

The Parish Window

THANKSGIVING 2017 || CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH ||



CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH VILLAGE
Quarterly Newsletter



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PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR PAM



The Y of Thanksgiving

In these scary, turbulent times we often wonder what we have to give thanks for or how do we genuinely give thanks, or even more simply... WHY should we give thanks?! In my own ponderings I have realized that the "Why" of Thanksgiving is linked-in with four words ending in the letter 'Y'.

1. Reality: Everyone has a worldview, a notion of how they view the world, how things came to be and what the purpose of this life is. I guess you could call it their Reality. The Christian Reality is that God created everything and that behold, it was good. God's purpose is that we would know his goodness. I am reminded of one of the best-known concise purpose statements found in the Westminster Shorter Catechism (written in

1646 intending to bring the Church of England into greater conformity with the Church of Scotland). The catechism is composed of 107 questions and answers. Here is the most famous: Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

Thanksgiving is about giving thanks for the reality of a good God that we glorify and enjoy forever.

2. TragedY: Our second "Y" word is one that can challenge the giving-of-thanks to God. We have seen much tragedy in the last weeks and months in our world. Destruction of creation in the form of hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, droughts, mudslides and floods has gained momentum. We continue to have wars. Volatile words inciting the fear of nuclear war spill carelessly from the mouths of prominent world leaders. There is violence on a small and large scale. More and more these days, as a pastor, I am asked, "where is God"? There is a tendency to shake a finger at God and blame Him. I make no claim to be an expert in geography or world politics

or even the workings of the hearts of men and women, but I wonder about whether some of what we see in these terrible tragedies is humanity reaping what it has sown. Experts say that global warming is exacerbating the turbulence in weather. The book of James, written so very long ago, speaks appropriately to the individualism and greed playing out on the world scene today.

James chapter 4: "Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures".

One normal human response to tragedy is to be resentful or angry with God. Yet, resenting God robs us of our thankfulness. We see from the Bible that Job started to question, even perhaps, resent God.

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"Thanksgiving is about giving thanks for the reality of a good God that we glorify and enjoy forever."



Ponderings Cont'd

Job did nothing wrong and yet had many tragedies assault him. Both Job and everyone around him (including you and me) want to know why God did not act to relieve his personal suffering?!? We see from this book that God did not solve the problem of evil in the world but he did remind Job of who God is and who Job is

3. HumilitY: Returning to the story of Job, God asks Job, "can you tame the creature of the sea...you know the huge one that is called Leviathan" (Job 41:1-4)? (see all of ch 38-42 for the full conversation) Of course, Job cannot. God wants to bring him back to a place of humility. God is still God, the creator and sustainer of the universe. And God has a plan that will be fulfilled in the fullness of time. We find from the last book of the Bible that God will prepare a new heaven and a new earth where there will be no more pain and where God will wipe every tear from our eyes (Revelation ch. 21-22). Do I long for God to act, just as Job did? Yes. And I do give thanks when I see him at work in the lives of people. We are called to be actors with God, in the meantime, alleviating the suffering of others, until the fullness of God's good kingdom has come.

4. BeautY: In our struggle to cultivate a posture of thankfulness it is also helpful to put ourselves in places that remind us of God's goodness through

beauty. Whether it is the beauty of creation, or watching a child's joy, the wonder of a new baby, or sharing the gift of love between people. Be present in beauty. Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and chosen as the 20th century's most outstanding lay Catholic said this about beauty, "Like Dostoevsky, I began to believe that the world would be saved by beauty. It was this beautiful, natural world that slowly led me back to God. "How can there be no God," I asked, "when there are all these beautiful things?"

"Finally, we are called to give thanks all things. Not because of all things. Sometimes it will be in spite of them. Let's keep the reality of God in our lives at the forefront, even in the midst of tragedy. In humility, thanking Him for the beauty in the world and knowing that God will make all things new.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Your Priest and Pastor
Pam



All-Parishioner June 2017 Survey Summary Results

You will find below a brief summary of the All-Parishioners survey, which took place in June of 2017. Please note that just the top two or three answers for each question have been given. The full result is posted on the bulletin board. A thank you to all who answered the survey and to Audrey Shepherd for tabulating the results.

