

# NEWSLETTER

## All Saints' Anglican Church

City Hall Square Windsor, Ontario  
An Established Christian Voice 1852-

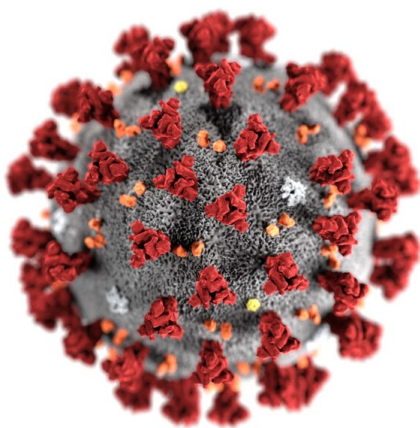
November 2020

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*Owen Swain*

**T**he church, the Jesus people, the body of Christ, we are the ones set apart and yet called to be in but not of the world, along with everyone else, where of-the-world means to be like the Adversary of God and of our souls; where we are all called to love one another and our perceived enemies; to comfort the afflicted; to exercise justice with mercy; to pray without ceasing—paying attention to the presence of God in all times and in each person; to mourn with those who mourn and rejoice and laugh with those who do that; not to be judgmental but to be forgiving and patient with others and with ourselves and to do that seven times seven; to

*Continues page 2* ➞



Covid 19 Impressions Page 8



Photograph of the South Transept: © Eric Davidson

### From the Rector's Desk...

**Reverend Robert Clifford**

*"Patience [is] the basic constituent of Christianity...the power to wait, to persevere, to hold out, to endure to the end, ... to practice the virtue that lies beyond heroism, the meekness of the lamb which is led." (Hans Urs von Balthasar, A Theology of History (San Francisco: Ignatius, 1994), 36-37.)*

**W**hew!

We've all needed so much patience these days.

Patience to wait, sometimes with bated breath, for a resumption of onsite and in-person gatherings and the chance to see loved ones.

Patience to persevere in the face of racial and economic injustice.

Patience to hold out hope for the new normal being better than the normal we've left behind.

Patience to endure the ongoing pandemic restrictions and the dearth of

*Continues page 3* ➞





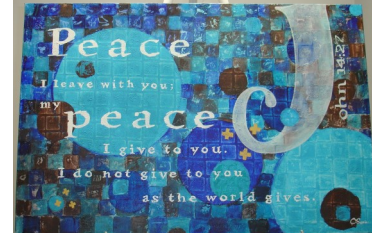
love God and to love our neighbour as we do ourselves, and if the way we love ourselves is un-loving, then to seek the kingdom of God first and everything else necessary and good will be added—yes, it will; not to be caught up in yesterday or tomorrow because yesterday is exactly that and tomorrow has enough troubles of its own; to be of the same heart and mind as Christ, preferring others over ourselves, and to grasp at nothing, but to be humble, letting God lift us up, letting God do the heavy lifting; to be generous with our dollar, even our last dollar and our coat, and

to walk the extra mile; to sing hymns and spiritual songs, even if our voice is lousy, even if we do not exactly feel like it, and if we don't feel like it, then to sing a lament—God has been known to handle it; to remain faithful to Jesus, whose message is love; not to strain the gnat; to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, our minds set on the things above, and so motivated to love our neighbour not metaphorically but in practical ways; not to give in to a spirit of fear, with its wars, lies, even its plagues; not to forget the assembling together one with another as some folks do, though indeed how that happens now means being alert to new means of doing that; to rejoice, and again we are told, to rejoice.



## *New paintings In Scott Hall*

*Owen Swain*



There are new paintings in the entrance way of Scott Hall. They come at the behest of parishioners Art and Beryl Roth. The artist is Owen Swain. Here is a description of the art collection by Mr. Swain.

**Four Gospels.** I do not precisely know how ideas come to head and heart. I just say, 'I'm open'. It is a prayer though it may not sound overly prayer-like. Beyond that, it seemed to me the paintings should be non-representational, that is to say no clearly defined image, yet not pure abstraction, something one could look at repeatedly (ahem) and see something different or a new little discovery to make. There should be a colour palette and common visual elements to unify the group even though they would never be seen together. As to the verse selection, I simply wanted something affirming in regards to the faith we profess, affirming and exhorting one to press on, have hope, be encouraged. That has worked because one person who had occasion to view all four remarked specifically in that regard without my having told them anything. They felt, in broad terms, we often hear the negative statements, thou shalt not and so on and that it was refreshing to be seeing the positive. I feel we hear loads of positive affirmation from the Gospels here at All Saints' Windsor and I take the person's point. I'm grateful that the message I hoped would be conveyed is being received.

human contact.

