



# The Olave Branch

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

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## FIRST PAINT PARTY A STROKE OF GENIUS!

Child & Youth Minister Britany Hudson led Junior Church students and visiting kids in games at our first ever Paint Party on Saturday, November 4. See story on page 3.



PHOTOS BY SIOBHAN CARMICHAEL

Bishop Jenny to lead Lenten Study at St. Olave's (see story page 2)

# Advent invites us to come and see

## Rector's Letter

*The Rev'd Robert Mitchell*

We were very fortunate to have The Reverend Dr. Ephraim Radner as our guest preacher on the Sunday Next Before Advent. Dr. Radner is a professor of Historical Theology at Wycliffe College. As is our annual custom, we invited Dr. Radner as a representative of Wycliffe to receive a donation from our Second Century Mission Fund toward the college's Versey Wigmore Student Bursary fund.

In his sermon, Dr. Radner called us to reflect on how we, as a parish, might become better "apprentices," or disciples, of Jesus. The first disciples, intrigued by Jesus, were told, "come and see." The way the first dis-

ciples learned was to "follow Jesus around, listen to him, spend time with him, watch him, eat with him, meet his friends, and pray with him," Dr. Radner told us. And this continues to be the same way we become better Christians, even today.

Dr. Radner suggested five things we could focus on together in our common quest to follow him and be with him:

1. Praying together;
2. Obedience to Jesus;
3. Sharing our faith with others more deliberately;
4. Feeding the hungry and visiting the sick and imprisoned;
5. Taking-up our cross and sharing in the sufferings of Christ.

As we enter into this holy season of waiting and expectation, I think these five ways

of becoming better apprentices of Jesus could serve as a form of Advent devotion for each of us, individually and as a parish. How well are we doing as disciples?

Advent is a season in which a lot of people "come and see." They come to our children's Nativity Play, they come to our Lessons and Carols service, they come to our Christmas Eve services. They may not know what they are looking for, but something compels them to come. When they come, may they see in us a glimpse what it means to follow, to be apprentices, to be disciples of Jesus.

May this Advent season be for you and your family a time of blessings and joy.

*Robt*



# Bishop Jenny Andison to bring Lenten Bible Study to St. Olave's

**B**ishop Jenny Andison has chosen St. Olave's to host a two-deanery wide Lenten study. The study is open to Anglicans and their friends throughout the Parkdale Toronto West and Etobicoke-Humber Deaneries. Her study will be instead of the previously announced Lenten study described in the season brochure.

This is a great honour for St. O's. Bishop Jenny told Rev. Rob that she chose our parish because it is in "a good location in the middle of those two deaneries" and because we "have a good parking lot," but most importantly, she wrote, because it is "a way of affirming the direction that the




**STUDY DATES:**  
 Wednesday evenings in Lent (February 21 to March 28)  
 6:30 - Light supper  
 7 - Study  
 8:30 - Compline  
 Register at the York-Credit Valley Events Page at [toronto.anglican.ca](http://toronto.anglican.ca)

parish is going."

The six-week Lenten Journey is titled Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John, and is based on materials from the Society of St. John the Evangelist. *Meeting Jesus* prayer

journals will be provided.

The program brochure asks: "Have you ever wished to deepen your relationship with God? To experience a warm friendship with God? Maybe even fall in love with God – again – or for the very first time? By learning from Jesus, his human friendships, and his teachings about the God he calls 'Father,' we will discover God as One who longs for deep intimacy with each of us. ... We will take to heart the words of Jesus: 'I and the Father are one. We will find that God is not a judge, a disapproving parent, a policeman, or a taskmaster; rather God is our companion, our friend, our confidant, our beloved.'" 

## Second Century Fund a legacy of supporting mission work

*By Jean Lilley*  
 Second Century Fund Cttee Chair

**I**n January 2018 the Second Century Fund will enter its 28th year.

During these years outreach works and missions at home and abroad have received our donations. As well as sponsoring children through Christian Children's Fund of Canada, the Versey Wigmore Student Bursary Fund at Wycliffe College (University of Toronto) described in earlier editions of the Branch, the Diocesan program Our Faith Our Hope and the Anglican Healing Fund have all received our support this year.

Thank you to all who have donated to the Second Century Fund. From loonies to legacies your givings mean so much because the interest earned meets the needs of others.

Our Christmas greetings to all and best wishes for happiness in 2018.

*On behalf of members of the fund:*  
 Robert Ragsdale, Leslie Stafford,  
 Carol Drummond and the Rev. Rob Mitchell



## Stewardship update

*By Don Weston*  
 Stewardship Chair

**I**am pleased to report that your For the Love of St. Olave's stewardship committee continues to make great progress towards the objectives set at the last Vestry Meeting. After much planning, we have completed three Focus Group sessions with a total of 39 attendees (plus facilitators).

