



Renew

BEHOLD I MAKE ALL THINGS NEW. REV 21:5



All Saints' Windsor

*Reaching Out to You
Fall 2014*

In 2009, All Saints' gave birth to a new logo, a vision statement, and a set of goals to enable our longing to become a fresh catalyst for transformative change. Our goals have been achieved and we spent 2012 celebrating our 160th Anniversary year. We have retained our Vision Statement, but spent much of 2013 renewing our goals for the next five years.

Our vision statement:

Anchored in the strength of our community and revitalized by God's life-giving Spirit, All Saints' is a fresh catalyst for transformative change.

160+ years of ministry

All Saints' has a long history of offering transforming ministry to the Downtown Community and beyond. All Saints' is no stranger to advocacy. Committed to Jesus' way – Love God, Love Neighbour – making a difference in people's lives is our call.

We continue to worship, pray and reach out from the inner city as a strong community of faith, renewed time and time again by God's life-giving Spirit. All Saints' is, was, and will be a positive catalyst for transformative change in individual lives and in our community.

All Saints' boldly proclaims God's inclusive grace as the Spirit draws the circle wide. Whether single or married, black or white, poor, wealthy, gay, straight, healthy or not, you will find others like you at All Saints'. We look like a microcosm of God's Kingdom and we strive to live as Kingdom people. All are welcome here.

Our strategic goals

1. To create a sustainable basis for Parish Development and to secure the viability of the church for generations to come.

Energy and ideas for ministry are in abundance at All Saints'. Every few months another opportunity to reach out to others comes our way. Ministry goals are regularly delayed as one of our many roofs begins to leak or we discover another expensive problem with our physical plant. We must stabilize our financial condition so that we can focus on God's call to ministry.

All Saints' History Book published in 2002 describes the congregation's chronic struggles with finances throughout the generations. There are likely many reasons for this ongoing financial instability, but the following seem evident today and are the nuts and bolts of our first goal:

- Our building needs increased accessibility and restoration. Washrooms, for example, are a roadblock to community ministry and rental income.
- Endowment funds and Stewardship will grow to support future ministry.
- Our congregation and partners will learn about the benefit of planned giving.
- We will invite partners and the Downtown community to support our ministry with time, talent, and treasure.
- A Social Media plan will help us better communicate what we are all about and engage the community in our work.

2. Develop Congregational life.

Objections to capital appeals and fund-raising campaigns impede All Saints' sense of community. Fear for the future seeks to dampen our joyful spirit.

All Saints' regularly welcomes new members, but we lack an effective way of engaging them in parish life. We have many ministries, but need a better way of revealing all of this to new people and the wider community. Long-time members are aging and are no longer able to serve as they did in the past. Many have died or moved away to be closer to family in other cities. We are living in a time of passing the torch from one generation to another.

- New Members' Committee will develop ways to engage newcomers in parish life more effectively.
- Develop increased communications within the congregation and beyond.
- Continue to develop our Spiritual and Prayer life and communicate this to the wider community.
- Consult with senior members. Create opportunities for their involvement in meaningful ways.

3. Continue to develop and support outreach programs that meet evolving community needs and focus on the person, rather than the activity.

- Continue outreach ministry – Reaching Out to You (with an intentional care for the person we are serving, who they, what their concerns are, and their joys.)
- Better orient outreach volunteers with training and ministry descriptions.
- Lay Leadership Development.
- Communications (what we do and how you can be part of this.)

Current ministries & programs

Funded Through All Saints' members, Community Donations, and Grants:

- Clothing Cupboard (primarily supported by donations of clothing, some financial and grants).

- Skating Program (primarily exists on donations of skates and money from users, grants)

Funded Through All Saints' members and Community Donations:

- Christmas Giving Store (sister church donations and skating partners)

Funded Through All Saints' members and our friends

- Social Committee (self-funded)
- Nurture Committee
- St. Luke's Lunches (self-funded)
- Out of the Cold/Downtown Mission (self-funded)
- Ride for Haiti Project
- PWRDF
- Council of the North
- Prayer Shawl Group

Funded Through All Saints' members exclusively:

- Children's and Youth Ministries
- Sacramental Preparation Programs
- Summer Camp Breakfast Program
- Monthly Worship at Retirement Home

No-Cost Programs:

- Parish Directory
- St. Leonard's Society

Next steps towards a Renew Plan:

- Establish Renew Committees.
- Continue enacting our Financial Plan.
- Renew Forum to explain Renew Campaign and Goal Communications (October 19 2014).
- Create a New Members' Orientation Event and Committee.
- Review building needs. Establish time line for capital projects.
- Outreach Summit – begin creation of volunteer orientation.
- Renew Campaign Launch (Vestry 2015).

Know our Goals and Celebrate Ministry Accomplished.

Intentionally avoid negative overtures of financial woes and instead celebrate accomplishments. Regularly provide stories that communicate all that we do.

Making a difference: All Saints in action!

Celebrate new members in significant ways. Help them become engaged in parish life. Avoid recalling who 'used to be here'. Parish leaders model good stewardship: faithful living, involvement in worship and parish life, share financial resources generously.

Set up smaller goals – celebrate as we go on.

- i.e. Roof Repair – Within six weeks you and supporters of All Saints' donated \$19,000!
- Raise \$19,000 annually for the heating system rather than watch the deficit grow due to its cost.
- We celebrate the creation of our Capital Reserve.
- Invite members and supporters of All Saints' to participate in and donate towards the missional ministry we offer to the wider community (programs and services).

