when the Waterloo Region Record published an article by Catherine Thompson "Access to dialysis threatened by transit change, patients fear" as Mobility Plus proposes a change to its booking system to no longer provide priority booking to Dialysis Patients. After stewing about this I got out of bed at 2am and wrote a "Letter to the Editor" which they published on Saturday, May 29th (a friend says they deliberately held it for the Saturday edition!).

June 2021

"Less than 24 hours ago I thought that nothing would make me more dismayed and disgusted at the behavior of a group of supposedly intelligent individuals than the anti-CoVid19 protesters, but I was wrong! Waterloo Region's Transit Services intends to no longer prioritize MobilityPlus trips to area hospitals booked for individuals who depend on their services in order to receive treatment necessary to prolong their lives. 150 trips out of a daily total of 800. I am a senior at the end of my 7th decade using a walker and do not re-

quire dialysis. I would be absolutely shattered to think that someone who did require dialysis would be unable to book a MobilityPlus trip because my request for a trip to the dentist came in first."

I am angered by the horrific news on May 27th that the remains of 215 children have finally been found on the property of a residential school. For years Indigenous communities across Canada have been asking for school grounds to be searched. In 2018 four of us from All Saints' joined a group of parishioners from Mount Zion Lutheran Church on a bus trip to the Six Nations of the Grand River territory and the Woodland Cultural Centre which is on the grounds of a former Residential School. In addition to a visit to Her Majesty's Royal Chapel of the Mohawks, we had lunch catered by the members of St. Peter's Anglican Church, Ohsweken. Unfortunately, I didn't note the name of the gentleman who spoke to us at lunch in my Daytimer. He was about 80 at the time and a survivor of that residential school. He talked about the missing children and how they suspected there were unmarked graves on the school property.

My anger and horror continues as news breaks that a family of five from Pakistan are deliberately run down by a 20-year-old white male and only a 9-year-old boy survives. No matter that there are other relatives, he has lost his entire immediate family. How haunted by the event will he be?

I am angry that people of colour and mixed race or wearing hijabs or national dress are subject to verbal abuse, are spat upon and physically attacked. As I've mentioned before my 'family at large' contains all four colour groups and mixtures and I worry particularly about my great to 3x great nieces and nephews as no place seems safe.

My anger has prompted me to reach into my book case for a book I bought some time ago and have yet to read..." Angry like Jesus - Using His example to Spark Your Moral Courage" by Sarah Sumner. I can't do much, but I can write letters, nag politicians, and add my name to petitions!

I'm going to start reading the book tonight and will update you d.v. in the next Church Chat. In the meantime, after scanning the Table of Contents, my eyes lighted up at "Closing Prayer". I went to the Franciscan site and copied it from there. In the book Dr. Sumner notes she is praying for each reader of the book and I noticed she has substituted "you" for "us".

#### MAY GOD BLESS US ... FRANCISCAN BLESSING

May God bless us with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, so that we may live deep within our hearts.

May God bless us with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that we may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

May God bless us with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, hunger, and war, so that we may reach out our hands to comfort them and turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless us with enough foolishness to believe that we can make a difference in this world, so that we can do what others claim cannot be done.

Author unknown

# Lay Delegates' report from Synod

Val and Mary attended the 181th Synod of the Diocese of Huron virtually on Sunday May 16 - Monday May 17, 2021. Due to the ongoing COVID pandemic it was once again a virtual synod, a zoom webinar. The diocese offered some HUB locations for those who didn't have the necessary technology to attend the virtual synod. Val and Mary decided to attend synod together at All Saints' sitting socially distanced in the Bray room with our masks on and our laptop/iPads. This was the second virtual synod for us!

The theme for this years Synod was Yielding to the Life of the Spirit. Synod 2021 started with a Diocesan wide livestream worship service at 10:30am on Sunday May 16. During the worship service, Ven. Rosalyn Kantlaht'ant Elm was collated as Archdeacon for Reconciliation and Indigenous Ministry.

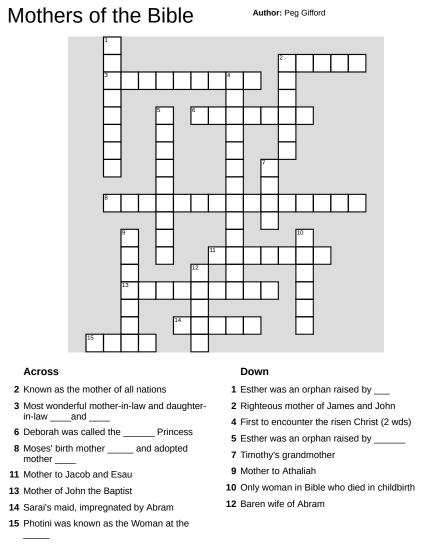


Thanks to new video equipment installed at the cathedral and the help of "tech" folks including Pastor Marty at the Cathedral, the virtual synod went very smoothly. We were able to vote on the motions put forth electronically. One of the motions we voted on this year was to encourage Church House and all churches in the Diocese of Huron to adopt the "Moving to Light Green" initiative and its recommendations by 2022, with progress to be tracked in vestry reports beginning in 2023. This motion was carried. There are many suggestions of how parishes can transition to carbon neutral. For example, in our worship services, we should make regular use of environmental-focused prayers, liturgies, hymns and use only environmentally friendly candles (beeswax, palm oil or soy). There are suggestions for many areas of parish life including children/youth ministries, operations/maintenance, energy, water, parish grounds, kitchen/events and environmental justice.

Bishop Todd's charge at Synod explored what it means to live life yielding to the Holy Spirit's direction and how this might shape us for mission and ministry as a diocese, and on the stewardship of our material resources, particularly the question of our buildings. You can read the Bishop's full charge on the Diocese of Huron's website (diohuron.org). We also watched a number of video updates about the ongoing work of the ministries, partners, and committees around the diocese. One of the videos was a greeting from Bishop Marinez Bassotto of our campanien Diocese of Amazonia.

~Val Haiser and Mary Hunt, lay delegates

# Crossword



# **Funnies**



# **Sponsors**

### RE/MAX

Twin City Realty Inc.
Independently Owned and Operated

Shadde de Haan

Associated Broker 83 Erb Street West Waterloo, Ontario N2L 6C2

Cell 519-221-5888

Bus 519-885-0200

Fax 519-885-4914

shaddehaan@gmail.com

Do you need a house sitter to meet insurance requirements while you are away?

I will check your home on your schedule needs

I also managed rental properties... over 20 years experience



On a quiet country road north of Bloomingdale, Ontario you will find a working farm that has been in our family for five generations. On our farm, we view the fields, woodlot, and livestock as part of nature. So we try to do things in a positive way, to help create a healthy environment. We are open minded to new ideas, yet appreciate many of the things learned by previous generations.

Thanks to Snyder Farms for donating the maple syrup for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper.



# THE DAILY GRILL RESTAURANT



615 Davenport Road Waterloo, ON 519-886-4752

We Cater Small Parties!

In house or take home

Please ask and we can help!

Check out our daily lunch & dinner features!

Breakfast All Day!

Fresh Homemade Meals Daily!