

## The Anglican Regional Ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth

### Reverend Carrie writes . . .

Dear Friends,

The early morning streaks of light through my bedroom window, and the meandering and unhurried exit of day in the evenings convinces me that summer is indeed upon us. Summer has always felt like the very best thing that might possibly happen. Summer is a time of expectation, of exploration, of freedom, and of walking outside in bare feet to wiggle our toes in the grass or the sand, and simply to let our hearts say “thank you”!

As followers of Christ, we are called by God to give thanksgiving and offer praise in all things, and in the warmth of the sun with a gentle breeze for company, it seems easy to offer that thanksgiving and praise. Summer is indeed the season of my mountaintop moments. It is my favourite time of the year. And yet, in the midst of our mountaintop moments, we sometimes can find ourselves plunged into the valley, chilled as the sun’s warmth feels momentarily lost in the shadow.

The ebb and flow of life and love, the joys and sorrows that life has to offer, are woven into every season, and into every moment. That life is a pilgrimage that one does not walk alone. It is an invitation to journey with others. Thank you for all your prayers and thoughts, for your emails, your texts and your quick phone calls. The month of June has been a blur of hours spent in hospital with my parents, of endless hours spent in the car as I travel back and forth, and hours of prayer. Woven into those hours have been moments of such sweet grace, and unexpected joys, that I am brought to tears as I witness to the great mercy of God.

From caring nurses, to unexpected champions, from the presence of old friends and time spent with siblings, from memories shared and heartbroken whispers of prayer spoken, love surrounds us. The love of God poured out and offered through the hands and smiles and care of others is worthy of notice, praise and thanksgiving,

As followers of Christ, we are called by God to give thanksgiving and offer praise in all things, and so I offer you up in praise, and I offer thanksgiving for the leadership here in our Regional Ministry. As I have been tending to the needs of my parents, our leadership team has been tending to the needs of our worshipping families. Together, we are so much more than we could ever imagine, loved by a God who is so much more than we could ever hope for, and for this I am truly grateful.



We are truly blessed with the “best ever” leadership team here in The Regional Ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth.

May you walk with God this summer in whatever you do and wherever you go. Walking with God means ... walking with honesty and with courage ... walking with love and

respect and concern for the feelings of others. May you talk to God this summer on every day and in every situation. Talking with God means ... praying words of praise for the beauty of creation ... offering prayers of thanks for friends and good times ... asking God’s help in all your decisions.

May you talk with God every day. Amen.

God bless,

**Carrie+**

## Best Ever “No Sale” Garage Sale:

On Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup>, St. John’s held a “No Sale” Yard Sale. Everything was free, including hot dogs, bags of chips, coffee and water. The congregation donated items they no longer needed or used and our happy customers left with lots of treasures. Thanks to Cathy S and Cathy O for chairing this and everyone who worked at it. This was a fun outreach project.



## Bishop Linda’s Episcopal Visit—April 8, 2018



Even the youngest angels were dressed up for the Bishop!



An informative Question and Answer session followed lunch.

## Thy Kingdom Come 2018:

What would happen if every Christian felt inspired to share the love of Jesus with their neighbours? What kind of transformation would that bring in families around the world? For those who followed Jesus, the time between Ascension and Pentecost was a time of waiting—a time to look back to when, through Jesus, God had been most real to them. It was also a time of wondering—when the promised Holy Spirit would be fully known to them, and equip them to share the good news of God’s love.



Thy Kingdom Come started in 2016, when Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, invited the Church to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for people to come to know the love of Jesus Christ. Christians in more than 85 countries—from over 50 denominations and traditions—joined in. **So did the people of our Regional Ministry.** During that time, we prayed, in a variety of activities, including a lakeside service and “Road to Emmaus” Walk, for God’s spirit to move within the church, equipping us to share God’s love with others, and pay attention to how God is speaking to us today. Thanks for your participation and prayer!



