

Despite the many times that Jesus tries to prepare his disciples for what lay ahead, it seems to come as a bit of shock when their hopes and dreams get nailed to the cross with their leader. They probably hoped for an outcome that wouldn't leave them feeling so bereft. But the angel's message is clear, they can spend some time at the tomb but then it's time to move on. Jesus has already gone ahead and is waiting for them to catch up. The story isn't finished.

In some ways, this is the story of the church today. Things aren't unfolding the way we might have hoped for and that leaves some folks grieving for the church they love, others worrying about the future and a growing number trying to discern what comes next.

The good news is that *in God there are no endings - just endless new beginnings*. Like the women on Easter morning, we are invited to *come and see the place where he lay*. It helps remind us that neither the cross nor the tomb could stop God from raising Jesus to new life. If we look closely, we can see that Jesus is already on the move. He's gone ahead and is now waiting for us to catch up and walk with him through the 21st century.

As Jesus' church continues to unfold, evolve, adapt, re-form – we know that some might want to stay at the tomb and others will simply turn away. But the ones who want to follow Jesus on this next part of the adventure will slowly move forward, seeking the church of our risen Lord in 2017.

We are people of the resurrection. We have good news to tell. So, let's not be afraid but trust in God and maybe – just maybe – try to embrace God's future for the church in the world. In 1993, June Boyce



Do not be afraid; I know you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples.

Matthew 28: 5b - 7a

Tillman wrote the lyrics to a beautiful song for our journey that goes to the well-known tune, *Londonderry Air* (a.k.a. *Danny Boy*).

This will be our reflection song at all services this Easter Day.

*We shall go out with hope of resurrection,
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on,*

*We shall go out and tell our stories boldly,
Tales of a love that will not let us go.*

*We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted,
We dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed,
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united,
within the vision of new life - in Christ.*

*We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed,
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
Expressive love alive in every heart.*

*We'll share our joy with those who are still weeping,
Raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of – our love.*

May we all be filled with the hope of resurrection this Easter,

Blessing, pat (& Jack)





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Welcome our new Admin Assistant

A warm welcome to **Nancy Dupuis**, St Paul’s new administrative assistant!



As she is learning about us and The Way Things Work @ St. Paul’s, we thought it would be a good idea to learn a bit about her.

Nancy is a member of the Almonte United Church. She is Almonte-born and

Appleton-bred, having attended Appleton elementary school (now the site of the North Lanark County Museum). She married a military fellow and travelled the country for many years with her family, finally settling in Ottawa after her husband’s retirement from the military. They both then worked for the Government of Canada, where Nancy was an event planner for the last 15 years of her career– travelling across the country again! After her husband’s sudden death, she moved back to the area, providing pastoral care work through Zion Memorial United Church in Carleton Place. Nancy then pulled up stakes again, this time to a

fishing village in Nova Scotia for 4 years, where she continued her pastoral care ministry through the local United Church, and wrote a book, *Begin Again* ★, as part of her journey through grief to hope.

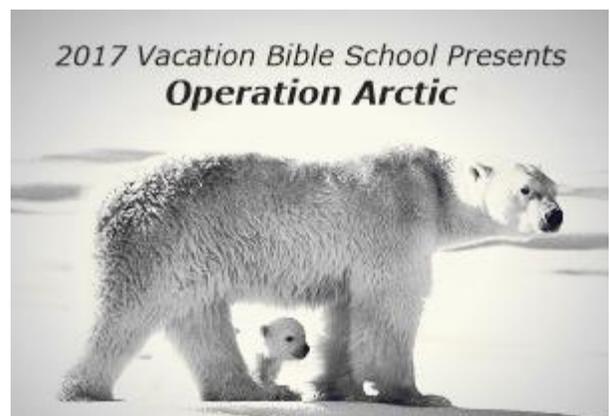
She’s been back “home” in Almonte for just over a year and is now volunteering with many local organizations, including the North Lanark Agricultural Society (Fair Board), the North Lanark Historical Society (where she is busily organizing a reunion of former students of the Appleton School – SS#11) , Mills Community Support (where she uses her event planning expertise to plan trips for local seniors) and Almonte Community Coordinators (The Hub and Rebound) Board of Directors.

