



# The Olave Branch



Reaching out to **ST. OLAVE'S** community  
ANGELICAN CHURCH

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## Bishop's Lenten series draws crowd weekly

For the past five Wednesdays St. Olave's has been host to Bishop Jenny Andison and a Lenten series called *Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John*. The resource was written by the Brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in Boston. The series has been extremely successful, both in terms of attendance (holding fast at 70 folks each week) as well as fellowship and spiritual learning.

"I'm surprised the attendance has been so stable," says Bishop Jenny. "My sense is that it's meeting a need. This is our bread and butter, there are no gimmicks. People want to read the Bible together, eat together and pray together. We are experiencing the simple joy in Christian fellowship."

This is also part of the teaching office of the Bishop, Bishop Jenny adds. "I find it very fulfilling to teach the faith."

By 6:30 p.m., participants have arrived from the deaneries of Parkdale West Toronto and Etobicoke-Humber, with more than eight parishes represented. Several



*Bp Jenny is pleased interest in the Lenten series has continued.*

clergy have also been present. Supper is prepared by Addus (our weekday users) and faithfully served at 6:30 p.m. by members of our ACW and other volunteers.

"Hospitality must be a spiritual gift of St. Olave's parish," said Bishop Jenny.

By 7 p.m., more people roll in, with their *Meeting Jesus* prayer journals clutched in one hand and a Bible in the other. Bishop Jenny introduces the topic for the week with an engaging talk. Then she takes us through the assigned scriptural verses, reading the reflections of the Brothers of St. John the Evangelist in Boston. Thousands

of people across North America are doing this same Bible study in parish hall groups or individually online.

The talk is punctuated with one-on-one discussion points with your neighbour, as well as moments of prayer and reflection. "I remember that first week when I asked you to pray quietly for five minutes, there was quite a bit of trepidation," said Bishop Jenny during week four, noting participants were becoming much more comfortable with the idea.

"I am extremely grateful to the ACW for convening the food service, William Cowling for organizing the catering, as well as many other volunteers who jumped in to help serve, clean up and host," says Rev'd Rob. "It has been a wonderful way to come together and make connections with other churches and showcase St. Olave's."

—Janice Douglas 

## Maundy Thursday awash in symbolism

### Rector's Letter

*The Rev'd Robert Mitchell*

The term "Maundy Thursday" is derived from the Latin (*mandatum novum*) of John 13.34: "A new Commandment ... ." Those words were spoken by Jesus immediately after he washed the disciples' feet on the night before his Passion. During supper he got up, took off his outer garment, tied a towel around his waist, and began to wash each of the disciples' feet.

We have grown accustomed to this story and it fails to shock us, but we must remind

ourselves how shocking this act was for the disciples. Jesus, their beloved teacher and leader, was stooping down in the form of a slave. It was the ultimate act of humility and self-giving. And it was, in fact, a symbol of Jesus' entire earthly ministry. As one who was of God, he "emptied himself" and took the "form of a slave," being born in human likeness, and became obedient to the point of death on a cross. (Philippians 2.6-8) After finishing this shocking display of self-disregard, he told the disciples, "A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another, as I have loved you." We are, as Christians, called to show this same hu-

mility and love for others as he showed us in his incarnation, suffering and death.

The Thursday before Easter has been named after the *mandatum novum* because it is traditionally the day that the ceremony of the washing of feet was enacted in the churches. For the first time ever at St. Olave's, we will be incorporating this simple and beautiful ceremony into our Maundy Thursday service. I encourage you to come and see this symbolic ritual as part of your journey toward Easter. May God bless you and your family at this most sacred time of year.

Rob+





**A FOND FAREWELL**  
 On January 21, St. Olave's and the Sudanese Community Church of Toronto celebrated our annual joint service. This year we welcomed Archbishop Colin Johnson. It was especially meaningful to have him with us as he enters his last year of ministry before retiring in 2019. Here Bishop Colin, Rev'd Peter John and Rev'd Rob are joined by Lydia Lasu (left), Caroline Audet and Junior Church students Ayelen, Zahra and Olivia.



### Stewardship update

I want to first thank everyone for their givings in 2017. It was with your assistance and generosity that we were able to reduce the size of the structural deficit, placing us in an even better position going into 2018.

