



Church of the Ascension 1476 Sparks St. Sudbury ON

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From the Interim Rector...

For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.... If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.” (1 Cor 12:12-14, 26 [NRSV])

Dear Ascensionites,

It's been nearly two months since my role at the Church of the Ascension changed from Honorary Associate to Interim Incumbent. Before, I didn't pay much attention to the (smooth) operations of the Parish; I was happy to preach, to celebrate the Eucharist when asked, and to lead the occasional book or Bible study. Things are different now – I'm sitting up and paying close attention, paying attention to how the Parish functions, all with a large cohort of dedicated volunteers who are dedicated followers of Jesus.

St. Paul's words to the Corinthians (printed above) come to my mind as I now have a new and fresh perspective of the Church of the Ascension as your Interim Rector. As a Parish, as a congregation of believers, we are "one body," irrespective of our backgrounds, ethnic heritages, social or educational statuses, age, at so on. As St. Paul writes: "For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free..." He goes on to say that each of the members of the Body are different "body parts" (head, hand, eyes, etc.) and therefore play different but complementary roles to each other. This is something I've noticed acutely at the Church of the Ascension over the past two months. As a "Body," the Ascension has many different "body parts," each playing an important role in how the "Body" functions. For example, I officiated at a funeral in the church recently. There was little for me to worry about related

to this funeral as so many of the pieces just naturally came together – music, food, sanctuary paraments, greeters, readers, sides people, and so on. And these were all ministries done quietly and faithfully by so many of you. For me, this was a moment when the Church of the Ascension, as a body of believers, functioned so seamlessly and devotedly. You made me proud and thankful to God for the temporary ministry to which he has called me at this time.

So as we go into the lazy, hazy days of summer, let us not forget that each of us are members of the Body of Christ. Each and every one of us has an important ministry to live out here in the Body. And, in the words of St. Paul, “when one member suffers, may we all suffer together; and if one member is honored, may we all rejoice together.”

Yours faithfully in Christ,

Fr. Bob Derrenbacher

Interim Rector

From the Rector's Warden...

As the recently appointed Rector's Warden, I feel it is appropriate to begin my first contribution to the Ascension Witness with a brief introduction, for the benefit of those I may not yet had an opportunity to meet.

My name is Pat Cunningham; my wife Betty and I regularly attend the 9 AM service. I recently retired from a 40 year career in Banking; for many years I have served and continue to serve on the board of governors and the executive committee at Thorneloe University and more recently, also as Treasurer. In my spare time I enjoy martial arts, reading , movies, jazz, rock, blues and my two cats and two dogs . Oh, Betty said make sure to include "spending time with your wife."

No one was more surprised than I when asked if I would consider the position of Rector's Warden. I gave it considerable thought and decided to accept for a number of reasons including:

- ✠ a sense, a belief, that Church of the Ascension is a welcoming place, a caring place, a place where god's grace and presence is truly and deeply felt. A place filled with good people, where good things happen.
- ✠ the enormous respect I have for Father Bob, for the work he does here at the Ascension , for his work as an academic and administrator at Thorneloe and the work he does with a number of other organisations.
- ✠ taking over from a much more than competent and dedicated incumbent and joining a team of wonderful people dedicated to the Ascension and its mission, making for a smooth transition.

As you all know, for the month of July we are joined at the Ascension by our neighbours from the Church of the Epiphany, to allow their clergy a well deserved summer break and for the month August we switch to Church of the Epiphany, to allow our clergy a summer break. Sunday July 2nd was the first Sunday of our 10 AM joint service

with our church of the Epiphany neighbours. It was a complete success, the Ascension was at near full capacity; there was lemonade iced tea and timbits. It was a privilege to welcome our Epiphany brothers and sisters. We are off to a wonderful summer of joint worship.

If anyone requires transportation, to and from the Church Epiphany for Sunday Worship during the month of August , please contact the Church of the Ascension or any of your Wardens and arrangements will be made. For those driving to the Church of the Epiphany during August, please note that if you park on any city owned parking area, including on any of the nearby streets, it is not necessary to pay or put money in the parking meters on weekends. Parking is free on weekends and after 6 PM on weekdays.

The Wardens invite all to share in welcoming Marie Vitone who will be leading the Pastoral Care Team moving forward. I am sure Marie is known to most, if not all of you. She is tireless with seemingly boundless energy. Thank you Marie for taking on this important role. Marie can be contacted at 705 - 560-1263.

Perhaps because of my banking background finances are always somewhere at, or near, top of mind for me. During the summer , for many of us, financial matters sometimes take a back seat as other things occupy our thoughts and time; unfortunately financial obligations do not take a holiday. The Wardens thank you for your ongoing support and sacrifice in your contributions to the Ascension and we recognize it is not always easy to contribute. During the summer, contributions may drop off somewhat. We ask that, as you are able, to please maintain your contributions, as best you can. To facilitate matters, you may wish to consider enrolling in the Ascension's Electronic Offering program. You can enroll for monthly contributions anytime; you can also change or stop electronic contributions anytime. Please feel free to contact any of your Wardens to enroll or if you have any questions.

This is the first summer in more than a decade and a half that the Ascension is without a full time Rector. In the Anglican circle of prayer, we pray for our Church every Sunday "during this time of transition and discernment". We can be comforted in the knowledge we have elected a dedicated Concurrence Committee at the special Vestry meeting of May 7th. The committee has already begun their work; the process is underway. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their work.

