



Glory to God, whose power working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Rector's Corner

#### The Art of Thanksgiving

Being thankful is a decision, it is not a feeling. I would hazard a guess that most of us think of thanksgiving as either a day in October or an occasional feeling we have. Yes we can feel thankful, absolutely, but thanksgiving is a decision about living a thankful life. So how do we live a thankful life? How do we put this into action?

The art of thanksgiving is gratitude in action. It is applying Albert Schweitzer's philosophy: 'In gratitude for your own good fortune you must render in return some sacrifice of your life for other life.' So what are we grateful for? Gratefulness is also a decision. I don't always feel grateful but I still am. I am grateful for being part of this faith community of Holy Trinity/St. Paul's. I am grateful to each and every one of you who is walking this

journey of life with our faith community. I am grateful for the area of Chatham-Kent. I have grown to love this place. I am grateful for our country of Canada. It is not perfect but it is a wonderful and blessed country and a fine place to live.

I have lived in 5 countries, developed and underdeveloped and this is my favourite. I am grateful for beginning the journey of an empty-nester, my adult children have their own partners and are living their own lives-thanks be to God. I am grateful for my life, with all its ups and downs. My life is not perfect but I choose to be grateful for all the twists and turns in my journey. They make me who I am and they offer me room to grow and learn. God calls us to grow and learn. And together we are answering that call.

How do we answer the call to live a life of thanksgiving?

Part of the answer is managing our minds. Many of us have struggled with anxiety during this pandemic season. I know that at times I have grown anxious. Anxious for our faith community, for my adult children and their partners, for our civic community, our nation and the world. When that anxiousness descends on me, I have to turn my face to God and toward the knowledge that I am not alone and God is walking through this time with me. God cares for all my people, far more than I could ever love and care for them.

I have to trust in God. So how do I trust God, well, sometimes this is easy and sometimes I have been known to yell at God. Now I am not much of a yeller, so my way of yelling is saying 'REALLY God, really, you have got to be kidding me. You will have to walk me through this journey because I can't see the way forward.' See God already knows how I am feeling and

God knows how you are feeling too. I am perfectly honest with God and that has allowed for a deeper relationship to grow. You can tell God anything and God will still love you. You can not outrun God's love and neither can any person that you are currently worrying about. This brings me a sense of peace. A sense that my feet are firmly planted on God's journey and I can be part of this world's solution and part of this world's thankfulness.

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## Warden's Corner

Thanksgiving is almost here and despite the pandemic, we have much for which to be thankful. Our corner of the world is truly blessed. Yes we still have restrictions on worship but hopefully the greatest restrictions are behind us. Hopefully the replacement air conditioner and the new video/audio system will improve our ability to worship and enjoy church functions.

Anyone driving through the county has been able to see successful crops, not withstanding times of torrential rains and gale force winds. We have not suffered the horrific forest fires that have plagued much of the western part of our country. At the time of writing, elective surgeries are not being cancelled as is happening in other provinces. In this regard and on a personal note; it was truly amazing to attend the hospital, show your health card and 2 ½ hours later walk out with a corrected lens implant. We take that sort of health care for granted.

Another right we take for granted is the right to vote. One may not like the result of the recent

election but the ability to democratically choose one's government is a right worth protecting.

One has just to look at the Crimea or Afghanistan to see how that right can be lost. Yes we are truly blessed.

**Happy Thanksgiving  
from your Wardens!**



## Financial Health

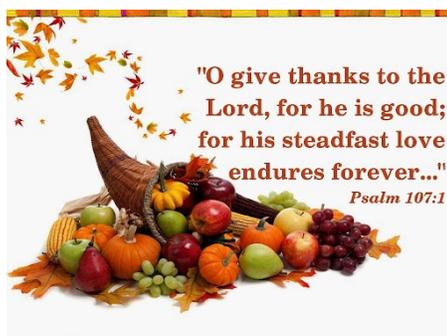
At the time of writing, I am relying on the August Financial Statements. In the first 8 months of the year our givings exceeded the same period of last year by more than \$1000.00 per month. This is truly remarkable considering the circumstances regarding the pandemic and the restrictions on worship. The wardens greatly appreciate the congregation's generosity. Unfortunately we are still running a sizeable deficit for the year.

At the end of August our total income for the year was \$116,782.74 and our expenses were \$147,273.95 for a deficit of \$30,491.21. Because of two non-budgeted expenses in September (the video/audio recording system and the replacement air conditioner) it is anticipated that the deficit will grow

notwithstanding the income obtained because of the rental of the hall for the election. These expenditures were not undertaken without lengthy consideration. Many of you who join in worship virtually are having difficulty with the sound and following the service. It is the hope that the new equipment will address these problems as the contractor has successfully installed systems in other churches. Without air conditioning, many of our parish social events and fund raisers would not realistically be possible. We are asking that you keep Holy Trinity/St. Paul's in mind while deciding where to make your charitable donation in the final quarter of 2021.

In the spirit of transparency, we want you to know where we stand.

