

# CHURCH CHAT

## Development Update ~ Mike Banham

### “Do More” as the Hands and Feet of Jesus

Something amazing is happening in North Waterloo. All Saints’ Waterloo, an Anglican congregation, is on a journey to do life-changing ministry in the local neighbourhood and community.

But do we fully appreciate the transformational impact we are going to have in North Lakeshore and the Waterloo North community? Or the inspiration we are for other Anglican Churches in our Diocese, the many organizations that serve those in need in our community as well as the City of Waterloo? And all this in the name of Jesus!

*As we look to the future for All Saints’ Waterloo, let’s embrace how God is inspiring and enabling us to “Do More”.*

The journey for All Saints’ Waterloo began over 10 years ago and has included many twists and turns. Throughout this time, the leadership of the Parish has remained steadfast to the vision to “Do More” in the community and the belief in unlocking the value of the property to build a new Church and Community Centre. All to enable the members of All Saints’ Waterloo to live out their faith and help those in need. Remember, this is not about the new building.

*It’s about the ministry that is enabled by building something bigger than just a place of worship.*

As we approach the completion of the new Church and Community Centre, we are getting organized and putting a plan in place for ministry. This plan is being developed and led by Reverend Dan Bowyer, as well as Jane Bender and Scott Murphy who are co-chairs of our Faith-in-Action team. Under their skillful and

Development Update

Stewardship Moment

Evangelism Moment

Book Club

Time Capsule

FCC

Lent

Funnies

Crossword

Sponsors



committed leadership and with the help of many others, steps are being taken to ensure we “Do More” in the community and transform the lives of those we touch.

To put this in perspective, there are three specific steps being taken to set us up for greater ministry – 1) we have engaged many organizations to understand the need, 2) we have tapped into the expertise of Carizon Family and Community Services to build a focused plan on the areas with the greatest need, and 3) we have initiated a relationship with the Food Bank of Waterloo Region.

### **Engaging organizations**

Over the last year our Faith-in-Action team consulted with Carizon Family and Community Services, House of Friendship, Lutherwood Children’s Mental Health Centre, Adventure 4 Change and the Region of Waterloo Food Bank. From the discussions it was discerned to prioritize ministry around food security and youth.

One of the key observations was the need for food security in North Waterloo. At least 40-60 households in the neighborhood travel challenging distances to access a food bank distribution point in Kitchener. It was learned many new Canadians live in the neighbourhood with a need for space to undertake collective cooking. Finally, it was acknowledged there is a need to provide structured activities and support for young people in the neighbourhood.

### **Leveraging expertise**

All Saints’ Waterloo is blessed by the strategic partnership we have with Carizon Family and Community Services. Through this relationship the Faith-in-Action team is able to leverage their community development arm to plan and actualize the ministry around food security and youth.

This collaboration will begin by structuring a collective cooking ministry in the new industrial kitchen that is part of the All Saints’ Community Centre. There will be focus on structuring a ministry for young people in the neighbourhood; likely starting with open gym nights and progressing to integrate a homework club and mental health supports over time.

### **Food Bank distribution**

Finally, we started a new ministry in February with the Region of Waterloo Food Bank. They recently acquired a mobile food pantry and every Wednesday afternoon at the “construction site”, volunteers from All Saints are there to ensure food is more accessible to those in the North Waterloo community. This ministry is already transforming lives and will move into the Community Centre in the fall.

One example of impact was recently observed when a mother and her two children came to the construction site when the mobile food truck was on-site. You could see the relief and excitement on her face as she was able to get food for her growing family so close to where she lives and didn’t have to travel across town. This “access” may not seem like much, but it meant the world to her.

## “Do More” to help others

As we look to the fall, let's understand and reflect on our individual and collective ability to “Do More”. As a congregation, we need to fully embrace what God has enabled – particularly through the All Saints' Community Centre.

We are already seeing transformation through food distribution. It is amazing to see the impact in sharing the love of God through simple acts of kindness. And this is just the start!

This is an exciting time for All Saints' Waterloo. Fulfilling the vision that started so many years ago is going to be the legacy of this Anglican congregation in North Waterloo. Let's all “Do More” and in that, give Thanks To God!!

## Stewardship Moment ~ Pastor Marty

When we think about stewardship we often think about money and tithing. This is an important part of stewardship, but it is not the only part.

The concept of tithing has deep biblical roots. We are asked to give 10% of our first fruits back to God. That is 10% of our gross income. And this is normally where the topic of stewardship ends. I would like you to consider though how you tithe all aspects of stewardship, not just your treasure, but also your time and talent.

