

CORNERSTONE

October, 2015

20 Young Road
Kanata, Ontario
K2L 1W1
613-836-1001
www.stpaulshk.org

St Paul's
ANGELICAN CHURCH



“A growing community called to know Jesus Christ and make him known in the world by our presence.”

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. – Holy Communion Said service

9:15 a.m. – Traditional/Choral Holy Communion. Kids are invited to join the God Squad for children’s worship, crafts and games. Nursery care also available.

11:00 a.m. – Praise Music Holy Communion. Kids are invited to join the God Squad for children’s worship, crafts and games. Nursery care also available.

Other Services

10:00 a.m Wednesday – Bible Study and Eucharist

2:00 p.m. Thursday – “Seniors’ Afternoon Out” Service and Social

Inside this issue:

- Messages from Father John and Father Craig
 - God Squad Party
 - Christmas Bazaar
 - St. Paul’s Curling
 - Focus Groups at St. Paul’s
 - E100 update
- ...and more!

November edition deadline:
Tuesday, October 27, 2015

Please send submissions to:
cornerstone@stpaulshk.org



A message from Father John Thanksgiving

I love Thanksgiving. It is the time of year during which our hearts and minds turn toward God and all the wonderful and beautiful things he has given us. By necessity we, as creatures, need to spend time giving thanks to the Creator. Thanksgiving allows us to pause and reflect on the reality that all we have is a gift from God.

I believe that Thanksgiving is a perfect opportunity for us as Christians to reflect on the true essence of stewardship. By tradition, this is the time of the year when we take the opportunity to offer our thanks for the bounty of the harvest and the wonderful cycle of creation. The beautiful colours of the trees and the crisp temperatures point us to the upcoming winter. The church will be decorated with the signs of the season. Through these activities we are reminded of the Love God has for the world. He has given us a world that supplies us with our needs and much more.

He also challenges us to use our gifts to His Glory and Purpose. Stewardship is the management of the gifts we have received. Thanksgiving is an orientation to-

wards these gifts. If we are thankful we also become responsible for the way we use and share these gifts. There is no escaping the reality that God calls us to be accountable for the blessings we have received.

We are called through our baptism to share in the management of creation. This stewardship of creation is a call to justice and harmony in the distribution of the gifts of God. I am very thankful for all the blessings of this Parish and hope that we can come together on Thanksgiving Sunday and sing out our praises to our God. May you all recognise God in your life and work and may He continue to walk with us in our journey.

Peace Love and Laughter,



From the desk of Father Craig Transitions and new beginnings

September flew by...

It has been a time of new starts. Many students starting school a new, be it elementary, secondary or post-secondary schools and universities. Such transitions are often difficult and unnerving.

For St. Paul's and Christ Church we are in a time of transition, but not in regard to the work that Christ calls us into and we thank God for that! As mentioned in the September issue Jesus' work is alive and well in both parishes, e.g. Spaghetti Supper for the hospice at St. Paul's, October 3rd (completed by this publication) and the Primate coming to Christ Church Ashton, October 17th and 18th!

October is also the month of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving should always be a guiding principle of our faith. Psalm 126 paints a beautiful picture of what that looks like...

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them."

The Lord has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

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God Squad news

All Saints party, Sunday, November 1

God shines through the Saints like sunshine through a window!

Want to be a saint?

Come to God Squad Sunday November 1, 2015



If you are between the ages 4 to 12 years, you will find us in Rutter Hall (on the main floor) at the 9:15 and 11 am service.

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Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves. Psalm 126

How wonderful that all things don't rest on our shoulders! It is the Lord who restores the fortunes of His people! And the joy is that we get to participate in that work. Even in times of trial, mourning and distress, we still go out sowing seed. Doing God's kingdom work in good times and bad knowing that there will be a day of harvest!

I give **thanks** for all those preparing to lead focus groups in the coming months so that we can look at where and what seeds we will be sowing for

God. Let us keep them and one another in prayer as we continue to live into the fullness of life that Jesus offers.

