



ALL SAINTS' ALIVE

The newsletter of All Saints Anglican Church, Collingwood, Ontario

IN THIS EDITION

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Creation Church Clearview Eco Park

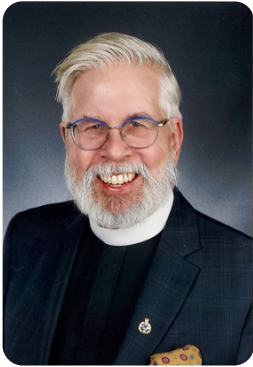
Welcome to fall! At our “Back to Church” service last Sunday, Father Michael reminded us that this is the season of new growth, the start of a new year in the church. Groups and organizations have re-energized over the summer months and now are enthusiastically looking forward to a new church year.

We continue to celebrate the ‘Season of Creation’ and this Sunday we also will observe the “Day For Truth and Reconciliation”. If possible, consider wearing something orange to church on Sunday, in recognition of our Indigenous friends.



MESSAGE FROM FATHER MICHAEL

Father Michael shares his thoughts in his "Rector's Message"



Rector's Message; On Being A Joyful Community

This last Sunday at All Saints was Welcome Back to Church Sunday, when the normal round of our busy parish resumes. In my homily, I identified three things that we are coming back to.

We come back to our beautiful and historic **Building**, where we worship, and we continue to care for improve it. We also come back to **Ministry**, our service to the community, through our outreach and worship, and at times such as funerals and weddings. Finally, we come back to **Community** centered on Jesus in our midst.

Like he workers in the vineyard in last Sunday's gospel, we we are equal in the sight of God it all loved equally, and asked in return only that we do our best to love God and love our neighbour.

When we gather, I'm often struck by the spirit of joy that I see, especially when we share the peace. Like Paul writing to his Philippian church, I also see your "progress and joy in faith" (Phil 1.25). All Saints has a particular, joyful identity. We enjoy one another's company, our worship is reverential but also uplifting, and we are hopeful because the risen, loving Jesus is in our midst. Each of our four regional churches has its own identity, but I think what characterizes All Saints is a sense of joyfulness.

Over the next few months, our Stewardship Group will lead us through a campaign that we call Joyful Giving.

Giving can be time and talent as a volunteer, but it is also treasure, giving back from the resources we are given All of the things I've mentioned - our building, our ministries and services - come with a cost and need to be paid for. Yes, we have the cemetery land, but it isn't sold yet. When we do sell it, the proceeds will help us with our needs, but our needs won't go away.

I invite you to think about what coming back to church means to you. What do you find here at All Saints that gives you joy? What is it about your faith that makes you grateful? What would make you glad that you've helped All Saints and its ministry continue well into the future?

Online Blessing of the Animals: October 4th, 1:30pm

October 4th is the Feast of St Francis, the traditional day for the blessing of our fuzzy, feathered, and finny friends.

This year at **1:30pm** we will hold a **regional Blessing service online via Zoom**, mostly because Michael's terriers are so poorly behaved with others (except at the dog park). It will be a chance for you to hold up your dog and cat to the camera (we all know that cats love Zoom meetings), and you can also show off your goldfish, hamsters, etc. **Watch for a Zoom invite in the weeks to come.**



Father Michael continued...

Why Do We Do That? Got Questions About Our Services?

Anglican worship can be mysterious. What's with the standing and sitting? Should I cross myself? Are wafers really bread? On Sunday, **November 1st, All Saints Day**, as part of our Joyful Gratitude campaign, we will have an instructed eucharist service. In lieu of a sermon, Fr Michael will walk through the service and explain the meaning of its various parts as it happens.

If you have a question that you would like Michael to answer, write it out and leave it on the collection plate before November 1st. Your questions can be anonymous.



Reverend Amy, newly appointed to her new role of Associate Priest in the Regional Ministry of South Georgian Bay, tells us about the “Creation Church” that she is leading.....

Creation Church is Calling

From the Rev. Amy Pauley, Regional Associate Priest

What does it feel like to celebrate the Eucharist surrounded by God's creation?

At our September gathering of Creation Church at Clearview EcoPark, our altar was a dock extending over the pond. Our music came from the birds, frogs, and crickets around us. We could smell the water and damp earth as we gathered to pray and share in the Eucharist. Creation Church is worshipping together, slowing down, and encountering God's presence in the natural world around us.

We gather on the second Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM. After an opening prayer, we spend about thirty minutes in silence. Some of us walk, taking time to notice and enjoy the creatures and landscape around us. Others remain in stillness and contemplation. At 10:30 AM, we gather again to celebrate the Eucharist before departing with prayer and a blessing.

