

ALL SAINTS ALIVE
THE NEWSLETTER OF ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 1ST, 2024

Welcome back to All Saints Alive! A new year and a new month!

As is tradition with this newsletter, we open our first newsletter of the year with a tribute to those who left us last year.

“For Auld Lang Syne my friends
For Auld Lang Syne
We’ll take a cup of kindness yet
For Auld Lang Syne”



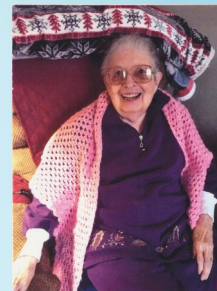
Selby Boyd



Michael Brock



William Butters



Ann Bye



Nancy Anne
Caron-Taylor



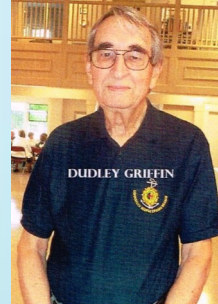
Ruth Elaine
Daniels



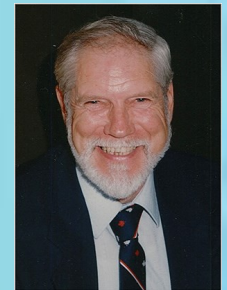
Michael Hughes
Doman



Audrey Gibbings



Dudley W Griffin



John F Hamilton



Gwendolyn
(Gay) Harper



Michele Francis
Keith



Bruce Alexander Mackison



Carolyn Noel



Dale Parrish



Margaret
(Marnie) Potter



Joan Pratt



Ian Sewell



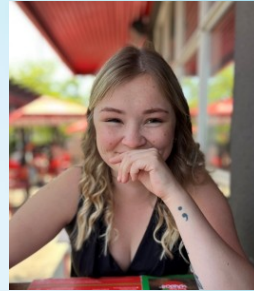
Shirley
Tirebuck



Cecelia Bernadette
Spooner



Robert Steen



Chantel
Tronowicz



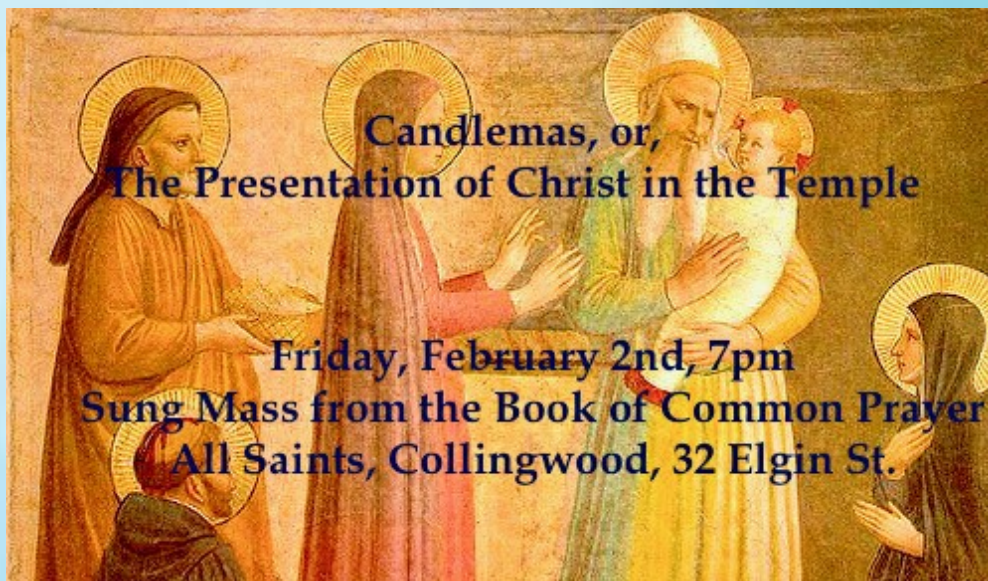
Dr. James
Wilkes

Peace be with them

Today, we remember our friends, fellow parishioners, and members of our community who left us in 2023. We are grateful for all that they did for their families, our church and our community. We thank God for having had the opportunity to have known them. May they rest in peace and may their families be comforted, knowing the impact they had on others.

Thanks go to Mary Lou Dunn for keeping these special records for us.

A special service, "Candlemas" will take place on Friday, February 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at All Saints.