So much heroism has been displayed by so many. Unfortunately, so much of it has been directed at carrying out the necessary activities of daily living. I pray that we will all take the time to assess the “normal” we are leaving behind and prayerfully decide what normal should look like going forward. I pray that the arc of history will be bent even more nearly to the Kingdom of God – more just, more peaceful, more loving.

**T**he church is weathering the current disruptions in a way that points to God, I hope. God is in the midst of this time with God’s creation. As the Body of Christ militant here on earth, God experiences the human condition because we do. God weeps because we do; God knows anxiety because we do; God hopes for the future because we do – All of this even while God knows that the Kingdom and eternity are in God’s own hands and revealed in God’s own time.

While the public health and episcopal restrictions are yet in place, All Saints’ has carried on the essential tasks of being the church – worship, outreach to the community, care for each other, and prayer. Worship – innovative online worship via YouTube, Zoom, and Facebook

Outreach – support of the Unemployed Help Centre, Canterbury College, Street Help, Glengarry/Lighthouse, DWCC/Re:ACT drug treatment, Narcotics Anonymous

Self-care – telephone tree, dis-

tanced & outdoor visits, safe hospice/hospital visits, music videos via YouTube

Prayer – Rev’d Bev’s periodic prayer lists, your private requests, and prayers offered

The life of the All Saints’ community has changed, necessarily, but it does carry on. Over the next few months we will need to have a



discussion about what gets picked up again from our previous patterns and what gets celebrated and con-signed to our history.

**S**peaking of celebrating, we have bid a fond farewell and happy retirement to Professor David Palmer and Lonnie Palmer. Both David and Lonnie have been tireless and faithful labourers in this corner of God’s vineyard – David from the organ bench and Lonnie in her leadership of the Sunday School. They have promised to visit when they are back in town and to stay in touch. I’ve ensured that they remain on our mailing lists and connected by social media.

On a personal note, thank you for your prayers and well wishes for my recovery from surgery in Sep-

tember. The healing process is ongoing and the surgeons seem satisfied with my progress. My hearing is expected to improve slowly over the next several months.

Looking ahead, as well as is possible, we have All Saints’ Day, Advent, and Christmas on the near horizon. I look forward to seeing you onsite or online to celebrate these high feasts of the Church calendar. Keep an eye on your emails from the parish and the announcements in church for all the ways that you can contribute to and participate in the festivities.

And lastly, thank you for your faithfulness this year in your stewardship of the parish with your time, your talents, and your treasure. I hope that you will note that they have been well used in the furthering of God’s Kingdom here in the centre of Windsor.

**I** pray God’s blessings will be evident to you in your life as they are surely there.

*In prayer,*

*Robert+*

**Look for the new rectors’ gallery in the entrance way of Scott Hall.**







## A fond farewell... David Palmer

I don't know where to begin!!

**F**ifty-two years seem to have passed in a flash--a lifetime of experiences floods my memory. 1968 was a tumultuous year in the US (where I lived then (something like 2020), we were all young and had hair, and many of the friendships I treasure today were just being planted.

All Saints' was a thriving downtown parish, at the forefront in the social justice world, with St. Leonard's Society just beginning their ground-breaking work. I took over a music program that had enjoyed a long tenure, going back to H. Whorlow Bull's day in the 1930's, followed by the distinguished Walter MacNutt in the early '50's. Chris Steed, the Organist and Choirmaster in the mid-'60's, and whom I had known from Victoria days when we were both choristers in his father's choir at Christ Church Cathedral, phoned me in Ann Arbor where I was studying, and said that he was resigning from the job to pursue his

interests in jazz. He invited me to apply, and I was accepted and began my tenure on July 1, 1968. For a year, I commuted twice a week from there, and Betty, my first wife, and son John and daughter Megan joined the choir. In 1969, we moved to Windsor where I joined the music faculty at the University of Windsor.