There are 8 760 hours in your year. The average person sleeps eight hours a day, or 2 920 hours a year. That leaves 5 840 waking hours. After you subtract other essential commitments, such as:

- work - 40 hours x 50 = 2000 hours
- Buying, preparing and eating food - 2 hours x 365 days = 730 hours
- Performing toiletries, cleaning clothes, etc about 200 hours
- Commuting - about 300 hours

You have 2 610 hours left. Each of us has unique and compelling claims on this leftover time. Helping a child with homework, family get-togethers or a special hobby can take hundreds of additional hours from our “spare” time.



However, let's estimate that you have approximately 2 000 hours each year that are somewhat flexible. A tithe (10%) of this would be 200 hours. 200 hours is just about 4 hours per week.

Have you considered this as a gift to God as part of your tithe. How can you use those 4 hours per week for the glory of God's Kingdom and God's church?

This October as we move back into the new church it is time to begin thinking about how we will support the ministries of the church. There are a variety of committees each person may choose from to offer a tithe of their time or one of the various ministries of All Saints'.

There is:

Parish Council, Chancel Guild, Property Committee, Hospitality Committee (this will cover all aspects of hospitality like funeral receptions, coffee hour and receptions - you can volunteer for part or for all) Faith-in Action team, Discipleship Formation Team, or Pastoral Visiting Team.

To get further involved and to see the best use of your particular talent, please speak with either Pastor Marty or Pastor Dan.

## Evangelism Moment ~Evangelism and Church Growth Strategies by Alan Hayes

*Evangelism, at its root, means sharing the gospel. Scripture asks us to be prepared to "give a reason for the hope that is in you." (1 Peter 3:15) That is within our power to do, and there are skills to learn for doing it well. But we are not in control of how people respond to our sharing of the gospel, or whether they will make a commitment to Christ.*

### ***Growing the Church***

In the 1970s and 1980s, a lot of people proposed that it *was* in our power to grow churches. We cannot convert people, but we can attract them to church. Evangelism may have an uncertain outcome, but church growth can be scientifically strategized. That was the argument of such books as Donald McGavran's *Understanding Church Growth* (1970), Peter Wagner's *Your Church Can Grow* (1984), and George Barna's *Marketing the Church* (1989). The Fuller Institute of Evangelism and Church Growth in Pasadena produced church growth consultants.

The premise was that once people were in church, they would become faithful Christians. Now, there were other views on that score. In the 1830s, Kierkegaard's judgment on the Church of Denmark was that it prevented churchgoers from knowing Christ, because it made them think that they *already* knew Christ. In any event, the church growth movement was more interested in increasing numbers than in deepening the quality of faith.



## What About Evangelism?

Connecting evangelism to church growth has mightily influenced our thinking. Is our congregational life feeling stagnant? Bring in new members! Are we losing people to the church down the street? Let's market our brand better! Is our church having financial problems? Grow the number of envelope subscribers! Do we want to feel more successful? Add bums to pews!

I have looked at some Anglican parish websites. They typically reflect church growth ideas, not

evangelistic ideas. They promote their church's worship services, introduce their clergy, and picture social events. They hope to make their church look more interesting, more hospitable, and less threatening than other local churches. But most of these websites do not evangelize in the sense of proclaiming the gospel of Christ. In fact, many seem to downplay anything that sounds doctrinal, presumably because that might make them look, you know, zealous, and therefore less inclusive.

There are problems with this approach. An obvious one is that to build a church on church growth strategies—such as a charismatic pastor and a homogeneous culture—is to build on sand. Think of the Crystal Cathedral during Robert Schuller's time. It had 10 thousand members and 20 million television viewers in the 1990s. When Schuller retired at the same time that Orange County was becoming demographically diverse, the ministry went bankrupt and the church was sold to the Roman Catholic diocese.

## Why People Stray from Church

A bigger problem with prioritizing church growth over proclaiming Christ is that, as far as I can see, a lot of non-Christians actively hunger for God, but actively disdain the church.

Churches have a bad name. Not a week goes by without a news story connecting churches to sexual abuse, misappropriation of funds, the mistreatment of children in residential schools, hypocrisy, repressive practices, aggressive political partisanship, or exploitation. Churches just are not places where non-Christians expect to meet God. As the 1960s counter-cultural stand-up comic Lenny Bruce said, "Every day people are straying away from church, and going back to God."

And even if churches behaved themselves better, they would still have an unattractive image to overcome. They are property-owning, clerically controlled, legally incorporated, self-protective institutions. Who trusts that? And *that* kind of church is a far cry from the one in [Acts 2](#).

