

All Saints Parish in CBS - A parish made stronger by coming together to overcome obstacles!!



This year we celebrate the **80th anniversary** of our Church, and we thank God for our amazing history. As a Parish, we are so blessed to be the home of such a large and vibrant congregation!!

For our youth we are home to an active CLB Company, numerous Youth Groups, a busy Sunday school program, as well as a confirmation class, to name just a few. For the adults we boast a busy ACW team, an Anglican mens' fellowship group, choirs, church bands, regular Sunday night fellowship meetings, vacation Bible schools, Bible studies and training, visitation of the sick and shut-ins, meals on wheels, and many other activities in our Parish Hall that are just too numerous to mention.

Our current physical church building is starting to show its age, and consequently it is in need of repairs - in fact it now requires a major overhaul.

In response to this daunting challenge, our congregation has recently authorized a major renovation project, which has been strategically dissected into several manageable phases. Phase-1 is addressing our exterior issues which include reinforcing the foundation, resurfacing the roof with modern metal shingles, boxing in the eaves, adding extra bracing to the roof and walls, replacing all windows with new energy efficient units, replacing the siding with high-wind rated vinyl siding, and installing new main exterior doors. Needless to say, all these refurbishments cost money,

and raising this money means a serious commitment from our congregation.

Rev Shelia White is not one to be discouraged!! Under her guidance, with the blessing of Vestry, and with the tenacity of a committed group of lay-people, an achievable plan has been devised.

We have offered the entire All Saints community the opportunity to become "owners" in a selected section of the church renovations. For example, for \$1000 a person (or maybe even chip in as a family) can donate a window to the church in memory of a loved one. Alternatively, \$250 would purchase a square of siding, or \$100 would purchase a section of roofing. A small plaque will indicate the window, section of siding or section of roof that the donor has gifted to the legacy of their family, and to their future generations.



The next step was to organize a number of committees, capitalizing on the unique gifts, skills and specialized wisdom of many individuals. Rather than just following the traditional cliché of the same 20% of the congregation doing 80% of the work, a plan was formulated to encourage all parishioners to donate their time and diverse skills.

The results have been nothing less than incredible! The first surprise was that people almost literally "came out of the woodworks" - computer experts, business

consultants, marketers, carpenters, fundraisers, and so on. Many had never before offered their services, but all chose to step forward at this time to answer the call.

The second big surprise was the commitment!! As of the writing of this column (mid June) we have over \$93,000 committed to this renovation project. As one woman so nicely put it, "buying her piece of the church".

So now we are reaping the big reward - materials are arriving on site, and construction starts June 20th, just four short months after our February 20th congregational meeting - **God has truly blessed us!!!**

This is without a doubt a testimony to our rich past, the bristling pride of our current congregation, and with God's help, our collective will to move forward. All Saints has welcomed many new families to our ever-changing community, as we continue to "**Fight the Good Fight**". Not only have these new families volunteered their time and skills, but we have also witnessed an increase in our Sunday church service attendance, with much more active youth participation.

If you or your family would like to become an active member of this close-knit family, or to be involved in our "church ownership" project, please contact us at 834-4501, or for continuous updates just visit our website at

www.allsaintsparish.ca