During the Season of Creation, I preached at All Saints on Paul's words: “We do not live to ourselves.” We are creatures, dependent upon one another and upon the air, water, soil, plants, and animals that sustain us. We are not separate from the community of creation. We belong within it.

Creation Church gives us an opportunity to deepen our connection with our Creator and our neighbours in creation. Anglicans are called to safeguard the integrity of creation, and our worship grounds that calling in a practice of attentiveness and gratitude for our fellow creatures.

Eleven people from across our region joined us in September, including friends from beyond our congregations. Creation Church can be a gentle way to invite a friend or neighbour who is curious about spirituality, prayer, or our relationship with the rest of creation.

Reverend Amy continued...

Our next Creation Church will be Saturday, October 10 at 10:00 AM in Wasaga Beach. We will gather at Prince of Peace and begin our walk from there, regathering on the beach for Eucharist at 10:30 AM.

Come walk with us, or simply come and be still, as we worship God within the beauty of God's creation.

Curious about Creation Church or wondering whether it's for you? Contact the Rev. Amy Pauley at rev.amy.pauley@gmail.com



During this 'Season of Creation' Deacon Lorna shares with us the story about the tragedy at Grassy Narrows in Northwestern Ontario.....

Grassy Narrows: Creation, Contamination, and Community

From a Homily Preached by the Rev. Lorna May, 13 September, 2026

First the mink and the otters started to disappear. Then the local people began noticing the odd way the vultures and eagles were flying. One man watched his kitten salivating and walking in circles and convulsing. These were early warning signs around 1970 that something sinister was happening in Grassy Narrows along side the English-Wabagoon rivers in norther western Ontario.

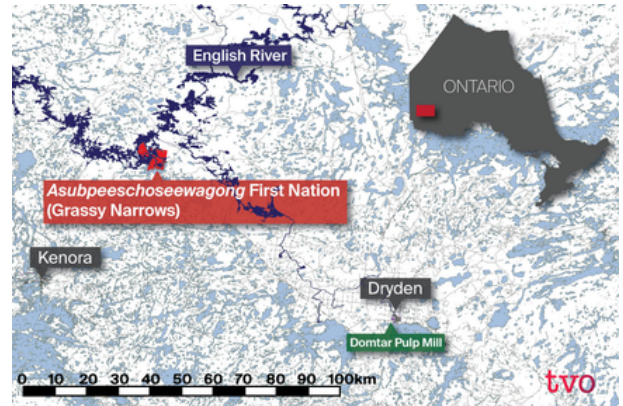
I was recently part of a webinar that heard from Sandra, a young woman from Grassy. She spoke about her community's ongoing efforts to seek accountability and justice. She described the familiar pattern: land contamination, poisoned water and the slow generational harm that follows.

Grassy Narrows is a small Anishanaabe First Nation band 80 km north of Kenora with traditional roots in Northwestern Ontario who continue celebrating and preserving traditions in Indigenous culture and living. Their land is part of the boreal forest where the land sustains them both physically and spiritually and they are committed to protecting it guided by the wisdom of their elders, the strength of their youth, and the teaching of their culture as they work together to build a healthier , stronger future for all. They continue to support each other in healing, growth and cultural pride. Situated on the English-Wabagoon River system, there are over 1600 registered members, with about 1000 living on the reserve.

For decades the people of Grassy Narrows have lived with mercury contamination in their river system. Between 1962 and 1970 The Dryden paper mill released 9 thousand kilograms of mercury used in the bleaching process into their river system. Through the 70's, they continued generating airborne mercury emissions until late into the 80's. In 1986 the Ontario Ministry of the Environment released an assessment that advised against dredging the water system thus relying on the natural process of the river cleaning itself over the next decades.

Grassy Narrows continued...

Growing up Sandra recalls her mother going to the river to haul water, and melting snow in the water because clean drinking water was not always available. At the time she did not fully understand. Today some can afford bottled or filtration systems but many cannot. Later, she learned that mercury had entered her own body through the land and food systems. Moose, fish and other animals were all affected by the industrial contamination. She says “no one ever talks about disabilities being connected to the land”. Environmental harm is often



described vaguely, as if it is only in the air, disconnected from peoples bodies. But for Indigenous communities, the land, water and body are inseparable. When the land is poisoned, people are poisoned. Elders in the community remember when the water was safe, when people could fish and swim and live according to the teachings passed down from generations. They have also witnessed what happens when those ways of life are disrupted. Loss of livelihood, declining health, They have also witnessed what happens when those ways of life are disrupted. Loss of livelihood, declining health, increased mental health issues are not isolated circumstances, but have rippled through the community.

