

ALL SAINTS ALIVE  
THE NEWSLETTER OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH  
COLLINGWOOD  
“THE CHRISTMAS EDITION”  
DECEMBER 14, 2023

“Do you remember me? I sat upon your knee  
I wrote to you with childhood fantasies  
Well, I’m all grown up now and need your help somehow.  
I’m not a child but my heart still can dream  
So here’s my lifelong wish,  
My grownup Christmas list  
Not for myself, but for a world in need  
No more lives torn apart, that wars may never start,  
And time would heal all hearts  
And everyone would have a friend, and right would always win,  
And Love Would Never End...  
This is my grownup Christmas wish....”

David Foster and Linda Thompson-Jenner

Welcome back to All Saints Alive...this is our last newsletter before Christmas and hopefully you have been able to record all the wonderful events still to take place prior to Christmas. Our church is such an active place! (I understand that roller skates for Father Michael and Rev. Sharon are items on their Christmas lists....they need them in order to get to all the activities quickly!!!).

Please check the attached church bulletin for the dates and times of the special Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services taking place at All Saints and at our regional ministry parishes in Wasaga Beach and Creemore.

CONGRATULATIONS....to Sharon Goldsworthy and Moira Southwell. They have been named as recipients to the Order of the Diocese of Toronto for their selfless and valuable ministries to our church and to our church community. This is one of the highest honours a lay person can receive within the Diocese. In January, a special service will be held at St. James Cathedral, to bestow this honour on all recipients in the Diocese.

There is a bathroom-equipped coach bus booked for the trip to St. James Cathedral on 1 January for those who wish to travel to see Sharon and Moira receive the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. The bus will pick up All Saints parishioners here at the church at 11:30 on January 1st. The cost is \$10 per person. Expect to be back at All Saints in the evening. To reserve your seat on the bus, please contact Fr. Michael ([madpadre@gmail.com](mailto:madpadre@gmail.com)).

---

The Third Sunday of Advent will be held this coming Sunday. The candle of “Joy” will be lit, as we continue to move towards the reason for this season. Rev. Sharon also reminds us of the special “Quiet Christmas” service taking place on Wednesday, December 20th at 7 p.m.

## **QUIET CHRISTMAS – An invitation from Father Sharon**

With an awareness of all the situations in our world that bring strife and grief, it can be difficult to switch gears and enter into the approaching “joy, joy, happy happy” season. These past few years have been tough going while dealing with the restrictions from the pandemic, but especially so for those of us who have experienced the loss of a dear family member or friend. This can make the holiday season difficult to maneuver. While the rest of the world seems joyful and ready to celebrate the holidays, we might not be ready to join in the festivities with the energy or enthusiasm of past years. Yet that does not mean that we need to hunker down and avoid any mention of Christmas.

Jesus was born into a world that knew pain and strife and violence and injustice. Sound familiar? God promised the people of Israel that salvation would come. He came for such a time as this. We can face his return with assurance and certainty. We may not be boastful, but we can look toward his return with confidence and faith. Christ is present with us throughout all of our lives, through the good and joyous times, but more especially through times of difficulty, challenge and sorrow. He walks with us. This allows us to move forward, to put one foot in front of the other and find our way in spite of darkness.

On December 20th, at 7 p.m., All Saint’s is hosting an evening service, Quiet Christmas, as a time to reflect on the meaning of the Christmas Season, to honour the fact that we have made it through, but also a time to remember and honour those who have passed. It is intentionally a quiet service with acts of remembrance, candle lighting, prayers and music. I am inviting you to attend with friends and family so that we can offer support to each other. There will be a time of refreshment following the service.

If you are not able to attend, please know that you will be in our thoughts and prayers.  
Father Sharon+

---

Our Food Ministry Programmes have had a busy December. On December 6, the Five Loaves Team prepared and delivered meals to the Out of the Cold Programme, the Mobile Soup Kitchen and to 50 people in our community. Last evening, the Community Friendship Dinner group held an extremely successful dine in dinner. The reports from both outreach programmes follow....special thanks goes out to Rochelle and Todd Christensen for their generous donation to our Food Ministry programme and to last evening’s Friendship Dinner.