Here are some of the excellent responses we received from our three questions:

### 1. What do you like about St. Olave's?

- Prayer Book
- Worship service, liturgy, sermons
- Music and hymns (move away from unfamiliar ones)
- Traditions
- Support to missions
- Sense of community
- Place to bring children, confirmation program
- Beautiful building

### 2. What are St. Olave's current and future needs?

- We need to grow the congregation.
- Need to address the structural deficit.
- We should not continue to draw from

Capital Account.

- Community outreach.

### 3. What can we collectively do about it?

- Community outreach.
- Make the congregation more aware of the costs of running the facility.
- Define what is needed (givings) from each member of congregation.
- Provide targets for givings.
- Expand base of volunteers.
- Talk more about the financial issues.
- Educate congregation on all the various ways one can give.
- Draw in more young families.
- Transportation of seniors to and from church
- Create a Men's Group
- Expand service offerings (i.e.: Saturday evening)

In addition to this feedback, we also asked participants to complete a demographic survey: 34 were women and most participants were over 50. Counting all family members, there were 63 adults and 27 children (including some who are grown); 23 of the 39 respondents attend church every week, and on average, parishioners at the focus group had been coming to St. Olave's for 23 years.

If you did not attend a Focus Group, you can answer the survey online using the link provided in the December stewardship eblast, or contact me. Your confidential comments will be included in the final report in January.

Our committee continues to work towards a plan for 2018 that will be directed at transforming our giving habits and an increase in our givings.



## Children explore creative side!

By Brittany Hudson  
Child & Youth Minister

St. Olave's Junior Church has been having loads of fun since our Fall re-launch. We've wrapped up our series on King Saul and David, started our first Giving Back Project for the Nursing Home in the community, begun rehearsals for our Nativity Play and hosted our very first Kids' Paint Party!

Our Paint Party was held on Saturday November 4 at 3 p.m. There were more than 20 kids in attendance, a mix of our community friends and children from our parish. The focus for the event was "Light is greater than darkness" and the kids had a blast exploring that topic. We also spent time painting a mural of the Nativity scene. We were extremely blessed with a donation from Art Works Art School. They provided us with a free art class give-away. While one lucky attendee won the art class, everyone went home with a St. Olave's Junior Church Colouring Book and a brand-new set of pencil crayons/markers!

On December 17 (TBC) join us as we visit the Fire Station to deliver our donation of Christmas toys and explore the Fire Station.



**BUDDING ARTISTS:** Zahra and Ayelen show off their canvas board creations!

## Youth group staying busy

By Carol Ambler  
Youth Group Leader

St. Olave youth have been very active during the past few months. We've attended youth group meetings on the first and third Sundays of the month where we have participated in discussions, had fun with board games, and learned Origami. Youth have also volunteered their time and talents reading lessons, greeting, helping with Junior church activities, and manning the coffee house/kids art table at the Christmas Craft Show.

In October one of our youth, Aden Shapland, represented St. Olave's at the Diocesan Youth Retreat at Muskoka Woods Camp and said she had a great time!

Upcoming plans include a youth Christmas party and visit to Casa Loma as well as movie nights in January and February.



## GUEST SPEAKER AT EPIPHANY EVENSONG

# Esteemed organist Giles Bryant joins us in January

By William Cowling  
Religious Education Coordinator

We are delighted to welcome one of Canada's leading organists and choirmasters, Dr. Giles Bryant, on Sunday, January 7 after our 4 p.m. Choral Evensong for Epiphany.

Just after 5 p.m., Giles will trace Anglican church music from its pre-Reformation monastic tradition, through the establishment of a Prayer Book repertoire in England, to the main forms current today in Canada's cathedrals and parish churches. He is a lifelong enthusiast for the *Book of Common Prayer* and its glorious music. His illustrated talk at the piano will focus on Tallis, Purcell, Maurice Greene, S.S.



Wesley, Stanford, Howells and their distinguished parish contemporaries.

As we conclude our series on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, it is a fitting time to hear from Giles how the pre-Reformation traditions were retained and restored in many of the world's cathedrals, in parallel with the post-Reformation

changes which strongly influenced parish church music.

Giles was born in Weybridge, Surrey, in England, where he was a boy chorister and later the assistant organist at St. George's College. After coming to Toronto, he was organist at Grace Church on-the-Hill and later succeeded Healy Willan at St. Mary Magdalene. However, he is most noted for his 20 years as the organist and choirmaster at St. James Cathedral, where he led the famous choir of men and boys from 1979 to 1999.

Giles has given many organ recitals across Canada, as well as in England, France and Spain.

