

# The Servant

*St. Paul's Anglican Church - Celebrating 129 Years: 1885- 2014*  
*12 Pine Street, Brockville, Ontario*

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Christmas 2014

## The Crumbling Crèche

It started out as a beautiful exotic, set - an intricately painted pottery crèche, purchased by my parents in South America and given to us for Christmas at least 35 years ago. Life has not been kind to the crèche. It has travelled the country and been shipped to Europe and back. Each year, there were fewer intact figures to unpack and position in the stable; Joseph lost his head, camels crumbled, the infant Jesus went AWOL. Last year, all I could find were a couple of faded nondescript characters and they looked lost and lonely in the wee wooden shelter. And so, the crèche was retired.

But I wonder if it should have been. Perhaps there was a lesson in the changing cast of ceramic figurines. Because, while all the primary characters of the Nativity story are long gone, and we are centuries removed from a sky full of angels in Bethlehem, people - ordinary people - still find themselves drawn to the manger in wonder and worship. I pray that we will be among them. In the busyness of another Advent/ Christmastide, don't miss out on the rich range of opportunities to gather with your church family to express gratitude for God's 'unspeakable gift'. (2 Corinthians 9:15)

Mal and I thank you for your kindness and encouragement to us through another year and we wish you every blessing and every joy of the Season. A particular expression of thanks to our diligent wardens, John Francis and Rod Slack, and Deputy Linda Eckert for their faithful work and friendship.

In Christ,

*Barbara+*



Some of the 14 St. Paul's ladies who attended the ACW Regional Meeting in October.

Back: Shirley Jones, Linda Eckert, Norma Riley, Ann Delaney, Gillian Shaw, Robin Carnie

Front: Marjorie Boyle, Eileen Lambert

Photo Credit: Sandra Anderson

## ALPHA Retreat

The ALPHA course concluded on November 9, 2014. We had about 35 participants for supper and study each Sunday evening and a successful and unproblematic “cross-border” retreat at Watham Hall in Ogdensburg. We were especially delighted by the youth participation and the chance to pilot the new “made in Canada” youth Alpha Course. We extend our great gratitude to Karen Brown for her prayerful guidance and hard work.

*Submitted by Rev. Barbara*

## St Paul’s Anglican Church Women (ACW) News

It has been a busy fall for the ACW. October 9<sup>th</sup> saw fourteen women from St Paul’s attending the annual ACW Leeds Grenville Regional Service and Meeting at the Parish of St. Lawrence. Guest speaker, Reverend Jeanie Oulton, Chaplin at Joyceville Federal Prison Assessment Unit, gave an inspiring talk about her work, and the ladies of St. Lawrence treated the ninety-seven attendees to a wonderful lunch, before the business part of the meeting.

It was all hands on deck for the ACW Bazaar and Tea under the leadership of Nancy Clarke who with Gillian co-convened the event. Close to \$1,800.00 was raised. There was also an excellent turn-out and lots of great food for the ACW Pot luck on November 20<sup>th</sup>.

A reminder, that All women at St Paul’s are members of the ACW, whether they are able to attend meetings or not. We hope that many will be able to attend the ACW Christmas Luncheon at The Mill on December 18<sup>th</sup> at noon.

President,  
*Gillian Shaw*

## Milestones and Memories at St. Paul’s

Since the last edition of the Servant was published, we mourned the loss and celebrated the lives of the following members of our St. Paul’s family:

- Vera Morrison - October 5, 2014
- Jack Hayes - September 26, 2014
- David Fellows - September 29, 2014
- Jane Beattie - October 5, 2014



## Warden's Message

**A**s we come to the end of another year we can clearly say that it has been a wonderful year; it has been a terrible year; it has been a exciting and busy year; it has been a dull and boring year; it has been joyful year; it has been a sorrowful year; it has been a ... well, you fill in the proper adjective that best describes how the year has been for you.

