



NewsLetter

The Anglican Church of St. Augustine of Canterbury

Fall 2018

Happy New Year!



I know, our secular new year is in January. And in the church calendar, the new year begins with the start of Advent. But since my days of *back to school* September has always had a “new year” feel to it for me. September strikes me as a time to start fresh. It feels full of possibility and newness. And to me, it feels like the start of our new program year at the church.

Looking ahead, I wanted to draw your attention to a few changes this fall and let you know about some of things we aim to try. First, this newsletter. I know it has been the pattern of the parish to offer a monthly newsletter. As an experiment, we are going to try seasonal newsletters. There are a few factors pushing this change. The first is efficiency and good use

of volunteer time and resources. Creating the content and distributing the newsletter consumes a lot of staff and volunteer hours. We’re hoping to create instead a less frequent, but more fulsome publication with lots of pictures and articles celebrating our events and projects. The other factor is that we’re working to expand our digital platforms. You may have already seen our new e-news emails. A team is also working on a new church website. We are also expanding how we use Facebook and social media to promote our events. We are expanding our use of communication tools and we are trying to find the best tool to serve our various communication goals. Thank you for your patience as we experiment and please share your feedback with me.

Some other new initiatives are on the horizon this fall. Now that my family and I are settled into the rectory and living in the neighbourhood, the goal is to expand our community engagement. I am grateful to all the helpers that pulled together to host our fall community BBQ. In October, we plan to open the church on Halloween and welcome trick or treaters and their parents by handing out candy. If you would like to help decorate, or distribute candy that evening, please let me know. This is a chance to meet our neighbours and welcome them into our church building. And if you’re in an apartment or condo, and you miss seeing the kids in their costumes, this is a way to share in the festivities of Halloween.

I am also in the midst of preparing a Reach Grant application. Reach Grants are available through the diocese and they offer “seed money” to help parishes try new initiatives and ministries. We are seeking funding for community focussed events that offer Christian formation. Some ideas include a PA Day camp for local children at Christmas and Easter, where they can explore these Christian holidays and learn the stories of our faith. Other ideas for the new

(Continued on page 2)

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In This Issue

Happy New Year!	... Page 1
From the Deacon	... Page 2
Rectory Update	... Page 2
Summer Bible Study and BBQ	... Page 3
Autumn Sale	... Page 3
Orange Shirt Day	... Page 3
Warden’s Report	... Page 4
Reconciliation is a Process	... Page 4
Community BBQ 2018	... Page 5
The Groove Room	... Page 6

From the Deacon

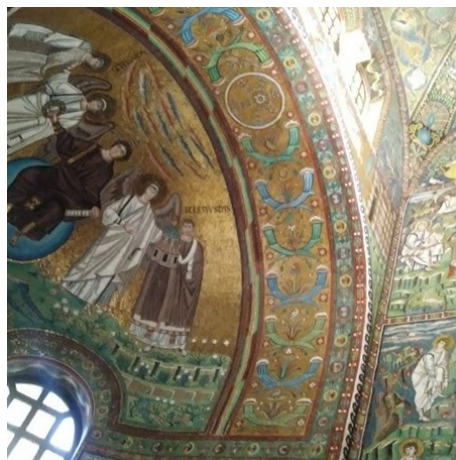
As I write this, you will just be starting the Community BBQ. I have just been out for a walk in the local sestiere of Dorsoduro in Venice. As you may know, I have no sense of direction, so even with a map it's an adventure!

The photo is from the Church of San Vitale in Ravenna. It has amazing mosaics dating back to the 6th century.

The Book of James was a study I did when before Simon was born. It seemed to speak to me then and now about living our faith. And the passage today (James 2) is a good reminder about the ministry of welcoming!

I will be visiting churches and glass exhibits this week but will see you on the 23rd!

The Rev'd Beth Nelson



(Continued from page 1)

year include a Blessing of Bicycles, and maybe an Easter Egg hunt. This parish has worked hard to connect with our neighbours through events like the community BBQ and the Groove Room coffee house. This is a solid foundation upon which to continue to build a connection with our friends and neighbours in Leaside.

Again, Happy New Year! I look ahead to this new program year with eagerness and enthusiasm.