We asked Nancy if she’d like to say a few words to us, and here is her reply:

Thank you so much for allowing me to settle into my new responsibilities with the ease you have provided, especially during the period of my Mother's passing.

Nancy, we are so pleased you’ve joined us!

★ *Begin Again*, by The Writer in Me available for loan from the Almonte Public Library or purchase online at Chapters (chapters.indigo.ca).



**A thrilling adventure into the cold tundra!
Wednesday Aug 23 to Friday Aug 25
Stay tuned for more info...**



Music at the 9:15 a.m. Service

The past nine months have been filled with both gift and challenge for music at the 9:15 a.m. service. The challenge has been finding suitable, available, affordable musicians and leaders. The gift has been the gracious way that John Black has filled in on the organ and Wendy Shaw has lead a weekly choir practice and directed anthems.

An additional gift continues to be the core group of choir members who have gamely and cheerfully hang in and lead the singing, some helping select anthems suitable for use with the current choir. Even in the midst of change and uncertainty, we have so much to be thankful for.

Part of the on-going challenge has been trying to determine what we need (as opposed to what we may think we want) and who is available that we can afford. Last summer we established a search committee (Pat, Wendy, Richard Hall, Mary Nightingale, Vicki, Bob Mosher and Katrina Ayling) to put together a plan. We began by advertising for an organist /choir director in the local papers, on The Millstone and the diocesan web site. We also contacted everyone we knew who might know of someone.

In response to our first ad, we had one serious applicant who later turned down the offer feeling it was not a good fit.

As John Black had agreed to assist with playing the organ on a week by week basis, we realized that what we needed in the moment was a choir leader and accompanist. Some choir members asked Wendy Shaw if she would lead them in the interim and she has been growing into that role. Wanting to be sure we had filled our mandate as we could, the search team set up a new ad for an organist /

accompanist – this time putting it in *The Pipeline*, the newsletter for Ottawa-area organists.

In response to this ad we also received one serious applicant but, once again, the applicant withdrew recognizing that she could not make the travel and remuneration work, so would be looking for a job closer to home.

Once again, the search committee gathered to come up with a plan. We acknowledged that our musical needs change in the summer when we primarily use volunteer musicians. We also know that this fall we are entering into a three-month pilot project that will impact the amount of music asked of each musician. So, common sense suggests that we delay entering into a new contract until a decision is made about services in the new year (thereby identifying our needs and expectations) and we when we will have a better idea of the 2018 budget.

In the meantime, John is happy to stay with us until June. We also know that we can hire an organist to play on a weekly basis if necessary. Wendy has agreed to continue leading the choir for long as they need her. And very recently, Matthew Bassett indicated he is ready, willing and able to learn to play the organ.

Stay tuned!



What's New with the Choir?

John Black and Wendy Shaw have been leading the St Paul's choir for the past six months. It's been a learning experience for us all, as well a time of fellowship and joy as we sing God's praises and use our voices to encourage the congregation to sing. John, a native of Napanee, has been an organist for more years than he cares to mention. He started on

the piano at age 7, learning from his grandmother, a concert organist. He has been on the organ bench since age 15. He was a music teacher and then music consultant for the Ottawa Carleton Board of Education.



The Choir at work with John and Wendy

When asked for an anecdote from those days, he says that one of the highlights of his career in music was training a choir of 50 adults to sing before Princess Anne when she attended a service at Erskine Presbyterian Church in Ottawa. There's a funny story attached to this event. Ask him about it! John retired from full time music ministry 15 years ago, since which time he has been taking gigs as substitute/emergency organist around the Almonte-Carleton Place area. And he has found it challenging to get back to playing regularly at the same church, and having to practice at home!

In his own words:

Wendy and I work well together and the organ here is a beautiful instrument. The Choir is well-trained, pays attention to the director and sings great four-part harmony.

John says that he's very happy to be with us; everyone is so friendly.