The dictionary (for those who still remember what a dictionary is) is full of adjectives that can explain how the year has unfolded for you. However the journey to this time and place - be it a rocky or smooth road - a winding and twisted road or direct and straight road, the journey has brought us together to this one path - the path through Advent leading up to the celebration of the birth of Christ.

Whatever the path means to you as you proceed through these hectic, crazy, sad or uncertain times, please take some moments for yourself and the peace that Christ's message brings at this time of year. To poorly paraphrase Dickens: "God bless us all, everyone."

Best of Christmas wishes from the Wardens,

*Rod Slack and John Francis*



ALPHA Retreat Participants gather for lunch in the dining room of Watham Hall

Photo Credit: John. R. Flegg

## Property Committee Highlights

It is really exciting to see the work of replacing the roof on the church and the hall progressing. We should all be snug and dry this winter thanks to all who contributed to the capital fundraising project.

A dedicated crew of volunteers also descended on the church this fall to clean out the years of junk from the church basement and storage areas.

*With thanks to Roy Clarke and his Team*



Church Hall Clean Up Crew:

Left photo: Rod Slack, John Sharpe, Charles Alletson, Len Delaney

Right photo: Don Buffett, Charles Alletson, John Sharpe, Bob Panter, Peter Galvin

## Pointing the Way

Signs will soon be installed by the City of Brockville at both ends of Victoria Avenue indicating the direction to St. Paul's.

## St. Paul's Festival of the Arts

Each year St. Paul's Anglican Church participates in an evaluation using a tool called Natural Church Development. This helps us to identify the strength of the parish and the areas needing enhancement. Discussion that followed this year's evaluation revealed that St. Paul's is blessed with an extraordinary amount of talent.

We decided what better way to showcase this talent than through a weekend festival of the arts shared with the congregation and our community from September 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>.

The event kicked off on Friday, September 26<sup>th</sup> with "St. Paul's Has Got Talent", a coffee house featuring Saxology a sax quartet, the piano stylings of Bob Panter, Ann McDowell, comedienne, and many more.

Saturday, attendees participated in interactive demonstrations including flower arranging, pillowcase dress making, embroidery and several other talents. People were invited to stay on and share in a delicious luncheon prepared by the congregation and coordinated by Nancy Clarke and Gillian Shaw. People carried on through to the church to view quilts and photography.

The event concluded on Sunday morning at 10am with a Gospel Sing service with spiritual readings interspersed.

Proceeds from the event (over \$2,000.00 ) were donated to The Primates World Relief Development Fund - food security program. The event was so successful that we are looking to do it again next October.

Submitted by Festival Coordinator,

*Pat Alexander*



Festival of the Arts  
Coordinator Pat  
Alexander

Photo Credit:  
Linda Eckert

## Doors Open 2014

**St.** Paul's Church is one of the earliest surviving houses of worship in Brockville. Designed by John Howard (architect of Brockville's Court House), and built by Benjamin Chaffey, it was dedicated as a Congregational Church in 1843, and converted to Anglican in 1885. The hall was built in 1891 to accommodate a large Sunday School.

The church maintains some of its Congregationalist flavour, with its raked floor, and lancet windows unchanged since 1843. In 1907, the great arch was opened in the north wall and the chancel was added, with its organ loft and vestry (now used as a sacristy). Memorial windows, designed by Robert McCausland, were installed in the west wall and the chancel.

The dedication of the three windows in the chancel was reported by the Recorder and Times on 28 April 1919: *The centre memorial window was covered with a large Union Jack, and at the appointed period in the service H. H. Davis, son of the deceased, unveiled the beautiful window and presented it to the church "To the glory of God and the memory of his beloved father, William Henry Davis, church warden for many years..." The windows are the work of Mr. McCausland, the celebrated Canadian artist, and were over a year in the making. "The Supper at Emmanus (sic)" is the subject depicted on the centre window, and lends itself admirably to the purpose of the memorials.*

The communion rail, hand carved from quarter cut oak, was installed in 1933, in memory of W. H. Osborne who had served as Warden from 1902 until his death in 1931. In 1942, the communion table was given in memory of Mrs. Osborne.