In thanksgiving,
Fr. Craig



Dear parents with young children in church

by Jamie Bruesehoff, submitted by Diane Brown

You are doing something really, *really* important. I know it's not easy. I see you with your arms overflowing, and I know you came to church already tired. Parenting is tiring. Really tiring.

I watch you bounce and sway trying to keep the baby quiet, juggling the infant car seat and the diaper bag as you find a seat. I see you wince as your child cries. I see you anxiously pull things out of your bag of tricks to try to quiet them.

And I see you with your toddler and your preschooler. I watch you cringe when your little girl asks an innocent question in a voice that might not be an inside voice let alone a church whisper. I hear the exasperation in your voice as you *beg* your child to just sit, to be quiet as you feel everyone's eyes on you. Not everyone is looking, but I know it feels that way.

I know you're wondering, is this worth it? Why do I bother? I know you often leave church more exhausted than fulfilled. But what you are doing is *so* important.

When you are here, the church is filled with a joyful noise. When you are here, the Body of Christ is more fully present. When you are here, we are reminded that this worship thing we do isn't about bible study or personal, quiet contemplation but coming together to worship as a community where all are welcome, where we share in the Word and Sacrament together. When you are here, I have hope that these pews won't be empty in 10 years when your kids are old enough to *sit quietly and behave in worship*. I know that they are learning how and why we worship now, before it's too late. They are learning that worship is important.

I see them learning. In the midst of the cries, whines, and giggles, in the midst of the crinkling of pretzel bags and the growing pile of crumbs, I see a little girl who insists on going two pews up to share peace with someone she's never met. I hear a little boy slurping (quite loudly) every last drop of his communion wine out of the cup, determined not to miss a drop of Jesus. I watch a child excitedly color a cross and point

to the one in the front of the sanctuary. I hear the echos of "Amens" just a few seconds after the rest of the community says it together. I watch a boy just learning to read try to sound out the words in the worship book or count his way to Hymn 672. Even on weeks when I can't see my own children learning because, well, it's one of *those* mornings, I can see your children learning.

I know how hard it is to do what you're doing, but I want you to know *it matters*. It matters to me. It matters to my children to not be alone in the pew. It matters to the congregation to know that families care about faith, to see young people... and even on those weeks when you can't see the little moments, it matters to your children.

It matters that they learn that worship is what we do as a community of faith, that everyone is welcome, that *their* worship matters. When we teach children that their worship matters, we teach them that they are *enough* right here and right now as members of the church community. They don't need to wait until they can believe, pray or worship a certain way to be welcome here, and I know adults who are still looking to be shown that. It matters that children learn that they are an integral part of this church, that their prayers, their songs, and even their badly (or perfectly -timed, depending on who you ask) cries and whines *are* a joyful noise because it means they are present.

I know it's hard, but thank you for what you do when you bring your children to church. Please know that your family -- with all of its noise, struggle, commotion, and joy -- are not simply tolerated, you are a vital part of the community gathered in worship.

*This post originally appeared on I Am Totally *That* Mom by Jamie Bruesehoff@hippypastorwife.*

Calling all curlers

Season starts November 7

If you like a bit of exercise, friendly competition, and chatting over a beverage, then St. Paul's curling group is for you!

We curl **every second Saturday** evening at the Nepean Sportsplex from November until March. **Our season will start at 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 7.**

After we finish curling, we adjourn to a local pub for some après-curl refreshments.

This season's curling dates:

November 7 and 21

December 5

January 9 and 23

February 6, 20 and 27

March 5

We usually have about 20 curlers every year, with representatives from all three St. Paul's services and even a few participants from neighbouring churches. Invite your friends and neighbours to join us.

You will need clean, comfortable shoes, but you do not require any special equipment - the curling rink supplies the rocks and the brooms. No experience necessary - if you have not tried curling before, we will be happy to teach you.

