

BREAD FOR THE SAINTS

All Saints' Westboro

December 13, 2022

CHRISTMAS EVE DRAMA

We are looking forward to the return this year, of our Christmas Eve service at 4:00 p.m. in its regular format. This 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 Julie.

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY SERVICES

We will also be holding Christmas Eve services at 10:00 p.m. again this year, and on Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. We will have only the 4:00 p.m. service on Zoom; the others are all in-person worship only.

The 10:00 pm Christmas Eve service will include many of our late evening traditions including candles and carols. On Christmas Day we gather for in-person for Worship at 10:00 a.m. (even though it is a Sunday we will only gather at 10:00).



CHILDREN AND YOUTH UPDATE

Church school continues through Advent, under the able leadership of Patricia and Eric Bays and Sarah Brown with able assistance from Andi Bianco. Our participants are between the ages of 2 and 16!



The Saint Nicholas Day celebration, in the hall on December 4, was a great opportunity for parishioners of all ages to eat St. Nicholas cookies, learn about the saint, participate in creating various St. Nicholas crafts and stuffing St. Nicholas treat bags for the Food Bank. The children were able to go to the Common Room and visit with our own St. Nicholas while Patricia Bays read them a story of his life.

We are planning our traditional, impromptu pageant on Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm. Try to bring the children early so they can pick a costume and be part of the service!

The youth continue to meet for our monthly dinners. December 14th is movie night. We will eat Middle Eastern food and watch Peace By Chocolate. We have also been selling Peace By Chocolate bars each Sunday after the 9:30 Eucharist. Big thanks to the Rev. Chung Yan for procuring seed money for our project so all the profits go to the Westboro Region Food Bank.

As we look ahead to the new year, mark February 25th on your calendar. All Smaller Saints will once again be participating in The Coldest Night of the Year in support of Cornerstone Housing for Women. More informative to follow.



And finally, Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) will be meeting in person this August in Kitchener. Steve and I are hoping to bring a group of ASW youth. We will be meeting with parents and kids in the new year!

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Those of you who are receiving this Bread for the Saints Newsletter by email are invited to pick up the Special Christmas Offering Envelope at the back of the Church at service.

OFFERINGS FOR 2023 CAMPAIGN

Many thanks to all of those who have returned their Church Offering Response forms for 2023; 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 8th for donations credited to 2022.

REFLECTIONS ON ST. NICHOLAS

(By Bishop Eric Bays)

For a few years now, I have been asked to wear my vestments on a special day near to the day when the church calendar remembers St. Nicholas (December 6th). Nicholas was a bishop in the church in the fourth century, who became very popular for his generosity to the poor, and for his protection of sailors when their ship was in peril.

My appointed task this year was simply to sit, robed in cope and mitre in the Common Room off Steacy Hall, and give the children a small bag of gifts while Patricia read a few stories from a book about St. Nicholas. Some wit in England once described the work of a bishop this way: "A bishop is, generally speaking, generally speaking." In this case I was the exception to that rule. My task was to be a welcoming presence while allowing children to see a bishop's vestments when the bishop is dressed to lead worship.



There is a problem in using today's customs for displaying what a bishop would normally

wear in the fourth century. Like clothing in the secular world, church vesture changes over the years. A fourth century bishop probably wore a white long garment, as most Roman gentlemen did in those days, along with something like a poncho over the garment.

That was it. It was the usual clothing for Sunday worship that other churchmen would wear as well. As that fashion changed for most men, the clergy kept to the older fashion. Many generations passed, and the clergy added some items that were more particular to their role – a stole around their shoulders, and the bishop’s hat that was worn as a statement of their office in the church. The mitre did not become common until around the first millennium of the church’s life.

An incident happened towards the end of the time of gift-giving on Sunday. I saw Michael (a retired bishop) with his granddaughter who was obviously apprehensive about entering the room. (Michael was dressed much the same as all the other men at the coffee hour.) He spoke gently to the young girl and then took her hand and led her to join the other children. I was able then to give her the little bag of gifts. It occurred to me later that Michael’s gentle way with the girl, his own self-effacing manner with her, and even the way he was dressed, said more about St. Nicholas to those who could see than the modern episcopal vesture could ever do.



SYNOD 2022

(Debbie Holzman, Amy Castle, Katy Burnett, Barb Fisher)

Synod takes an important step towards “leading change”

In October, seven members of All Saints’ Westboro gathered with other representatives from the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa for the first in-person Diocesan Synod since 2019. It was wonderful to be together after two years of online meetings.

This Synod was especially important because it marked the culmination of many months of discussion, meetings and prayerful reflection around the Shape of Parish Ministry Consultation (SPMC). Since the beginning of the consultation process, Bishop Shane urged us to step away from *being* changed to instead *leading* change. “We want to be part of a church that is thriving,” he said.



At Synod there was a commitment to do just that as we collectively voted in favour of three motions to strengthen our diocese for the future, nurture parish ministry and engage with the world.

Our Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, attended the two-day meeting and offered her own reflections on our decisions, reminding us that God is not afraid to take risks and experience change.

We also heard from youth delegates, including All Saints’ own Deborah, who delivered a thought-provoking and moving message, urging us to be welcoming to all and to try new

things, saying “we are not just the house of God we are the home of God.”

Finally, we heard about the many community ministries operated by the Diocese, including one in Cornwall called Centre 105 which offers daily breakfasts to the community. In addition to food and fellowship, Centre 105 also offers weekly visits from a public health nurse and even visits from a mobile library. It was recently voted the best non-profit in Cornwall. As a sign of the difficult times many are experiencing this year, the number of clients has grown significantly in 2022.

There is much work still to be done to fulfill the vision of the Shape of Parish Ministry, but we left Synod with optimism and goodwill for the journey ahead.

A NOTE FROM LINDA

Dear friends at ASW,

Many thanks for the warm send-off on December 4. It has been a rich blessing to

spend time in your midst and I am grateful for all of the faith and wisdom you have shared with me.



Please know that you are always welcome at the zoom classes from St. John's Cathedral in Jacksonville; I will keep Chris and others notified. And when you need some Florida sunshine, drop in and say hello.

Linda+

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS and EPIPHANY 2022-3 at All Saints' Westboro

Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18th

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 9:30 am Lessons and Carols with the Eucharist
- 4:30 pm Blue Christmas Service

Christmas Eve, Saturday, December 24th

- 4:00 pm Family Eucharist with Children's Participation
- 10:00 pm Sung Eucharist with Candles and Carols

Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25th

- 10:00 am Eucharist with Carols

Wednesday, December 28th

- 10:30 am Mid-week Eucharist of the Holy Innocents

Epiphany Sunday, January 1st

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 9:30 am Sung Eucharist and Church School

Wednesday, January 4th

- 10:30 am Mid-week Eucharist: Celebration of the Epiphany

Baptism of the Lord Sunday, January 8th

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist
- 9:30 am Sung Eucharist and Church School
- 4:30 pm Jazz Vespers with Mike Mullans