As always, your Wardens are available and welcome any questions, concerns or comments you may have. Please contact us collectively or individually, as you feel most comfortable, and let us always keep Ascension's mission top of mind:

"To share in the gathering work of Christ so that His newness of life overflows into our hearts, homes, churches, and community."

Pat Cunningham (Rector's Warden)



The best week of the summer!

- New friends • Amazing experiments
- Creative games • Lip-smacking snacks
- Surprising adventures • Incredible music

Church of the Ascension, Sudbury

Location: _____
(church name)

Mon., Aug. 14 to Fri., Aug. 18

VBS will last from: _____
(VBS dates)

9:00 a.m.

Each day's fun begins at: _____
(VBS starting time)

12:00 p.m.

The VBS day ends at: _____
(VBS ending time)

Cindy Caines @ 705-524-5394

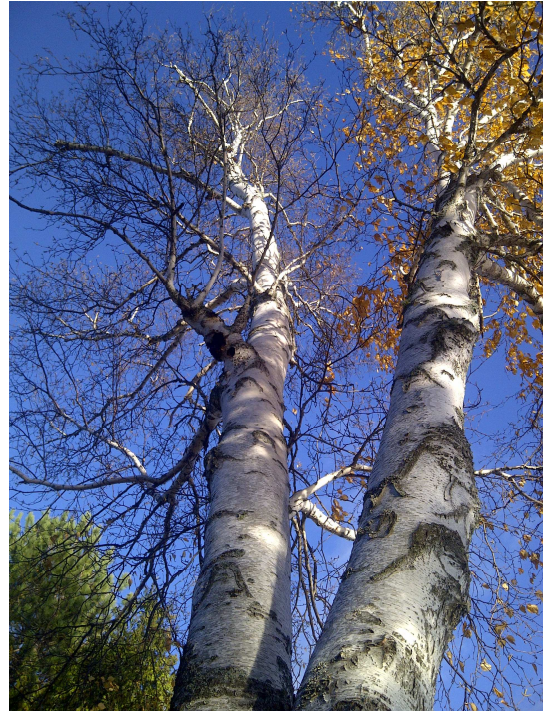
For more information, call: _____
(church phone number)

Or vbskidz@gmail.com

From the Church Mice

The Value of a Birch Tree

If asked, people would all have different views of the value of a birch tree. Some might say it provides shade in the summer or protection from the cold in the winter on those chilly evenings when the wind blows steady from the north. A builder or carpenter might see a particular piece of furniture in the tree just waiting to be etched out with a saw or a chisel, where as an herbalist would see the healing properties of birch as an anti inflammatory or astringent. The new green growth of yellow birch makes a refreshing tooth brush with its wintergreen flavoured sap. The bark of the tree mixed with some sap can make a water-tight canoe to travel the waterways. can also make for some very unique stationery to send to a much-loved friend far away.



It

God sees us as the birch tree. He can see all those wonderful things and more! He is able to see all our gifts and talents. He even sees those that we have not yet discovered or uncovered.

As disciples of Jesus, we should aspire to see people as God does. We need to look beyond the surface and help those who cross our path or along our journey to uncover the blessings they didn't yet know they possess. We need to pray for help seeing what God wants us to see in each other.

Ephesians 2:10: ¹⁰ "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them." (ESV)

Peace and blessings,

Joan Servent

In the community...

Students and staff from Barrydowne College hiked to the Ascension on Wednesday, May 18th. Leah Lepage had the whole room laughing with her interactive games and singing! Ole! Tacos were for lunch. Ascensionites ate and talked with the 30 guests about many things. A big shout out to all volunteers-particularly Chef Doris. Thank you all. Members of Parish Life gave thanks together and for each other at a potluck supper June 13th.

Along with other folks from the Ascension, PL participated in The Blanket Exercise at



This was a special evening. As Gladys Abigale said, "I get more out of giving to these students than they get from me." Marie Vitone gave the Elizabeth Gates Bursary on behalf of Del Gates. The Church of the Ascension was recognized as one of several community partners that evening. Congratulations to all Barrydowne College graduates. Our prayers go with you.

The Friendship Centre. A powerful tool of history, of memory, involving emotions and geography, The Blanket Exercise gave us ideas on how to redefine our relationships with the First Nations over the next 150 years. Thank you Erma for the invitation to attend this unforgettable afternoon.

Jane Cox (interim PL lead)

ARK Church of the Ascension Refugee Committee

On July 1, across the country, newcomers joined in citizenship ceremonies to become Canadians. Yet we continue to wait for our sponsored family of Syrian refugees to join us in Sudbury.

With all verifications and checks now completed, our family's mother, was invited to the Canadian embassy in Beirut on final processing of their visas. Her office advises her files have been for processing. We believe this logged with visa applications, Mexico City has the capacity to

We continue video calls, with interpreter, every two or three weeks. We continue to practice their English vocabulary and work to keep their spirits up during the long wait. On every call, Manar expresses her thanks for the generosity of our supporters to sponsor her family to travel to safety in Canada.

We continue to pray for further good news soon.



the kind assistance of an Arabic in-weeks. Manar and her children continue to practice their English vocabulary and work to keep their spirits up during the long wait. On every call, Manar expresses her thanks for the generosity of our supporters to sponsor her family to travel to safety in Canada.

The next issue of The Ascension Witness will be in September 2017. Items for the July Edition of The Ascension Witness are due in by the 25th August. Please forward them to Glenn Lloyd at argeedblu@gmail.com

Agnus Day



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: _____