THE THEOPHANY PROJECT: EXPERIENCES OF GOD

This is an opportunity to examine seven texts in depth with three voices. As we explore the scriptures we will also engage with art, music, poetry and prayer. Led by Ray Van Leeuwen, John Wilker-Blakey and Linda Privitera. There are many ways that God makes God's self known. There will be two more sessions in Advent, followed by four sessions between Easter and Pentecost.

On Tuesday, December 10th we will look at Genesis 32: 22-32, “at the Jabbok”, and on Tuesday, December 17th we will look at Luke 24:13-35, “On the road and at the Table”. These two classes will be at All Saints’ Westboro at 7:30 p.m.

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE

On December 22nd we will hold our annual Blue Christmas service in the Chapel. If you or your family will find the celebrations of Christmas to be difficult this year for any reason, join us in the chapel at 4:30 for a quiet service with music and reflections appropriate to the season.

CHRISTMAS EVE DRAMA

Again, this year, our Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. is a very informal and meaningful service with our children taking part in readings and the prayers. Our young children, along with visiting children, will be invited to dress the part and present a tableau on the nativity scene. There are no rehearsals required, but we do need parents of this age group to be at the back of the church and help with the costumes and getting the lambs and angels up to the front at the right time and place. Should be great fun! To offer help please speak to Barb

ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

This year our Wednesday afternoon Advent Bible study will be led by the newly ordained Adam Brown. There will be three sessions on Wednesdays, December 4, 11, and 18 at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel.

OFFERINGS FOR 2020 CAMPAIGN

Many thanks to all of those who have returned their Church Offering Response forms for 2020; if you have not completed your response form, we encourage you to do so. We hope that you are keeping your current donations up to date. The cut off is Sunday, January 5th for donations credited to 2019.
REFUGEE UPDATE

The official sponsorship period for our refugee family is drawing to a close in the last days of December.

We invite all parish members to a reception after the 9:30 service on Sunday, December 22nd, to help mark this momentous time. Part of the celebration that day will include an Arabic reading of the Gospel with Zuhair Abdulahad. We can use this occasion to offer our continued friendship and our thanks for the opportunity to get to know Zuhair, Hanan and Taif. As well, we will be sending the family off with our good wishes as they move to Surrey, B.C. where they will be joining other family members.

You may recall that through the generosity of parish members, the family visited their kin in Surrey this past summer. That trip helped the family decide to make the move. New Year's Day will see them head West.

Due to the costs of moving, the family will be leaving their furniture and goods behind. Unless anyone wishes to have their donation returned, items that remain will be donated to the Ottawa Furniture Bank and other charitable organizations. Clearing out the apartment will take place in the first few weeks of January as the apartment must be vacated by the end of January. Please speak to Katy about returns or with offers of help.

We wish to thank all members of the parish for their support of this second sponsorship. People have been very generous in their donations, their offers of help, their chauffeuring and their friendship.

Merry Christmas to all!
Katy Burnett and Noel Lomer
Co-Chairs, Refugee Committee

DIOCESAN SYNOD 2019
Patricia Bays, Gaetan Hache, Debbie Holzman,
Julie Newlands, and Barb Fisher

Every year, Synod begins with the Eucharist at the Cathedral on Thursday evening. Normally the Bishop would give his “charge” to the Synod - his reflection on the past year and his vision for the future. Because this was Bishop Chapman's last Synod before his retirement, his address to Synod members took the form of a reflection on 5 biblical friends: Abraham who stepped out into the unknown with faith in God, Deborah the warrior judge who fought for the marginalized, Moses who did not complete the journey but looked ahead in hope to the fulfilment of God’s dream, Mary the mother whose great love for Jesus is our example, and Tabitha reminding us that from death can come resurrection. These five remind us that God is with us through all the changes and challenges of our journey as parishes, as a Diocese and as individuals.

On Friday morning, our keynote speaker, Sue Garvey, former Executive Director of Cornerstone Housing for Women, referred to our theme for this year’s Synod: “Many Congregations, One Body”. Cornerstone is one of five active and powerful outreach ministries within the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa. We learned that the personal actions of individuals and small groups collectively can have an impact; it doesn’t have to be large organizations. Outreach ministries such as Cornerstone can engage people of all ages while the Youth Internship Program can engage young people. Volunteer involvement can offer support and
strengthen communities in need. Collaborations between parishes include exploring relationships with God in a safe environment and can continue to evolve. As Sue says, there is “room at this table for everyone”, a reminder that we can be open minded and welcoming. Sue closed her presentation with a wonderful music video “Room at the Table for Everyone” by Carrie Newcomer, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92OM5bdQ4N4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=92OM5bdQ4N4). The lyrics can be found at [https://foodgrainsbank.ca/product/song-room-at-the-table/](https://foodgrainsbank.ca/product/song-room-at-the-table/).

Chris Dunn (chair of the Property and Finance Committee) presented the committee report along with the 3-year Diocesan budget. The Diocese runs on a 3-year budget cycle so that Synod time is spent discussing outreach initiatives as opposed to just talking about budgets every year. A lot of his presentation covered the Parish Fair Share which is the amount every parish remits to the Diocese for its programs. We believe all attendees learned a lot from this presentation as finances are usually not discussed at these meetings. He carefully described the function of the line items in each section of the budget and how the bottom line translated into the number of cents per “Fair Share Dollar”. We also learned that about one sixth of the Diocesan budget is spent on community ministries (outreach) like Cornerstone, Centre 454, The Well, St. Luke’s Table, the Ottawa Pastoral Care Centre and a few smaller ones including one in Cornwall. Chris even had a puppet!

