



The Parish Window

THANKSGIVING 2020

I WILL GIVE THANKS TO YOU,
LORD, WITH ALL MY HEART; I
WILL TELL OF ALL YOUR
WONDERFUL DEEDS.

-PSALM 9:1



CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH VILLAGE

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR PAM



A Different Time to be Giving Thanks, a Different Way to Give Thanks

As I look out my back window this morning, I feel blessed. I have already been visited by both a blue jay and a cardinal. Earlier I had the opportunity to go on a social-distanced walk with a friend, one who has been a support to me over the years and whom I have supported. I am thankful for friends and family to share life with. She spoke of her son going back to school and the many that are hard at work to make the space and teaching time for the children safe. I am thankful for the thoughtfulness of those who labour to get us through this safely: teachers, administrators, politicians, food bank servers, frontline workers, etc. Just today I have interacted with staff at a hospital and am grateful for the care we are offered under our healthcare system. I appreciate how they are being wise about keeping everyone safe by limiting visitors. And they are working hard to bring healing during the pandemic.

There is so much to be thankful for, even in these times of challenge.

I am aware of an area where I have not been thankful enough.

Maybe because I am not a gardener or farmer, I take for granted the fruit of the earth, the continual way that the soil sustains humankind. Lately my gaze has been turned to the need for taking care of the earth more deliberately due to the climate crisis. Just yesterday a large part of the ice sheet in Greenland split off. Scientists tell us that even greater melting is taking place than was imagined. This will lead to a more rapid increase in the rise of sea levels around the world. And there were five tropical cyclones in the Atlantic ocean at the same time for only the second time in history. Additionally, they have run out of names to call the tropical storms taking place, there are so many of them. Then we have the fires in California, which was under a heat-wave. They have caused smoke to be seen even in the GTA sky. Global warming/the climate crisis, however we name it, is linked to not caring for the earth properly. We have either not-known or not-remembered the need for us to sustain the earth

as it sustains us. I feel a call to repent, to turn from a lack of thankfulness for what God has provided us in the wonderful creation. For if we were thankful, grateful, would we not have taken better care of our planet earth? I think of the Scripture, "Where your treasure is there will your heart be also" (Matt. 6:21). There will you expend your concern, your prayer, your advocacy, your action. For the whole earth groans for the ways of the kingdom (Romans 8:22).

In these challenging times, we may need to look a little more deeply for what to be thankful for. The reasons are there. And, perhaps we are called to remember to give thanks for the God of creation, for creation itself, and renew our commitment to be co-creators with the Sustainer of the earth.

-Pastor Pam



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"Global warming/the climate crisis, however we name it, is linked to not caring for the earth properly."





1 Thessalonians 5:18 - *Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

Ephesians 5:20 - *Giving thanks always and for everything (worthwhile, and worthless) to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

I grew up hearing: One man's trash is another man's treasure.

Remembering the Lord's promise: Matthew 28:20- "I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

These scriptures tell us to give thanks in ALL circumstances (good or bad) and for EVERYTHING (from the most significant to the least significant).

There is always something to gain from everything, always something to be learned.

Psalm 95:3 - *For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods.*

Maybe we have to put a little more effort to be able to move forward.

There is so much to be thankful for, just looking around and thinking about them, lets me know the blessing with which I have been continually showered.

Even if I have said this many times: For me, I am not able to do some things that I have done in the past, and although I have no memory of Sept 23/2007 and the following 4 months, I will be forever grateful for the medical care I received from all the medical establishments I stayed at, for the care of loved ones and friends, for even the aftercare when I finally was discharged, and most of all for prayers said on my behalf, thankful that I am still able to function knowing and learning my limitations. I am told that I am in the 5% of those survivors who have suffered the same "catastrophic event" (ruptured brain aneurysm) as termed by our family doctor. I have been called a miracle, by even my surgeon.

And I will always tell my story, and give HIM the praise for what HE has done for me.

To God be the Glory, great things he has done.....

Written by Jeanette Khan

Did You Know?

Americans did not invent Thanksgiving. It began in Canada. Frobisher's celebration in 1578 was 43 years before the pilgrims gave thanks in 1621 for the bounty that ended a year of hardships and death. Abraham Lincoln established the date for the US as the last Thursday in November. In 1941, US Congress set the National Holiday as the fourth Thursday in November.