The cost for the season is usually about \$60 (the exact amount depends on how many people participate).

If you are interested or have any questions, please contact Dave Dobson (dabdobson@gmail.com).

Hope to see you on the ice!

Dave



Christmas Bazaar

November 27-28

Mark your calendars and invite your friends!

St. Paul's annual Christmas Bazaar is coming:

Friday, Nov 27, 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, Nov 28, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Come out and enjoy a Chili Supper on Friday and Luncheon on Saturday.

We need your donations!!

Have you started your knitting, sewing, craft/gift ideas, baking & cooking plans to help contribute to this year's bazaar? We would also like to offer sales of pre-made deli/prepared foods for the bazaar weekend. So, if you would like to make and donate some yourself, please get cookin' and bring your donations to the church the week of the bazaar for our table. There will be announcements leading up to the bazaar with instructions for drop-off.

This year, **after each of the Sunday services in October, we will be offering pre-sale of a variety of home-made soups.** In November, our annual Meat Pie Orders will be taken as well after each service. The proceeds from all these sales will be part of the Bazaar profits.

Please support this important St. Paul's fundraiser, and stay tuned for more details during the announcements on Sundays.

Questions? Please contact Minx Mulhall at: minxmulhall@hotmail.com.



The little church at sea

by Johan de Jong

Introduction

Growing up on Java during the 1930s, part of our fun and learning came from singing short rhymes from children's books like *Het Regent-Het Zegent* (*It is Raining - it is Blessing*) and *Handje-Plak* (*Clap-Hands*) by Nelly Bodenheim.¹ They became part of my early memory bank and one of these together with the accompanying sketch still resides clearly in my memory. It tells a story about a Protestant clergyman from the island of Urk who was invited to preach on the island of Schokland (both small islands in the former Zuiderzee, now part of the North-East Polder), but under the impact of the roaring sea the poor man forgot his sermon:



De Dominee van Urk
Die zou op Schokland preeken
Door 't razen van de zee
Had hij zijn tekst vergeten

De Dominee van Urk - The Clergyman of Urk
Die zou op Schokland preeken - Was going to
preach on Schokland
Door 't razen van de zee - But through the roaring of
the sea
Had hij zijn tekst vergeten! - He forgot his sermon!

Many years later, I discovered that my great-grandfather, the Rev. Johannes Wiersma (1843-1925), a much beloved preacher at the Muiderkerk in Amsterdam for more than 37 years (1888-1925), had been invited to preach on the island of Urk in April of 1898; and that he wrote a short story about his experiences under the name, "The Little Church at Sea." Fifteen years later the tale was published in a collection of his short stories and essays. As Johannes always preached from the heart, forgetting the

sermon was not his problem; instead, the weekend provided him with some unexpected experiences. Because the simple story reflects the man, his church and his time, I decided to translate it for the benefit of his English-speaking descendants.

Little Church at Sea

By Johannes Wiersma, April 1898, translated by Johan de Jong April 2015.² (The Introduction, Post-script and [notes] were added to the original text.)

A week or so ago I received a short note from a kind colleague of mine requesting me to conduct a Sunday service at a small Dutch Reformed congregation on the island of Urk. He wasn't able to do so himself, but thought that I probably could, that it would be just the kind of task that would suit me, and that in so doing I would make him and Urk very happy. However, since my esteemed colleagues are always very friendly when they have a request to make, I didn't immediately accede to his amiable request. I had to think about it ... and yet in the end I did accept the call to preach on Urk for one Sunday.

On Saturday, when I was ready to leave, a member of the household said: "Pardon me Dominee, the thought of you - with the usual reverend emphasis on the word 'you'³ - preaching in that ramshackle little church tomorrow, makes me laugh. She meant well, she had been there a year or so ago and considered the little church to be a disgrace for our Church. She was surprised it hadn't collapsed already. So the prospects didn't look too happy, but in the end I thought I had to see it for myself.

