

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are beneficial.
—1 Corinthians 6:12a

This passage from the Letter of Paul to the Corinthians, which forms part of the second reading this week, is a summary of the teachings in the chapters that preceded it (which we have not read in the lectionary cycle) and acts as a hinge to move us onward into a new body of teachings (which we will read in the coming weeks). In it, Paul is echoing a saying that was common among the Corinthian church ("All things are lawful for me"). He doesn't completely reject the truth of the saying but he qualifies it and gives the Corinthians something to think about.

His repetition of the saying is a response to two events that Paul had heard about in Corinth. The first was where a member of the church was having sex with his stepmother. The second was a case of lawsuits between believers who, instead of dealing with their differences within the community of faith, went to court in the civil legal system. Paul was scandalised because these behaviours caused division and because they were offensive to the ethics by which Christians ought to live.

It would seem that the man who was sleeping with his stepmother thought that, since he was a Christian, he was free to do what he liked. This is where the saying "all things are lawful for me" came from. A misguided belief in the effect of salvation through the cross led many of the Corinthians to think that they could do whatever they wanted because they were saved. The Christians who went to law in their dispute were scandalous because they made recourse to a civil law that often stood at odds with the Gospel and were unable to work things out in a manner that was born out of mutual love and concern.

Paul does not dispute that Christ fulfils the law. There are many legal prescriptions in the Old Testament that Christians no longer observe because of this belief. We can eat pork and shrimp, wear clothing made of mixed fibres, and don't have to sacrifice animals on the temple altar. Superficially, we can say, "All things are lawful for me." Paul must qualify this blanket statement, however: "But", he says, "not all things are beneficial". He makes two points here. The first is that he demands that our actions are thought of not merely from the perspective of "What *may* I do?" but from the perspective of "What *should* I do?" Just because I can do something doesn't mean I should, and Paul is concerned about this because the Corinthians seem to have reduced their faith to something individualistic. Paul focuses on what is beneficial because he wants to remind the Corinthians that our actions are always taken in the context of community. Therefore, sleeping with one's stepmother or taking each other to court are actions that are injurious to the community. But his second point is this: as he goes on to say that our bodies are joined with God and that we are temples of the Holy Spirit, we must always remember that our actions are also done in the context of being the dwelling place of the holy. As I said last week, God isn't just a heavenly policeman looking down on us, waiting to give us a ticket for misbehaving. God is within us, a part of our very being, and when we live as though we can do anything we want without fear of consequence (or, worse, thinking there are no consequences to our actions), we not only risk injuring others but we risk denying the divine presence in ourselves.

So, though all things may be lawful to those who have been freed by Christ, let us have a mind that we are called to lives that are holy and bring honour not only to ourselves but to our brothers and sisters, and most of all, to God.



THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF TYENDINAGA

*To be a Spirit-filled and life-giving place where strangers
become friends and friends become disciples.*

SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Sunday 18 January 2015
Second Sunday after Epiphany

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

9:30 a.m.

Jan-Mar and Jul-Sep—All Saints' Church, 1295 Ridge Rd
Apr-Jun and Oct-Dec—Christ Church, 52 South Church Ln

PARISH PRIEST

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Mission Statement

Our mission, for the glory of God in Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit, is to:

- Celebrate all that God has done for us through worship and witness with others.
- Respond to our call to be disciples of Christ by sharing our faith, rooted in the Word of God, with others and encouraging others to become followers of Christ through word and action.
- Practice good stewardship of our human, financial and environmental resources, working to ensure that all of God's Creation is viable for future generations.
- Grow ourselves and others by reaching out to our communities, following Jesus' example of generous caring, giving, and welcoming.

UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Food Bank Donations—We gather non-perishable food items on the first Sunday of each month and donate them to the Food Bank. The Food Bank is experiencing a significant increase in the number of families it serves so this is a material way we can help our neighbours. The next Food Bank Sunday is 1 Feb.

Ministry to Residents of the Friendly Manor—Those who volunteered to assist with this ministry are asked to meet with Brad briefly after church today. Our first visit will be at 10:30 a.m. on Thu 22 Jan.

Annual Meeting of Vestry—Sun 1 Feb. We will have a potluck lunch immediately after the service (please bring a dish to share plus your feast basket with plates, utensils etc) and then begin the Vestry meeting as we're finishing lunch. Please see the insert for a letter from Parish Council about Vestry.

Absence of the Rector—Brad will be away on a course from 10 Feb to 24 Feb. Pastoral emergencies will be covered by Cathie Vick.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—Tue 17 Feb, 5-7 p.m., QAPC. Come enjoy a supper complete with pancakes, sausages, and bacon—the ancient custom of using up the fatty and sugary foods in the house before the Lenten fast began on Ash Wednesday. The pancake supper is free as a gesture of hospitality to our community so we ask parishioners to provide donations to purchase the food. Doug Green is looking for assistance in organising the event.

Ash Wednesday Liturgy—Wed 18 Feb, 7 p.m. at All Saints' with Imposition of Ashes and the Celebration of the Eucharist. The Rev'd Dorothy Lancaster will preside.

Lenten Study—Starting Wed 25 Feb and continuing for six weeks. We will gather from 5-7 p.m. in the QAPC. Each session will begin with a simple potluck supper and continue with the study. Books available soon.

A New Ministry! Under the leadership of Pam Detlor and Pat Brant, the parish is providing adult mentors for students at Quinte Mohawk School in the literacy program. If you are interested in knowing more about this important outreach to young people in our community, please speak to Pam or Pat. Volunteers are always welcome. The program takes place Tue and Thu mornings at QMS.

2015 Canadian Church Calendars—There are still some calendars available at the back of the church for \$6.00. Please place your money in the box beside the calendars.

Rectory Rental—The rectory is available for rental on a weekly basis as a cottage for tourists, fishermen, etc (and may be rented for shorter periods in the off season). Check out the website at cottagesincanada.com/bayofquinterectorycottage and please tell your friends who might need a place to stay!

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anglican Communion

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
Diocese of London

The Rt. Revd & Rt. Hon Richard John Carew Chartres
The Rt. Revd Peter Wheatley, The Rt. Revd Jonathan Baker, The Rt. Revd Paul Williams, The Rt. Revd Adrian Newman, The Rt. Revd Peter Broadbent

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton

Parish of Loughborough

The Rev. Blair Peever

The Rev. Guiseppe Gagliano

The Rev. Jack Beer

Companions

St Ann's Episcopal Church, Amsterdam, the Very Rev'd Neal Longe
HM Chapel Royal, Hampton Court Palace, the Rev'd Canon Denis Mulliner

Parish of Tyendinaga

Flower Co-ordinators / Arrangers

Pray for the families of: Margaret & Donald Bonner; Brian Branchaud;
Al & Linda Brant; Ann, Charles & Melissa Brant; Audrey Brant

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 25 JANUARY

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Psalms 62:6-14

Mark 1:14-20

Stewardship Reflection

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

"Come and see," says Philip to Nathanael. As those who have experienced something Jesus, how do we "take care" by sharing and spreading the word of our experience?

Financial Report

Weekly Need: \$2,972

Last week's Offering: \$1,629

Shortfall last week: \$1,343

Based on the 2015 budget and the number of identifiable givers, the following is what is required of each giver in order to meet our needs:

Weekly: \$42

Monthly: \$184