## Private Piety

In the 1980s, an influential sociological study called *Habits of the Heart* by Robert N. Bellah (an Episcopalian!) and others presented a portrait of individualism in middle America. The most prominent form of religiosity, as they discovered, was the kind that said, “I believe in God, and I pray sometimes, but I do not have any interest in going to church.” Following the early German sociologist Ernst Troeltsch, the researchers called this religious type “mystical anarchism”—mystical since it assumed a direct relation between individual and God, anarchism because it resisted external restrictions on one’s freedom of spiritual expression. A little later, Robert Putnam’s *Bowling Alone* used the disappearance of bowling leagues as a symbol of the decline of community feeling in America. As individualism has strengthened, mainline denominations have suffered. When so many prefer private piety, we will have trouble making church look attractive to those who do not already love Jesus, or who are seeking him.

## Proclaiming Jesus

Now, there are exceptions. Some seeker churches, like Saddleback, which I have visited, do a pretty amazing job of bringing curious people in, hooking them into the gospel, giving them a community (in a cell group), and changing their lives. But then their website really does do old-fashioned evangelism. You will find “About Jesus” before you will find “About Saddleback”.

I write as one whose own path to Christian commitment did not reach a parish church until near the end. And I know a lot of other Christians with similar experiences. People like me wanted God in our lives, but, frankly, as I am ashamed now to recall, we felt smugly superior to ordinary churchgoers. So we came to know Jesus through conversations with Christian friends or teachers, through some popular theological reading, through Bible studies, through courses, through a crisis in our lives that forced us to re-evaluate our assumptions, through someone’s invitation to prayer, through a televised sermon or interview, through a movie with a Christian message, through Christian music.

So that is why I think that we miss a lot of folks when we focus on marketing our church more than proclaiming Jesus.

## Book Club ~ Joyce Harry

Over the winter months, attendance to book club has been slightly less, with winter driving an issue, we did offer one zoom meeting, but it is always better meeting in person.

We have the next two months books chosen and plan to slot a couple more in at our next meeting when more will be in attendance.



March 29 “I’ve Got Your Number” by Sophie Kinsella  
which is a very light, easy read

April 26 “The Paying Guests” by Sarah Waters

We met on February 22 for discussion on “The Jane Austen Society” by Natalie Jenner. Very interesting how the influence of Ms. Austen is still alive and well in today’s society.

As they talked about the cottage in Chowton, England where Ms. Austen lived and wrote, Rachel Prichard had visited the site and had a framed picture to show us.

We meet the last Wednesday of each month in the board room at Rupert Street in Waterloo, our wilderness address. Would love see new faces, this is a great way to meet readers and get to know people better.

“It is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change”

HRM Queen Elizabeth II

## Time Capsule ~ Pastor Marty

As construction of the new church continues, it was time to pull the old date stones from the existing church. And behind the 1981 stone we did, in fact, find a time capsule. Inside was a parish list, vestry reports and various pictures and news paper articles.

It was a wonderful to see the history of such an amazing moment in the life of All Saints. Pictured here is the gathered community of both All Saints and Waterloo North Presbyterian Church for the ground breaking at the Northfield campus.

The picture was taking in what is now a subdivision. But back then, this was truly the edge of the city.

As constructions continues, we should be giving some thought to our own time capsule. What



should we leave for future generations? One thing in the time capsule that I found fascinating was the parish list printed on dot matrix printer paper. A wonderful artifact of a particular time period. Not just for the names, but also the technology used to print it.

In the coming weeks, Pastor Marty will begin sources ideas for a new time capsule. Please give some thought to what we ought to leave to future generations that go beyond vestry reports and parish list.



## All Saints Filipino Community Church ~ Pastor Rambie

On October 24<sup>th</sup> of 2020 while the Covid Pandemic was on its peak, All Saints Anglican Waterloo opened its door to the Filipino Community in Kitchener-Waterloo Area to conduct a once a month Holy Eucharist service. In 16 months, the Filipino Community continued to come and meet on its regular fourth Sunday of the month service as well as during Easter and Christmas season.

Being blessed with the support of the All Saints Vestry, the Diocesan Council straightforwardly approved the motions of making the All Saints Anglican Filipino Community a 'Worshipping Community' and giving a Grant in the span of two years as a way of helping All Saints Filipino Community in starting its ministry.

As of March 05, 2023, All Saints Filipino Community begun its regular Sunday Service and On March 12, 2023 after the Holy Eucharist, All Saints Filipino Community had its first meeting as a congregation. On that meeting, they discussed on some programs such as bible studies or choir practice before the service, Sunday school classes and cup bearer train-





ings for the men in the congregation. Sunday services will also vary from Tagalog to English or vice versa every other two Sundays to accommodate English speaking Filipinos and those who have been married to Filipinos who doesn't speak and understand Tagalog.

Some other programs will still be planned as the Filipino Congregation goes along but as of the moment, The Filipino Congregation is just happy and grateful that they found a home at All Saints Anglican Church who opened its door while the rest were closing them.