### **Five Loaves**

What an ambitious meal with turkey and all the trimmings, but we did it, thanks to everyone contributing to the organization as they were able.

We created 115 meals to be delivered, plus the volunteers were treated to a meal as well. Thanks again for everyone's amazing work!

Sharon Goldsworthy

## **FRIENDSHIP DINNER**

Today's Friendship Dinner was amazing! It was a cold, icy night outside but warm and welcoming in the parish hall with lovely Christmas decorations and poinsettias and chocolates on every table. Thanks to a generous donation from Todd and Rochelle Christensen, we served more than a hundred guests and volunteers a Christmas Feast of turkey, potatoes, vegetables, homemade stuffing, cranberry sauce and salads. For dessert we had some delicious cake, raspberry and apple crisp and a selection of Christmas cookies.

All this was only possible thanks to our wonderful volunteers! Thank you to everyone who helped in so many ways, preparing and serving the food, setting the tables and cleaning up afterwards. This is a challenging and important ministry and without you, it wouldn't be possible.

Wishing you all a very happy and safe Christmas.



**Community Friendship Dinner**  
**Wednesday January 10th 2024 Dinner Begins at 5pm**  
Lasagna Salads Dinner Roll Desserts



We cannot guarantee that the donated food at our dinners is free from allergens

Rev. Sharon reminds us of the “Sharing Christmas Joy” outreach to our good friends at Pine Villa...

### **SHARING CHRISTMAS JOY**

For many people this is a difficult time of year. We have all come through many challenges over this past year. Some of the people we have loved are no longer with us. Some people have faced health challenges, and are on the road to recovery. Some have had changes in their lives that were unexpected, some for good, and some not so much. Even this colder weather brings challenges for many of us. So there is lots to bring us down, or make us frustrated, or take some of the joy out of our day. But we are here. We are still going. We are still a community loving and serving Jesus. And Jesus calls us to serve – the poor, the needy, the hungry, the down-and-out. The amazing thing is that we are energized and realize that it brings as much joy to ourselves as it does to those we help.

Again this year, we have the opportunity to help a group of people who at times are forgotten. People who are alone and no longer have family. People whose life circumstances have changed. We have the chance to make a Christmas for those who live at Pine Villa. For a number of years now we have provided gift bags for those who live there. This is a chance to bring Christmas to them. Through visiting there, I found that there were many who received only what the staff were able to provide. So the ministry to bring joy began.

This year there are 34 residents. There are 20 gentlemen and 14 ladies. Yes, this means 34 pairs of socks, 34 toothbrushes, 34 hats, toques, scarves and mitts. 34 unique things to be stocking stuffers – all presented in gift bags. You might not ever know “who” will be the recipient, but you can be assured that the gifts are appreciated and make a world of difference. Sometimes things like board games are given to the nursing home for all to share. It all makes a difference. If you feel that you could participate this year, think of the things you would appreciate getting, and see what you could come up with to make this group of people feel special. Even combs, shampoo, soap, all show that they matter and that someone was thinking of them. If you can help out, please let Nancy know and if you would choose a gent or a lady. It would be helpful to have the bags brought to the church between the 14th and 18th of December for delivery later that week. If you might not be able to contribute an individual bag, donations of individual items are also helpful – tooth paste, puzzles, puzzle books and such are also helpful. Each gift bag also includes a card on behalf of the congregation, wishing them a Merry Christmas.

I thank you in advance for your continued generosity! It really does make a difference to everyone who lives there.

Thank you, and blessings,  
Sharon+

This winter, All Saint is supporting the ministry of the Hope Chapel on Cameron Street in Collingwood. The Chapel is in need of good condition men’s winter outer clothing, good condition clothing for girls up to the age 12 and non-perishable good items. Donations can be left in the baskets by the church doors.