Wendy has been leading the Praise Team for 3 years now, having joined the group in 1997. Her life-long love of music has covered a broad spectrum, from 19 years with the choir at St. Peter's Swansea, to singing in Gilbert & Sullivan productions with Fred Secombe, where she learned about expression in singing, to membership in the St. Paul's senior choir since 1976 and a four-year stint leading the junior

choir with the late Margaret Gale, amongst other achievements

And she says:

It's great to work with the choir and John. It has brought back happy memories of all the years I sang choral music. Whether it be contemporary or traditional, I love music that helps us express our faith from the depths of our soul. This experience has taught me there is great joy in directing as well as singing music.

Thank you, John and Wendy for your enthusiasm and faithfulness!



SYRIAN FAMILY UPDATE

Good news! The family we are co-sponsoring with Almonte United Church and Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church – **Asaad** Gerges (father), **Alset** Jarous (mother), **Lena** Gerges (daughter, 8), and **Elias** Gerges (son, 6) – have passed through the first 2 stages of the immigration of process in Beirut.

According to Kheder Jarous and his wife Noor, here in Almonte, this means that the family could be here within the month.

Kheder and Noor speak with them regularly by cell phone. Recently Louise Stevenson, a member of our refugee support committee, while visiting Noor to meet her new baby, spoke to Alset, who has clearly been working hard on her English. She told Louise "Thank you. Food. Money."

Worship TOGETHER

Worshipping Together ~ Pilot Project

More than 22 years ago, Rob and his council made the decision to create three services to allow room for growth and differing worship styles. That was a good and faithful decision, suitable for its time. We live in a different time and – after experiencing the energy in a combined service - some folks asked that we consider combining the 9:15 and 11 am services. So, we held a conversation following the experience of a combined service on January 29 2017 and we invited written feedback to questionnaires at all three services. After reading and listening to the hopes and concerns about changes to services, and following one of the suggestions from the conversation, it was decided to enter into a 3-month long pilot project from September 10 – December 10 2017.

With this pilot project, all three services will see changes:

- ❖ **The BCP spoken 8 o'clock service goes to 8:30 am**
- ❖ **The 9:15 and 11 am combine for a 10:30 am start.**

We will reassess the concerns and benefits of the changes Between November 26 - December 3. During this time, we will be asking for feedback from those who experienced the pilot format.

IF, after giving it a fair trial, worshipping together is not working well we would return to 3 services on January 7 2018. **IF** it is working well, this would become the norm.

In preparation for the fall, the combined worship committee will draw up a plan for services that addresses – as far as possible- your hopes and concerns. Our starting point will be the combined service used on Sunday, January 29 2017. The plan for the Fall will be available on the web site and at the back of the church before we break for summer.

Many of you have expressed the hope that worshipping together will help heal some of the divisions at St. Paul's and give us the opportunity to get to know one another – thereby creating a greater sense of community and community spirit. When differing styles worship respectfully together, there is an energy and witness that emerges as we look a little more like the people we claim to be - followers of our one Lord.

Some have asked why we are combining 9:15 and 11 am. Or why not 8 and 9:15 am? The 9:15 and 11 am services share a similar liturgy in the BAS and its supplement, which means they also share a common theology. In addition, both these services have / want music, share the peace and the final doxology (Glory to God). We are staying with two services so that there is an option for those who want earlier start.

What can you do to help?

Enter in to this time with an open heart, mind and spirit; praying for God's guidance and help us as we struggle to 'make the road by walking' it together.