Saturday morning’s moving keynote address was delivered by Albert Dumont, Algonquin Spiritual Teacher in Residence at Christ Church Cathedral. Albert was born in Pontiac County, in Kitigan Zibi, to devout Christian parents. He lost his faith as a young adolescent after witnessing the racist treatment suffered first by his parents and then by himself, at the hands of white Christians. Albert believes the cruelty he experienced, particularly in the school system, caused him to turn to alcohol to numb his anger and shame. As a young adult, his participation in a sunrise drum circle helped him to realize the tremendous strength of Indigenous spirituality and started him on the road to discovering his heritage. It raised him from his pattern of addiction and gave his life meaning. As he explored his traditional faith, practiced by his people for thousands of years, he learned self-respect and the power to help others.

Albert said that the Anglican Church’s apology for its treatment of Indigenous people was very meaningful and he was grateful for it. He also encourages all of us to recognize God in all and accept Indigenous Spirituality as having equal value.

During the last few Synods, the major item of discussion has been the different outreach programs of the diocese. (About one third of the meeting time this Synod.) Most people in the parish are quite familiar with the Cornerstone facility on Princeton Avenue. However, there are many other programs meeting other needs like other shelter programs, breakfast and lunch programs, pastoral care, refugees, and hospital visits. Even though the City of Ottawa contributes significantly to these programs, a lot of the funding comes from the annual Today for Tomorrow (T4T) appeal during Lent, Giving Tuesday and the Parish Fair Share. It is worth noting the number of people accessing all of these programs increases every year. “The harvest is abundant, but the workers are few”. Matthew 9:37
There were many other topics covered like the Episcopal Election process, General Synod report, Primate World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) report, All My Relations report and others. We were also involved in 3 workshops and we will be using some of the workshop materials in our parish council meetings.

“St. Nicholas” visited us in the Chapel on November 30th to help us kick off the Advent season – a time to consider the needs of others.

CHAPEL VOLUNTEERS

We have a beautiful quiet chapel which we keep open throughout the week over the lunch hour. Every day (except Tuesday) from 12 to 1:30 p.m., we provide a bit of solitude for anyone who wishes to drop in. One does not need to be a churchgoer to take advantage of this sacred space. Everyone is welcome.

Folks on their lunch hour or shopping in Westboro often drop by for escape from the busyness and traffic. There is always someone on duty to greet them or answer any questions. Some come in to pray or meditate, some just want to look around. Occasionally someone just needs to talk to someone. They can be directed to the office if necessary, or to a washroom, or offered a drink from the water cooler.

Our faithful crew of volunteers need an occasional break for appointments, holidays with family, or illness. Right now, we have an opening for a Thursday afternoon, either on a regular weekly or monthly basis. Or if you would just like to be a spare, when occasionally needed, that would also be much appreciated. An orientation is provided to show you what is required. It is one of the easiest and most pleasant volunteer experiences in the church! If you have questions or would like to help out, please contact Rosalind Ross.

Sarah Brown received two donations from the Light up the Village event for the Westboro Region Food Bank

YOUR PORTAL TO INDIGENOUS HISTORY

This is a special event put on by our Truth and Reconciliation team and will be held on Saturday, January 25, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Steacy Hall

How do I improve my knowledge of the Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island? Turtle Island is the term most often used by Indigenous peoples to describe what settlers now call North America. It includes Canada, the United States and Mexico.

Considering there are 634 distinct First Nations in what we now know as Canada, plus Inuit and Métis peoples, it can be a daunting task!

The path to reconciliation between Indigenous Peoples and those of us who arrived as immigrants — or are descendants of immigrants — will start with taking a step. Any step. Start somewhere, make mistakes, keep learning.

This workshop will give you a few starting points by taking some of your experiences in
North America and connecting them to the people who inhabited Turtle Island before the arrival of European explorers and missionaries. We’ll show you the nations, their traditional territories, current reservations, languages spoken, applicable treaties and locations of residential schools.

Learning will occur in small groups with the day ending in a sharing circle. You’ll leave the workshop with specific portals for further exploration. Some of these resources can be used from the comfort of your own home and the use of an internet connection.

Your experiences during the day will also help us select areas for further study, films or books to recommend, or speakers to engage in the future.

The Workshop is open to members of the parish and is suitable for those 14 years of age and up. The maximum registration is 36 participants and pre-registration is required by e-mailing: t&r@allsaintswestboro.com

Participants will be asked to answer a few simple questions prior to arriving at the workshop.

VILLAGE FAIR 2019 -- IMAGES
ALL THE BLESSINGS OF THIS VERY SPECIAL SEASON. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AS WE CELEBRATE TOGETHER. MAY GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS

Advent 2, December 8th
8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Eucharist
3:00 p.m. Stats Can Concert
(in support of St. Matthias Community Meals)

Tuesday, December 10th
7:00 p.m. The Theophany Project

Advent 3, December 15th
8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Eucharist
4:30 p.m. Taste and See Eucharist Service

Tuesday, December 17th
7:00 p.m. The Theophany Project

Advent 4, December 22nd
8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Eucharist
4:30 p.m. Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve, December 24th
4:00 p.m. Eucharist with Children’s Participation
10:00 p.m. Sung Candlelight Eucharist

Christmas Day, December 25th
10:00 a.m. Eucharist with Carols

Christmas 1, December 29th
8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Eucharist

Epiphany Sunday, January 5th
8:00 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. Epiphany Eucharist
4:30 p.m. Jazz Vespers Service