Wonderful musical experiences in worship and concert activity made up my life at All Saints'. I can't say enough about the incredible support we all felt from the parish family, and how so many deep friendships followed. Several of them were the clergy with whom I worked closely: Bishop Jack Peck and Bishop Bob Bennett in particular. I have had a great 3 years now with Fr Robert and will miss creating worship with him. And our choir: what a vibrant group of people came together to offer the best their voices could muster--so much fun at choir practice Thursday nights--an activity central to AS parish life. My worship life has been deeply enriched by the place that All Saints' has made

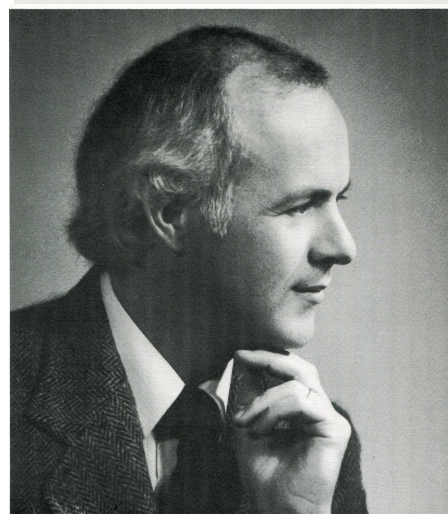
possible in its music. That plus being part of a loving church family--no one could ask for more. All Saints' parish family has stood by me and my family through all our life passages, and opened the way to our sharing in yours.

Lonnie and I want to express our deepest thanks and gratitude for all that you have done for us, for all the loving kindnesses over so many years.

**T**hank-you, thank-you and let's say, "Till we meet again", rather than "Good-bye". You will always have a central and deep place in our hearts, and we look forward to seeing you in the future, whether here (before we move) or in Victoria--come and see us there!

Much love from Lonnie and me,

*David*

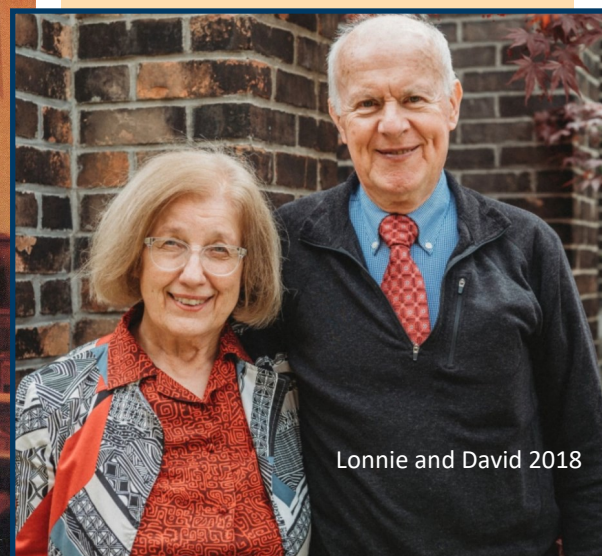






## *Buckingham Palace*

Queen Elizabeth II has sent her best wishes to Professor David Palmer upon his retirement from All Saints' Anglican Church.



Lonnie and David 2018

## From the back of a 1985 LP Record Album:

### ABOUT DAVID PALMER...

A musical artist to remember. Since the age of 14, he has been performing on the piano and organ keyboards. In addition to the usual run of concert tours of Europe, Mr. Palmer has frequently performed for the CBC Radio's "Organists in Recital" and was a featured soloist for the CBC's Festival London. Debut recitals were recently performed in New York and Paris, France. Mr. Palmer held his first church organist post at age 14 in Victoria, B.C. He is presently Associate Professor, School of Music, University of Windsor and Organist and Choirmaster, All Saints' Church, Windsor. He is a specialist in organ music of Olivier Messiaen.

Mr. Palmer received the Elsa Gardner Stanley Scholarship to the University of Michigan and several Canada Council grants. He has been commissioned by the Ontario Arts Council and Canada Council to develop new music for organ by composers Paul McIntyre and Wes Wraggett.



