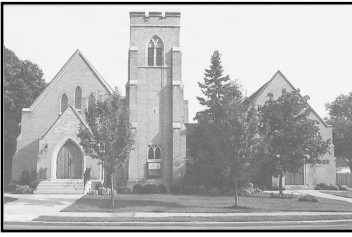


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# Church of the Holy Saviour

Rector: The Venerable Peter T. Townshend  
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December 2011

## WHAT'S NEW?

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### ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Advent IV Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup>  
8:00 am & 10:00 am  
(Nine Lessons and Carols)

Christmas Eve  
4:00 pm, 7:00 pm & 10:30 pm

Christmas Day Choral Eucharist 10:00 am

### A MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends

Are you ready? Christmas is less than two weeks away! It is good to be prepared. The Season of Advent provides us with four weeks to plan for the great celebration. The children have been counting down the candles of hope, peace, joy and love. Secular society has also been preparing for Christmas. As soon as Halloween was over the Christmas music began to play the first of November, hoping to get you in the mood to spend more money to insure that you have the best Christmas ever. I love Christmas music but I must say that the repetitive repertoire was getting me down so I had to change the radio station at home and in the car. I just can't risk hearing "I want a hippopotamus for Christmas," ever again.

There was however, one of the old favourites which caught my attention with a renewed interest, "I'll be home for Christmas" I have already heard it sung by several different vocalists, but the original hit was recorded in October 1943, by Bing Crosby. It is no wonder that it was an instant hit having been released at the peak of the Second World War. With so many relationships separated by a great distance people longed to be reunited. Husbands and wives, boyfriends and girlfriends, parents and children, they all waited with great anticipation for when they

would be together again. Christmas provided a natural focus for a family reunion. In recent years the song has struck a resonate chord with the hearts of many people. People have again been away in places like Afghanistan. Thankfully most of our soldiers have returned home. However as our world has become smaller with modern transportation our families are often spread farther apart. For the second year our son Christopher, now living in New Zealand, will not be home for Christmas. How we wish that would not be the case. I know that there are a great many families facing similar situations. There are also people living closer to their homes but with their parental homes being in different communities. The long standing challenge of trying to be in two or more places at the same time just doesn't work very well.

Separation by geographical distance is one issue, but another is separation by physical death. There are many people who would dearly love to have a husband or wife, parent or child, with them to celebrate Christmas this year. The physical presence of their loved one may not be possible but I am confident of the reality of their spiritual presence. I know that as Jane and I celebrate Christmas our son Christopher while enjoying a good life in New Zealand will be very much in our thoughts and prayers. As our family celebrates he will be present with us, as will the spirits of our parents and grandparents. They are all simply a part of who we are!

Christmas is so much more than just one day in time and space. It is much more than a turkey dinner! I find great meaning in the prayers known as the collects of Christmas.

"Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus

Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.”  
 “O God our Father, whose word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever.”

“Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now lives with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.”

Jesus is alive! He invites us all to come home this Christmas. On His behalf I invite all of you to come to your spiritual home to celebrate His birth. Join with your brothers and sisters in Christ, at Holy Saviour and with those farther away throughout the world as together we gather to celebrate at the table of our Lord.

In the second verse of the popular Christmas song Bing sings “Christmas Eve will find me, Where the love light gleams.” Will Christmas Eve find you where the light of Christ shines bright?

The Christmas Gospel tells us “What was coming into being was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it, “....., and The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.”

This Christmas Eve I invite you to come home, and see the glory of the Lord. May the Spirit of the child born in Bethlehem bless you and all whom you love and care for, this Christmas and for ever!

Yours in Christ, Peter

**WE PRAY** For: Angela-Marie, Maria, Grace, Bill, Rebecca, Matthew, Elisa, Angie, Pat, Sharyn, Lauren, Jessie, Robert, Lloyd, Kathy, Dick, Heather, Shirley, Wendy, Elyse, Duncan, Harold, John, Susan, Jessica, Jean, Penny, Ruth, Ed, Margaret, Vern, Barb, Revlyn, Fred, Eileen, Peter, Phillip, Bruce, Jennifer, Susan.

**AND** For Those in Nursing/Retirement Homes and people who are Shut-in: Isabelle Anstey, Stella Taylor, Kay Finney, Esther Madill, Kay Syer, Francis Brooman, Dorothy Gilbert, Bonnie Pellow, Betty Sweetman, Harold Miller, Florence Phillips, Edna Kimpton, Joan Ankenmann, Dick Denison, Doris Leland, Francis Whittaker, Shirley Amos.

**WE REMEMBER** our brothers & sisters, departed this life and who now share in our Lord’s eternal life: Helen McAvoy, Barbara Vinnicombe.

**SNOWFLAKE TEA** – We had another very successful Tea and sold a grand total of 106 Tea Room tickets. Our mitten tree was a resounding success and many thanks to Pat Fryer for coaching her knitters to provide such wonderful mitts of all sizes. It takes a huge number to produce such a splendid bazaar and thanks to everyone who helped and to those who came and enjoyed. A super way to kick off our Christmas Season.

#### **ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild had a busy fall and is now planning and decorating for the Christmas season. We have the privilege of worshipping in an incredibly beautiful House of God. As Altar Guild members we have the joy of adorning the church once again to await the coming of the Christ Child. But, we cannot do it without your help. The decorating team does all that they can but the flowers and other adornments are costly. If you feel you could help us out, please make out a cheque for “Church of the Holy Saviour” and mark it “flowers”. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our church family the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love.

Convenor: Chris Schmidt

**THE SOCK DRIVE** has been another wonderful success. I haven't had a chance to do a sock total as there are still socks and cheques coming in. The pile of socks is lovely and big. I thank all of you for your participation in this much needed gift of socks. The socks will be delivered within the next two weeks and I will give you the grand total in the pew bulletins. Keep your eyes open for it. Wishing you a blessed and joyous Christmas.

Chris Schmidt

### SILVER SPOONS

Seniors! Are you fed up with your own cooking? The Silver Spoons Tuesday dinner program is running again this year at W - K Mennonite church across from us. Call that church on a Friday morning to hear the menu and reserve a spot. Arrive the following Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. to be served a delicious three course meal for only \$6! What a bargain! You can even take another meal out for another \$6, if you order ahead. Four local church teams prepare the meal, with Holy Saviour generally working the second Tuesday of the month and we would love to see you there!

Judith Toogood

### HOLY SAVIOUR BOOK CLUB 2012

The Book Club at Holy Saviour is made up of parishioners and friends who love to read interesting books. If you also love to read books and would like to discuss them with our friendly, cordial group, please join us for one or all of our sessions. Our group will be meeting on:

- January 25, 2012, and discussing Alone in the Classroom by Elizabeth Hay
- February 22, 2012, and discussing a Biography of your choice
- March 28, 2012, and discussing The Forgotten Garden by Kate Morton

Our group will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room on the above dates. All book lovers are welcome.

Jane Beleskey & Vivian Russell  
Coordinators

As the Christmas Season approaches we wish to remind you that following the tradition at Holy Saviour the givings in the Christmas Envelope go to Peter, our Rector as a Christmas gift for him and his family. If using a cheque please make it payable to Peter Townshend, and not the church. This makes year-end accounting and depositing to the bank much easier for all concerned. Thank you and have a Merry and Blessed Christmas.

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - *The Prodigal God*

In response to the invitation by the Diocese to respond to Timothy Keller's "*The Prodigal God*" (DVD and book), Holy Saviour recently concluded a series of activities, through a Sunday service (DVD) and sermon themes, and in small-group study. Participants in this latter challenging and worthwhile activity met for five weeks of reading and discussion, and a final session of a potluck meal and a viewing of "*Babette's Feast*", an Academy Award-winning film which reinforced several of the themes. More than a Bible-study, the program encouraged thoughtful reaction and "prodigal" fellowship! Thank you to all who participated.

Would you like to place flowers on the altar in 2012? Placing flowers on the altar is a wonderful way to remember a loved one or a celebration in your life. There are 3 spots available in the month of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>. Please consider this request and contact Ann Spall (519) 749-0500. Thank you.

Prayer group meets the first Wednesday of the month at 11:15 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Should you wish to come any time, please do so.

**SUPPORTIVE HOUSING OF WATERLOO**

“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you?...a stranger and make you welcome...?”

And the King will answer ‘...in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me.’ “ (from Matthew 25:31-46)

Supportive Housing of Waterloo (SHOW) opened its new building at 362 Erb Street West in June 2010 to house 30 people who had experienced persistent homelessness anywhere from five to even twenty years. We contracted from the start with KW-YWCA to provide 24/7 support services. Beginning January 1, 2012, SHOW will hire their own staff to provide support to tenants, and to operate and maintain the building. We are pleased to announce the hiring of our first Executive Director. Gael Gilbert becomes head of the organization, moving from her current role as ED of Agincourt Community Services Association in Scarborough. Gael brings vast experience and has worked in a housing-first and harm-reduction environment (which is SHOW’s philosophy). “Throughout my career I have worked with the homeless, marginally housed, and entire communities challenged by poverty and other barriers.” Gilbert noted. “I’m delighted to bring my enthusiasm for community work to Waterloo and look forward to working with SHOW.” Tricia Siemens is Holy Saviour’s contact on the SHOW board and is their new volunteer coordinator. She and a few members of our church are preparing a turkey dinner with all the trimmings for the 30 tenants on December 22nd. Holy Saviour has been an on-going supporter of SHOW. If you wish to make a personal donation, please mark your cheque for SHOW and include it in your offering envelope.

**NAME TAGS**

“When people know each other’s names, the rules change.”

One of the initiatives that our parish has identified as a priority is to create a greater sense of community within the parish membership and for new people visiting our church.

Name tags provide a simple and familiar way of facilitating this.

The larger the congregation, the more important it is for all members to wear name tags every Sunday morning.

One reason is to help members know one another by name. A second reason is to help members identify and welcome visitors.

Name tags have important symbolic value. They symbolize the acceptance of the fact that this is a large congregation that expects visitors to be present every Sunday, and the regular use of nametags represents a welcoming attitude.

Earlier in the year we had asked people to sign a sheet with their names the way they wish to appear on the name tag. We will be placing another order later this year for new members and people who do not currently have one.

Judy Knight is coordinating our Greeting Ministry. Please let her know if you do not receive one when they are initially distributed. ([knight9688@gmail.com](mailto:knight9688@gmail.com))

Our new magnetic name tags have now arrived. We will have all the name tags at the entrance of the church. We will have places set up there and in the Parish Hall to return them at the end of the service. The intent is for the name tags to remain at the Church.

This expenditure was approved by Parish Council to come from Memorial Fund money. If you would personally like to contribute to it please note “Name tags” on the offering.

This is a new initiative for us. Please be patient with the process and eager to embrace the idea!

Andrew Attridge  
Chair of the Caring Community Ministry