



# All Saints' Kingsway

Anglican Church

December Newsletter • 2018

A WORD FROM THE RECTOR

## “Good advent to you all!”

*Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year and it's the season that asks us to prepare ourselves for the unthinkable: we are asked to prepare ourselves for the in-breaking, the coming of God into our world.*

Advent is a verb which is first predicated of God and only then is it a noun naming this holy season. It is a season which asks us to anticipate; to sit and wait for the unexpected, for the interruption of God into our affairs.

Waiting well is not one of our cultural fortes. We are plugged in, texting, 24-7 news watching, Netflix binging, instant communicating people—junkies for the instantaneous! Remember what it was like when you had to wait for a whole week for the next episode of Seinfeld or Friends or whatever your show was? I often catch myself buying into this culture. To what end? To the end that we are raising generations who are products of our cultural anxieties, incapable of waiting. We are raising children who, below the surface, are weary of the instantaneous, numbed by the noise of it all, and desperate for the Christian practice of waiting.

And so, unable to bear the burden of waiting, we enthusiastically enter into this consumer Christmas, which has turned into a time of setting our cultural and societal coping mechanisms into play. We'd rather not take the time to wait; we get busy and binge the season away rather than put ourselves in the way of Jesus Christ and wait. We lull ourselves to sleep; we numb ourselves in our shopping; we cope in our busyness.

But advent, this season of delay, forces us to wait, to take the time to anticipate, to prepare, to steady ourselves for God's coming to us.

This is why we need advent. This is why we need Jesus telling us in Mark's gospel to wake up: “Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

The church is asked in this season not only to recall God's adventurous coming in Christ but to prepare for Christ's return, to anticipate his coming; we are to expect the unthinkable—Christ's advent, his coming to us again. But what does that mean? What does that mean for the church, on the ground?

It means wholeheartedly and assuredly that waiting is an exercise of hope; waiting is Christian hope in action! It's not mere wishful thinking, but hope in the One who has come and who will come again. It is an active belief that God's justice will prevail and that we are called to

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## Remember

*Remember to bring in the pull tabs from your beverage cans. They really do help to buy wheelchairs.*

embody that justice in anticipation through our actions toward each other and toward our world. For you etymologists reading this, “waiting” finds its root in the Proto-Indo-European *weg*, meaning, “to be strong, to be lively”. This means that waiting is not a passive activity but a wholly active one.

Waiting is a restless act. So we are to be restless for God’s coming and intervention, anticipating with boldness God’s making things right, new and just.

Our children have a thing or two to teach us about the posture of waiting: “are we there yet?” is a common enough, but profound refrain. Perhaps you may remember what it was like as a child, waiting for Christmas morning—eager, impatient, restless, active waiting. This is the kind of waiting that the church is called to.

How easy to forget this! How can we not when we’re bombarded with the synthetic images that float across our iPads, that greet us in our newspapers and magazines, that demand Christmas be a time of gratification and not a time of preparation? If this season before Christmas is inevitably a season of stress for you—be it financial, familial, or emotional stress at buying the right gift or spending just the right amount of money—you’re doing it wrong. And you’re not alone; we all find ourselves in one way or another doing advent wrong which means we need advent all the more!

If and when the church buys into this, it neglects its prophetic call to stand in our culture as a beacon of hope, a place of peace in a world of violence, a light of justice in a world where darkness is all too prevalent. But when we wait, when we wait impatiently as a child awaits the wonder and mystery of Christmas morning, we can participate in the change that comes to our worlds; we can play a part in bringing God’s advent light to shine amidst the darkness that threatens our world, that threatens us, that threatens this neighbourhood.

During this advent season, practice a restless waiting for the presence of God and know that God is at work transforming you and me into a people who exercise hope, peace, joy and love for the sake of this world!

Grace and peace,

*Patrick+*

## Update on our ASK CARES Program

One way Christ calls us to serve is to love and support one another. All Saints’ Kingsway is a community in which all in need are upheld in prayer and loving service. One significant way in which these needs are being met is through the ‘ASK CARES’ program that is available to all parishioners in need such as those who are facing a serious illness, or other challenging situations.

ASK Cares has a dedicated Coordinator and a group of Volunteers who provide practical and compassionate care for individuals and families facing a challenging time. At this time our ASK Cares Program is assisting a family by preparing and delivering meals weekly. We also have volunteers who are drivers to assist a parishioner who requires drives, for example, to medical appointments.

This ministry serves parishioners and their family members who have to cope with different issues such as facing serious illness, undergoing medical procedures, coping with loss, or maybe facing the challenge of loved one who is hospitalized, or possibly to a new family who are adjusting to the birth of a baby.