The service will be followed by an Epiphany Tea, with delicious cakes and assorted treats.



# Mark your calendar for these events

## DECEMBER

**3 – 4 p.m.**  
First Sunday in Advent  
Choral Evensong followed by  
Christmas Tea and *Christmas  
Lights*



**6 – 2 p.m.** - Pilgrims Group

**9 (Saturday) – 9:30 a.m.** Nativity Play Dress Rehearsal

**10 – 10:30 a.m.**  
34th Annual Nativity Play

**17 – 10:30 a.m.** - Preacher: Rev. Dr. Schuyler Brown

**7:30 p.m.** - Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols followed by Reception

**24 – Christmas Eve**  
**4 p.m.** - Family (Children's) Christmas Eve Service  
**7:30 p.m. – NEW TIME!**  
Candlelight Service of Holy Communion

**25 – Christmas Day**  
10:30 a.m. - Holy Communion

## JANUARY

**3 – 2 p.m.** - Pilgrims Group

**7 – 4 p.m.** - Epiphany Choral Evensong followed by Tea and Giles Bryant: Cathedral and Parish Music (see article on page 3)

**13 (Saturday) – Time TBC** - Junior Church Skating Party and Movie

**21 – 10:30 a.m.**  
Joint Service with South Sudanese Community Church  
Special Guest TBC

## FEBRUARY

**2 (Friday) – 6 p.m.**  
Candlemas Service of Holy Communion followed by Light Supper and Debbie Cowling's "Dream Trip to Egypt"

**4 – 3 p.m.** - Windermere String Quartet Concert *Young Blood, Part II*

**7 – 2 p.m.** - Pilgrims Group

**11 – 10:30 a.m.** - Thinking Day with 155th Girl Guide Units and 101st Scout Groups Guest Speaker: Stephen Scharper

**noon** - Annual Pancake Luncheon

**14 (Ash Wednesday) – 7 p.m.**  
Service of Holy Communion and Disposition of Ashes

**18 – 4 p.m.** - First Sunday in Lent Choral Evensong with Schola Ecclesiam followed by light refreshments and Gounod 200: Clement Carelse on French composer Gounod (1818-1893)

**Wednesday, February 21**  
(First of Six Wednesdays)  
Lenten Series with Bishop Jenny Anderson: *Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John*  
6:30 - Light supper  
7:00 - Study  
8:30 - Compline  
(see article on page 2)

**Friday, February 23**  
**7 p.m.**  
Annual Vestry Meeting  
(following Evening Prayer at 6 p.m. and light supper)

## MARCH

Lenten Series Continues

**7 – 2 p.m.** - Pilgrims Group

**26 (Monday) & 27 (Tuesday)**  
Holy Week Services TBC

**29 – Maundy Thursday - 7 p.m.**  
- Service of Holy Communion and Stripping of the Altar

**30 – Good Friday - 10:30 a.m.**  
Cross of Christ service

## APRIL

1 - Easter Day

## Passages for 2017

(since Advent *Olave Branch* 2016)

## Confirmations

**May 28, 2017**

Olivia Dickson  
Abigail McCormick  
Brandon Nsubuga  
Jaiden Reive  
Aden Shapland  
Isaiah Smith  
Kathryn McConnell Taylor  
Lauren McConnell Taylor

## Weddings

**June 3, 2017**

Laurie Kukulewich & Glen Dodwell

## Deaths

Nancy Shapland  
**December 12, 2016**

Margaret Stephens  
**January 5, 2017**

Ida Kubin  
**January 14, 2017**

Earl Flood  
**February 4, 2017**

Frederick Bentley  
**February 3, 2017**

George Funnell  
**February 21, 2017**

Bryce Smith  
**August 14, 2017**

Clarke Wodchis  
**November 4, 2017**

Grace McArthur  
**November 7, 2017**

*Meetings*

**Tuesday, December 12**  
10 a.m.  
ACW Executive Meeting  
1 p.m.  
Mary & Martha Group  
Christmas Potluck

**Tuesday, January 16**  
10 a.m.  
ACW Executive Meeting  
2 p.m.  
Mary & Martha Group

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

**Tuesday, February 20**  
10 a.m.  
ACW Executive Meeting  
2 p.m.  
Mary & Martha Group

**Tuesday, March 20**  
10 a.m.  
ACW Executive Meeting  
2 p.m.  
Mary & Martha Group

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

<b>Every Sunday</b> 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion in the Chapel	<b>1st, 3rd &amp; 5th Sundays</b> 10 a.m. Morning Prayer in the Chapel 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion with Anointing	<b>2nd, 4th Sundays</b> 10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer	<b>Wednesdays</b> 10 a.m. Bible Study 11:15 a.m. Holy Communion
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