Our 'Après Ski' Services continue on Saturday, February 3rd at 5:00 p.m. This service sees the sanctuary lit with a multitude of candles...it is a quiet, reflective time with music and eucharist. The fellowship continues afterwards in the church library with refreshments. Come join us in this wonderful service.



In his newsletter report today, Father Michael gives us a link to an essay by Elizabeth Corey, 'The Consolations of Getting Older.....

Notable Quotable: Elizabeth Corey on the Consolations of Getting Older

I've been reflecting on a recent piece by Elizabeth Corey is a professor at a US liberal arts college. In her essay, "Consolations of Middle Age", Corey writes that by a certain point in life, our minds, thoughts, and characters are pretty much set and the challenge of our remaining years is to make the most of them:

"In his personal notebooks, Michael Oakeshott observed that the real business of life was "exploring & using & enjoying & accommodating oneself to one's own mental character." This character, he noted, is formed fairly early, "not of course fixed, but its main lines acquired & laid out." Our task is to explore that mental character and learn what it can do. A person must discover "how to follow one's own thoughts to their end . . . And to be humble about them as well as to enjoy them."

Find the full essay here:

<https://www.firstthings.com/article/2024/02/consolations-of-middle-age>

In our Parish book study on 'The Chronicles of Narnia', Father Michael shared with us the next to last story, 'The Silver Chair'. His story follows...

A Voyage To and Under Narnia: C.S. Lewis' *The Silver Chair*

Our parish book study on *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis is slowly drawing to an end. This Wednesday we met to discuss the penultimate book in the series, *The Silver Chair*. Published in 1953 as the fourth book in the series, it shows Lewis' enduring theme of the Christian faith as a kind of imaginative belief in a higher world that goes against the material and rational beliefs of the world we live in.

The Silver Chair (henceforth referred to as *SC*) continues the adventures of Eustace Scrubb, one of the characters who has already been to Narnia once as described in the previous book, *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. Eustace and his friend, Jill, are miserable students at an English boarding school, run by bullying children and incompetent adults, but are sent to Narnia by Aslan.



Aslan, of course, is the majestic and godlike lion, the creator of Narnia, who Lewis portrays as a fresh way to think of Christ without the baggage and over-familiarity of two millennia of religion. Aslan sends them to Narnia to find Prince Rilian, the missing son of King Caspian whose we met in *Dawn Treader* a young man. Due to the way time works in Narnia, Caspian is now a greatly aged king, whose son has gone missing after encountering a mysterious green clad lady at the site where Rilian's mother was killed by a poisonous serpent.

This version of Narnia seems run down and decrepit compared to the previous books. The king and his advisors are aged and feeble, and so many heroes have gone missing searching for Rilian that no more quests are allowed. The only help for the children is Puddleglum, a gloomy but brave specimen of a slightly froggy race known as Marsh Wiggles. With his help, the children must endure arduous travel through a rocky and wintry landscape.

Much of *SC* is about the importance of having a moral compass. Faced with a harsh landscape, cold and tired, the children forget Aslan's instructions, a sort of catechism designed to keep them safe, and tempted by a mysterious Woman in Green, who tells them of soft beds and warm fires, in Harfang, a castle of giants, they go off course. While at Harfang, they discover horrible truths and narrowly escape being the main course at the giants' dinner!

From Harfang, Puddleglum and the children escape to the Underworld, a subterranean realm inhabited by gnomes, and eventually meet Rilian, who has been captured and placed under a spell by the Woman in Green, whom they meet again. In a climactic scene, the Green Woman almost convinces the children that the world above, the sun, and even Aslan are just unreal stories, and that there is no world but her realm of darkness.

Puddleglum finally breaks the spell when he declares, in a pure statement of faith, that he believes in Aslan and the world above: "I'm on Aslan's side even if there isn't any Aslan to lead it". The Green Woman reveals herself as the poisonous serpent, she is defeated, and together with Rilian they all make their way back to Narnia. In some poignant final scenes, Lewis offers a sort of allegory about our ideas of the afterlife. Rilian is reunited with Caspian just as his father dies, and in a final visit to Aslan's realm, Caspian is restored to life and youth where he will live forever in Aslan's kingdom. Aslan sends the children back to England (where they sort out their horrid school), but tells them that "When you meet me [in my kingdom] again, you will have come to stay".