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

ASK Cares is currently in need to *more volunteers* who would be able to prepare a *meal* or a *drive*, run small errands or provide company to an individual or family in need of support. We ask that you would please consider becoming involved in this very valuable and impactful ministry as we strive to share God’s love and compassion with others.

*If you are interested in helping others in this way*, or are aware of someone who may be called to serve in this ministry please contact Deacon Jennifer Cameron directly at [deacon@allsaintskingsway.ca](mailto:deacon@allsaintskingsway.ca) or 416-233-1125 #25

If you are aware of anyone in need, **HELP IS AVAILABLE**. Please contact one of our clergy: *The Reverend Jennifer Cameron our Deacon Associate, The Reverend Patrick McManus, our Priest, or The Reverend Brian Suggs, our Curate.*



## Alpha Report

On Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, members of our Alpha small groups toasted one another as our weekly program of food, fellowship, and faith inquiry wrapped up. Over the course of the Fall, we have grown from an assortment of familiar acquaintances and new faces into a community who eats, laughs, listens, questions, and prays together. Our retreat day gave us a chance to solidify these relationships in a less hurried atmosphere. We are grateful for the work of the Holy Spirit drawing us into deeper knowledge and love of God and of each other through the last 11 weeks.

Our average Alpha attendance was 65 people per week, ranging in age from the very new to the very wise. We were blessed by wonderful meals prepared



each Thursday by the Strategic Plan teams. The care and abundance that went into the food was truly astonishing. Many other hands joined in to help make the evenings run smoothly – from tech. savvy folks who assembled projector screens, ran videos, and adjusted sound quality, to those who set tables and brought in flowers, to those who stayed afterwards to put away chairs and wash dishes. A special thanks goes out to Patrick for his thoughtful wrap-up talks, to the RCAT members for overseeing the logistics, to Hanna and Abby for taking such good care of our Alpha babies, and to Naomi and Brian for shepherding our children and youth respectively through their own faith formation journeys. We are so grateful to everyone who participated and helped.

When I ask people what stands out to people most about the program, invariably they tell me the conversations around the table were the highlight. Our team of small group facilitators did a beautiful job of fostering open and honest exploration on a variety of topics from “Who is Jesus” to “How and Why Should I tell Others” about him. This practice of regularly meeting together with the intention of growing in faith is part of our calling as the Body of Christ. I am confident that we have all been transformed by the experience.

Alpha marks the first in a series of new Faith Formation initiatives here at ASK. I encourage you to watch out for our future offerings through Advent and in the New Year. We would love to have you join us!

*Natania Friesen*



## Out of the Cold Concert

On Saturday, November 24, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church was packed with people who enjoyed the "Carolling in the Kingsway" fundraising event for the Out of the Cold program held seasonally at All Saints Kingsway Anglican Church. Thousands of dollars were raised to help fund the program for the needy. Choirs from these churches in addition to the Etobicoke Centennial Choir, Kingsway Lambton United Church and a brass ensemble from the Etobicoke Temple Band of the Salvation Army combined with enthusiastic audience participation. Michael Kramer from The New Classical 96.3 FM brought life and animation into the story of a mole and rat who discovered themselves and Christmas in the tale of *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame.

The event was generously supported by Star-Metroland Media and the Kingsway BIA. For volunteer opportunities with Out of the Cold, call (416) 233 -1125 or contact <office@all-saintskingsway.ca>.

*Steven Favell*

## Strategic Plan Update

The Strategic Plan Action Teams have been busy working on their action steps toward their goals. To refresh your memory about our Strategic Plan and the Action Teams, please see the bulletin board near the East (Kings Lynn) entrance. For a handy reference on the Strategic Plan please pick up a trifold brochure entitled "Planning our Future Together" in the Narthex. The complete Strategic Plan can be found on our website [www.allsaintskingsway.ca](http://www.allsaintskingsway.ca) or by

using the QR code on the trifold.

A current initiative of the Strategic Plan Integration Team is the creation and dissemination of a congregation survey to elicit your thoughts, opinions and ideas on what we are currently doing and what we could be doing. You will be pleased to know it will be only one survey to cover the questions from all the teams! There will be satisfaction questions, opinion questions and open-ended questions to get a more fulsome idea of your views of what ASK is currently doing and what you would like to see us doing in the future. It will be available in hard copy to pick up at church and in an electronic form that will be sent to your email. Please feel free to respond in whichever format you feel most comfortable using.

Thank you in advance for responding to the survey. It will help the Action Teams focus their efforts in the coming year and help us achieve the goals of our Strategic Plan. The survey will be out soon!