Before I realized it, I had arrived in Enkhuizen, from where a steamboat, the "Minister Havelaar" would carry me across the waves to the island of Urk. The weather was wonderful, the sea enchanting! The well-known opening verse of a poem by Van Alphen, titled "The Sea", involuntarily came to my mind:

The awe-inspiring view! - now strengthens your eyes!
Behold the sea! - how beautiful!
How grand! - how immense!
The shores stand enraptured! - who can remain un-

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moved?
God's Majesty resides here!

Since I decided a long time ago to get acquainted with whom ever I met on my travels, I was soon seated between a farmer and his wife from the Edam region who were also going to Urk. By playing an haughty "dumb" one can rob oneself of so much enjoyment - at times spiritual joy - while travelling. The farmer's wife was afraid of getting seasick and consequently said little. But the farmer was very approachable and knew Urk, which I enjoyed. It was surprising to my ears when I heard him talk repeatedly about "fancy ones" and the "fancy church," without indicating that he did so in a derogatory way.

The use of the words instantly reminded me of earlier days in my youth, when three of us went to school in a village in North-Brabant, armed with a small lantern for use when it was getting dark upon return. We always had to pass a hostile person, who had a son of similar inclination, who whenever he could would tease us because we were "fancy ones." One evening when we passed the house, I can still see and feel it, the lantern was suddenly struck from our hands and we were thrown in a hedge with the less-than-friendly words: "There, fancy ones ... that is for you!" Help arrived upon our cries of distress and, surprisingly, many years later I met the same "enemy" as a friend of God in His service.

So, that episode ended well. Yet, I hadn't heard that particular word used any longer and assumed that it was no longer in use. And now this farmer from Edam appeared and used it once again. It turned out later that the term was more generally used in a part of North-Holland, where it does not always have the same hostile tenor of earlier times. Whether my travel companion understood much of the Gospel of God's grace in Jesus Christ I doubt very much, but on the other hand he had firm and sound ideas about a lot of things, so we had arrived in the harbour of Urk before I was aware of it.

I was met by a friendly, good-natured brother, Gerrit Jan Zwolsche, who had worked here as teacher of religion and relief-preacher since 1894. He took me to my "hotel" ... dear reader you should understand this in the true sense of that word, I was taken to a local hotel-cafe! One wonders why? Is there no

brother at whose home I could have stayed? Or, is there no room in the clean and spacious vicarage occupied by the relief-preacher? Concerning the latter I would have thought, "yes", but apparently the Ring¹ had decided on one occasion, in view of the often long vacancies, that visiting clergy should stay at the local inn. In that respect, one could have experienced worse, as apart from a modest bedroom one had the use of a good-sized sitting room. Moreover, the "Cafe" is closed on Sundays and the young man, step-son of the old hotel manager, who presently operates the establishment is obliging, a member of the remnant of the local Dutch Reformed Congregation, and he makes you, as visiting preacher, forget that one is so strangely accommodated. And for the "Ring-brothers", who are not always of one mind, the arrangement probably added other convenient advantages.

I immediately asked the more than affable curate to bring me to the church. And we arrived and we saw: the Little Church on Sea! Standing independently, so picturesquely situated on a slight elevation. In 1896 the Government added an entirely new tower to the building and a year later the Synod of the Reformed Church decided that the church was in need of renewal and so it happened. Notwithstanding the slander of my house-mate, who is welcome to make such a mistake more often, the Little Church on Sea now looks flawless. Over the main door is written in dignified Dutch on a wooden board in elegant scroll letters: A^o MDCCLXXXVI ... a text commemorating the laying of the first stone. And inside the church there were two lists on which the name, arrival and departure of all clergymen were recorded who had served the congregation from 1629 to 1893.