Fred Creed





## Deacon's Corner - Rev. Elaine

As Thanksgiving quickly approaches our thoughts relive special times we experienced during past celebrations when family and friends gathered together to continue a tradition of providing a nurturing place for memories to develop and grow.

Over the years our church has been a community wherein many bountiful gifts which God has provided were gathered and displayed for beautification. Thus a tradition of setting aside a time to give our praise and gratitude to God for the gifts we have freely been given. However, we have come to realize that life as we have previously experienced has changed and for a number of those in our church family doesn't guarantee a perfect celebration. We now reflect on how truly special those treasured memories have become, giving rise to a longing for a real Thanksgiving – complete with real people, real memories and really good food.

Although life in the present doesn't guarantee that this year will be a perfect Thanksgiving, this doesn't prevent us from giving thanks for our bountiful gifts with which we have been blessed

### ***A Brief Reflection on 'Gratitude'***

*Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life.*

*It turns what we have into enough and more.*

*It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity*

*It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.*

*Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.*

- Melody Beattie

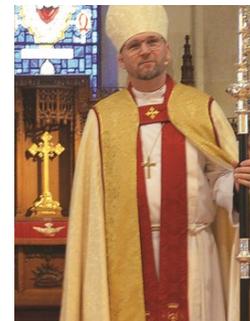
Praying you will share your Blessings with relatives, friends and strangers at this time of Thanksgiving.

Deacon Elaine



### **Parish Council Minutes**

For those who are unaware, you have access to the minutes from our Parish Council meetings. Pre – COVID, they could be found in a binder in the foyer but since that area is out of bounds at the moment, the binder will be placed on the table at the back of the church. There is some catching up we have to do before it finds its place there as some house-keeping items have been slowed due to the pandemic. The Duty Warden will announce when this binder is available to you.



### **Bishop Todd's Visit and our 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

**November 21, 2021**

Come and welcome back our own Bishop Todd and celebrate our 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary together.

It is Christ the King Sunday and we will honour our ministry and growth together.

Don't miss the celebration!

## VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH



I chose Margaret Mohammed for our Volunteer of the Month for many reasons but first and foremost, at this moment in time, is that she's our new Children's Church Co-ordinator.



Margaret was born and raised in Trinidad, West Indies. She attended high school there as well as earning a Double Honours Degree in Math and History at the University of the West Indies. While in Trinidad, Margaret taught high school Math before coming to Canada. Continuing her education, Margaret also earned an ECE (Early Childhood Education Diploma) from St. Clair College after coming to Canada. She worked as an Insurance Underwriter in London and Vancouver, was an Early Childhood Educator at the Chatham YMCA and was a Home Day Care Operator.

Faith has always been important to Margaret who attended Christ Church in Trinidad, Huron College Chapel in London ON, UBC Chapel in Vancouver, Holy Trinity and Holy Trinity/St. Paul's in Chatham and we are very blessed to have her. At our church, Margaret volunteers as the head of the Altar Chapter, co-ordinator of Children's Church, helping with the Bazaar, the Pie People and Day Camp.

In the community, Margaret canvasses for Cancer, Heart and Stroke, and volunteers for Community Living. She also does Remedial Math and Reading Help at neighbouring elementary schools and is a Girl Guides leader of the group that meets at our church.

When asked why she volunteers, Margaret said, "I volunteer because it gives me pleasure to give back to my community. Volunteering also gives me the opportunity to meet new people, learn new skills and form new friendships."

Margaret, thank you for sharing your intelligence, your talents, your positive attitude, and your community spirit with us here at your home church. Again, we are so blessed to have you!

Beth Myers

Join us for a  
**Turkey Dinner Take Out**  
Friday, October 15, 2021  
4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

White And Dark Meat

Gravy

Dressing

Mashed Potatoes

Dessert Brownie

Advanced Ticket Sales Only

**"Ticket Information"**

Ticket Price: \$20.00  
Contact Dan Rossignol at 519-401-5836  
Or Contact the Parish Office at 519-354-1072

Holy Trinity/St. Paul's Anglican Church  
81 Selkirk Street, Chatham, Ontario

Check Your Pick Up Time

TAKE OUT DINNER

PARKING LOT PICK UP

**GIVE THANKS**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.

— PSALM 106:1 NIV



## The Art of Thanksgiving

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How is my Thanksgivings Day going to look this year? I have thought and prayed about this. This Thanksgiving will be smaller and different than the last 25 years. I have decided not to have turkey, which I love, but to have a special beef dinner. This will be a treat but not a traditional celebration dinner. After I had made this decision, the church announced a turkey dinner for the end of that week, so I get to have my turkey dinner without all the fuss and mess. Great! I invite you to join me in ordering your post thanksgiving dinner from our parish and maybe try something new to make this Thanksgiving a special one. New traditions can be a blessing. Thanks be to God!