*Mary Anne Huggins*

*People's Warden and Chair, Strategic Plan Implementation Team*

## Thank you Janice!

As many of you may already know, Janice Kretchman, who has filled our communications role for the last year, has stepped back from the position. I want to take this opportunity to thank Janice for all of her hard work, her dedication to this community, and the joy she brought to the table in her time on staff. Blessings,

*Patrick+*



## Ask A Senior,

GRACE PEARSON,  
our 2019  
CENTENARIAN

What better way to start the ASK 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year than by presenting

Grace Pearson, who will be celebrating her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in October? Grace was born in Paris, Ontario, the youngest of three daughters. Her father was a pharmacist and when they moved to Toronto, she remembers attending Howard Park School. She worked briefly as a secretary before her marriage to Clark Pearson. They first lived in an apartment on the South Kingsway and then moved to Etobicoke. They had two daughters, Margaret and Vicki, and Grace is very proud of her four grandchildren and one great grandchild. She and Clark travelled after he retired, and her favourite destination was Switzerland.

Grace has always enjoyed playing bridge, and was a member of two bridge clubs from the time she was in high school to 90 years old. She has outlived most of her friends, but has one or two left who are her age. She has outlived all her older siblings too. She was also a volunteer at the hospital as a Pink Lady for many, many years. She belonged to a bowling league with the “All Saints” ladies. Grace loved that too. She also curled for years at St. George’s Golf and Country Club. At the same time, she was a doting mother and wife to her family.

Clark was an Anglican (Grace came from a United church background). She attended Howard Park Church as a youngster, and, as Grace said, they agreed to go to the Anglican Church. Clark grew up in the Kingsway and attended All Saints’. They got married in Howard Park United Church. Grace really enjoyed her work on the Chancel Guild and recalls Arnold Wilkinson calling to ask her to become a member of the Guild. Both of Grace’s children were baptized, confirmed, and married at All Saints’.

Grace has always been a churchgoer and she is interested in knowing everything that is going

on at All Saints’. She is honest, forthright, and has a good sense of humour. She is a pleasure to visit and June Traves and I enjoy bringing her monthly communion from ASK. All Saints’ has always been dear to her heart, and a huge part of her life.

Grace is really a remarkable human being, and her family is so proud of her. To think she has lived through so much including the Great Depression and World War II. She battled cancer 51 years ago, and is a living testament as a Cancer Survivor. Grace has a very positive approach to everything, and to this day she rarely complains about anything. She always enjoys people’s company.

*Pat Reynolds*



## Introducing our new student intern

Mr. Caleb Upton will be joining us full-time from January until Easter. He’s a divinity student at Trinity College and grew up in the neighbourhood! We are very excited to welcome Caleb and have him with us in the new year.

Below are a few “get-to-know-you” questions.

### **1. What’s the best vacation you’ve ever been on?**

When I was living in Scotland, my roommate and I went to Rome for a few days and also did a day trip to Assisi. The history and spiritual resonance of such places were what made that trip the best vacation I ever had.

### **2. What are some of your favourite foods?**

Some of my favourite foods include: potato chips, pizza, chicken fried rice, and Baconators from Wendys!

### **3. What are you looking forward to about joining us at All Saints Kingsway?**

I’m looking forward to so many things of being a part of All Saints Kingsway, but one of particular interest is serving God in my old

neighbourhood again, as All Saints Kingsway is close to the neighbourhood where I grew up - Burnhamthorpe and Dundas.

#### **4. What Bible verse informs your prayer life?**

Regularly doing the Daily Office of the Book of Common Prayer has enriched my prayer life greatly, but one particular verse comes from the Venite (Psalm 95) in which we read 'To-Day O that you would hear his voice', after which we immediately proceed to read the scriptural lessons. Hearing God's voice in his Word is what that verse in Psalm 95 encourages me to do.

#### **5. Best hymn ever?**

Ha! Best hymn ever, I would make the case for "I Cannot Tell" by William Young Fullerton. It is set to the tune of the Irish 'O Danny Boy', but it so beautifully goes through the life, death, and resurrection of Christ and its meaning for the whole world.

## Christmas Past *All Saints' Style*

As we begin prepare for Christmas 2018, I thought I'd look back at Christmas 30 years ago to see how the season was celebrated in the early years of Tom Greene's ministry. Although the details have changed, the overall pattern of our activities is similar today. Then, as now, we combined religious observance, an enjoyment of our sense of community and outreach beyond the parish.

