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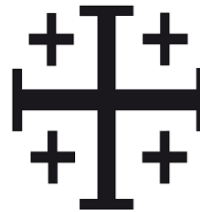
Web Site www.churchoftheascensionsudbury.com

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From the Bishop Anne...

To the members of the Church of the Ascension.



Sudbury, Ontario

January 5th, 2017

"The Fellowship of the Believers - Acts 2: 42-47

"The devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favour of all people. And the Lord added to their number those who were being

saved."

Dear friends in Christ at the Ascension,

Greetings at the beginning of this new year. I'm writing to you from a Convent cell in Cincinnati Ohio - The Community of the Transfiguration. I have spent the last three and a half days in a mostly silent pre consecration retreat with three other bishops elect from the Diocese of Toronto. The retreat has been led by the gifted Bishop Barbara Andrews from the Diocese of the Central Interior. Our time here has been rich, full, and challenging - spiritually, mentally and emotionally.

Aside from the hard work and the intense hours we have spent together in learning, prayer and discussion, we have also been very fortunate to have been here with the sisters of the Transfiguration.

The sisters modelled for me what it means to be the Christian community described above in the 2nd Chapter of Acts. I want to share with you some of what I have observed here in Cincinnati as being the only way forward for the Ascension, and for every community that calls themselves 'Christian'.

The sisters live together in a beautiful large home in suburban Cincinnati with lovely trees and walking paths surrounding the main building. There are about 20 sisters living in this community. When you enter through the front doors you know that you have arrived 'home' to a place that is cared for and cherished. This is home for them and was for me a place of security and love. Some of the sisters teach in the school across the road, while others are very involved in the smooth running of the convent and the St. Mary's Retreat house, which is where we stayed.

In the earlier years of the convent when many of the sisters were younger they spread themselves abroad to develop houses in other countries. There is an infirmary at the convent and some of the sisters reside there. The sisters wear blue habits and their crosses are all the Jerusalem cross which features a central cross and four smaller crosses in the corners. This represents their outreach into the four corners of the world.

I witnessed firsthand the love and presence of Christ in this small community in large and small ways.....

When we arrived on Monday afternoon we were greeted at the front door by Anne and shown around so that the sisters home could become our home too. On the door of each of our bedrooms was a beautiful photograph with a quote on it, and our name on the door. We shared simple meals with the sisters in their dining room. They sit in a different place for each meal so they can visit with each other and with us. Lunch meals are held in silence and we listened to a chapter or two of a book on one of their mission experiences in Puerto Rico.

Community groups use the Spiritual Centre on a daily basis for retreats, yoga, spiritual direction, and many guests arrive daily to share in worship and meals with the sisters. All guests are welcomed by name at the meal they share in. Whenever I got lost in the maze of buildings a sister would appear and guide me to the nearest exit. Every evening a cozy fire was prepared for us in the living room for our after dinner sessions.

That's Christian hospitality.

The prayer and worshipping life at the Convent is simple but meaningful. The sisters worship together five times a day and I joined them for each of these services over the last few days. The first service, Lauds, begins long before the break of day. A bell rings five minutes before the service begins and the sisters enter the oratory in silence. When a guest enters a sister rises from her place to greet them and invites the guest to sit next to her so she can help them make their way through the liturgy, whether that be a Service of the Word or a Eucharist. There is a Chaplain in the community who leads the Eucharist service but the sisters themselves take turns leading Lauds, Morning Prayer, Noon Day Prayers, Evening Prayer and Compline. They lead quietly from where they are seated and the community reads and prays in unison. The sisters take turns preparing the altar for worship, moving furniture, assisting the priest at the Eucharist. During prayers they remember each other in prayer, particularly those sisters who are ill, but they also remembered the wider church and the needs of the world. They prayed for their president and their president elect at every service. ***That's being rooted in the teachings and pattern of Christ and the baptismal promise to continue in the 'Apostles teaching, in the fellowship and the prayers.'***

Meals are held in community three times a day. The meals are simple and at first glance it doesn't always appear that there will be enough to go around so large a group. But there always is. No food goes to waste because Wednesdays are "Second Blessing Days" which in our home would be called - 'leftover day'. Although the community has a large endowment fund which it uses for its operations the sisters live very simply and it seemed to me that they lived below their means. There are a number of benefactors who support the work of the community. Each one is thanked for their gift and sees the result of what they have given through stories and photographs. One sister has written a book on their work in Puerto Rico, and we listened to part of it over lunch. ***That's mindfulness, gratitude and good stewardship.***

Several of the sisters are pretty elderly and many are frail. They use walkers and some have wheelchairs. I noticed how gently and lovingly the sisters care for the frail during chapel times and during meals. One sister will wheel another to the table where there the food is set out and assist her in selecting her meal. Another will help a sister cut her food or fill her cup. Everyone waits until all are served and then grace is said. During the meal the sisters speak softly to one another or to their guests, enquiring about their day. No one leaves the dining room until all have finished eating. Announcements are given after the meal and everyone listens respectfully. They plan outings together and watch movies together. If a sister isn't in the dining room due to ill health, they ask about her. ***That's loving one another and caring for each another as members of the body of Christ.***

And finally, when the sisters are not at home in the convent they are working in the mission field, teaching or working in prisons. Each person they meet is treated as though he were Christ himself. Their work has taken them all around the world and the walls of the convent are full of photos of their mission work which has taken place in countries all around the world. The sisters are proud of the seeds of the gospel that have been planted, but there is a humility in the telling of their stories. ***This is answering the call to love our neighbours as ourselves and to respect the dignity of every human being.***

I share this with you now because I have been part of and witnessed all of these aspects of life in community at the Church of the Ascension over the last 16 years. Hospitality, a rich prayer, study and worshipping life, being centered in and having the mind of Christ, caring for each other and reaching out beyond our doors are the hallmarks of who we are. Never forget this and never lose sight of it for it is a beautiful thing to behold. Thank you for your gifts, freely shared and given and for your faithfulness in all things.