The church and cemetery are both surrounded by an iron fence; coming from the village, the vicarage is located on the right side of the road; and all buildings are in full view of the sea. The silent, holy Sabbath day arrived and, as if it had come from the dome of eternity - in the land where sea will no longer be - we heard the language of eternal life. In the morning I preached on Joh. 21:15-17 [Peter confirms his love for Christ three times], confirmed 5 new members who had confessed their faith the preceding evening, and served Holy Communion to about 40 brothers and sisters. In the afternoon, I spoke about article 1 of the constitution of spiritual life - Col. 3:1, 2 [You

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have been raised with Christ to live a new life in Christ] - and baptized a few little Urkers "in the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit". And in the evening I offered a few remarks on the last prayer in the New Testament: "Amen! Come Lord Jesus!" (Rev. 22:20b). It had been a good day. The congregation had been growing fuller each time and I think we were all impressed: "one day in the courts of the Lord is better than a thousand elsewhere" (based on Psalm 84:9).

Urk has been largely "separated"⁵ during a year and a day. The flourishing Reformed Congregation wholeheartedly joined the separated "association" and now counts more than 2000 souls. A number of 60 members withdrew from the "association", built their own church which cost them F 3000, on which the date of the "division" and "separation" is proudly displayed, with the subscription: "The Lord is my banner". All members of the Municipal Council including the Mayor, the principal of the public school and his six assistant-teachers, etc do not belong to the Reformed Church. Hence, it takes courage to say in this community: "I am and I will remain a member of the Reformed Church."

I will not continue on this topic, except to add this information I found among others on the first page of a minute-book, "Church Acts of Urk 1711". It contains the records of an "extra-ordinary church council" with the deputies of the Classis; and Article 1 begins with the words: "After invoking the all-holy name of Jehova [the first Dutch Reformed church on Urk was opened.] And finally! Our little church out there is *not a ruin*. It is situated picturesquely at sea and its spire points upward, from where also in church matters our help has to come. May that spire point the way to many during fearful hours at sea and may within the Temple itself many living stones be added to the Building of God which remains eternally! Our Father, who art in heaven, Your Kingdom come! May the most remote islands shout for joy: "God has visited us with his salvation!"

Postscript

The words used by Johannes, "in the land where sea will no longer be", are not likely to be prophetic but instead reveal that he was aware of early plans to reclaim the northeast part of the Zuiderzee. The for-

mer islands of Schokland and Urk are ridges of boulder clay in the low coastal areas which had been desirable areas for settlement in ancient times. But with the gradual rising of the sea, due to a sinking geological plate, the areas became islands during the Middle Ages which were increasingly threatened by the sea.

During the 20th century they were part of the North-east Polder project (1936-1940) and a new chapter in their history began. Schokland is now entirely enclosed by land, while the town of Urk retained its harbour with access to a fresh-water body, called Lake Flevo. Since the visit of Johannes Wiersma in 1898 the "little church" has received another facelift, while the now land-bound community has grown far beyond its boundaries. A recent article describes Urk as the most religious municipality in the nation, with a variety of Calvinist churches, and as the largest fishing community in the country, operating fishing fleets from several harbours with direct access to the North Sea.

1. Nelly Bodenheimer (1874-1951) was an Amsterdam artist who wrote several popular books for children, which were extensively illustrated with her art: silhouettes - so called black-whites - and coloured lithographs. The books were published by A. W. Sijthoff's Uitgeverij, Leiden, 1900. The rhyme about the Clergyman of Urk appears in *Handje -Plak* by Nelly Bodenheimer, A. W. Sijthoff's.
2. A translation of "Het Kerkje aan de Zee" published in *Winterbloemen* by the Rev. Johannes Wiersma, W. Ten Have, Amsterdam, 1913, pp 22-29, by J. A. de Jong, December 2014.
3. The Dutch "you" has a polite, formal form - "U" - and a general, casual form - "jij." A clergyman would always be addressed by the capitalized "U".
4. A group of parishes, forming part of a larger Classis within the Dutch Reformed Church.
5. In 1834 many conservative Calvinists decided to leave the Dutch Reformed Church which had been established as a national church by King William I of the Netherlands in 1816. Prior to that time congregations had been autonomous and clergymen were free to speak their mind.