THE PAYOFF CONCERT

A concert of songs from Sister Act and other shows

In appreciation for creative space for the upcoming Suzart production of Sister Act

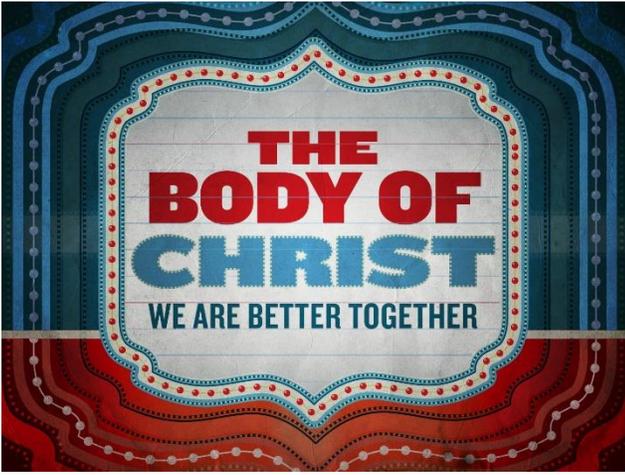
APRIL 28 7:30PM

St Paul's Anglican Church

70 Clyde St, Almonte



For details, consult our [Facebook page](#) or [web site](#)



Embracing God’s Future in our Neighbourhood

Embracing God’s Future, the Diocese of Ottawa five-year strategic plan, lists five priorities for both parishes and the Diocese (For details, consult the [Diocesan web site](#)).

Priority Two, Buildings and the Shape of Parish Ministry, is led by a task force, headed by the Rev P.J. Hobbs, Diocesan Director of Mission. P.J. has been tasked with facilitating meetings of geographically-close parishes to discern ways in which we can acknowledge our common bond and purpose as members of the Body by sharing our resources to benefit from each other’s strengths and expertise.

Interested parishioners and their clergy from Lanark and Arnprior deaneries met to hold “cluster conversations” over the course of the winter. The first initial meeting, hosted by St James, Carleton Place, with over 100 attendees, confirmed that the idea is worth pursuing, but that a conversation including so many people was not workable. Subsequently, smaller conversations between neighbouring communities were held. St Paul’s parishioners participated at the initial conversation and at 2 of the smaller conversations, held in Arnprior and Carleton Place.

On March 4, St Paul’s hosted a conversation attended by parishioners from St George’s Clayton, St Mark’s Pakenham and St. James Carleton P. We began identifying our strengths and agreed that next steps would include getting to know each other on a personal level through joint social activities and

continuing to dig deeper into our strengths and discern ways in which would might fill each other’s gaps by engaging in joint ministries (e.g., Youth Ministry).

Fruits of the larger multi-deanery conversation are already showing. Franktown and Innisville have requested to become satellites of St James Carleton Place. Wow!

St. Paul’s Parish Council is looking for interested members to join a multi-parish group to develop ideas about joint social events. If you’re interested, please speak to Rev Pat.



~ Learning about our Inuit Neighbours ~

On Saturday April 1, the newly-formed **All My Relations** group at St. Paul’s hosted Trudy Metcalfe, an Inuit woman from Ottawa, who opened our eyes to many unknown truths about the history of the 60,000 Inuit people in our country and the challenges they are facing now. She also honoured us by illustrating what she was saying with very honest and open reflections about her own family.

Hearing the truth about the manipulative behavior of some Christian missionaries, the cavalier

behavior of the government and the RCMP and its terrible impact on her people filled me with grief. At the same time, I think we were all encouraged to hear her stories of hope as she spoke about their strengths and resilience. Again, she illustrated her comments about her work as part of the Inuit Community



**All My Relations speaker
Trudy Metcalfe**

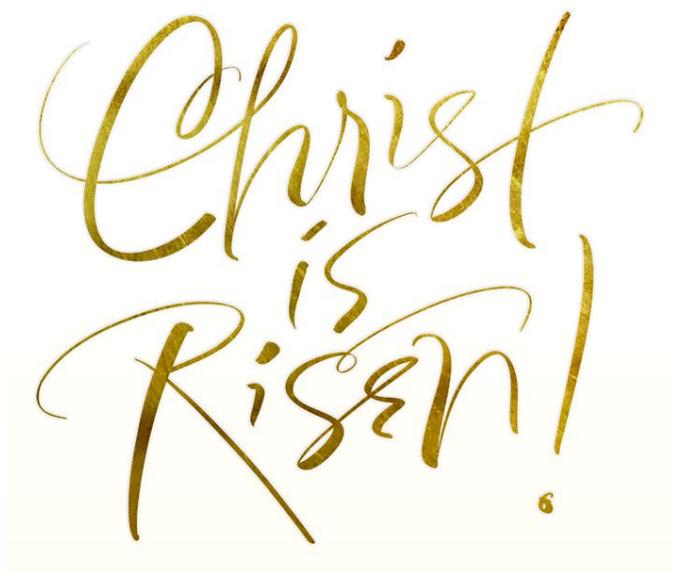
Centre among the 3,000 Inuit living in Ottawa – a non-profit organization whose funding comes from a variety of sources including fundraising.