Blessings,
Anne

From the Wardens...

'Almighty God, the giver of all good gifts, who of thy divine providence has appointed divers Orders in thy Church; Give thy grace, we humbly beseech thee, to all those who are to be called to any office and administration in the same; and so replenish them with the truth of thy doctrine, and endue them with innocency of life, that they may faithfully serve before thee, to the glory of thy great Name, and to the benefit of thy holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.' (Collect for the Lenten Ember Days, Book of Common Prayer, Canada, 1962; pp. 142, 210-11.)

This article is being written at about a week before the first of the traditional Ember Days of Lent—the Church calendar marks them as the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday between the First and Second Sundays of Lent--and yet there is a poignancy to the prayer that feels especially relevant to our Parish at the start of 2017's Lenten season, and so I hope I may be spared an indulgence in using it a bit ahead of schedule.

It may well prove to be a Lent to remember: the wild winter storm that forestalled the evening events for Ash Wednesday will certainly be talked about for some time to come, and it is a Lent that sees the Church of the Ascension without a Rector for the first time in a decade-and-a-half. The pages of this edition of the Ascension Witness are replete with images and articles of both our fond farewell to our former Rector and the celebration of her consecration as Bishop of our Diocese, and so it seems an appropriate segue, as our Parish's story moves and responds to the multiple narratives laid before us by a Living God, that the Beginning of our Concurrence Process coincides with the season of Lent.

Lent's emphasis on reflective contemplation, solemn prayer, a contrite and humble spirit, and re-orientation of our human selves with God through Christ's perfect human and Godly example seems particularly apt for a Parish embarking on its first steps, as whole, towards the process of discovering and gaining a new Rector. The process, only just now in its earliest stages, can seem a daunting one—equally to those who've been through a Concurrence and them for whom it is an entirely new experience—and there will be questions and times of uncertainty. This is to be expected, and while not everything can be anticipated, your Wardens want you to know that we, the General Board, the Honorary Associate and Honorary Assistants, our Diocesan Postulant, and the (very -shortly-to-be-collated) new Archdeacon, are here to help you with your concerns,

questions, and ideas surrounding the matter now before us.

There is much to consider, and gradually we will engage the elements of the process in their fullness: in this edition of the Witness you will find an extract of the Diocesan Policy Manual's description of the procedure for the Appointment of Clergy to a Parish. On Thursday, February 23, the Wardens met with the Archdeacon-designate, the Venerable Glen Miller, to discuss The Beginning of the process, as outlined in the Policy Manual, and we felt it prudent to include the document we received from the Archdeacon for you to peruse during this initiatory phase. We encourage you to examine it, in the spirit of Lenten prayer and reflexion, and to consider what possible role you see for yourself within the Concurrence and Appointment process as it unfolds: as we set about electing a Committee via special Vestry, as we discern and describe who we are as a Parish, and followers—perpetuators!—of Christ's ministry, and as we engage with the Bishop and prospective candidates. It is a serious document, befitting the task it lays out, but a practical one; we encourage you talk about it, and if and where you have questions, we hope you will seek the answers from those of us who are responsible for answering them, as best we can.

Presently, we expect to convene the Concurrence Committee election Special Vestry soon after Easter; Diocesan policy mandates that notice of a Vestry meeting must be given at services on two separate Sundays. Archdeacon Glen Miller has made himself available to Chair this Vestry. Further details about the Vestry, and the Nominating Committee for the election, will be forthcoming after the next meeting of the General Board, which is scheduled for March 14.

While the Concurrence and Appointment processes loom largely in the life of our Parish, they are not, and must not become, the centre of that life. Christ's ministry, and His calling us to that same ministry—to God and to our neighbours—ought to remain at the centre of all we do: a task far more immense than any one of us might ever hope to manage. Be comforted then, that we are not alone, for we have the Spirit, the Communion of the Saints, and one another, to support us in our work: as we worship; as we pray; as we study; as we teach; as we bring Christ's example into our everyday lives; as we bear witness to our faith in Christ; by our personal service to the Church and to the community; as we see to the stewardship of the Charge left to us by Him, and them that have gone before, with an eye toward those who shall soon follow.

Christ's call makes us all ministers in His Church, and so the Collect for the Lenten Ember Day is a prayer for us all—the Officers and Administrators of God's Church—in whatever capacity we find ourselves. The Wardens offer this Collect to God on your behalf, and beg you to pray it on ours, as well; so tasked and supported, may this Lent, indeed, prove to be one we remember well.