Since the mailing of the Commitment forms in January we have been receiving a continual flow of updates on personal givings information. This has been most gratifying. When I talk about givings it is including Time and Talents. Without the continued support of so many volunteers, many of the functions of the church could not be maintained.

Forms are still available to be filled out in the Narthex or online at our website under Giving. Be sure to stay informed by reading our monthly e-blast updates as well.

—Don Weston

## ACW support for LOFT continues

For a number of years the ACW has collected gift bags at Christmas to give to indigent seniors living in LOFT Community Housing. This year, at the request of the LOFT Staff, we are sponsoring gift bags for **Easter**. The goodie bags need only contain a half dozen or so items, and a list of suggested contents has been published in the church bulletin. Several bags have been brought in and we sincerely thank all parishioners who have contributed to this ministry. Most of our activities are fundraisers so that we can support both our own parish and other ministries in our area. We thank you all for your generosity and look forward to another fruitful year. —Rev'd Canon Ruth Smith



### SECOND CENTURY FUND UPDATE

## Supporting children in Burkina Faso

St. Olave's Second Century Mission Fund sponsors four children through Christian Children's Fund of Canada. They live in Burkina Faso in West Africa, one of the most disadvantaged countries in the world.

CCFC has been working in Burkina Faso since 1987. It works in partnership with local organizations to help improve life for children, their families and their communities in five key areas: health and nutrition; education; water, sanitation and hygiene; sustainable economic growth; and strengthening community organizations.

Forced child marriages (FCM) are a recurring problem in many developing countries, and Burkina Faso is no exception. FCM is a serious violation of young girls' human rights. It perpetuates existing gender inequalities, and it has been an obstacle to girls' development and survival.

Through the intervention of community volunteers, over 4,000 people have received home based visits, and four cases of girls being abducted have been avoided, through dialogue and awareness-raising (the girls have returned home after involvement and negotiation of a community volunteer). By involving local authorities and government institutions from the start of the project, CCFC has been able to increase access to protective services for community members threatened with FCM.

Two communities CCFC is supporting in Burkina Faso are also employing Learning Through Play (LTP) early childhood development programs. LTP engages parents in play activities with their own children in order to foster healthy child development and promote attachment, which helps children thrive. UNICEF is participating with CCFC in this effort.

### 2017 Vestry Update

On Friday, February 23, parishioners met at the church for a brief service, chats and chili. Good food was followed by St. Olave's annual Vestry Meeting. Included at the meeting were financial reports, the 2018 budget and reports from organizations at St. Olave's. The new Narrative Budget was introduced – look for it on our website!

During Vestry, Janice Douglas was appointed by Rev'd Robert Mitchell to serve as Rector's Warden and Paul Scrivener to serve as Deputy Rector's Warden. The following officers were then elected by acclamation: Annis Tebbutt, as People's Warden, Sandra Franke as Deputy People's Warden, Karen Bennedsen as bookkeeper, David Hutcheon as Capital Fund Investment Committee Chair, David Pickering as Synod Representative, Sheila Tait as Property Chair, and Jean Lilley as Second Century Mission Fund Committee Chair. Those at Vestry welcomed and elected Doug Hewett as Envelope Secretary, with a big thank you to John Cannings for his hard work as Envelope Secretary in 2017. —Annis Tebbutt



**RECONCILIATION DAY:**  
*Junior Church students Zahra, Olivia and Alex, with leader Brittany and parent Lisa started Ash Wednesday at the Cathedral with a smudging ceremony. Sweet grass and sage are burned in a shell and wafted with an eagle's feather as a symbol of purification.*

# Spring forward at St. Olave's

By William Cowling  
 Religious Education Coordinator

Join us throughout spring as our biggest ever season of special events continues with more music, entertainment, feature talks and engaging discussions.

We begin our season on **Wednesday April 11** with Rev'd Dr. Schuyler Brown's four-part weekly discussion series for Eastertide on the *Language of the King James Bible*, in which he examines key writings that explore the emotional power of the KJV's poetry and heightened language (as also found in the Prayer Book). He focuses on Adam Nicolson's book *God's Secretaries*, plus works by Paul Kugler and Sarah Thomson. Evening Prayer at 6 each week is followed by a light supper at 6:30, with the discussion at 7 and a session of informal Q&As at about 8.