## Upcoming events.....

December 16th -“Tree Trimming Party at the Rectory, 4 p.m. -6 p.m.  
December 17th - third Sunday of Advent  
December 20th -Quiet Christmas service 7 p.m. (see note above)  
December 20th -Women’s Group 7:15 p.m. (see note)  
December 21st - Choir Practice  
December 24th - fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Pageant (see note)  
December 24th - Christmas Eve Services..7 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.  
December 25th - Christmas Day Service 9:30 a.m.  
December 27th - Narnia Book Study-1:30 p.m. (see Father Michael’s note below)  
December 28th - Men’s Breakfast at 8 a.m.

The newly formed Women’s Group will meet on Wednesday December 20th at 7:15pm in the church library. All women welcome. Come & take a break from all the Christmas hustle & bustle!

On Thursday, December 21st, the ‘Change of Seasons’ event will take place at the Awen Gathering Place in Harbourview Park. This is an opportunity to share and hear this special presentation by some of our Indigenous friends. 5 p.m. -6 p.m.

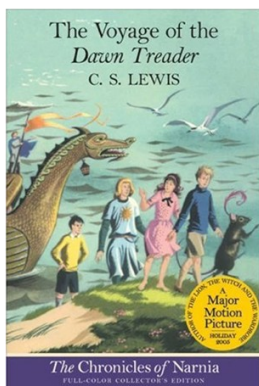
Sharon Goldsworthy reminds us of the need with the delivery of plants to those people on our pastoral list.....

**Help needed with Plant Delivery** - Each year we deliver plants to people on our pastoral list who aren’t as active as they once were due to age or infirmity. We rely on our parishioners to please help us to deliver them. This Sunday, Dec. 17th, in the parish hall at coffee hour there will be a table set up with the plants & the name & address of the recipient. Please take a look & see if there are one or two that you might deliver, maybe someone who lives near you?

From Father Michael’s desk, “we will attempt to hold a simple Christmas pageant at our 9:30 a.m. service on December 24th. We would be grateful for volunteers to show up at 8:30 a.m. to assist with costumers and to help the children and families get ready. A few adults are needed to be shepherds, animals, magi, etc..”

Warden Penny Bourne has requested that all outstanding 2023 invoices be submitted to the church office before December 21st if possible. These are required for the 2023 audit.

Father Michael has updated us on the “Chronicles of Narnia” ....



### Setting Sail With *Dawn Treader*: Our Chronicles of Narnia Book Study Continues

On November 29th, our parish book study on the Narnia novels of C.S. Lewis met again to discuss the fourth book in the series, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (henceforth referred to here as VDT). Curiously, we met just a week after the sixtieth anniversary of his death (Lewis’ passing was somewhat overshadowed by the death of President John F. Kennedy on that same day in 1963).

It took Lewis only three months to write VDT, between Dec 1949 and Feb 1950. That a distinguished and busy academic should write such an engaging children's book in such a short time shows how committed he was to this project, and how much Narnia captured Lewis' imagination.

In VDT, the Pevensie children return to Narnia, though the eldest, Susan, is missing, a foreshadowing of the ending in which Aslan will tell the children that they are now too old to remain in Narnia and so must return to England. In Susan's place is their quite unpleasant cousin, Eustace Scrubb, who "almost deserved" his name. Via a magic picture of a boat on a sea, they find themselves united with Caspian (the Prince Caspian of the previous novel). Now King of Narnia, Caspian has set sail on his ship *Dawn Treader* to find the lost lords of Narnia who were loyal to his father.

Thus the stage is set for a sailing adventure, a quest which has some things in common with other children's stories about ships and quests, such as *Treasure Island*. It moves between some very charming places (the island with the Magician and the Dufflepuds) to places that are extremely sinister (the golden pond, the dark island where all dreams including nightmares come true).

Ever the scholar, Lewis was drawing on the tradition of Homer's *Odyssey* and the medieval legends of the voyages of St Brendan.

Brendan was a legendary Irish monk who founded numerous monasteries; according to legend, he and his companions sailed west to an earthly paradise called The Land of Promise and had many adventures along the way.

Among the ship's company is the unforgettable heroic mouse, Reepicheep, who despite his size is an honourable and chivalrous character like D'Artagnan the Musketeer. Reepicheep is determined to journey to the far ends of the seas of Narnia for at his birth a fairy had prophesied that he would "find all you seek, / There in the utter East. Lewis once told a young reader that VDT is about "the spiritual life (especially in Reepicheep)". In another book he wrote that the mouse is not an allegorical figure but that "anyone in our world who devotes his whole life to seeking Heaven will be like Reepicheep". Reepicheep is the only character in VDT who at the end is allowed to remain in Aslan's kingdom.

Eustace Scrubb, a selfish and nasty boy, immediately learns a painful lesson because he thinks of Reepicheep as a sort of pet, and is sharply corrected. Eustace does not yet understand that the Talking Animals of Narnia are wise and should be respected, for they are as loved by Aslan their Lion creator as God loves all his fellow humans.

An important part of VDT is Eustace's own journey to becoming human, for because of his selfishness he falls under an enchantment and wakes as a nasty dragon. Becoming a dragon saves him in a strange way because it shows him the ultimate cost he will pay for alienating himself from others and for despising Narnia. He can't get rid of his dragon self, even though he tries. It is Aslan who appears and peels off Eustace's scaly dragon skin before washing him in a well in a sequence that reminds us of a Christian baptism and which shows

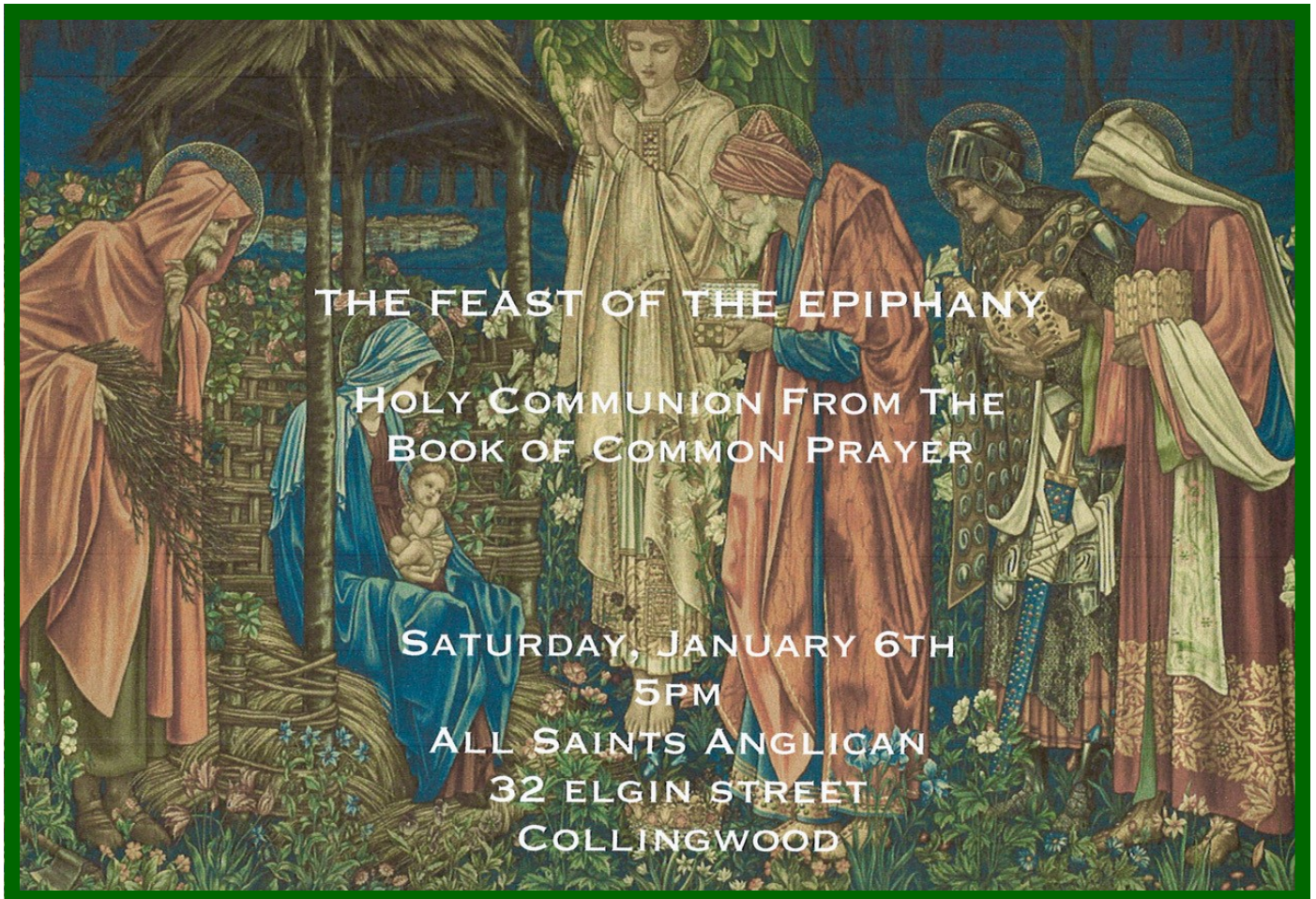
Aslan is not a major character in VDT but he is always there in the background as a spiritual guide, protector, and conscience. In the final chapters the ship comes to the far end of the east sea, to the shore of Aslan's kingdom. Aslan first appears as a snow white lamb beside a meal of cooked fish, a clear reference to John's gospel (Jn 21:9), but he then assumes his familiar lion appearance. As he gently sends the children back to England, they ask him if they will find him there as well, and Aslan replies with these telling words:

"I am [there]", said Aslan. "But there I have another name. You must learn to know me by that name. This was the very reason why you were brought to Narnia, that by knowing me here for a little, you may know me better there."

Happy Birthday greetings go out this week to Moira Southwell...we hope Moira had a great day!

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

On Saturday, January 6th, a special "Feast of the Epiphany" service will take place at All Saints. For this service, the Book of Common Prayer will be used.



In your prayers this week, please remember those whose names are found on our Parish Prayer list. We pray for their caregivers and for all who assist others in need.

**“Please pray for these people during the week”** - Brenda Teeter, Bob Teeter, Sandra Girdle, Mary Ratensperger, Bev Baxter, Paul Reid, Eric Vignola, Wolf, Marnie Potter, SSN, Irene McVeigh, Brian, John, Gail, Penny, Barb, Loraine, Janice, Dimi Ntantoulis, Sean, Dorothy.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS RESIDES ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE ANISHNAABE AND WENDAT PEOPLES. THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REMINDS US OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS TO THE ANCESTRAL LANDS ON WHICH WE LIVE, SHARE, LEARN AND PRAY

### An Appeal for the new sound system @ All Saints Church, Collingwood

Dear Friends,

Our original sound system was installed well before COVID and was augmented to enable our live streaming. As we have grown our congregation, in person and online, we have felt the strain on our audio/visual system. We have sought to enhance our speaker system and have included additional screens, new microphones and a sound and lighting board to capture our vibrant worship services so that everyone at home and in church can see and hear them!

All of this comes with a considerable price tag.

We have received some designated funds to help with this expenditure and we are grateful to the international dinner team and the ACW for their support, and thank you to those who responded to our Giving Tuesday appeal, but even with a potential grant from the diocese, we need to raise \$15,000 to cover the shortfall.

GOAL: \$30,000



causevox  
powered by CauseVox

# Merry Christmas