## Lent ~ Pastor Dan

Dear Friends,

When I was studying at Huron College, the cafeteria there would serve pancakes over the dinner hour on each Shrove Tuesday. More than once in my time there on this day, members of the student body would wonder why the cafeteria was “randomly” serving pancakes for dinner. This was because traditionally pancakes were a good vehicle to use up all of the butter, and sugar and maple syrup—the “good stuff”. The “good stuff” was all used up on Shrove Tuesday on the understanding that Christians would give up this “good stuff” for a six week period once Lent began on Ash Wednesday.

Somewhere along the line, the reason for giving something up in Lent got communicated as us being ‘bad’ and therefore punishing ourselves. The message I received about Lent growing up was “put your money in this triangular box and feel bad about yourself”. On this understanding Lent then became very much about what we did or didn't do, what we gave up or didn't give up, and became a time to think about how terrible we are.

But really Lent isn't about this. Lent is about what God has done and what God is doing, and about us responding to God's action. We know that in resurrection, Jesus defeated death forever and we know that the promise of an empty tomb greets us at the end of our Lenten journey—the same promise, the same empty tomb that the disciples allowed to shape the living out of their ministry.

This is really what Lent is about, God's promise of resurrection and our response to that promise. Lent is a time that we respond to God by looking to allow Him to eradicate the things that separate us from Him (otherwise known as sin), turning away from those things—repenting—turning back to God and focusing on how we can come into deeper relationship with our loving God and the hope of God's promised resurrection.

We've heard about giving something up for Lent, or taking something on. If we give something up, we do so not because we're ‘bad’, but in order to shed ourselves of distractions while seeking to grow in relationship with the Lord. If we take on a new ministry or discipline, it is to aid in this growth in relationship with the Lord.

Whatever we choose to do or not do, we all will have a fruitful Lent when we (in whatever way works best for us) respond to God's promise by living as the disciples lived, by allowing the hope of the resurrection to shape how we live today. May a blessed Lent be yours as we continue the journey towards the promise and hope of Christ's resurrection!

## Funnies

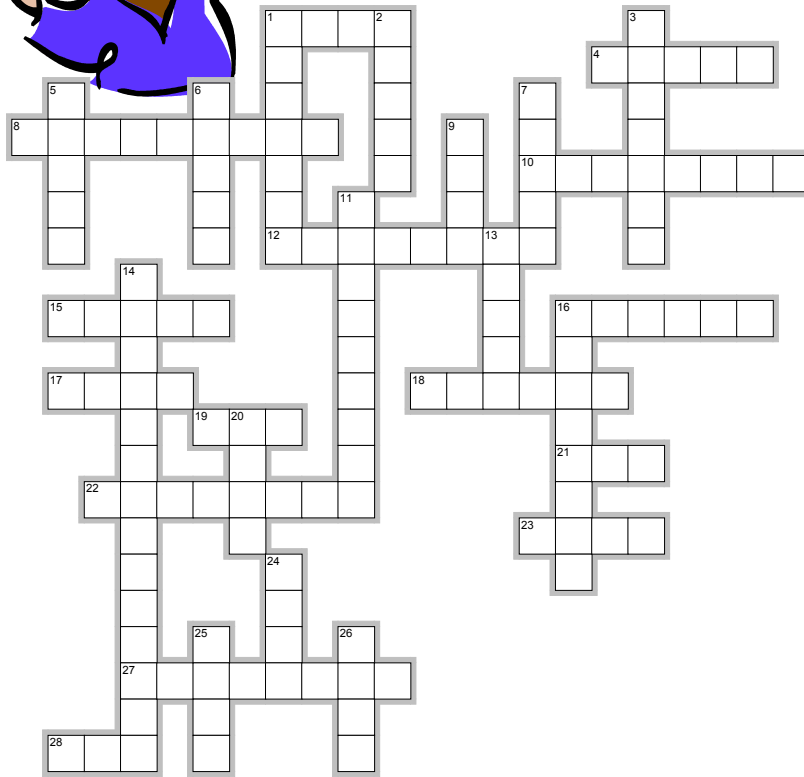


# Crossword

## Names of Christ



Jesus Christ was referred to by many names throughout the Bible. You'll need to know thirty of them to successfully complete this crossword. Scripture references from the New International Version are included to help you.



## Sponsors

### RE/MAX

Twin City Realty Inc.  
Independently Owned and Operated

### Shadde de Haan

Associated Broker  
83 Erb Street West  
Waterloo, Ontario  
N2L 6C2

Cell 519-221-5888

Bus 519-885-0200

Fax 519-885-4914

[shaddehaan@gmail.com](mailto:shaddehaan@gmail.com)

Do you need a house sitter to meet insurance requirements while you are away?

I will check your home on your schedule needs

I also managed rental properties... over 20 years experience