It has been confirmed that 90 per cent of the people in Grassy Narrows have mental health, addictions, or physical limitations such as tremors, numbness, impaired vision, neurological damage and chronic pain, ADHD, anxiety, and shorter life spans all due to the mercury in their systems. The entire community is sick. Can we even imagine what that would be like to live in day in and day out?

Through all this the Elders see hope in how people have refused to remain silent about Grassy Narrows. The community has spent years challenging governments and industries, asserting treaty rights and demanding accountability. They are passionate about forcing systems to recognize and admit formally, that economic gain cannot come at the cost of human life. Every human has the right to dignified living conditions. It means acknowledging wrong doing, compensating communities that have been harmed, and ensuring that future generations are protected.

Water is sacred, and it is what keeps our planet sustainable. The people of Grassy Narrows challenge faith groups to see environmental justice as a responsibility and to listen to Indigenous voices, especially Elders and people living with disabilities caused by environmental disruption. What kind of world will be left four or five generations from now if these harms continue unchecked? Justice continues with listening and acting before it is too late.

So how are things today in Grassy Narrows? Well, the heavy metal continues to contaminate the water. Every day mining, logging and the combustion of fossil fuels release more waste into the river to continue the dangerous ascent into the food chain. The interest for scientists has faded. Government monitoring has tapered off and the hand bound research reports now gather dust in libraries.

Grassy Narrows continued...

On Wednesday September 23rd I will be participating in the River Run: Walk with Grassy Narrows for Justice. The people of Grassy have the longest running blockade in Canadian history which has helped foster Indigenous resistance across Turtle Island and has saved 15 million trees from being cut. They will speak out and ask why the Care Home originally promised by the Government for 2017 is being completed by 2027. They will ask that community members be compensated fairly for the mercury crisis. They will ask that the Dryden mill be stopped to end the nuclear waste that threatens Grassy. They will ask for support to restore their community and way of life from the damage that mercury has done while proposals for new mines and a nuclear waste disposal site threaten to make things worse.

My hope is that we can all in our own lives be aware of how we can respect the clean water that we have. Research if you don't know how to properly dispose of hazardous materials, reduce chemical use, minimize the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides and clean up pet waste so that bacteria does not wash into lakes and streams during storms. Learn more about the Government of Canada Clean Water Plan. Because we are privileged.

The people of Grassy Narrows have for over 50 years struggled with basic human rights over the poisoning of the English-Wabigoon rivers.

I pray that as members of this Diocese that we will stand with Grassy Narrows until the water runs clean and the people are heard. I speak in the name of the living and loving God.

Amen .

NEWS AND UPDATES

Alongside Hope, formerly the Primate's Development and Relief Fund, has a special project in Mozambique....

The Solar Suitcase Challenge

Imagine a mother delivering her child at night. That would be ok as long as she was in a hospital with electricity, right? Now imagine that same mother delivering her child at night in a rural clinic without power.

The Anglican Church of Canada's Alongside Hope agency has launched the Solar Suitcase project for Mozambique. This project will provide small health clinics with a solar panel, lighting, and fetal imaging equipment to help women who give birth at night. **Each suitcase costs \$6500 Canadian.**

Would you like to help All Saints and our regional church partners raise the money for one of these suitcases by Pentecost

Wouldn't it be wonderful if All Saints could raise the money for one of these suitcases by next **Pentecost (16 May 2027)**? You can donate online at <https://alongsidehope.org/solar-suitcase/>

If you do donate, please let David Penhale or Fr. Michael know so we can track our churches' response.

NEWS AND UPDATES

In addition to this project, Warden David Penhale tells us of another programme being promoted by Alongside Hope. As we prepare to observe the Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th, David tells us about the Indigenous Partnership Programme here in Canada.

Did you know that Alongside Hope works with Indigenous people here in Canada and around the world?

"The Alongside Hope Indigenous Partnership Program promotes partnerships based on recognition, respect and support for the rights and well-being of the Indigenous partners. The Indigenous Partnership Program responds to:

The needs and priorities identified by Indigenous partners and by the 1996 Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) report; The 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP); The Recommendations of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action.

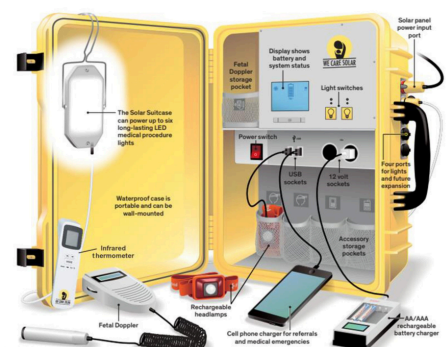
Program Goals

To support programming in Canada that promotes community health, youth engagement, safe water and climate action. To foster respectful relationship, collaboration and understanding.