We mark St. George's Eve on **Sunday April 22** with Choral Evensong at 4 followed by the annual St. George's Tea. We then change the focus at 5 to the Best of Canadiana, in which St. Olave's Arts Guild and their guests present music by Joni Mitchell and Neil Young; prose by Lucy Maud Montgomery; poetry by Pickthall and Kogawa; and an exploration of Toronto's history – as we continue our year-long celebration of Canada 150.

Our Ascension Day event on **Thursday May 10** opens at 6 p.m. with Holy Communion, followed by a light supper. Then shortly after 7, we continue with Rev'd Canon David Brinton's Feature Talk on Faith and Fiction, plus your Q&As. He will discuss theological themes in contemporary fiction by many famous and lesser-known authors, including Muriel Spark, Flannery O'Connor and Marilynne Robinson. As with P.D. James, he's noted for a life-long love of the Book of Common Prayer. Canon David retired last year as Vicar and Sub-Dean, after 17 years at St. James Cathedral in Toronto. He is currently the Interim Priest-in-Charge at St. Thomas's while Fr Mark Andrews is on sabbatical.

On **Sunday June 3** at 4, we mark the day after the 65th anniversary of the Queen's Coronation with a very special Coronation Evensong and our Royal Festive Strawberry Tea. Then at 5, guitarist Doug Hibovski returns to St. Olave's to present Crowns and Coronets, a 45-minute cross-over sequence of glorious music with Royal connections, from the time of Elizabeth I and John Dowland to the popular and classical music of our present Queen's reign.

**For details, please follow us on Facebook @stolavesevents, or visit us online at www.stolaves.ca or watch for News Flashes in the weekly announcements.**



# Holy Painting Party!

By Brittany Hudson  
 Child & Youth Minister

event and register, visit our event page: [www.holyweekpaint.eventbrite.ca](http://www.holyweekpaint.eventbrite.ca)

Our lessons continue every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. with music, art and loads of fun as we explore biblical stories together. If you know any children between 4 – 12 years of age, invite them to join us. We're always spicing things up with Art Days (April 29), Bible Jeopardy, and even some in-house bowling. If you want to stay up to date with Junior Church happenings, send an email to [children@stolaves.ca](mailto:children@stolaves.ca) to receive our monthly e-blast.



Join St. Olave's Junior Church on March 24 for our Intergenerational Holy Week Paint Party. We'll be painting the Stations of the Cross with the help of local artists from our community. This event is for everyone – whether you are young, young at heart, an expert painter or just curious, you are welcome to join us as we grow more rooted in faith, hope, love and community. To learn more about the

# Youth planning active season

By Carol Ambler  
 Youth Group Leader

We continue to meet on the first and third Sundays of the month and our Youth members are active in the church as servers, greeters, Junior Church helpers and choir members.

We started the year by taking a look back at 2017 to update our scrapbook. We've also had a couple of board game sessions and have started meeting on the occasional Friday night



to watch movies in the Ethel Brown Room. The three Hobbit movies were enjoyed during January and February and we're looking forward to watching the Lord of the Rings movies during March and April. Also, coming up is the commissioning service for Alexandra McIntosh, the new youth coordinator for York Credit valley, on April 20. The youth will be participating in the service and we'll be working with Alexandra to connect our youth group with other York Credit Valley youth groups in the coming months.



**A MAGICAL DAY**  
*Youth Group members Aden, Katie, Sarah, Miranda, Gabbie, Abby and Andrewes with Majinx at their Casa Loma Christmas party.*

# Mark your calendar for these events

## MARCH

**21 | Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John** Lenten Series with Bishop Jenny Andison continues;  
6:30 | Supper  
7 | Discussion  
8:15 | Compline



**24 | 3 - 5 p.m.**  
**Junior Church and All Ages Paint Party**

**25 | 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**  
Palm Sunday & Blessing and Distribution of the Palms. Guest Speaker at 10:30 a.m. Rev'd Dr. Pearce Carefoote. ACW Coffee Hour to follow with Junior Church Bake Sale in support of LOFT housing for Youth