In 1912 the parish purchased a new pipe organ, "with electric motor or blower" for a cost of \$2500. This will have put someone out of a job: in previous years the organ blower received \$15 annually. Originally installed in the choir loft in front of the organ pipes, in 1957 the organ was rebuilt and enlarged, and the console moved to its present position.

The Great War attracted many members of the parish to sign up for service. In 1916 the Rector, Rev. L. E. Davis, reported that 43 members were in khaki, a significant number considering that the parish had about 200 active members. Those left behind did their part also. They made items for the Red Cross, and raised money for Belgian Relief and for Prisoners of War. In the aftermath of war, they answered appeals for the Relief of Serbian Orphans (1920), for China Famine Relief and Assyrian Relief (1921), and for Russian Relief (1922)

Today, the tradition of service continues at St. Paul's. Our members are active in the community. They respond generously to people in need, both locally and in the developing world.

*Submitted by Virginia Glover*

**We are on FACEBOOK!**

**[www.facebook.com/pages/St-Pauls-Anglican-Church-Brockville](http://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Pauls-Anglican-Church-Brockville)**

## Lawless Family Mystery

**L**awless Family History: Mystery ending revealed.

Thanks to our Doors Open display in May of this year, some of our archives became available for review. From these documents I was able to establish that the Lawless sisters moved away from Brockville at some time after 1900. They continued to support St. Paul's every Easter with gift of \$25 which was acknowledged by the wardens at the annual Vestry meeting. The warden did not disclose the name of the generous donor. However the Financial Ledger (1985-1935) identifies Miss Lawless as the annual giver. Her final Easter donation was received in 1919. The following year, St. Paul's received a bequest of \$1084 from Miss Lawless' estate. She and her sister were indeed "benefactors of St. Paul's Church", as described in the memorial plaque on its oak entrance doors.

*Submitted by Virginia Glover*



Festival of the Arts Tea  
Ann Delaney, Carol Birch  
and Gillian Shaw working in  
the kitchen.

Photo Credit: Linda Eckert

Monica Edwards and Lloyd Younger  
lead the evening hymn sing at the  
APLHA Retreat.

Photo Credit: John R. Flegg



## Pre— Authorized Gifts Program (PAG) Information Insert

Are you away from the parish for extended periods of time?  
Are you concerned about not always being able to get to church weekly?  
Are you tired of envelope offerings every week?

**If any of the above, or other factors inhibit your ability to routinely contribute weekly offerings, then PAG may be for you.**

### What is the PAG?

The Anglican Diocese of Ontario has established a PAG program to assist in your support of the work in our parish church through your regular parish offerings and the mission of outreach.

### How does PAG work?

PAG works in one of two ways: either a direct debit to the individual bank account in a similar fashion as one pays other costs such as insurance, mortgage, etc.; or by credit card (VISA or MasterCard).

The donor enrolls into the program by completing a form with the necessary information and leaving it on the offertory plate, at the office or giving it to a warden or usher. The form is part of the PAG brochure, obtainable from the church office.

Once enrolled, the designated funds are debited to the account or credit card on a monthly basis (on or about the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month).

### Who administers the PAG?

The PAG is administered in the office of the Diocese and the total offertory is forwarded to the Parish monthly, with a breakdown of the amounts and individual accounts.

### What is the cost to the Parish for inclusion in the PAG?

There is no cost to the Parish. The total established donation is returned to the Parish. All associated costs (administration and credit card charges) are absorbed by the Diocese.

### Is there a time limit that I have to enroll for?

No. You may cancel your authorization at any time, or change the debit amount at any time by written notice to the Diocese.

### Is there a minimum amount to be pledged for the PAG?

No. You set the amount and what it is to be used for: operations, capital, outreach, PWRDF, etc.

### What are the advantages to me as the donor?

Convenience as your offering is provided automatically every month; Continual support of your home church when you are away; Continual support of ministries and programs; and for some, Loyalty rewards on your credit card.