Frobisher and early colonists, giving thanks for safe passage, as well as pilgrim celebrations in the US that began the traditions of turkeys, pumpkin pies, and the gathering of family and friends

Canada Info



REPORT ON STEWARDSHIP

Written by: Brian Carr

The following are my notes on the Webinar on Stewardship Giving that was presented by the Diocese in May 2020.

As an introduction, it was gratifying to see that we have already implemented a number of the proposals in the Webinar.

Outlined below are some of the ideas/suggestions that were presented.

Givings

Each parish church know the following about its congregation:

- No. of donors on pre-authorized giving ("PAR");
- Average PAR/envelope giving; and
- Age profile of donors.

Giving by PAR was encouraged as it is a much more successful way of maintaining income.

Alternatively, for parishioners who are reluctant to sign up for pre-authorized giving, they could be asked to provide monthly post-dated cheques.

By knowing the ages of the donors and how much the donors of each age bracket are giving, the church has a better understanding of its potential problems. For example, if donors who are giving more than 50% are over the age of 90, the church will shortly have a financial problem.

It was suggested that the priest be aware of what parishioners are giving.

Staying in Touch

- a telethon to stay in touch with parishioners.

Fund Raisers

- Tea-less teas: a bag of tea is sent out with an invitation to enjoy the tea and to send in a donation.
- Virtual Auction: can be carried out online
- Virtual pot-luck: would be similar to our coffee hour
- Virtual walk-a-thons: similar to a walk-a-thon but people would depart at different times.

Website

The importance of maintaining the website and keeping it up to date was emphasized. As an example, there is little value in having the details of the 2016 Strawberry Social on the website.

Streaming Services

The possibilities and importance of streaming services was also discussed.



THE PARISH WINDOW

Dear CCSV Family,

It couldn't be more fitting to write my last article for The Parish Window for the Thanksgiving edition. It perfectly encapsulates how I feel when I look back at my time with you all: THANKFUL. When my family and I came to Canada in the late 1990s, we were in a new land searching for something familiar - a place to worship God. Our basis for choosing a church was to find the church closest to us and that happened to be Christ Church Scarborough Village (CCSV). Over these past years, my time at CCSV has been one filled with growth, love and fellowship. I was only 4-years old when we joined, and now almost 22 years later, my faith is at a much different place than that day when we first stepped into the foyer.

Over the past year especially, God has pruned my faith through conversations with family, counsel from Christian friends, prayer, a deeper delve into His Word, courses and much more. So it is really with much thought and prayer that I now move on to another church.

I will miss hearing the swelling notes of the organ as the choir sung along in melodious harmony, lifting their voices and leading us in musical worship to God. I will miss all the individuals with whom I had the blessing of working together with in various ministries over the years (choir, sidespersons, Youth Group, Communications, the website, the Parish Window, etc.). I will miss the panoramic view I got of everyone's bright faces whenever I was on acolyte duty and standing by the altar, and I will miss the meaningful conversations we had during coffee hour. Bottom line: I will miss the CCSV family!

So whether we knew one another by name or by face or by voice, I say to you from the bottom of my heart, thank you. I truly thank the Lord for you and pray that you will remain faithful to Him, enduring until the very end.

Much love,
Ritika



A picture of my first Sunday School class from 2000. I was in the black dress with white lace in the middle row. Some of my fondest childhood memories stem from those years in Sunday School!

Ritika,

It was an absolute pleasure working with you and though I am sad to see you go, I know and am happy that you have sought wisdom, and as promised, it has been given to you (James 1:5).

I thank you in these words.

'Do you have any idea...of how powerful you really are? Do you have any idea of how far your thoughts reach? Do you have any idea of how many lives you've already touched? Do you have any idea of how much you have accomplished? Do you?' -Notes from the Universe...Mike Dooley

'Vision is a breath of fresh air to keep us going, to fill our sails, to remind us to find the joy in the journey, lighten up, laugh a little (or a lot), raise our hands, worship, dance, and point our faces in awe towards Him. Because it's all about Jesus.' Laurie McClure

Keep growing in love with Jesus and service wherever He calls.



Hyacinth



Well-loved, long-time parishioner Margo Patterson passed away on September 23 due to cancer. An interment with just the immediate family took place on October 10th. May she rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.