Indigenous cultures, languages and traditions are invaluable and contribute to the rich tapestry of Canadian society. Supporting Indigenous programs helps preserve and revitalize these cultural assets, ensuring they are passed on to future generations.

Alongside Hope has been connecting Anglicans in Canada to people in need since 1958. Once named for the Primate, the head of the Anglican Church in Canada, in 2024 the membership approved our new name." (from the Alongside Hope website)

To learn more, please visit <https://alongsidehope.org>



The Solar Suitcase

Warden Catherine Raaflaub shares with us, a 'Welcome Back' update from the wardens and staff....

Welcome Back!

It is so wonderful to see so many of you back at church—and to see some new faces too! All of our ministry groups are back in action this month, and somehow Thanksgiving is just around the corner.

The Wardens have been working with our Treasurer to ensure that we are investing wisely in the areas that are important to our parish: Buildings & Grounds, Stewardship, Communication & Marketing, and our many ministries. There is lots happening behind the scenes to keep our parish moving forward.

We were delighted to officially welcome Rev. Amy to our fold as the Associate Priest of the Region of South Georgian Bay. We will have the pleasure of seeing her on the second Sunday of each month, as she and Father Michael switch places. We look forward to getting to know her even better!

Our Regional Ministry clergy team has also been enriched by the addition of Rev. Sharon and Father Bryce, who join Canon Gord, Rev. Lorna, Rev. Michael and Rev. Amy. What an amazing team—and how lucky we are to have such a wonderful group of clergy supporting our region!

Help Us Spread the Word! We encourage you to follow us on Facebook, Instagram and YouTube—and, even more importantly, to like, comment on and share our posts.

We are putting out approximately 12 posts each month across Facebook and Instagram, sharing the people, activities and ministries that make our parish special. Our services are now also posted on our own YouTube channel. Soon, the link on our website will take you directly there, making it easier for people to find us, watch a service and get to know our parish.

Every like, comment and share helps more people discover who we are and what we are doing in our community.

Around the Parish The painting in the parish hall is almost complete, thanks to David and Rob, and the new railing for the ramp is nearing completion.

There was also lots of work happening in the basement over the summer. We are especially grateful to Rob and Marg for all their hard work sorting, organizing and purging. It is amazing what can be accomplished when we roll up our sleeves and get to work!

Looking Ahead We have some wonderful services and activities planned for October that will deepen our understanding and appreciation of our beautiful church, our community and all of our ministries. Stay tuned—and we hope to see you there!

Your Wardens

NEWS AND UPDATES

On Sunday, September 13th, over 40 All Saints Parishioners ventured to Batteaux Creek Golf Club for our annual Dinner and Golf Event. Mother Nature provided sunshine for the golf before releasing a heavy rain storm. However, it didn't dampen the fun and fellowship of the evening. A big thank you goes out, once again to Jim Cunningham who organized the event. From all the photos, the smiling faces indicate that a good time was had by all! Thanks Jim (aka 'Rory'!)



NEWS AND UPDATES

At our Back to Church service last week, we sang an Offertory song written by All Saints own Director of Music, Barry Da Silva. Entitled, 'Streets of Our Town', Barry's words reflect the struggles in our communities, including Collingwood.

Our Food Ministries are in full operation and are preparing meals for October. Five Loaves will make its deliveries on October 7th and the Community Friendship Dinner will be held on October 14th. And don't forget about our Parish Food Pantry Box. Donations of non-perishable food items can be placed in the boxes and the entry doors to the church

Mark your calendar for Saturday, October 3rd as the All Saints Craft and Bake Sale will take place in the Parish Hall from 9 am to 1 pm. Parishioners are being asked to contribute baked goods for this sale. For more information please contact Margaret Thompson or Nancy at the church.

BIRTHDAY GREETING

Special birthday greetings go out to Ron Emo, a true saint of All Saints Church and the Town of Collingwood.

PRAYERS

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

We pray for the repose of the soul of Sylvia Sly and for her family and friends.

Please pray for these people during the week:

Eric Vignola

SSN

John

Terry

Patricia

Rickey Lemire

Lindsay

Jim Cunningham

Terry W

Land Acknowledgement

Acknowledgment of Indigenous Territory

We acknowledge that our church resides on the traditional territory of the Wendat, the Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe peoples.

As Christians we recognize the enduring presence of the peoples connected to this land. We are grateful that, despite the Church's conflicted history, we have the opportunity to gather on this territory, and share the responsibility to care and respect both the land and waters for future generations.