In Christ's service, and yours,

Brent Leigh

Concurrence...

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA POLICY MANUAL

Appointment of Clergy to a Parish (Revised November, 2002)

(retrieved March 1, 2017 from <http://www.dioceseofalgoma.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=content&PageID=1004&PageCategory=124#Appointment%20of%20Clergy%20to%20a%20Parish>)

The Beginning

1. The Incumbent resigns to the Bishop and announces it to the congregation after consultation with the Bishop.
2. The church wardens consult with the territorial archdeacon regarding the timing and process of an appointment.
3. The church wardens arrange an official inspection of rectory facilities by the deanery officials.

The Concurrence Committee

4. In the case of a self-supporting parish that is current in stipend, levy, and other commitments, the wardens consult with the territorial archdeacon to learn about the appointment process and to agree on a time for a vestry meeting to elect a concurrence committee. The concurrence committee shall be composed of not more than seven nor less than three communicants of at least the age of eighteen (Canon 1-1.3 a). It is recommended that one member of the concurrence committee be a warden. A healthy balance of people who represent the life of the parish is recommended. Those elected are required to keep confidences and interviewing skills would be helpful. The Bishop requests that concurrence committees be comprised of lay members of the congregation.
5. For self-supporting parishes, the vestry is called with the required two notices at services on separate Sundays. It is most appropriate for the date to be arranged so the territorial archdeacon can be present at the meeting to give guidance and information and to represent the Bishop. The vestry operates in accordance with the rules in the canons (Canon J-1) and a chairperson of the vestry is elected from the duly qualified voters present.
6. In the case of a parish which is part-time, assisted, or which is in arrears to the Diocese for stipend, travel, or apportionment, the bishop has the right of direct appointment under Canon I-1.4.b) and Canon I -1.1. Where the Bishop feels that a consultative process would be beneficial to the circumstances, he may suggest a process of consultation with the wardens, or with the wardens and delegates to Synod.
7. In parishes where there is not a full-time stipend available for the incumbent, the Bishop will normally make a direct appointment.

Parish Profile and Planning

8. The church wardens should contact the territorial archdeacon to arrange coverage for services and ministries during the interim and to ensure that the deanery officials have certified:
 - a) that sufficient financial resources are in place to enable an appointment;
 - b) that the rectory is in good repair;
 - c) that parish resources are available for the interviewing process and for moving costs.Interviewing costs will include a visit to the Synod Office for a time with the Bishop.

Moving expenses are generally the responsibility of the parish. Depending on the availability of funds, arrangements can be made, if necessary, for a loan to cover part of the moving expenses from the Clergy Moving Loan Fund through the Diocesan Treasurer.

9. The concurrence committee chair contacts the executive archdeacon as to how to complete the parish profile. The compiling of the profile is designed to be a widely participatory process which the Advisory Board may already have underway, prior to or during the selection of the concurrence committee. After election, the chair of the concurrence committee forwards the profile, when complete, to the Bishop's office.

Communications Channels

10. The existence of an opening is public information and can be shared with anyone. Interest in the position from any applicant must be directed to the Bishop and not the concurrence committee.

11. Guidelines of the National House of Bishops prohibit anyone acting in an official capacity from approaching any clergy person serving in another Diocese without going through the Bishop in the Diocese where the opening has occurred.

Interviewing the Nominees

12. The concurrence committee presents the profile to the Bishop and consults with the Executive Archdeacon in person or by conference call.

13. The Bishop and the Executive Archdeacon conduct the reference checks and make enquiries about the suitability of applicants.

14. The Bishop will present the name or names with basic biographical information to the concurrence committee. The concurrence committee chair is then usually directed by the Bishop or Executive Archdeacon to be in direct contact with the interviewees. The chair of the committee is then responsible for interview arrangements. Profiles are sent to the nominees. The interviewers may wish to request fuller information from the nominees at this time. The names and the information supplied are confidential. The chair is requested to send all circulated information back to the Bishop, or see that it is destroyed when the task is completed.

15. No final commitment is made by either party in the initial interview.

16. In the interview the nominees should be asked to respond to the parish profile sent ahead of time. It is an appropriate time to review the stipend, housing arrangements, travel allowance and moving expenses. Please consult with the Bishop and the Diocesan Treasurer if there are any variances below the minimum stipend, the housing allowance formula, or other policies of the Diocese. Where there is a rectory, the interviewee should be allowed a thorough inspection.

17. In the case of a self-supporting parish, the Bishop nominates one or more clergy for the vacant cure (Canon I-1.3 c). If concurrence cannot be achieved in three successive nominations in a six-month period, the appointment is in the hands of the Bishop (Canon I-1.3 e). The Bishop has the right of appointment to any parish that is part-time, assisted or in arrears (Canon I -1.1 and Canon 1-1.4. b).

18. The territorial archdeacon assists in arranging coverage during the vacant incumbency. The territorial archdeacon is not a party to the confidential names given to the concurrence committee on the Bishop's list of nominees. It is inappropriate to ask the territorial archdeacon to express an opinion on any name given.

Confidentiality is critical to the operation of the concurrence process. For parish clergy, knowledge that they were being considered for appointment elsewhere could well undermine their pastoral relationships at home. Nominees being considered for appointment have a right to expect confidentiality, and it is the duty of the committee to keep the names, the deliberations, and the written records confidential. When the pro-

cess concludes, written materials should be returned to the chairperson and destroyed.