# Racial Protests during the Pandemic

By Christina Simmons

**P**rotests against racial injustice stand out for me as I look back on these pandemic months, which have sharpened and revealed underlying inequalities here as in the U.S, as some groups suffer more economic as well as health dangers. Inequality in the pandemic, as well as the brutal killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis (and those of other African Americans and Canadians before and since), led to renewed activism by Black Lives Matter, which I welcomed. Born in 1948, I was deeply influenced by the Civil Rights movement in the U.S. and later taught Black history at the university. I went to some of the BLM demonstrations in Windsor last spring and was very thrilled to hear the lifting of voices in protest—and also just to get out of the house!

I support BLM in part because of how I look at the world as a Christian. Jesus lived among, supported, and loved the margin-



alized of society, expressing God's love for all people. Sometimes we hear the question, "Don't all lives matter?", and that is exactly the message of BLM: Because, in the past and the present, so much of society has shown in practice that Black lives do not matter, we have to assert that they do. I have heard a powerful comparison with the parable of the lost sheep (Matt.18:12-14 & Luke 15:3-7). The shepherd went after the one lost sheep not because he did not love the ninety-nine, but because he cared for the lost one as much as for the ninety-nine. He loved all the sheep, as God loves every one of us. What I hope we can strive for through and after the pandemic is to build a society that reflects that love for all.

**Dr. Christina Simmons**  
Professor of History and Women's  
& Gender Studies, Emerita  
University of Windsor

**W**indsor sits on the traditional territory of the Three Fires Confederacy of First Nations, comprised of the Ojibwa, the Odawa, and the Potawatomi.



## Christmas Services

**@All Saints'**

Sunday December 20th 4p.m.

December 24 7p.m.

December 24 11p.m.

December 25th 10a.m.

December 27th 8 & 10a.m.



I encourage everyone to stay safe during this pandemic.

Reverend Bev Diet

**P**lease remember your church financially during these hard times. We still have operating costs to keep All Saints' Church up and maintain our outreach. Thank you.

## The All Saints' Skate Program

**W**ith the COVID 19 restrictions around human close contact we will not be able to lend our ice skates to individuals. We have always been pleased to offer up close and personal fitting help and positive encouragement to the many first timers and repeat borrowers, but we cannot during the pandemic. However, we are willing to offer skates in a safe way to groups who want to borrow 15, 25, 40, or more pairs of skates for their special event. But there will probably be no demand if the city does not make ice for recreational skating at the indoor and outdoor rinks. The Parks and Recreation rinks supervisor says they have not yet made a decision about that. So we will await word from the city and proceed when we can.

**T**he All Saints' involvement in the "Milk Bags to Mats" project is currently on hold. For many years we have collected the bags and taken them to the people who make them into sleeping mats and grocery bags. The group doing that work has changed from the Anglican church in Harrow to an elementary school in Windsor to, now, the Kingsville Community Centre run by a church. The 8 to 10 seniors who produce the mats are currently working from home but plan to return to the centre in the future. The mats and bags they produce are sent to "The Bridge" in Leamington, a community youth resource centre for 14- to 24-year-olds from all walks of life. Unfortunately, some of them will sleep outdoors, and the mats are given to them. Due to



diocesan COVID restrictions we are not permitted to collect these milk bags at the church at this time. Hopefully we can resume our participation in this activity in the near future.

**T**he Conversation Café program was successful largely because of the caring personal contact the newcomers to Canada and Windsor had with English-speaking volunteers who encouraged them in their English language development. All Saints' has hosted and provided coaches for these groups of people several times over the past couple of years. The YMCA settlement unit has had to suspend this off-site activity but has moved to a virtual contact model due to COVID measures. We expect the community sites will resume once it is safe to do so.

Thank you for your encouragement and support of outreach at All Saints'. **Art Roth, coordinator**

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

**M**y heart is happy. Notwithstanding the pandemic all of us have endured over these last months, the Prayer Shawl Ministry is, and continues to be, very blessed.

Several new shawls have been lovingly made during our absence from one another and are available for anyone who wishes to present one to a friend or family member in need of a spiritual "hug" during our new "normal". Additionally, Jo Bradley (our very lovable "knit-aholic" from Elora) has delivered MANY new and exciting items for our church and our community.



I am very excited to report that our Prayer Shawl Ministry, together with other prayer shawl knitters throughout Essex County, has been providing wool for those who are unable to get out during the pandemic and has exchanged knitted items for the greater good of our respective church families and our community.

During this odd time in our lives, the knitters feel very blessed that the "Anglican Communion" has never felt STRONGER.