REMEMBERING MARGO

Art and I always thought of Margo as our lovely "pew mate". We weren't close friends, but we were friends.

Art and Margo would always talk about curling, whether it was her game or the current T.V. game. The three of us commiserated about our golf games, and Margo and I would always talk about our grandchildren and their wonderful accomplishments!

You will remember her as the tall, elegant lady who led her team of male sidespeople at the 10 a.m. services. As a talented knitter and crocheter, she usually had an article for our bazaar raffle. Margo and I worked together in the kitchen at that time too. Good memories.

-Maureen Corby

Margo was a compassionate, generous, supportive and reliable member of Christ Church. She was well respected by her fellow parishioners. She was the leader of the Sidespersons Team 3 but stepped back from that role to focus on her health about two years ago.

Both the sidespersons and the bazaar committees could count on her assistance in their planned activities like the pancake supper and sandwich plates etc. with the bazaar, helping in the kitchen. She will be missed by her Christ Church family. We send out condolences to her family.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

-Lystra Walters
Sidespersons Captain

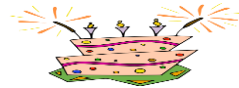
We give thanks for the life of Margo Patterson and her ministry at Christ Church Scarborough and uphold her family in prayer.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Blessings to you or your loved ones who have celebrated a birthday since

the last newsletter! We uphold you in prayer, and hope the Lord leads you to spiritual growth and flourishing in the year ahead!



Blessings to those who have celebrated an anniversary since the last newsletter! We uphold you in prayer, and hope that your marriage continues to bring glory to God!



Come gather on All Saints Day, Sunday Nov. 1st at 1pm, to celebrate coffee hour with your community of saints. That's all of us at Christ Church!

The scheduled Zoom meeting can be reached by computer or by calling in.

Time: Nov 1, 2020 01:00 PM Eastern Time

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83170762761?pwd=aXY2WUllZmQrL2pxeTR5WVlpZVNDUT09>

Meeting ID: 831 7076 2761
Passcode: 193101

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83170762761?pwd=aXY2WUllZmQrL2pxeTR5WVlpZVNDUT09>

In Canada:

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+1 204 272 7920
+1 587 328 1099
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+1 647 558 0588



THE PARISH WINDOW

THANKSGIVING COLOURING!
DE-STRESS BY COLOURING THE PICTURE BELOW:



THE PARISH WINDOW

THANKSGIVING FIND A WORD!
HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?

H	E	E	O	S	E	M	A	G	G
T	A	O	C	T	O	B	E	R	N
F	M	R	R	S	I	I	I	A	I
A	O	R	V	S	U	T	P	V	F
M	N	N	A	E	U	M	A	Y	F
I	D	R	A	R	S	Q	J	A	U
L	A	I	K	L	Y	T	L	S	T
Y	Y	E	A	I	A	N	I	E	S
E	Y	R	R	E	B	N	A	R	C
G	R	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	E

CRANBERRY
OCTOBER
FAMILY
HARVEST
MONDAY
PIE
GRAVY
YAM
TURKEY

GAMES
GRATITUDE
STUFFING

THANKSGIVING PSALMS FOR REFLECTION

Psalm 100

*Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth!
Worship the Lord with gladness,
Come before Him, singing with joy.
Acknowledge that the Lord is God!
He made us, and we are His.
We are His people, the sheep of His pasture.
Enter His gates with thanksgiving;
Go into His courts with praise.
Give thanks to Him and praise His name.
For the Lord is good.
His unfailing love continues forever,
And His faithfulness continues to each
generation.*

Psalm 34

*I will thank the Lord with all my heart as I meet
with his godly people.
How amazing are the deeds of the Lord!
All who delight in him should ponder them.
Everything he does reveals his glory and
majesty.*

*His righteousness never fails.
He causes us to remember his wonderful works.
How gracious and merciful is our Lord!
He gives food to those who fear him; he always
remembers his covenant.
He has shown his great power to his people by
giving them the lands of other nations.
All he does is just and good, and all his
commandments are trustworthy.
They are forever true, to be obeyed faithfully
and with integrity.
He has paid a full ransom for his people.
He has guaranteed his covenant with them
forever.
What a holy, awe-inspiring name he has!
Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true
wisdom.
All who obey his commandments will grow in
wisdom.
Praise him forever!*