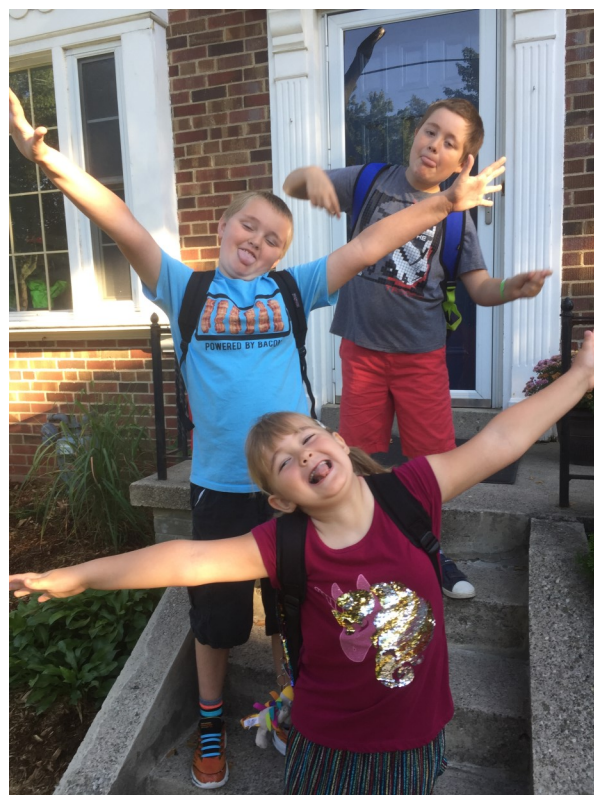
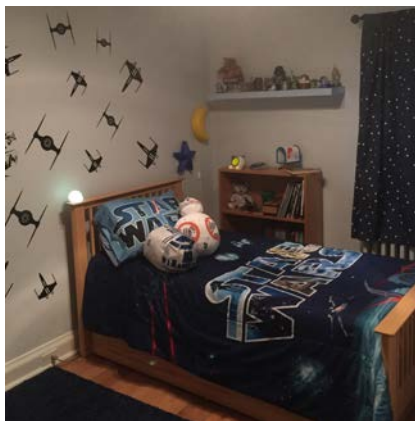
The Rev'd Megan Gull

Rectory Update

We have come to the end of the construction season at the Rectory. It is great to have a safe comfortable place for the Jull family to live in. We hope it is already feeling like home for them. Demolition work started in May and the work was almost all finished by the time they moved in at the beginning of August.

We had not spent much money on the rectory in the last 20 or more years so we needed to do many things to bring the building up to code. Some of the expenditures such as asbestos removal and new wiring were for safety reasons. There were also moisture issues that had to be addressed. New eavestroughing was installed and new concrete had to be poured on both sides of the house to direct water away from the basement. All of the old wood flooring needed to be replaced as well. Several of these issues were discovered as construction proceeded. This caused us to go over our original budget of \$70,000. The net cost to the parish of the renovations was \$85,000. Not too bad to catch up on a couple of decades of work. The improvements add value to a significant parish asset.

Your Warden's—Judy Arrowood, Mike Rapson, Bill Empey



Summer Bible Study and BBQ

This summer we revived one of our traditions. On Thursday evenings, members of the parish took part in a pot-luck style BBQ, followed by the study of scripture. Rain or shine, we gathered under the carousel in the garden to feed one another and feed our souls and nurture our faith through the study of scriptures. More than 20 people took part over the course of the summer, and an average evening welcomed 7-10 participants.

A big shout out goes to Jamie McLean, Judie Arrowood, Peter Shepard, and Wayne Johnson for their help and assistance, especially while Megan was away on holidays. We look forward to a similar project next summer!

The Story of Orange Shirt Day September 30th

Phyllis lived with her Grandma on Dog Creek reserve. In September of 1973, she was six years old and preparing to go to the St Joseph Mission residential school for the first time. Like many kids starting school, she remembers being excited and a little nervous. While her family never had much money, her Granny managed to pull together enough to take her to the Robinson's store and let her choose a new outfit for school. Phyllis says, "I remember going to Robinson's store and picking out a shiny orange shirt. It had string laced up in front, and was so bright and exciting – just like I felt to be going to school!"