Focus Groups to discuss direction of St. Paul's

by Chris Harder

*"Speak Lord, your servant is listening." 1 Samuel 3:10
- An on-going journey of discernment*

When reflecting on the gifts the Lord has given St. Paul's, it is clear that we are a Church that is blessed. Like our free gift of salvation, we respond to our blessing with thanks and action.

At our 2015 Vestry, Father John, Father Craig and others walked the parish through a restructuring. In the new structure, the parish council was to be divided up into "the Corporation," the "Ministry Support Group" and the "Priorities and Development Group." While the Ministry Support group is focused on current ministries, the Priorities and Development Group (PDG) was given the mandate of looking 12 months or longer into the future and strategically discerning where God is calling St. Paul's. This mandate also included how we would spend the additional funds raised from the Gift campaign, but was not limited to this either. The PDG was to suggest activities that will help St. Paul's fulfill its mission and present them to Parish council by Vestry 2016 for consideration.

The PDG identified a number of different activities that could use growth and renewal. An *activity* is any fellowship event, fundraiser, Christian education program, outreach ministry, etc. An *idea* is simply a potential new activity or a different form of a current activity. It was decided that these activities and ideas should be organized, that more ideas are needed and that feedback from parishioners is necessary.

All current parish activities were examined for themes and commonalities. They were then grouped into five areas: 1) Personal Growth, Fellowship and Sustenance; 2) Outreach; 3) Our Building; 4) Our Money; and 5) Our People. If you missed Focus Group 1, you are welcome to come to the next one! Our Focus Group dates are:

Focus Group 1: Thurs, Oct 1, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Focus Group 2: Thurs, Oct 22, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Focus Groups 3 and 4: Wed, Nov 4, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Focus Group 5: Wed, Dec 2, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Each focus group will have the same basic agenda, including a review of the existing activities (what's working and what's not), brainstorming new ideas, prioritizing ideas, looking at what's necessary to accomplish activities, and discerning next steps.

To help understand and frame the sorts of activities discussed during each of the focus groups, a starter list of activities has been given below. Activities listed in the "community consult 2014" and other ideas for discussion have been added.

Focus Group 1: **Personal Growth, Fellowship and Sustenance**

Existing Activities: God Squad, Healing prayer, Meditation, Men's ministry, Prayer chain, Tech team, Webmaster, Wed AM Eucharist & Bible study, Welcoming ministry, Youth, 20's & 30's Group, Adult Education, Coffee hosts, Communications, Curling, Cursillo, Nursery, Cornerstone

New Ideas: Youth group, Hospitality ministry, God squad (8-13).

Focus Group 2: **Outreach (External) (Oct 22, 7pm)**

Existing Activities: Food cupboard, Evangelism and Hospitality, Pastoral Care, PWRDF, Refugees, Seniors' afternoon out program, Chicken BBQ,

New Ideas: Community Safety, Community service, Mental health, Helping the Poor, Affordable housing, Public Housing, Advocacy

Focus Group 3: **Our Building (Nov 4, 7pm)**

New Ideas: Roof, Air conditioning, additional parking, expansion (eg. Gymnasium)

Focus Group 4: **Our Money (Nov 4, 7pm)**

Existing Activities: Envelope secretaries & PAW, Gift certificate program, Quilters, Christmas Bazaar

New Ideas: Capital Campaign, Fundraisers, Planned giving, Wills and estates, rental income

Focus Group 5: **Our People (Dec 2, 7pm)**

Existing Activities: Announced need for volunteers, Bulletin

New Ideas: Ministry volunteer campaign, Education

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Ownership — the myth

by Ray Brule

WARNING!!!: THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE CONTAINS MATERIAL WHICH MAY BE OFFENSIVE TO SOME READERS OR INAPPROPRIATE FOR VIEWING BY CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE. READER DISCRETION IS ADVISED.