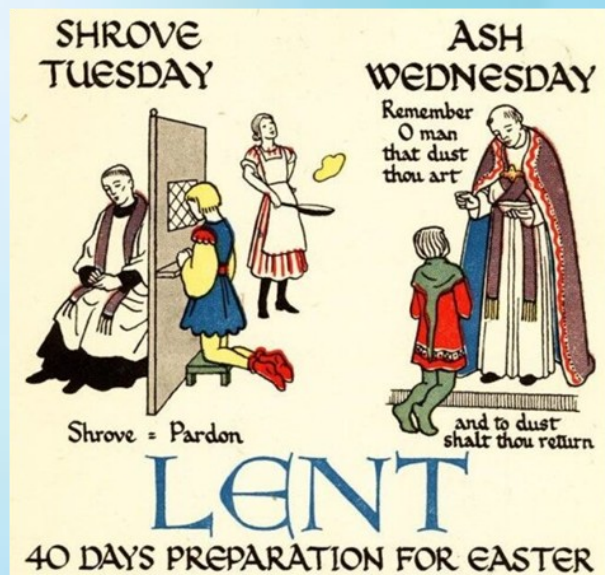
SC is a curious book, in that it lacks some of the grand adventures of the previous Narnia stories. It is full of austere travels in cold and dark places, but those episodes remind us of the importance of the spiritual life and the compass that it provides. At its heart is the confrontation with the Green Witch and Puddleglum's brave declaration of pure faith that he is for Aslan. Here we see Lewis returning to his grand theme, that the story we follow as Christians is our best and only way of getting through life, even when the world around us tries to convince us that the Christian story is unreal. In a sermon entitled *The Weight of Glory*, Lewis wrote that "you and I have need of the strongest spell that can be found to wake us from the evil enchantment of worldliness". At its most adult and serious level, the Narnia books remind us that the stories that we live by as Christians are life-giving and must be clung to.

Even amidst the rejoicing at the end, one wise old dwarf says that "Those Northern Witches always mean the same thing, [and] in every age they have a different plan for getting out". Even under Aslan's care, evil and danger are never far away in Narnia. In the final Narnia novel, *The Last Battle*, Lewis shows how that evil is finally confronted. We will be discussing the last book one our study group meets next on Wednesday, February 28th, at 1:30pm. Why not join us and find out how it all ends?

In our church year, our journey through Epiphany continues but with the change to the month of February, we are reminded of 'Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday'. This also causes our minds to wander further ahead to Lent and then Easter...but let's not get too far ahead!! Father Michael's 'Shrovetide' report gives us some background information! And get ready—the 2024 version of 'Lent Madness' is just around the corner.

Happy Shrovetide?

Anglicans of mature vintage may remember the term "Shrovetide" as well as those funny words from the Book of Common Prayer. Shrovetide began on Septuagesima (the third Sunday Before Ash Wednesday and the seventieth day before Easter) and continued through Sexagesima (the second Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the sixtieth day before Easter) and Quinquagesima (the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday and the fiftieth day before Easter). Taken together, the season of Shrovetide was penitential in nature, and was designed to prepare us for Lent gradually rather than Ash Wednesday which sometimes feels like a sudden cold shower.



Liturgically, it was the custom that the alleluias and the Gloria were ceased beginning on Septuagesima Sunday, and the old Prayer Book Collects (BCP pp. 132-136) had a sombre emphasis on repentance and on God's grace rather than our own efforts to win God's favour. During Shrovetide, violet vestments and hangings replaced the green of the Epiphany season.

Shrovetide fell into disuse following the liturgical reforms of the later twentieth century which began Lent on Ash Wednesday, but Shrovetide is still observed in Anglican parishes that exclusively use the Book of Common Prayer.

Does any of this matter to anyone except to church geeks like me? Does the idea of extending our Lenten mood by thirty days have any appeal when we are still uneasily wondering what we might give up for the *forty* days of Lent? Probably not, but I wonder if we might reframe the question following a good idea I heard in our bible study this week.

Instead of thinking of what we will give up for Lent, why not consider adding a spiritual practice? Perhaps that added practice might be more intentional about praying for others, or some extra volunteer work with a church or charity, some extra visits to the lonely, or a devotional reading project. Any of these ideas would be beneficial, and if they would be good practice for the forty days of Lent, why not start one of these ideas now, in Shrovetide?

Lent Madness Is Coming!