## PAG Cont...

### What are the advantages to the Parish?

Regular, dependable flow of contributions; Reduction of paperwork and bookkeeping; Facilitating a better financial planning process.

### Are there other users of PAG at St. Paul's?

Yes, there are already a number of the congregation who utilize this program, which is a secure and easy method of supporting the church. There is no minimum number of parishioners who must participate, and certainly no maximum.

### What about my privacy, and the privacy of my information?

The information you provide to the Diocese is maintained in a secure fashion at the Diocese office and the monthly report to Parish is provided directly to the Envelope Secretary who records this information in the same manner as would occur if the donations were by weekly envelope offering.

### How will PAG replace my current process since I won't have anything to place on the offertory plate?

There is no doubt that some people may feel embarrassment if they can't place, or be seen to place, an offering on the offertory plate regularly. To alleviate this concern, PAG cards are available to be picked up when entering the church, and placed on the offertory plate in the normal manner. These cards are collected at the end of the service and returned to the back of the church to be reused the following week.

### How do I get credit for my PAG offering?

PAG offering reports are provided by the Diocese on a monthly basis, recorded by the Envelope Secretary and incorporated into the annual tax receipts for these and other regular gifts.

### What about special offerings for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas when I don't have the envelopes?

For those wishing to make additional offerings, such as special offerings, specific envelopes for this purpose are available in the church and when completed properly and collected with the regular offerings, will be credited to the donor.

*Submitted by John Francis,*

Chair of Finance Committee



## Calendar of Special Services and Events

December 3 - 11:00 am – Seniors Communion and Luncheon

December 9 – 7:00 pm - Christmas Taize service

December 13 – (Saturday) 10:00 am Messy Church - Brunch with Santa

December 14 – 8:30 am Holy Communion

10:00 am Family Interactive Nativity Play and Children's Service

December 16 - 10 am- 3pm Advent Quiet Day

December 17 – 1:30 pm – Getting through the Holiday with Grief in your heart – Rev. Barbara

December 18 - noon - A.C.W. Christmas Luncheon at the The Mill

December 19 - 7pm Caroling with the Choir and Youth Group

December 21 Advent 4 ( Holy Communion at 8:30 and 10:00 am)

December 24 – 7:00 pm – Candlelight Service

December 24 – 11:00 pm – Candlelight Service

December 28 - 10:00 am -Christmas Lessons and Carols Service (one Service only)

Note that Regular services are held each Sunday at 8:30 and 10:00 am and the Prayer and Healing Service is held every Wednesday at noon. All Welcome



After Remembrance Day Service, we wished Father Ed, Honorary Associate, all the very best in his retirement from St. Paul's. He will be missed.

Photo Credit: Malcolm Robinson

## From the Editor

Welcome to the first truly on-line version of the Servant. We hope that you are enjoying the colour photos and the ease of connecting to the St. Paul's Brockville website [www.stpaulsbrockville.ca](http://www.stpaulsbrockville.ca).

If you have not already given permission to the church to send information (including the link to this edition of the Servant) to your e-mail address, please do so by writing your name and e-mail address on a "flower" at the back of the church or contact the church office at 613-342-5865 or e-mail to [stpaulsoffice@bellnet.ca](mailto:stpaulsoffice@bellnet.ca). While paper copies will continue to be available to those members of our church family who are unable to attend services or who are not comfortable with technology, we are hoping to significantly reduce copying, labour and delivery costs.

Many thanks to those who contributed to this issue (we even have some items in reserve for the Easter edition) and please continue to forward photos, stories and ideas to me at [linda@flegg.net](mailto:linda@flegg.net)

Thanks again to Kerey Bolton whose publishing talent makes this possible and Merry Christmas to all.

Linda L. Eckert

Karen Brown,  
Janice Twaddle and  
Bea Slack arrive for  
the ALPHA Retreat

Photo Credit:  
John R. Flegg



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