When she arrived at the school, they stripped her, took away the shiny orange shirt, and she never wore it again. It was replaced by the school uniform. She never understood why she couldn't keep her shirt or why it was taken from her.

September 30 is now kept as **Orange Shirt Day**. It commemorates Phyllis' story of the St Joseph Mission School in particular, but the aim is to remember all children affected by the experiences of Residential School. The date was chosen because this was the time of year when children were taken from their homes and relocated to residential schools. The date was also selected because it is at the start of the public school year and allows teachers and educators to address this part of our history with their students and to frame the year with anti-racist and anti-bullying policies. September 30 is under consideration as the date for the proposed Federal Statutory Holiday commemorating Indigenous Peoples and remembering the legacy of residential schools.

This year, on September 30, we will gather outdoors, at the Fleck's home overlooking Wilket Creek. We will worship on the land, in the spirit of our Indigenous brothers and sisters. We invite you to attend and wear an orange shirt, to remember Phyllis, the children of residential schools, and to teach our children and our children's children that "Every Child Matters".



BBQ PARTICIPANTS (L-R): BABS RITCHIE, MEGAN JULL, PATRICIA SADLEIR, WAYNE JOHNSON, KEITH MORTIMORE "UNDER THE TENT".

St. Augustine's Autumn Sale 2018 Save the Date—Saturday Nov. 17th

Plans are underway for our 2018 Sale!

Please save:

- Treasures - in good repair, clean and ready for sale
- Jewellery
- Christmas Items
- Knitting
- Children's Books and Toys
- Books, CDs and DVDs (no cassette tapes)
- Puzzles and Games

Please no clothes, shoes/boots, sports equipment, linens or bedding - these can be donated elsewhere.

Any special items (new and unwrapped) or gift cards that you feel would be appropriate for our Raffle should be given directly to Barb Goodbody or Gina Davidson.

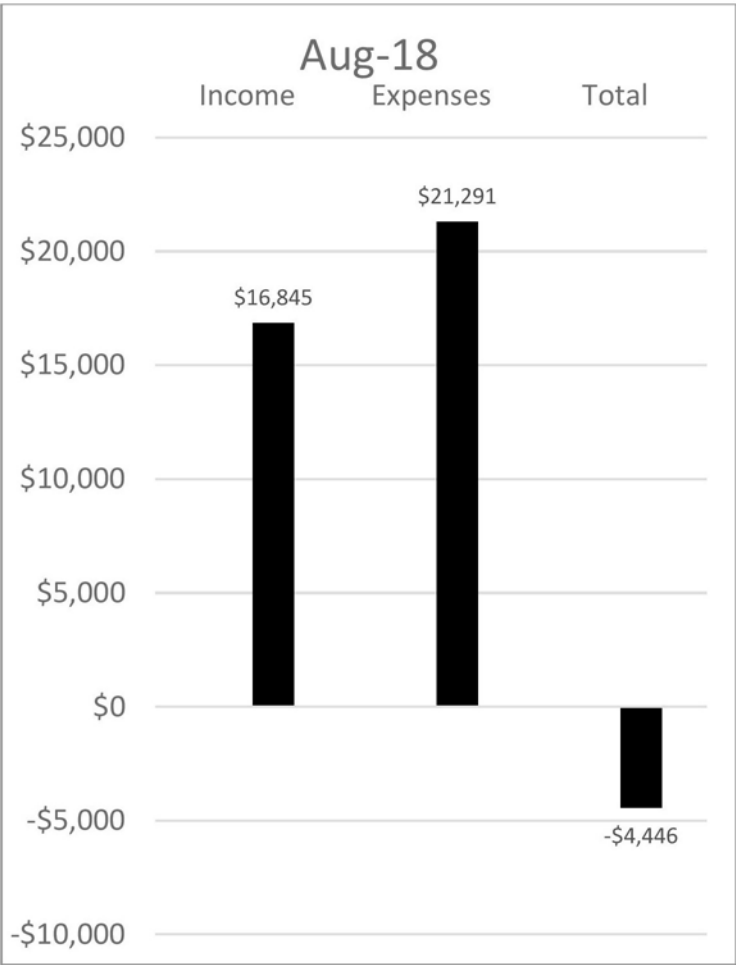
Gina Davidson

Warden's Report

The Wardens would like everyone to start thinking about the new financial position the church is in. It has been difficult over the last couple of years to get a handle on where our finances were headed. We had time where we were not paying for a full time priest. At the same time givings declined while the parish was in turmoil. We have also moved from a time when we rented out the rectory and the priest received a housing allowance instead. So the month of August was really the first month where we could see how things will look in the new "normal" situation. Our expenses should not be changing very much from the August numbers.