Tom's annual Christmas message emphasized the need for inner quiet in the midst of the commercial celebrations – an idea that was reflected in church this morning (I am writing this on December 9) as Jennifer and the children lit the candle for peace. Tom emphasized the importance of Advent as a time of preparation. He pointed out that Christmas should be celebrated for 12 days after the 24th and remembered an old rule that no carols were to be sung before Christmas Eve. In terms of worship, the main change has been that now we do more on the Eve, and less on the Day. Previously, there had only been the 11pm service on Christmas Eve; Tom introduced a 7.30 service, to make it easier for families. There were two services on Christmas morning. Now we have 3 services on

Christmas Eve and only one on Christmas Day.

Many Church groups, such as the Couples Club, ACW, and Sunday School, had Christmas parties. All involved an element of help for others. The range of outreach was amazing. The Couples' Club Christmas party collected for patients at the Queen Street Mental Health Centre and a men's drop in at the Church of the Good Samaritan. Other groups raised money or provided gifts for such organisations as the Downtown Church workers, All Saints Sherbourne or the Elizabeth Fry Society. One interesting activity was the parish Christmas card. It was a large card kept in the Narthex throughout Advent. Parishioners signed it in lieu of sending cards to each other and donated the money they had saved to the outreach box.

One group which really shows the combination of communal fun and outreach was MASH, (Ministry of All Saints Hooligans.) This was a group for teenagers, started by Brian and Kathy Tisdall, which continued under the aegis of Don and Fran Richardson. The list of their activities at Christmas 1987 is exhausting: preparing and serving punch at the intergenerational Christmas party, a roller skating party after pageant rehearsal, participation in the pageant, sale of Christmas cakes, serving plum pudding after the Carol Service and collecting clothes for teens at Covenant House! Unfortunately, this group dwindled in the late 80's after a new curate took over; his tenure was short and the group doesn't seem to have recovered.

The pageant of course remained a major feature of Christmas at ASK. It was not just for the congregation: it was publicized in the wider community and became a regular part of Christmas on the Kingsway. There were two performances each year on a Saturday evening before Christmas. About 100 people were involved. As well as actors, people were required for make-up, sound and lighting. In the 1990, for the first time, there was a request for volunteers for the pageant, a first sign of declining participation.

So Christmas at ASK continues. The Scouts still sell Christmas trees, we still have Marg Green's creche in the Wilkinson Room (bought in Woolworths at Royal York and Bloor – remember that?), we worship, celebrate and reach out to others: don't forget Faithworks!

*Evelyn Clarke*

# Advent

*Lighting of the first candle of the Advent Wreath.*

*Brian Suggs addressing the young people.*

*Advent Sunday Breakfast*





## All Saints' Kingsway Staff

**Incumbent:**

The Reverend Patrick McManus

**Assistant Curate:**

The Reverend Brian Suggs

**Deacon Associate:**

The Reverend Jennifer Cameron

**Honorary Associate:**

The Reverend June Abel

**Director of Music:**

D. Brianerd Blyden-Taylor

**Organists:**

Wade Bray & Peter Mayers

**Associate Minister for Children & Youth:**

Naomi Suggs

**Volunteer Assistant for Children & Youth:**

Kelly Malcomson

**Parish Operations Coordinator:**

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## CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Lessons & Carols  
December 23 at 4pm

Traditional Christmas Eve Service  
December 24 at 7pm & 11pm

Family Christmas Eve Service & Pageant  
December 24 at 4 pm

Christmas Day Service  
December 25 at 10am



On Sunday, Dec. 9, the parish marked Patrick's (significant) birthday with a huge celebration cake that was enjoyed by all after the 10:00 a.m. service.

## The Posterski Lecture in Theology and the Arts



In celebration of our upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, All Saints' Kingsway is excited to announce the inaugural *Posterski Lecture in Theology and the Arts*. This annual lecture event will take place on our

Patronal Festival (All Saints) weekend, scheduled next for November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019. Our first guest lecturer and preacher will be Dr. Stephen Newby, Professor of Music & Theology of Worship at Seattle Pacific University.

This lectureship is founded in memory of Don Posterski, who called All Saints' Kingsway his church home for many years. Throughout his professional vocation and in his life in the church, Don embodied the gospel of Jesus Christ and brought it to bear upon the culture around him. He was an accomplished writer, speaker, social commentator, and practical philosopher. His life's work sits at the crossroads of theology and culture and his vantage point was always unique, critical, and challenging.

Don also had the unique ability to bring a whole host of different people and voices to the same table. I can think of no better way of honouring his memory than by continuing this public conversation, sitting at this crossroads for the sake of the church and the world around us here at All Saints' Kingsway.

More information on the *Posterski Lecture in Theology and the Arts* is forthcoming, including exciting founding sponsors and partners as well as a call for benefactors to support this continuing lectureship.