19. Interviews or visits may be arranged in accordance with the means of the parish. The territorial archdeacon can provide guidance as to the appropriate protocol and etiquette.

The Appointment

20. The concurrence committee advises the Bishop of their choice of nominee.

21. The Bishop advises all the nominees that a decision has been reached. (The concurrence committee should not be in contact with any of the interviewees until this has been done by the Bishop or the Executive Archdeacon.)

22. The appointment is made by the Bishop, and the effective date agreed to.

23. The appointee consults with the Diocesan Treasurer about stipend and other financial arrangements (in parishes with central payroll).

24. The Bishop issues a letter of appointment to the appointee. The signed letter of appointment is returned by the appointee prior to an announcement. This may take a week or two.

25. The territorial archdeacon consults with the wardens to arrange for a service of welcoming and celebration of a new ministry within thirty days of the effective date of appointment and at a time when the clergy of the region can attend. The Bishop issues to the territorial archdeacon a Mandate for a Celebration of New Ministry.

Housing Allowances

26. Some parishes offer housing allowances in lieu of rectory. Where this is done, the Bishop needs to be assured that it will not place an undue strain on the financial resources of the parish. The concurrence committee needs to work with the wardens to establish ahead of time the parameters of the housing allowance, if any, being offered. The Executive Committee presently has a moratorium on selling rectories. If the housing allowance is new, the advisory board and wardens will have to develop a plan for the rental or alternate use of the present rectory.

Self-Supporting Churches

As a result of decisions made at Synod 1997, parishes that are current with all their financial obligations are able to offer a salary above the diocesan minimum. Suggested amounts in the Stipend Task Force report at Synod 1997 (but not passed by the Synod) were as follows:

- Parishes with an average Sunday attendance of 100 to 130, 10 percent above the minimum stipend;
- Parishes with an average Sunday attendance of 130 to 180, 20 percent above the minimum stipend;
- Parishes with an average Sunday attendance of 180 plus, 30 percent above the minimum stipend.

Increased responsibility allowances would also be in order where there are multiple points, or isolation.

The above examples are merely suggestions. Each self-supporting parish is free to pay the minimum only, or any amount they choose above the minimum. The concurrence committee should work out ahead of time with the wardens and the advisory board agreed costs with respect to interviewing procedures, moving costs, housing costs, and a salary range. The concurrence committee then makes the final financial determinations within those ranges prior to the appointment.

In the parish...

Thanks be to God - In His Love

Ascension's Farewell Prayer for our Rector, The Venerable Anne Germond
In her a 'new creation' as our 'new' Bishop of Algoma

"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."
Matthew 5:16 (NRSV)

Heavenly Father we stand before you today to give grateful and loving thanks for the many blessings you have given to us through your loving and caring servant Anne.

We give thanks and praise for the many wonderful ways she has carried out her ministry at the Ascension and beyond our doors in the Greater City of the Sudbury community.

She has carried Your cross for the past 16 ½ years here at the Ascension. Her delight in You Lord has grown in many of us! Her heartfelt belonging to You Christ, has filled her with such genuine compassion that which she has shared with us in her calling to serve You. Never wavering, always humbly reminding us, quote "it is not about me"! Jesus is the gift given to us all; it is the light of Christ that shines through her; her words spoken are through His teaching shared with us through her wisdom and preaching. For You Lord, are the cornerstone upon which she stands. She bears Your cross as a disciple! You Lord, blessed us with her presence as Your faithful and lowly shepherd at the Ascension. She fed and nourished us, the flock that you entrusted her with as she served You as our Rector.

May you Anne find 'new creation' in your next journey to serve as our Bishop,
May you go with our love, as you continue to walk in His ways in all that you do!
Know that we will forever be grateful to Him for bringing us together,
And may you fill the hearts of others with His peace, joy, hope and love, as you did us!

So we say as ONE in the body and blood of Christ...

Thanks be to God, for...

It is God who calls to you Anne to step out of your comfort zone; (The Ascension)

It is God who is ready for you to take up your Bishop staff and 'fill your cup of life';

It is God who has prepared you for bigger things, 'more than we can ask or imagine'!

Thanks be to God, for...

It is God who calls to you to spread your wings far and wide;

It is God who lets His light shine in you, through you, and all around you;

It is God who takes pleasure in YOU as YOU; a woman worthy of His honour and grace!

Thanks be to God, for...

It is God who watches and waits with you, His door is always open; (like yours was for us!)

It is God who sees you thirst, and your readiness to receive;

It is God who chose you to this ministry as our Bishop of Algoma!

Thanks be to God, for...

It is God who blessed and gave us your presence on Chronos time;

It is God who stands with you and leads you now to go onwards and upwards;

It is God who calls you to be His steward as our Bishop in Kairos time!

Thanks be to God, for...

It is God, our God who works in mysterious ways;

It is God, our God who will carry us on with what you gave to us and you now leave with us;

It is God the Father, the Almighty of heaven and earth who will watch over us both!

"Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

1 Corinthians 15:58 (NRSV)

For it is in His love you give of yourself so willingly and passionately,

And it is in the joy you sowed so bountifully we will also reap so bountifully,

For it is through His goodness you gave to us, that we will grieve our loss,

But it is with heartfelt love and the love of Christ we graciously send you off!

For it is in giving we do receive His cup of everlasting life;

It is with hope in His name we submit to the heavens a-glowing!

For your journey in His love has not ended, it is just a 'new' beginning...

One filled with prayers, love and compassion for our Lord overflowing.

We love you Anne!

May you find 'New Creation' in your call to serve as our Bishop,

May you go with our love to continue what he calls you to do.

It is with great joy and a feeling of sorrow and loss

That we give our Lord thanks today for the many gifts you gave to us.

It is with God's infinite love we ask Him to hear our prayers;

It is to God we joyously sing you praises with thanksgiving and in His glory!

In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Written on behalf of all parishioners at the Ascension
With love always – February 5th, 2017 – by Kath Greenidge



2017-02-11 Anne's Consecration as Bishop of Algoma



2017-01-11 Messy Church. Our People's Warden & our Godly Play story teller Jen Ames sharing the story of the Epiphany.

Coming Events

Shrove's Pancakes on Tuesday Feb 28th 5 pm to 6:45 pm. Volunteers and eaters are needed. Please see sign up sheets in church lobby. The proceeds from a 'free will' offering are going to Paul Murdock who will be walking for 'The Coldest Night of the Year' fundraiser for the Samaritan Centre.

Ascension Games on Friday, March 24. Bingo from 2-4 and 6-8. All ages welcome! Bring your favourite game or a deck of cards and a snack to share. Beverages will be provided. A Bingo game will start at 2:30. Card tables will also be set up in the sanctuary for quieter games. If a ride is needed, please contact Jen Ames at (705)618-2319 or speak to her at church.

Ascension Yard Sale Happening on Saturday, April 22(Earth Day) from 8-3. Save your gently used items to donate. One persons junk is another persons treasure! Volunteers needed. Please speak to Jen Ames or call (705)618-2319

Celebrity Server Fundraiser for Vacation Bible School will be held on April 24th from 5-8pm at Boston Pizza! Come out, bring your friends and enjoy a great meal, all while helping raise funds for VBS.

And In The Parish ...

- Everyone seems to love those new names badges. Thanks Kath G!
- **Green Initiative.** There are new changes with the city regarding garbage collection. We now have Yellow not Blue boxes and no more Green bin. There are laminated instruction cards above the Yellow boxes. With the new Biz box program, the recycle boxes are now yellow not blue. There are instruction posters in 3 locations around the kitchen. We no longer use the green bins to collect compostable garbage instead it goes directly into the garbage. We are also on the Biz Program for the garbage collection. It allows us to put up to 3 bags of garbage to the curb weekly. For that, we use the yellow Biz bags that we purchase for a nominal fee from the City of Greater Sudbury

Outreach

Dear Friends in Christ,

Here are some activities coming up with our outreach.

Parish Life outreach] will be hosting a Taco lunch for BC on May 17th. We bring lunch to BC on June 24th; two other churches participate in the June lunch.

Kristina says that her vault to help students is in need of the following: tuna, soup canned fruit, baby wipes, deodorant, and any donation is appreciated.

We are in need of volunteers to help clean the red chairs in the church. We will try get some Barrydowne College students.

Our next OOTC supper is March 10th. We could still use a few volunteers. The last supper for the year is on April 21st.

I wish to thank all volunteers for the sustained help; without you we could not do this. Thank you!

Marie Vitone. Outreach



2017-01-13 OOTC - Marie Vitone, kitchen lead & Outreach Committee chair seen here with +Anne Germond & Larry Doner. Thanks Marie & Luke Norton for your ministry in Ascension's OOTC program. Thanks too for the continued support from our many volunteers.



2017-01-01 Mary Ann Kurchak & Joanie Servent joyfully ringing in the New Year as we celebrated during a reception following the 11;00am service.



2017-02-17 Valentine's Dance - Beaumont Nelson sharing his talent with Betty Bonas a great dancer herself!



2017-02-17 Valentine's Dance - DJ Ralph Mounter outdid himself as he kept the music going to the pleasure of those in attendance. Thanks DJ Ralph!

A night in Africa

A Night In Africa 2017 will take place on April 1st at Cambrian College Student Centre. The evening aims to raise the funds for 6 months of operation at Zawadi la Tumaini Children's Home, an orphanage in Kenya founded by Chelmsford native, Jacqueline Villeneuve, who has been a guest at the Ascension. A Night In Africa is a unique event featuring the tastes and sounds of Africa. With a unique African menu, South African wines, and incredible entertainment (featuring a very special surprise this year!!) A Night In Africa is sure to provide an unforgettable cultural experience for people of all ages supporting a worthy cause.

Tickets are \$100 and 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales supports Zawadi la Tumaini Children's Home. To purchase your tickets please call 705-969-1171 or contact Erma 705-988-4402

In the diocese...

New Archdeacons



Deanery of Algoma

On Sunday February 26, Bishop Anne officiated at the collation of The Ven. Roberta Wilson Garrett (incumbent St. Saviour's Blind River and Church of the Redeemer, Thessalon) as Archdeacon, Deanery of Algoma

Deanery of Sudbury-Manitoulin

On Saturday March 11, Bishop Anne will officiate at the collation of The Ven. Glen Miller (incumbent Christ Anglican Church, Live-ly and St. John the Divine, Copper Cliff) as Archdeacon, Deanery of Sudbury Manitoulin.