As you wonder through this season of pandemic and maybe struggle with the art of thanksgiving, I offer you this prayer:

*God of wind and flame, send your life-giving Spirit upon your People: give fire to our words, strength to our witness and boldness to our proclamation of your wonderful work in Christ; who, with you and the Spirit, lives and reigns now and forever. Amen.*

With prayers and blessings,  
Rev CJ



## Parish Update Corner

Fall is a busy time of year for our parish. Here is an update on various things happening in our parish...

### Children's Ministry

This ministry is a very important part of our church life and we have struggled with how to reach and help children through this season of pandemic. Here is our ministry line up for 2021-2022:

#### **Children's Church**

Margaret Mohammed is coordinating our Children's Church this year. We changed the name as there has been so much angst around the concept of school during this COVID season. We have a few families who have children that want to come to church. We have a new curriculum, and our teachers are leading for a month then they have 3 or 4 months off and will lead another month. This will allow them to be in church and still be part of our important children's ministry. If you are interested in being an occasional leader, please let me know.

#### **Hand Chimes**

Hedy Rempel will be leading our children's music program as usual. This year, because we can not sing yet, she will be having a hand chime program. This group meets Thursdays from 6:30 – 7 pm starting Sept 30<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Hedy with any questions and invite your little friends to join.

#### **Tutoring**

We are starting a free Elementary tutoring program on Saturday mornings. Wanda Bell, Shirley Row and myself will lead this important ministry. We are planning to help the students in English – reading and writing, math and socialization – how to learn in a group environment.

This program will begin in October. Please let your friends and family know of this important opportunity coming later this fall.

### Worship

#### **On-Line Services**

During this pandemic season we have struggled with the sound in our online worship. This was a new arena of ministry for us and we have learned a great deal. We have ordered a new camera that will plug into our sound system and allow for enhanced sound and picture. We expect this to be in place before Advent. Currently we are waiting on some parts. The cost of this new component is a little over \$13,000, if you wish to contribute, all donations are gratefully accepted.

#### **Off-line Services**

Our telephone worship ministry will continue. To access the service, simply call 1-888-229-5422 and then press 4,1,1. This will get you to the recording of the last Sunday readings, sermon and musical reflection. Enjoy!

### Parish Communications

Parish communications is always important, and we have improved ours throughout this past few years. We are striving for transparency and accountability during this time when we can't all gather.

#### **At A Glance**

We will be simplifying our weekly At A Glance. This is an important communication tool and are seeking ways to improve on a good information tool.

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## **Parish Update Corner** cont'd from page 5



### **Telephone Tree**

We have developed a Telephone Tree for those people who are not computer users. Although we encourage each person to stay in touch with their parish friends, this ministry was developed for those who need important, time critical information, such as changes to worship or new ministries.

### **Newsletters – electronic & mailed**

We have redeveloped our newsletter and it has become The Messenger. These are sent both through email and by hard copy for those without computers. There are a few (Thanksgiving, Christmas & Lent) that are mailed to every person. These carry inspiration messages, parish updates, financial accountability updates and important ministry news

### **Stewardship**

Financial transparency is very important in the life of our church family. Good budgeting and sound financial management are the hallmarks of our administration.

#### **Newsletter Financial Update**

We are updating the parish with a financial look in each newsletter. This pandemic season has changed the life of our parish and our finances reflect that. Some expenses have gone down, and others have gone up— just like our personal finances. We want to keep you informed concerning the financial health of our parish.

#### **Mid-year giving letter**

The mid-year giving notice will be sent within this newsletter envelope. This is the normal information with a letter of thanks and a snapshot of our parish family giving. Thank you for your generosity.

### **Church Building**

Maintenance has to be done on all buildings in our life. We are in need of a few people to help with the important ministry of building and grounds.

#### **Steeple and small rose window painted**

Our steeple and small rose window needed a little love and some painting. We had a company come in and attend to this important work to maintain our beloved church building.

#### **New A/C for kitchen and Parish Hall**

A new air conditioner has been needed in the kitchen and hall area of our parish hall. This work was completed in September.

### **Community Life**

Community life has looked different and continues to do so. We can not gather as we would like but we have events that we value and cherish. Here are a few this fall.

#### **Turkey dinner – Oct 15**

We will be having our drive by Turkey Dinner this Oct 15<sup>th</sup>. This is a lovely dinner created by Burn's and delivered by Holy Trinity/St. Paul's beloved people. Oh yes, it will be blessed by Rev CJ also. Please encourage your family and friends to be part of this wonderful evening. \$20 for a full turkey dinner – advanced tickets required. Call the church office to reserve a place in line.

#### **Online Winter Wonderland Bazaar**

Our wonderful Winter Wonderland Bazaar will be happening this year, but it will be happening on line. We still can not gather in a safe way to hold it at the church. Please visit our Markets Holy Trinity/St. Paul's on Facebook. We are also trying to create a place on the upcoming new website for this important group to be seen and purchases to be made.

### **Bishop's Visit & 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Mark your calendar for the following important dates...

Nov 21<sup>st</sup> Bishop Todd's visit and our 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Christ the King Sunday

Dec 12 a multi-generational Pageant

Dec 19 a Lessons and Carols Service both online and in our beloved church building