There, that warning gets me off the hook. If you read any farther then it's your fault for what you feel. Actually, every time I hear that kind of warning before a show, I recognize how de-sensitized I have become to what is about to enter my mind. Unfortunately it's not just my mind, but much of my life.

I appreciate what E-100 has done for me as far as reading scripture in an organized, focused fashion. It is making me re-think some of the bible lessons that I have become so accustomed to hearing that I really don't focus or try to apply to my life.

Last week's reading was 1 Corinthians 13. I have heard this at so many weddings that I usually tune out. It is a VERY difficult lesson to put into practice, so I use that warning and apply it instead. BUT...

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on volunteering

We hope that those individuals passionate about specific activities or focus areas will attend and help in the discernment process. A PDG group member will facilitate each of the focus group sessions. The sessions are meant to build upon each other. The first two are about ideas and activities we can participate in. The third, fourth and fifth are about maintaining our house of worship and gathering the means to execute these activities.

It's important to note that this whole initiative and the focus groups are a direct output from the feedback gathered from the Town Hall meetings held in previous years. It is our hope and prayer that, like the Town Halls, specific activities will be undertaken as a result of these sessions and that the activities will form the basis of our long-term growth.

1 Corinthians 13:3: If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

This "possessions" or "ownership" idea that anything is really "mine" has been in my face lately. When I drive in the countryside and see signs posted that declare "Back off Government. This land is ours," I ask "Really?" If I own my house, why do I have to pay taxes?

The bigger question really is: do we believe the bible? Do we believe what is stated in Philippians 2:9-11a:

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord."

Do we believe Matthew 6:19-20:

"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves

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Working with Christ Church Ashton will be an ongoing theme in each group. As partners in ministry, the parish of Ashton could be involved in any number of ways. The PDG's current thinking is to evaluate each current or future activity in light of its potential involvement with the Parish of Ashton.

The future of St. Paul's ministry holds much promise and excitement. Our intent is to allow us to explore ways of expanding our mission, ministry and presence in the community. Please join us on this journey of discovery and respond with "speak Lord for your servant is listening."

Chris Harder
PDG Parish Council Representative

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break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.”

Do we believe Luke 12:20:

“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’”

If we believe these statements from the bible, then clearly we own NOTHING, not even our lives. So why then do I spend so little on helping God’s work on earth? Mostly due to not being taught how to properly use the money God has allowed into my life. To allowing my mind to be de-sensitized to what the world is yelling at me so that I begin to believe it and not God. That warning at the start of this article really also belongs at the start of each commercial or advertisement. The warning should be placed on the entrance to every store, on every shopping cart::

WARNING!!!: BUYING THE FOLLOWING STUFF MAY BE EXHILARATING FOR NOW BUT MAY CAUSE LONG TERM (ETERNAL) PAIN. BUYER DISCRETION IS ADVISED.

I have repeated thousands of times “I believe in God the Father...I believe in Jesus Christ...I believe in The Holy Spirit...” and yet I behave in ways that would make anyone wonder what I do believe in.

I believe God is calling me to a work that, on the surface, would appear scandalous, but the scandal is a worldly covering of the Grace that God wants to give all the earth. If you were at church the Sunday that Father Bill gave that wonderful sermon, you can understand what I am saying. If you were at the services celebrating Jack and Rebecca’s baptism (my grandchildren) then you might remember I was privileged to talk about faith and my journey. I confess that I have great faith, but not the faith of a mustard seed that can move mountains.

It is time to step into the work God has called me to do on His behalf. He has been pulling and I have been resisting. Do you know what it is like to wrestle with God? The bible gives an example - “So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till day-break.” (Genesis 32:24) Maybe a worldly experience is a better example. If you have ever been in a tug-of-

war, you might remember how tired you get. Imagine that tug-of-war every hour of every day. I am tired...so, so tired that I can hardly do a day’s work anymore, and that isn’t right.

What is God calling me to do?