As you can see from the graph below, our income is about \$4,400 below our monthly expenses in August. As mentioned earlier, our expenses do not fluctuate very much. So we need to increase our revenue. If you are able, please consider donating additional funds to the church. You can do this either through monthly direct withdrawal from your bank account or through envelopes. If you would like to start direct withdrawal or increase the amount of direct withdrawal please contact Marcus. At the church office.

Your Warden's—Judy Arrowood, Mike Rapson, Bill Empey



Reconciliation is a Process

We have come to the end of the facilitated program with faithCARE. We have had success in bringing people together and having their concerns heard. The last piece was the letter sent to the Diocese (available on the round table in the Baptistry).

Have you begun to feel the atmosphere here at St. Augustine's change slowly? We were all hurting in one way or another. Whether you participated in the faithCARE exercises or observed from the edges, the Spirit is here. It is important to talk about it, with respect and understanding.

PARISH PICNIC & OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Honouring Orange Shirt Day and Indigenous Culture and Spirituality

September 30 at 11am
Fleck Family Residence: 20 Wilket Rd

Please wear an orange shirt, to honour Residential School Survivors

Lunch is provided
Contributions of salad or dessert most appreciated

The Anglican Church of St Augustine of Canterbury

Community BBQ 2018

"This is the most non-St Augustine people ever!"

I heard this spoken a few times at the Community BBQ on September 9. We advertised more broadly this year, including online via Facebook groups and targeted posts. And a number of parishioners intentionally invited and welcomed their friends and family to the event. There were children, and grandchildren, and neighbours enjoying the event.

The bouncy castle is a perennial favourite enjoyed by the kids. This year we added children's games and prizes, and we welcomed a ladder truck from Toronto Fire. The firetruck was a crowd pleaser, for little kids and the big kids-at-heart.

The cool weather and overcast skies didn't dampen our spirits. Friends enjoyed the food and the chance to reconnect after the summer break. We even welcomed a number of local politicians.

Most importantly, events like this are an opportunity to bear witness. An outdoor event at the church demonstrates to our neighbours and passersby that there is life and fellowship here at St Augustine's. This year, we plan to host and revive many such events, expanding our hospitality and connection to the neighbourhood.

A special thanks to Jamie McLean for championing this project and for all the helpers who made this a wonderful occasion for the parish.

The Rev'd Megan Jull



The Groove Room

We had a busy Groove Room schedule that included a presentation of a cheque, a visit from an old friend and people performing for the first time. In June, representatives of the Flemingdon Park Community Food Bank came to the Groove Room and accepted a cheque for \$2,600. This was the amount of money raised in the prior 12 months from Groove Room entry fees and donations. Those \$5 bills can add up after a while! They are very pleased with all the support that St. Augustine's gives them as the need for food in that community continues to increase.



It was great to have Kevin McKloskey come by for a performance. Kevin was instrumental (pun intended) in the start up and running of the Groove Room. He was with us for several years before having to give it up for work responsibilities. Kevin is on the right in the picture to your left.

Some first time performers included Thomas Rapson (below left). He has played many times at the Groove Room behind his drum kit, but this was his first time ever singing and playing the ukulele in public. Also making his first appearance was Mose Scarlett (below centre) a professional musician who played on the soundtrack for the movie Roadhouse.



We are lucky to have the support of Tim Stokes Rees and Sean Tavera. They are music teachers from Ontario College of Music who volunteer their time on Groove Room nights. Sean is on guitar and Tim is on bass above right. Please come out and support the Groove Room. It is a whole lot of fun for just \$5.

Mike Rapson



Priest-in-Charge

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Wardens

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