## Book Talk by Becky Peters, Librarian:

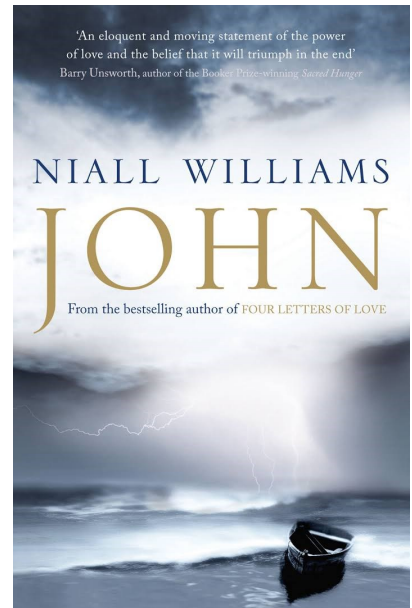
### "John" by Niall Williams

This fascinating novel is a work of fiction set in the time following Jesus' death and resurrection. It centres around the character of John the Apostle during his exile to the island of Patmos. A small group of men join him, forming a community that is awaiting Christ's return. John is a very old man, physically blind but possessing supernatural abilities to sense and perceive what lies beyond the visible realm.

Niall Williams explores through his characters the themes of faith and disillusionment, belonging and fracture. Time passes without their imminent hopes being fulfilled. The author admits that he did not intend to write this book, but it flowed nonetheless from his wondering, "What was

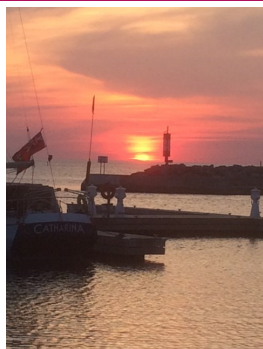
John doing the day before he wrote the gospel?" He was not working on a biblical or religious theme. He simply became curious about this beloved disciple, John. His imagination birthed this wonderful novel.

Check out this deeply spiritual and profoundly human story. It's waiting for you in the St. Paul's resource library.



## Rev. Ann Veyvara-Divinski— Ordination to the Priesthood—Saturday, March 3, 2018:

### Congratulations Ann!



## A New Website Is On Its Way!

A committee is currently working on the design of a new website for our Regional Ministry. We have engaged the services of Barb Willner, a creative website designer. It is amazing how much time it takes to decide on categories, layout, and content of a web page. However, the committee is committed to the task, and our finished product will be worth the wait. Watch for details of the "Best Ever Anglicans" website. In the meantime, continue following the goings-on in our Regional Ministry, by checking out our Facebook page at "Anglican Regional Ministry of Sauguen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth".

## From the Priest Assistant's Prayer Desk

Since our last newsletter, where I explained the meaning of a Deacon's Bench, I now have the honour, as your Priest Assistant, to explain the meaning of a Prayer Desk.

In each of our churches there is a prayer desk. Whether affixed to the floor or not, it is the place where the presider of the service conducts some of the liturgy with all the resources at hand. In the early church it was the priest or presider that had the psalter, bible, hymnal, order of service, prayer book and whatever else was needed close at hand.

The first time I took my place in the prayer desk at one of the churches in our regional ministry as your priest assistant following my ordination in March, a strange sense of calm and overwhelming responsibility overcame me. Now, fully ordained, I have begun to carve out my role as a minister in this and surrounding communities. Part of this role is to pray for each and every one of those in our regional ministry but also those that are in need of my prayers when asked for. It is such an honour to be working with all of you in this amazing faith community and support all of you in your trials and celebrations.

Rev. Carrie and I continue to work on our shared ministry model and I think we work fabulously together, creating liturgy (you'll see some of it in the coming months) and as a team to prayerfully uphold all of you.



We don't often celebrate liturgy together due to our commitment to ensure ministerial coverage of our 4 services on Sunday but when we do, I can tell you it is fun, meaningful and I feel the joy that I have a sister in Christ when we are both at the altar together.

I have been asked, when I'm not in the Saugeen Shores churches or Tara and Chatsworth, where am I? As a newly ordained person there are many requirements besides meetings: planning liturgy; creating service bulletins; nursing home services and pastoral visiting. I must attend clergy days, post ordination training, clericus and ministerial meetings. It is at these events where I learn who my extended team members are and I draw on their experience. Beyond the Regional Ministry, I am the Spiritual Care Provider to the Oncology Department and Day Chaplain to the Owen Sound Hospital. Most recently I have been accepted into a Level 2 Clinical Pastoral Education Course being offered at the Owen Sound Hospital. It begins in September and concludes in April 2019. See? The learning never stops!

Though my prayer desk may not be affixed to the floor in a church but rather sitting in the beauty of nature that is our

Bruce County, I know that I am working as one of God's children in sharing His love with all that I encounter. May you find your prayer desk to be a place of refreshment and prayerful contemplation to accept all God has to offer you.

Shalom,

*Rev. Ann Veyvara-Divinski*

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