While Trudy was very receptive to our asking about “what can we do” for them, she noted that right now Inuit people are very focused on healing within. However, she invited anyone who was interested to come help with the huge community Christmas dinner they hold each year.



Trudy Metcalfe presenting to a group in the Hall

Submitted by Sue Evans



Annual Appeal of the Diocese of Ottawa

“One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your mighty acts.” (Psalm 1:18)

Enthusiastically approved by Synod in 2016, Today 4 Tomorrow (T4T) is our new diocese-wide annual appeal. It is focused on building on our legacy of faithful mission and ministry.

In our Anglican Church, we have a history of giving generously to make a difference in people’s lives. There are many ways to make a difference:

- ❖ by providing leadership opportunities for young people,
- ❖ by addressing concrete social needs,
- ❖ by effecting positive changes in our local communities; and,
- ❖ by providing a helping hand to people facing serious challenges in life such as refugees having to flee their homeland or people struggling with serious issues such as homelessness or abuse.

Our Church has been there for them and will continue this legacy of faithful generosity, making a difference and having an impact now and for future generations.

The appeal will take place every year in Lent and Easter, and this year’s goal is to raise \$560,000 for current, ongoing and new ministries: refugee support, assistant curacies, community engagement beyond the urban core, internships for mission engagement, children, youth and adult formation, the Parish Ministry Institute and the Community Ministries (Centre 454, Cornerstone Housing for Women, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, St Luke’s Table and The Well).

Today 4 Tomorrow is an invitation to individuals and households throughout our Diocese to give generously to support and further this legacy of faith.

To learn more about Today 4 Tomorrow, or to make a gift, please visit www.today4tomorrow.ca

Submitted by Jane Scanlon

Coming Soon

Get ready for a **SPECIAL ISSUE** of the St. Paul's Post, coming at Pentecost. The issue co-edited by members of the Visioning Day group dedicated to helping our community at St Paul's increase in prayerfulness.

The focus of this issue will be **PRAYER**. We welcome your stories about answered prayer, favourite prayers, prayers you have written, poetry or prose to include in this issue.

The DEADLINE for submissions is MAY 26, to the editor, please: Deane Zeeman (613-256-5631 or deane.zeeman@gmail.com)

Due to budget constraints, there will be **NO MAIL-OUT OF PRINTED COPIES of this next edition of THE POST**. This special edition will be available for pickup at the back of the church as of June 4 as well as accessible via our website or delivered to your e-mail Inbox, for everyone who subscribes to receive it.

If you haven't already done so, **SUBSCRIBE NOW!** Simply add your name and e-mail address to the boxes at the bottom of the St Paul's Home Page (www.stpaulsalmonte.ca) and press the "Subscribe" button.



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Maundy Thursday – April 13

5:30 pm ~ Seder Meal

7:00 pm ~ Foot-washing, Eucharist, stripping altar

8:00 pm ~ 30 minutes of candle-lit silent prayer

8:30 pm ~ Compline

Good Friday – April 14

11:00 am ~ Celebration of the Passion of our Lord

Noon ~ The Walk of the Cross - start point at

Almonte Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday – April 16

6:30 am ~ Sunrise service followed by a light breakfast

8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services as usual

Easter Egg Hunt following the 11 a.m. service

ALL ARE WELCOME

~ ALWAYS ~

THANK
YOU

To **Michael Mavis** who did a fabulous job of guest-editing the previous two issues of *The Post*. And to **Janet Mavis** for her sterling organizational support.

With Gratitude, *The Editor*