From the Pulpit...

"...but God gave the growth"

Fr. Bob Derrenbacher

I'd like to tell you about a story of a particular congregation of Christians. This congregation was founded by a pastor who stayed several years at the church, but then moved on to a different congregation elsewhere. A new pastor took over; he lasted a number of months, and then left as well. And in the midst of this change and transition, division began to take hold, with different factions in the church pitted against each other. The founding pastor heard about this unfortunate situation and was understandably very concerned. So he contacted the congregation, pleading that these divisions cease and that the Christians there would come back together under a common mission and direction.

You might think I'm speaking of a church somewhere in contemporary North America. After all, the story I just told is probably not that unfamiliar to most of you. And don't worry – I'm not speaking about the Church of the Ascension! Instead, the church I'm thinking of is the church in ancient Corinth; its founding pastor was none other than St. Paul. And this situation is the background for 1 Corinthians 3:1-9.

In this reading, we see that St. Paul says he can't speak with his readers as "spiritual people" (3:1). Instead, he calls them "people of the flesh," people who are not ready for "solid food" (3:1-2). They are an immature lot because of the "jealousy and quarreling" that now characterizes the church at Corinth (3:3). In fact, they are divided into competing factions around their former pastors – some are saying "I belong to Paul," with others saying "I belong to Apollos" (3:4). So in response to this situation, St. Paul reminds his readers that whichever pastor they might have in mind, it is ultimately God who causes growth to happen in their congregation. "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives growth" (3:6-7).

This reading speaks into our situation in direct and poignant ways. Now, as I said earlier, we are not like the church in Corinth in its division, in its factionalism. This is not something that I sense is at work in our midst, and I thank God for that. But we are like the church in Corinth in that we are a congregation in transition. And times of transition and change are often times of stress. Stress impacts health; stress can cause division. Stress can cause us to forget what the mission is to which God has called us as a community of believers. Our reading illustrates this for us quite well. Times of transi-



2017-01-29 Rev. Anne & Fr. Bob Derrenbacher enjoying a moment of laughter at the end of the 9:00am service on the occasion of Anne's birthday!

tion are never easy. But there are five things that I've been thinking about over the last couple of weeks as we enter into our own time of transition here at Church of the Ascension:

First, we need to allow ourselves a mixture of emotions. We should be happy that God has called Anne into this new ministry as our Bishop. We should be happy for her, and happy for us as we are still her flock, but in a different way than before. But it is also appropriate to mourn the loss of Rev. Anne, now Bishop Anne, to this new ministry to which God has called her. She was our Rector for over 16 years. She has baptized many of us, married a few of us, and buried a number of our loved ones. She visited us when we were sick in hospital. She took an active role in every church supper, Messy Church, and Out of the Cold Dinner. She has meant so much to so many of us. And she is now no longer our Rector. So we are also sad, we miss her, we are perhaps even fearful of what life will be like without her as our Rector. So we acknowledge our happiness for her, as well as our sadness and our sense of loss.

But second, in this acknowledgement, we need to also remember that God is with us, in control, and deserves all the credit. We have been reminded repeatedly of this fact by Bishop Anne ever since she was elected back in October. And we were also reminded of this in particular by Bishop Brian in his sermon to us on February 5, that all the good things that have come about in the last 16 years have not been any one person's doing, but have been the work of God. Our reading from 1 Corinthians affirms this: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives growth" (3:6-7). It is God who deserves the credit for any success over the past 16 years. It was God working through Anne, and working through each of us, which has caused us to experience growth – growth in numbers, growth in different types of ministries, growth in maturity in our faith.

As a result, thirdly, our varied ministries must continue. We cannot let our foot off the gas pedal. Again, this work is not our doing and not Bishop Anne's doing, but it is God's doing. Our calling to allow God to work through us is not put on hold, nor does it change because there is transition, or because we are entering a temporary period without a permanent Rector. Instead, our calling remains, and it remains unchanged. Our mission stays the same. And I believe that this continuation of ministry will give us the momentum we need through this transition period and will assist whomever it is that God is calling to become our new Rector.

Fourth, we need to trust in the wisdom of the search process for a new Rector. The Canons of our Diocese are clear in outlining how a new Rector is to be selected and installed here at Church of the Ascension. They provide a good balance between congregational input, committee recommendation and episcopal appointment. And we also need to remember that these Canons are tried and true and have been employed successfully hundreds of times in the history of our Diocese. They certainly were employed successfully 16 years ago. So we need to have faith in the process, and have faith that God will guide us and Bishop Anne in selecting our new Rector.

Fifth and finally, in the midst of this transition, we must not become scattered from each other, or worse, divided from each other. St. Paul addresses this precise situation

in his letter to the Corinthians. Again, because of their divisions, because of the factions that had arisen in the congregation in Corinth, St. Paul says that the Corinthians are not "spiritual people." Instead, due to their "jealousy and quarreling," they are "people of the flesh" and are spiritually immature, "not ready for solid food." Division and disunity is the biggest threat to any church in transition. But our readings call us to guard against this, to continue to live in mature Christian faith.