Let me make a few observations. I find it hopeful that the answer to the question "How long have you been coming to the church" revealed that the second highest amount was from newcomers, 12 give the answer 5 years or less. As well, there is consistent attendance with 42 people say that they come to church weekly, with 4 saying they come monthly. Why do people come?

Top answer is Fellowship/Welcoming, with worship a close second. The answer to what is the most meaningful aspect of the service I think reflects our Anglican identity, which is about word and sacrament - most meaningful is Eucharist 22 and Sermon 21.



Survey cont'd

A majority want to keep our current service times for the 8:30 and 10am services. 35 people want a sung Morning Prayer service, and a majority do not mind if we omit the Saturday Easter Vigil. The major property issue is the Air Conditioning/Furnace.

When asked what people think of Christ Church when they are invited and come to a service or an event the major response is that they find us warm and they enjoy their experience. So, do invite people! The majority of people are not interested in joining a small group but if there is an event, Friday night is when most people are available. Of interest to people are: a theatre outing, trip to Israel and a games night. There are many favourite hymns for a variety of reasons.

A few individuals gave additional comments at the end. I will touch on one significant issue. 4 people said that there is poor communication, and particularly with absent members. This is something we can focus on to improve. As a community, if you notice someone has been away for awhile, would you take the time to call them, or mention to someone who would feel comfortable calling.

VOICES

Random members were asked to begin a sentence with the words **I am thankful for...**

While some preferred to remain anonymous, here is what they said. Add yours to the list as we join with one another in giving thanks.

...the community of Christ Church and its support and for health and strength.

...my niece's safe recovery after I surgery

...good health, family and friends

...life, health and daily bread.

...for life; the blessings of a supportive and loving family, and a church community in which I've been able to grow up surrounded by positive and caring individuals; for each day; for adversity, because it's in these tough times that I can strengthen my faith in God by reminding myself that all is in His hands; for a home and for everyday necessities that we so often take for granted; but most of all, for being able to live a life where I know God is always by our side. **Ritika**

... for the Christ Spirit dwelling within and amongst us and for the abundance of the earth! - **Jo-Anne**

for the opportunity to live in a free and democratic country - Canada. Canada spans from Atlantic to Pacific and Arctic Oceans. In between these oceans are waterways, lakes, beautiful forested land, Prairies, Cambrian Shield the Rockies. These natural occurrences encourage visitors from many lands

Canada has mostly calm and beautiful weather, opportunity to go to College to develop oneself and be an individual. Canada also allows for us to have religious freedom, medicare for all.

Although we are not a colony of Britain, we still have the Lieutenant Governor in Ontario and the Governor General in Ottawa that ties us to Britain. Quite a scope! **Deborah**

...for the Christ Church community which is my only family here in Canada. **Deacon Jacquie**

I am thankful for family and friends. **Ann & Anna Mary**

...for God's grace and mercy in giving me an additional ten years of life having rescued me from a catastrophic occurrence.

September 2017 marked that anniversary. I have no memory of the first 4 months. At the end of my 9 months in 4 medical facilities and learning why I was there, only strengthened my faith, as only the Lord could have provided the protection, care of the



medical professionals, loved ones and acquaintances that saw me through what otherwise could have sounded my demise at three different times.

I thank the Lord for surrounding me with all the right people who would work and pray for my recovery.

I do not think I am able to satisfactorily and completely express myself in words, to adequately give the praise and thanks that rightly belongs to the Lord my Saviour.

I can only humbly submit to this endeavor in this small way, and always and forever thank and "praise the Lord, with the sound of trumpets" and continual prayer. **Jeanette**

...besides family, friends, and the access to all things necessary to enjoy life. I give thanks for the things that forces me to acknowledge my dependence on the Lord;

Authors, song writers and singers, the experiences of people, past and present, whose lives reflect the journey on the 'narrow road';

...the blessing of hearing so many moving messages each month definitely has a huge impact and for all these things I am blissfully thankful. H.