Anyone in need of a yarn delivery need only contact me at any time.

In closing, hugs & prayers to all, KEEP ON KNITTING, and most importantly: STAY SAFE.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the All Saints' Prayer Shawl Ministry.

*Sharon Hillier*



Thom Smith

Reverend Robert Clifford  
Norm & Sharon Hillier

Bonnie & Jim Wilson

**D**ur congratulations to Norm and Sharon Hillier on their marriage vow renewal October 18th. They were married 35 years ago on October 19th at St. Stephen's Episcopal, Wyandotte, Michigan.



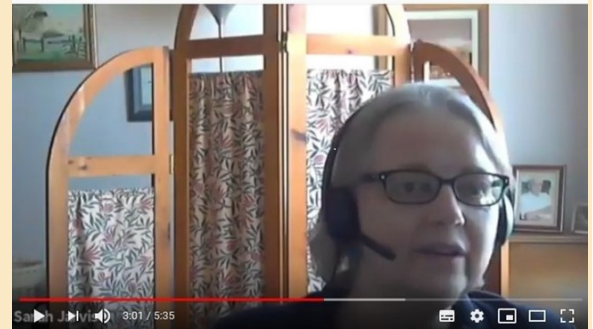
## Covid Impressions by Sarah Jarvis

The last time I was able to sing with my beloved All Saints' choir was February 27, 2020. It's easy to remember, because that's when we were invited to sing "O Canada" at a Windsor Spitfires Hockey game. The next day, laryngitis set in, and I couldn't go to any rehearsals or to church in early March.

And then we all shut down. We didn't get a chance to throw a big retirement party for Professor David Palmer, our beloved music director. We didn't even get to mark Lent with contemplative music and prayer together, nor belt out anthems of joy over Easter.

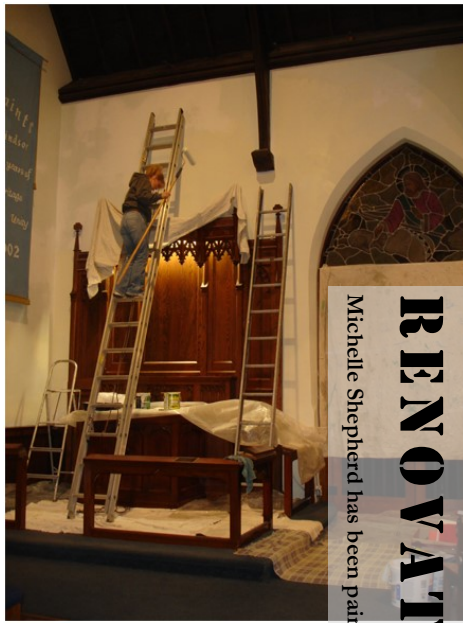
But, like ducks on a pond whose legs paddle furiously under water, so we try to present our best face online. We didn't really "shut down," did we? For me, there was a whole new level of activity as we negotiated a new technology called Zoom. I learned how to support our clergy by frantically posting information and online worship services on the church's website. Now, I could sing along with abandon if not accuracy to the excellent online services from members of our clergy who banded together to produce worship experiences. During services, I'd be monitoring comments online, and frantically trying to repost links to live Facebook broadcasts.

Here in my cozy home office, I discovered an unexpected purpose for a folding room screen that my parents gave me decades ago – a literal Zoom background prop – who knew! A failing computer hard drive would cause crashes during Zoom Thursday worship, and I'd have to rush to reconnect.



Those were the mechanics. The substance – prayer and worship – took on a new form, as I am fortunate to be able to connect online. Prayer takes on new urgency as I attempt to understand health threats to us all and to respond to social and racial pressures. Worship, for me, also takes the form of hauling out the sewing machine for the first time since the late 1990s to sew masks for friends and volunteer sewing collectives. Again, who knew!

Now I contemplate how we can be church family without the coffee hour chat, the hugs, the chance conversations that help us to make a difference. I believe that we will continue to be resourceful in finding ways to be connected while staying safe. Soon, we'll look at those new ways of being church in the world, and say, "Huh! Who knew?"



Michelle Shepherd has been painting and installing new floors.



Thank you to Val van Reenen for underwriting the cost of this publication. And to Sharon Hillier for the cost of postage.

Blessings to all our readers.

*Thom Smith*  
Editor

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