Matthew 5:21-26 speaks to this as well, reminding us that division, particularly anger and insults directed towards brothers and sisters in Christ, is not acceptable for a community of disciples; Jesus calls us to be reconciled with our brother or sister before coming to worship, the thing that most fundamentally and most regularly unites us as a body of believers. And our liturgy is designed with this in mind. After the scripture readings, the sermon and the Creed, we pray and confess our sins, and we do so audibly, aloud to one another. We then express our reconciliation with each in the passing of the peace. This allows us to move into the celebration of the Eucharist as a group of fellow-sinners and fellow-offenders forgiven and reconciled, capturing the spirit of today's Gospel lesson from the Sermon on the Mount.

So once again, I urge us as fellow parishioners in this time of transition to recognize the variety of emotions that we might be feeling, to remember God is in control and in charge, to continue our various ministries, to trust in the process of selecting a new Rector, and, to work to ensure that we don't become scattered and divided from each other. I am confident that if we keep these five things in mind, by God's grace, our time of transition will be one that is marked by mission, by mutual support and love for each other, and by a common life-giving Sunday worship experience.

"Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain"

Ms Patti Brace



Today is the last Sunday of Epiphany, the season whose name means "showing forth" and we are poised on the mountaintop, being shown what we have known since Christmas. Back then we heard from the gospel of John that "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth" (John 1.1, 14). "Glory" is indeed what we see in both our lesson from Exodus and today's Gospel reading, and the spectacle of God's self-revealing in both has the glitz and glamour of a show in Vegas. We have flames, smoke, bright lights, and special effects that glow and sparkle. But this is also the point in Matthew's gospel when Jesus turns toward

Jerusalem and what is to come. Right before and right after this moment, Jesus predicts his death and resurrection, and in our liturgical year we are on the cusp of Lent, a season of reflection and penitence with all of the uncertainty that self-examination brings. As a parish, Ascension has experienced the beautiful showing-forth of Bishop Anne's consecration and the sweetness of her return on her first episcopal visit last week, and we are now entering fully the period of transition and its uncertainties.

What are we to do with the contrast between what we see on these mountaintops and what we know to be around us? I think that our passage from John, the words from our reading from 2 Peter, and The Wizard of Oz may help us out. Cast your minds back to the scene toward the end of the movie when Dorothy, Toto, the Tin Man, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion finally make their way to the Emerald

City and gain an audience with the Wizard. They stand in awe of the spouting flames and the weirdly green skull. They cower and shake. And then Toto pulls back the curtain to reveal someone who looks quite ordinary. The little man quickly tugs the drape back into place and the booming Wizard voice says, "Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain." While that voice tries to turn their attention back to the visual spectacle, it tells the truth: there is a man behind the curtain. And that man, while apparently perfectly ordinary and a great disappointment, turns out to have what the travelers need in order to live their lives. He gives the Tinman, the Scarecrow, and the Cowardly Lion symbols that help them to be what they already are: loving, intelligent, and brave. He makes an ingenious attempt, finished by Glinda the Good Witch, to help Dorothy get home. In our passage from John we hear that the Word was in the beginning with God and was God, became flesh, and lived among us. The Word is what is true and the Word is with us. In 2 Peter, the writer claims to have been an eyewitness to the scene on the mountain-top, but what we actually find out is that he was really an ear witness. He says that "we ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain" (2 Peter 1.18). That is his claim to authority as one of the apostles. The most important information, the truth about Jesus, comes from what they heard, not what they saw.

If we go back to the scene of the Transfiguration, it looks rather a lot like the scene from The Wizard of Oz. Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up the mountain and suddenly they see things. Jesus glows and Moses and Elijah appear beside him. Peter babbles a bit desperately about making dwellings for them, a voice booms out of a bright cloud, and all three disciples collapse on the ground "overcome by fear" (Matt. 17.6). But what does the voice say? It points to Jesus, the man they know, and says, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" (Matt. 17. 5). Jesus is God's Son, the One who is God. God's action toward him is to love—he is the one who is beloved and delighted in. "Delighted in" is another translation for the Greek word our text gives as "well-pleased". Jesus is the Word we hear about in John, the one to be listened to. What is true comes to us in what we hear. And it comes to us in a man. What that man does next is really important. Jesus comes to his disciples in their fear, reaches out and touches them, and says, "do not be afraid" (Matt. 17. 7). And when they follow this instruction, they are able to look up from the immediacy of their terror, and what they see is "no one except Jesus himself alone" (Matt. 17. 8). But they know that Jesus is the Son, the Beloved, the Word they are to listen to, the One by whom they have been touched, and the One who said not to be afraid of what they have seen around them.

As they leave the mountain, Jesus gestures ahead to what is to come, saying, "Tell no one about this vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead" (Matt. 17. 9). In order to be raised from the dead, he must first die. It will be scary and unpredictable. Peter will again things in a panic that he really wishes he hadn't. Jesus will be crucified. But they will know that Jesus is the Son, the Beloved, the Word they are to listen to, the One by whom they have been touched, the One who said not to be afraid of what they see around them, and the One whose promise is resurrection. They know this not by what they see, but by what they have heard.