Parish Relationships Will Develop Between Newcomers, Long-Time Members, and Partners:

The Renew Campaign will bring us together as begun through the Roof Campaign at the end of 2013. Renew Committees will draw members together in the renewal of our ministries and strengthen our relationships.

As described, a key aspect of the Renew Campaign is the involvement of people beyond the parish in our ministries to others.

- Development of volunteer training will support this important phase of this next chapter of parish life.
- Also needed is a stronger profile in the City. All Saints' is the Christian Community that makes a difference.
- A New Members Committee will create a more systematic way of involving new members in the life of the parish.

Criteria for success

1. Balanced budget with strong capital resourcing.
2. Updated facilities.
3. Active participation inside and outside the community (fairly sharing responsibility and allowing people time for worship, relaxation and personal renewal).

The leaky roof challenge

In late October 2013 another roof began to leak. All Saints' had avoided a capital campaign that year. Do we do a patch job or replace the damaged area? A Special Vestry meeting passed a motion to raise the \$15,000 needed to complete the work required. This was scary – who wants to ask people for capital funds at Christmas time?

Members of the Property Committee and other Leaders offered funds to begin the Campaign Communications with a good start. Anonymous donors contributed to the Campaign because of friendships with All Saints' members, but amazingly also because they like what we do. One anonymous donor gave us \$2,000 because she enjoys using our website!

Celebrating these moments of God's grace through others gave All Saints' members energy for the project. Before Christmas we announced we had raised \$4,000 more than we required and would establish a Capital Reserve Fund with the excess, an important step towards financial viability. A transforming reality – we participated in spite of our concerns! Alleluia!

Covered in prayers: Prayer shawl ministry

A year ago, our Anglican Fellowship of Prayer Representative, Betty McIntosh, learned about The Church of Ascension's Prayer Shawl Ministry at an AFP Members' Day.

Moved by the ministry of prayer described, she asked All Saints' Rector if she would support such a ministry. Of course support was offered and praise for the project communicated through sermons, newsletters, and Betty's quiet, but faithful invitation. Betty imagined a small group of 5 people, but after a few months our Library was over-flowing with knitters and crocheters prayerfully at work.

In order to raise funds for yarn (each shawl costs approximately \$50 to create) the group held a Prayer-Shawl-a-thon. For an entire Saturday, they prayed and

knit sponsored by friends, family, and faithful members. They imagined earning a few hundred dollars, but raised an amazing \$1,500! The shawls are presented at the altar as gifts offered to God then presented to someone in need of prayer within or beyond the congregation. Shawls have been sent to a young man beaten by strangers on the streets of Vienna, to the new Hospice in London, and to Newfoundland. At our Annual Vestry Meeting, Parish members expressed their gratitude through tears for prayer shawls received.

Skating towards success

All Saints' Skating Program began with a handful of used skates for members of the Youth Group who lacked skates. We now own and maintain (with the help of donated sharpening and laces from 5 Sports Stores) 1,800+ pairs of skates as well as helmets. Our Skate Evangelist, Art Roth, had a vision of expanding the program from skate distribution to include free skating lessons and a hot meal on wintry Saturdays.

With the support of the Parish and a few Community Grants as well as public donations, this program is self-sustaining. As a Downtown Church, we regularly meet people who struggle to put food on the table let alone afford skating lessons.

Wanting to repay the kindness of free skate sharpening to one of our Partners, the Rector purchased gifts for the Christmas Giving Store (free gifts for families in need). Asking the Manager for help choosing sporting goods for youth, he offered hockey sticks, basketballs, etc. at an incredibly low price. This partner of All Saints' ministry wanted to contribute even more.

A Knock On Our Door

One quiet afternoon in early November, a man who looked vaguely familiar knocked on the church's door. Roger was desperately searching for a partner to help him provide an Out of the Cold program for downtown Windsor. The Downtown Mission already hosted a hot meal at lunch and mattresses at 10:45 pm for a warm night's rest. The time between the two programs, however, was a distressing concern for Roger. He had seen clients of the Mission with missing fingers due to frostbite. He told me that someone had lost a foot the previous winter because there was no warm place to go throughout the later afternoon and evening.

The knock on our door that afternoon created within our Parish Council an overwhelming call to serve. Our Rector reports feeling deeply touched by Council's unanimous support. Winter was only weeks away. We moved quickly. Discussions were arranged between parish leaders, the leaders of the Downtown Mission, and our insurance company.

Friends, we never know when Jesus will knock on our door and invite us into his ministry. One man's call to serve has grown into a program that serves fifty or more hungry, cold, lonely people seven days a week from December to mid-March. Thanks to all who have helped make this ministry a reality for the past three years. We celebrate the involvement of our sister churches in the Deanery.

Going forward

- Continue to attract new members to ensure that the parish does not decrease.
- Implement financial plan to pay for heating system.
- Increase use of grants for ministries and capital upgrades such as accessibility, better washrooms for use of Seniors etc.
- Educate parish members in value of Planned Giving to increase the parish investment income and capital available to care for the large building for future generations.
- Involve partners in our ministry and share ministry with other partners. Minimizes cost to us and provides a connecting point to offer the gospel and parish life to others.
- Increase rental income to replace revenue previously enjoyed for years from the Windsor Symphony Chorus.

If funding received from grants:

- Enhancement of building
 - Accessibility and Enviro-friendly
 - Washroom improvements
 - Improved air quality
 - Improved décor in some rooms to increase space available for rentals and ministry