THE PARISH WINDOW

A PRAYER FOR REMEMBRANCE DAY FOR VETERANS AND THOSE WHO ARE HURTING



O Lord, many of us have tears deep inside of our lives, because we've been hurt in ways that go to the very core of our being, and some of the hurts we carry around have been there for a long, long time – even for years. We experienced a loss from which even today we have not really recovered. We took a beating that ripped into our heart and soul and tore us apart at the deepest place in our life. We went through the betrayal of a trust, the betrayal of a friendship, and still today we find ourselves dealing with its aftereffects and its residue. We suffered the unforgivable at the hands of a parent or the hands of someone we loved, and there's a scar there that breaks open over and over again.

Sometimes our tears come up and get very close to the surface. We can feel them just behind our eyes or even in our eyes. Sometimes they form a big lump in our throat. And then we realize again that they haven't gone away at all, that they're still there, that they've just been buried for awhile and now are back to make themselves known again.

O God, you are the one who looks way down deep inside of all of us. You see and know what no one knows, no one at all except we ourselves. And, not only do you see us and know us, but you also feel things along with us, even the very painful stuff, the deep stuff along with us, and we feel a strange kind of healing taking place. For it's like you care and you understand...and we're no longer left alone with our burdens.

Today, those of us who are struggling inside – who've been broken and hurt and still feel the tears within – we thank you for being there and sharing with us what we cannot bear alone.

By Chaplain Richard A. Lutz

"Prayers of the VA Chaplaincy," Department of Veterans Affairs, Hampton, Virginia, at their 12th Annual Chiefs' Convocation, Washington, D.C., December 6-9, 1997.

From <https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/post-traumatic-stress-disorder-ptsd-and-veterans-psalms-and-prayers>



JUST A THOUGHT...

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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

Thanksgiving is here and still too is the pandemic. Though wreaking havoc in our lives and lives all over the world, there is still much for which to give God thanks. In the midst of this chaotic unknown, we miss the familiar and get lost with feelings of anxiety with the possibility of this leading to depression and worse as have been evident via the news.

But what if we challenge ourselves to turn these feelings into positive attributes. When the disciples returned from the missions of ministry, Jesus suggested they go to a 'quiet place' and rest. Having given account of their tasks, they were tired and looked forward to resting. Instead they found themselves in a crowd of thousands of followers of Jesus. This crowd was not only hungry spiritually but was also really physically hungry. So much for rest. In her message entitled 'Give your gifts to God' Patricia Shirer said, 'the loaves and fish were a gift to the multitude and the multitude a gift to the disciples'.

For more from Patricia listen here:

<https://youtu.be/AlziRFoQ32Y>

Despite the difficulties the pandemic is bringing it can be a gift for us. We can exchange not only the words but attitudes of our circumstance and we will begin to see lots to be thankful for. Loneliness can become solitude, giving rest and rejuvenation as we spend more time in the word of God. With online worship, parts of our homes can be configured into a sacred space as we participate in the service.

Don't get me wrong, because I too have been struggling with this seemingly unending 'season', among other things, but each minute of each day I find something to be thankful for.

In addition to family and friends and other things in life, here are some of the things I am thankful for.

- The foundational truths and values instilled in me from as early as I can remember.

- The answers to my questions asked early on in life, sometimes out of curiosity but also just wanting to know and understand contexts and premises relating to the whys; Qs & As that highlighted the how to(s), and later my rule of life as a believer and follower of Christ.

- The gift of Grace especially as revealed in the parable of the workers in the vineyard (Matt. 20)

- The direction I was given in answer to my prayer, 'teach me to love'...to a ministry where I see only brothers and sisters in Christ loving one another, welcoming the new while upholding the old. For me a perfect example in the exchange of gifts running deeper than can be imagined, giving the receiver(s) that which is not visible to the eye or to the unknowing.

Many have travelled these terrifying roads before. Job did, and so did Thomas More. We also can make this prayer of the latter our own as we reflect on our lives this thanksgiving despite the differing circumstance.

Thank You

**Thank you, dear Jesus,
for all you have given me,
for all you have taken away
from me,
for all you have left me.**

Happy Thanksgiving!