MILESTONES

If you or any of your loved ones have celebrated a birthday or an anniversary since the last issue of the newsletter have a



We welcome and uphold in prayer the newly baptized into the CCSV family: **William McLeod & Kawali (Kay)Persaud.**

We remember with love and in prayer those who are no longer with us: Olive - (Condacly Moses' sister) and Merle Nurse- (Monica Francis' mom); May the rest in peace and rise in glory.

We uphold in prayer the Spencer, Moses, Francis, Nurse and Mallett families as they grieve.

We join our hands and hearts with the families of the victims and the survivors of the recent attack in the USA and all those affected by natural disasters around the globe.



LOOKING AHEAD

Blessing of Animals

– Upper Hall –
Oct. 15th 2pm

Musical Evening –

October 22nd - 5p.m.

Bazaar –

November 4, 9:30-1:30

Our Remembrance Day Sunday observance

November 12

Diocesan Synod –

November 24 and 25th.

Our Feast of Title/Patronal Festival and Newcomer Lunch –

Sunday November 26th

WWW –

Women Walking in Wisdom

Women's Retreat
Dec. 1 and 2

Overnight or just a day away

St. John's Convent
Registration forms available



Christ Church
Scarborough Village
155 Markham Road,
M1M 3A1

Telephone:
(416) 261-4169/5489

Fax:
(416) 261-7949

E-mail: ccsv@rogers.com

Staff

Incumbent: The Rev'd.
Pam Trondson

Deacon: The Rev'd.
Jacquie Bouthéon

Honorary Assistant:
Fr. Roy Shepherrd

Director of Music:
Dennis Thompson

**Office Administrator
(Acting):** Ellen
Cunningham

Please call the church office to
be directed to any member of
staff or committee member.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.christchurchscarborough.com

Just a Thought...

Thanks to all our contributors to this edition of the Parish Window.

Today I respectfully hand over this segment to Mr. Louis van Gulick in a tribute to all veterans.

Happy reading.
Hyacinth

Lest we forget

Remembrance Day...a day we remember, and give thanks to all brave men and women who gave their lives during the two world wars in the 20th century and other armed conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq, and other battles including peace keeping missions.

It is a day to show our gratitude to the veterans who fought and survived, many of whom who still do battle to overcome the scars of what they witnessed. It is a day of reflection, prayers, wreaths, poppies, the "Last Post" and "Reveille", national anthems and two minutes of silence.

I often wonder what people think of during those two minutes of

silence as everyone is affected in a different way, either by their personal experiences during a war or by the stories they hear from veterans and family members. I was six years old when the Netherlands was invaded in 1940 and the experiences over the next five years have stayed with me until today.

So, on Remembrance Day, and at other times as well, I think also about the citizens who lost their lives during the bombardments, those that did not survive the hunger winter of 1944-45 in the north of Holland, the men and women in the resistance who died during their brave actions of sabotage, those who perished in concentration camps and the many others who were affected one way or another.

It is most important that the history and horrors of the wars and the reasons that led to them are never forgotten and, that the young people of today and the future are always reminded of them.

LEST WE FORGET.
Edmund Burke explained this phrase: "Those who don't know history are doomed to repeat it."

Forgetting the reasons why and how the wars began and what the soldiers fought for, will doom this and future generations to have to fight for it again.

For this reason, Vivien and I used a day of our vacation last year to take our children and grandchildren to the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, to the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek where more than 2300 Canadian soldiers have been laid to rest and the War Museum so that they would not forget. I knew it made an impression on them when 11 year- old Kinnon picked up a paper maple leaf, wrote "Thank you for my freedom" and hung it on the remembrance tree in the in the museum.

On November 11 let us not only remember but be witnesses, because the living owes it to those who cannot longer speak to tell their story. Let us not forget those who gave us so much to remember!

Louis van Gulick