This year we will repeat our popular Lent Madness campaign, giving us the opportunity to learn about thirty two ancient and modern heroes of our faith and to vote for our favourites. This year's crop of saintly candidates are an intriguing bunch, ranging from Lazarus to Brigid (one of my favourite Irish saints) to Albert Schweitzer!



Unfortunately the publisher of Lent Madness, Forward Movement, has not committed to printing the booklets with biographies of each saint, but we will do our best to make info available before each matchup. You can also get ready by bookmarking <https://www.lentmadness.org/> Lent Madness kicks off on Ash Wednesday (Feb 14).

Sharon Goldsworthy has shared with us, important information about a relatively new church group, the 'Women's Group'....

The **Women's Group** meets on the third Wednesday of the month from 7:15-8:45pm. It is an opportunity to get to know other women in the parish, to support each other in our life's journeys, to share and deepen our faith through learning and discussion, to pray for our church, family, community and the world, and to just simply enjoy an evening out! All women are welcome. Meetings are held in the church library. Please enter by the ramp door off the parking lot. If you need to use the lift, come to the lobby door on Elgin St. and buzz. Contact Sharon G by calling the office at 705-445-3841

Once again, the 'AWARE' retreat will take place in May. Moira Southwell provides us with information for the women in our congregation.

AWARE (All Women Alive, Renewed and Enriched) is back!

This is a women's retreat held at Elim Lodge (Peterborough) May 3, 4, & 5 offering spiritual refreshment, challenge and a lot of fun too!

The theme this year is "How God Lights a Fire in our Hearts."

The speaker is Laurie Robertson, who is a member of the Aware Team and the Music Team. "Her passion is to spark people up in their faith so as to live out their baptismal promises of serving others and seeing Christ in all people."

The Chaplain is our very own Rev. Sharon Sangster.

The weekend offers talks by the speaker, small group discussions, worshipful music, a variety of workshops, wonderful food & fellowship as well as blissful solitude, sitting by the lake listening to the loons.

For more info, please speak to Moira Southwell at 705-441-2725 or see the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. If we register together, we can possibly room together with friends. There are lots of cottages that sleep anywhere from 4-8 people.

In your prayers this week, please remember those names are on our Parish Prayer List. We also pray for their caregivers and for all who assist others in need. We pray for our family, our friends and for all those who call All Saints their spiritual home.

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

Marg Thompson has shared with us a cute story about Forest Gump....

When Forest Gump died, he stood in front of St. Peter at the Pearly Gates. St. Peter said, "Welcome, Forest. We've heard a lot about you." He continued, "Unfortunately, it's getting pretty crowded up here and we find that we now have to give people an entrance examination before we let them in."

"Okay," said Forest. "I hope it's not too hard. I've already been through a test. My mamma used to say, 'Life is like a final exam. It's hard.' "

"Yes, Forest, I know. But this test is only three questions. Here they are."

1. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'?"
2. How many seconds are in a year?
3. What is God's first name?

"Well, sir," said Forest, "The first one is easy. Which two days of the week begin with the letter 'T'? Today and Tomorrow."

St. Peter looked surprised and said, "Well, that wasn't the answer I was looking for, but you have a point. I give you credit for that answer."

"The next question," said Forest, "How many seconds are in a year? Twelve."

"Twelve?" said St. Peter, surprised and confused.

"Yes, sir. January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd ..."

St. Peter interrupted him. "I see what you mean. I'll have to give you credit for that one, too."

"And the last question," said Forest, "What is God's first name? It's Andy."

"Andy?" said St. Peter, in shock. "How did you come up with 'Andy'?"

"I learned it in church. We used to sing about it." Forest broke into song, "Andy walks with me, Andy talks with me, Andy tells me I am His own."

St. Peter opened the gate to heaven and said, "Run, Forest, Run!"

★**•♪.•Pass it on!! Give someone else a reason to smile. ♪ •**

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 TO OUR RELATIONSHIPS AND TO THE ANCESTRAL LANDS ON WHICH WE LIVE, SHARE, LEARN AND PRAY.

Lent and Holy Week Scheduled Services

Ash Wednesday, February 14th

All Saints Collingwood

10am and 7pm

St. Luke's, Creemore

12noon

Prince of Peace, Wasaga Beach

10:30am

Community Friendship Dinner Wednesday February 14th 2024

Dinner Begins at 5pm

**Maple Glazed Pork and Potatoes
Vegetables, Salads, Dinner Roll
Desserts Coffee, Tea and Juice**



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