1 Peter 3:15 (TLB): Quietly trust yourself to Christ your Lord, and if anybody asks why you believe as you do, be ready to tell him, and do it in a gentle and respectful way.

God is calling me to go teach everyone life’s lessons. I am to use the experiences and pains and lessons I have accumulated in 62 years on this earth and serve others who would like to avoid what I didn’t. I have created a logo with my Shield of Faith and the reminder to GO T.E.L.L.

I need to serve. It’s in my DNA. It’s my calling. Jesus has warned me that a prophet is not welcome (honoured) in his home town. That is acceptable, because it is Jesus who needs to be honoured through me and what I do.

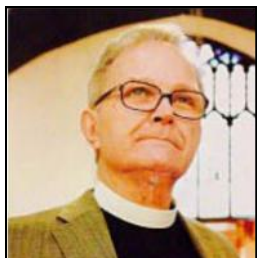
Here I am Lord. Send me.

Ray Brule



Men's FLAME conference October 30 to November 1, 2015

FLAME presents a weekend of spiritual enrichment, refreshment and fellowship for men, with guest speaker **Rev. Canon Gene Packwood**, recently retired rector of St. Barnabas' church in Medicine Hat, AB, and director of Anglican Renewal Ministries.



The topic for this weekend will be:
Power Tools for Fruitful Christian Living

Ermitage Ste Croix
21269 Gouin Blvd West
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We invite and encourage you to attend this weekend of fellowship and spiritual refreshment which begins on Friday night and winds up after lunch on Sunday afternoon. Our activities focus on prayer, music, and a series of talks, followed by small group discussions. You are always free to take time by yourself whenever you wish. All activities are built around an easy timetable designed for men to share and discover more about life with one another, in the brotherhood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The deadline for registration is October 16

The registration table will be open between 4 and 7:30pm on Friday. Dinner is served between 5:15pm and 6pm.

To ensure that participation in this weekend is available to everyone interested, the weekend's expenses are covered primarily through a "free-will offering" approach. Please include a cheque for \$70 with your advance registration. During the closing service on Sunday morning, participants will be asked to help defray the costs of this event through a private free-will offering. Our total cost per participant is expected to be \$180.00, for accommodation, meals, snacks and materials. We invite each participant to contribute as he is able and feels led.

Contact *Roger Spack*
514-684-4356,
roger.spack@sympatico.ca
or *Andre Hammond*
514-694-9567,
andrehammond@videotron.ca



FELLOWSHIP &
LEARNING
FOR ANGLICAN
MENS
ENRICHMENT

E100 update

by Maureen Anderson

FALL EDUCATION EVENINGS:

Please join us for Bible reading, teaching and fellowship with various speakers on the following Tuesdays, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in Rutter Hall:

- October 6
- October 13
- October 20
- October 27

All are welcome to attend! Please sign up in the narthex so we have an idea of how many people to expect.



Cursillo upcoming events Hope to see you there!

MEN'S 121st WEEKEND, November 5-8, 2015

WOMEN'S 122nd WEEKEND, November 19-22, 2015

WELCOME BACK, Sunday, January 17, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at St. Stephen's, 930 Watson St.

WORKSHOP, Saturday, April 16, 2016, at St. Stephen's, 930 Watson St.

Ultreya!



The window

submitted by Janet Tonks

A young couple moves into a new neighborhood. The next morning while they are eating breakfast, the young woman sees her neighbor hanging the wash outside. "That laundry is not very clean; she doesn't know how to wash correctly. Perhaps she needs better laundry soap."

Her husband looks on, remaining silent. Every time her neighbor hangs her wash to dry, the young woman makes the same comments. A month later, the woman is surprised to see a nice clean wash on the line and says to her husband: "Look, she's finally learned how to wash correctly. I wonder who taught her this?"

The husband replies, "I got up early this morning and cleaned our windows." And so it is with life... What we see when watching others depends on the clarity of the window through which we look.

Amen!



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PSALMS 111:1

I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart...

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