We will enter Lent on Wednesday, reminded that our human life is fragile and uncertain. As the parish of the Ascension, we bring with us our griefs over what has changed, our hopes for what may come, and our anxieties about how we get there. Through this Lent, let us listen to what we have heard, treat each other as ones beloved and delighted in, and, recognizing our individual fragility, touch each other gently; say "do not be afraid," and look toward what is promised.

I would like to close with a prayer by Bishop John Taylor that I've prayed more than a few times and that I think is a good one to take with us from Transfiguration into Lent:

*Father, if the hour has come to make the break,
help me not to cling,
even though it feels like death.
Give me the inward strength of my Redeemer, Jesus Christ, to lay down
this bit of life and let it go,
So that I and others may be free to take up whatever new and fuller life
you have prepared for us,
now and hereafter.
Amen.*

In the community...

Indigenous Student Circle presents

**International Women's Day -
ANISHINAABE'KWE WATER WALK
Wednesday March 8th, 2017**



**WATER IS LIFE
WATER IS SACRED**

Event Schedule

Sunrise Ceremony: Founders Square – 7 am

Water Walk (10km) Lake Nepawhin – 8 am – 10 am

Snacks & Guest Speakers: Canisius UofS – 10 30 am – 12 pm

Feast Lunch & Closing Ceremony: Canisius UofS – 12 pm – 1 pm

Join us in Ceremony! Everyone is Welcome!

Women are encouraged to wear skirts.



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Partners & Contributors



Centre Victoria
pour femmes

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705-207-4074 or crodrigues@laurentian.ca

A night in Africa

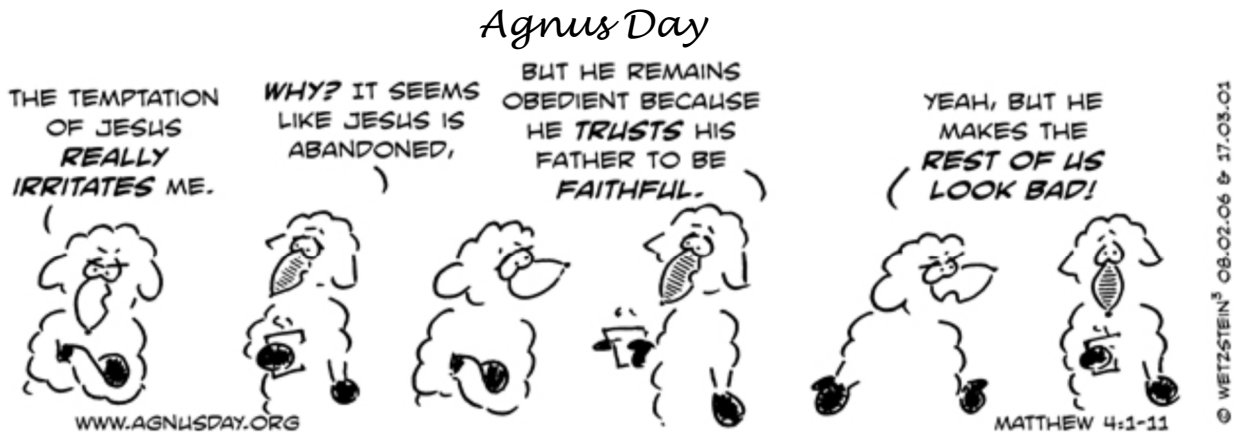
A Night In Africa 2017 will take place on April 1st at Cambrian College Student Centre. The evening aims to raise the funds for 6 months of operation at Zawadi la Tumaini Children's Home, an orphanage in Kenya founded by Chelmsford native, Jacqueline Villeneuve, who has been a guest at the Ascension. A Night In Africa is a unique event featuring the tastes and sounds of Africa. With a unique African menu, South African wines, and incredible entertainment (featuring a very special surprise this year!!) A Night In Africa is sure to provide an unforgettable cultural experience for people of all ages supporting a worthy cause.

Tickets are \$100 and 100% of the proceeds from ticket sales supports Zawadi la Tumaini Children's Home. To purchase your tickets please call 705-969-1171 or contact Erma 705-988-4402



2017-01-22 Annual Vestry Meeting. Standing is Cathy Dionne our church treasurer giving her report.

The next issue of *The Ascension Witness* will be in May 2017. Items for the May Edition of *The Ascension Witness* are due in by the 27th April. Please forward them to Glenn Lloyd at argeedblu@gmail.com



Your privacy

Every week the church bulletin and news and announcements is posted on the Church of the Ascension's website. Sometimes these items include names of individuals within the parish. If you prefer not to have your name on the website, or photos of yourself posted, please let Rev. Anne know so that she ensures your privacy.

The church website address is www.churchoftheascensionsudbury.ca

Address changes

If you have moved recently, if there are any changes to your address or phone number, or if you have changed your email address, please let the Parish Assistant Joan Servent know so that we can keep our database up to date. Joan can be reached at ascension@vianet.ca and is in the office on Wednesdays.



Family Name: _____

Person 1 _____

Person 2 _____

Address Family As _____

(John & Mary Smith, Mr. & Mrs J. Smith, The Smiths)

Address _____

City _____ Postal Code _____

Phone ____-____-____ (Please include all 10 digits)

Email address: _____