**26 | 7 p.m.**  
Holy Week Service

**27 | 7 p.m.**  
Holy Week Service

**28 | 6:30 p.m.**  
Lenten Series Concludes

**29 | 7 p.m.**  
Maundy Thursday Service of Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar and Washing of Feet

**30 | 10:30 a.m.**  
Good Friday Cross of Christ Service

**APRIL**  
**1 | Easter Day Services**  
8:30 a.m.- Holy Communion in Sanctuary  
10 a.m. - Morning Prayer in the Chapel  
10:30 a.m. - Holy Communion followed by reception and Children's Easter Egg Hunt

**4 | 2 p.m.**  
Pilgrim's Group Bible Study

**8 | noon**  
Pub Lunch TBC

**11, 18, 25 (Weds) | 6 p.m.**  
Evening Prayer followed by Light Supper and Series with Rev. Dr. Schuyler Brown "Language of the King James Bible" (see notice at top right)

**22 | 4 p.m.**  
Choral Evensong followed by St. George's Tea and "The Best of Canadiana"  
**29 | 3 p.m.**  
Windermere String Quartet

**MAY**  
**2 (Wednesday) | 2 p.m.**  
Pilgrims Group  
6 p.m. - Eastertide Series Concludes

**6 | 10:30 a.m.**  
Guest Preacher Toronto Diocese Indigenous Priest Rev'd. Chris Harper, followed by PWRDF Mapping Exercise

**10 | 6 p.m. - Ascension Day**  
Service of Holy Communion followed by light supper and talk by David Brinton "Theological Themes in Contemporary Fiction"

**20 | 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.**  
Day of Pentecost & Whitsunday

**27 | 8:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**  
Trinity Sunday

**JUNE**  
**1-3 | Times TBC**  
Art Show in Narthex featuring Annis Thompson Tebbutt

**3 | 4 p.m.**  
Choral Evensong followed by Strawberry Tea and "Crowns and Coronets"

**17 | 8:30 & 10:30**  
National Indigenous Day of Prayer

**24 | 10:30 a.m.**  
Junior Church presentation of certificates followed by Year-End celebration!

## Schuyler Brown series sings praises of KJV

In 1604 the Hampton Court Conference launched the production of the only literary classic ever to have been written by a committee. Four hundred years later the King James Version of the Bible is still the all-time best seller. "The ear is the governing organ of this prose; if it sounds right, it is right."



Please order your copy of "God's Secretaries" by Adam Nicolson at Book City (2354 Bloor St. W.; 416-961-4496), across the street from the church.

The King James Bible BBC Documentary (2015) is also narrated by Adam Nicolson, and the documentary "KJB: The Book That Changed the World" is also worth viewing.

## Antique candlesticks to be dedicated on Easter Day

A pair of antique brass candlesticks and antique brass candelabras will soon be part of St. Olave's beautiful worship space. They are the gifts of Laurie Kukulewich, Graydon McArthur and Glen McArthur in memory of their parents and grandparents, long-time members of St. Olave's. The candlesticks will be dedicated in memory of their parents, Grace Florence (Coates) McArthur (July 16, 1918 - November 7, 2017) and Donald Fraser McArthur (January 21, 1924 - May 22, 2011). They will be used on the altar throughout the year. The candelabras were purchased in memory of their grandparents, Edna Florence (Howard) Coates (December 7, 1891 - 1988) and William Ernest Coates (August 21, 1882 - 1968.) They will further beautify the altar on major feast days (Easter, Christmas, etc.). The new "holy hardware" will be dedicated during the 10:30 a.m. service on Easter Day. Thank you to the Laurie, Graydon and Glen for this beautiful and generous gift.

## Meetings

**Tuesday, April 17**  
10 a.m.  
ACW Executive Meeting  
2 p.m. - Mary & Martha Group

**Tuesday, April 29**  
noon - Worship Committee Meeting

**Tuesday, April 24**  
7:30 p.m. - Advisory Board

**Tuesday, May 15**  
10 a.m.  
ACW Executive Meeting  
2 p.m. - Mary & Martha Group

**Tuesday, June 19**  
10 a.m.  
ACW Executive Meeting  
1 p.m. - Mary & Martha Group

## Prayer Book services in the heart of Bloor West Village

**Every Sunday**  
8:30 a.m.  
Holy Communion in the Chapel

**1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays**  
10 a.m. Morning Prayer in the Chapel  
10:30 a.m. Holy Communion with Anointing

**2nd, 4th Sundays**  
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer

**Wednesdays**  
10 a.m. Bible Study  
11:15 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel