

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

I am often asked about how I discerned my sense of call. I am sure that you have all heard the story more than once so I don't want to belabour it, but my answer usually touches on the following points. First, that I am not sure I had an epiphany (or aha! moment) when my sense of call crystallised for me, but that my discernment has been the work of a lifetime (and, indeed, that it continues). Second, that my sense of call is not only something that I discerned but that the community around me discerned, too. Finally, my call was one to ordination, where I would work for the Church, being a pastor and teacher, tending to the needs of God's people and equipping them to live out their own sense of call.

Now, what is your sense of call? What vocation do you have? We believe, because we read it in Scripture (especially in Paul's letters), that every Christian is endowed with gifts of the Spirit equal to the call that God places on our lives. A sense of call is not reserved to clergy alone, although it is true that the institutional Church has probably done a better job at developing mechanisms for discerning calls to ordained ministry than for lay ministry. If you can't answer the question about your own calling, as I did above, then that's something for you to reflect on.

Call is important. It's really at the heart of who we are. It started with the people of Israel when God called them to be his Chosen People, a nation that was set apart from other nations to live differently in the world. It continues to this day, as Christians are called to follow Jesus, setting ourselves in, but not of, the world, as we seek to live in ways that are faithful to God's vision of the kingdom rather than in servitude to the ways of the world.

We look to the example of the first disciples to see the profound effect of the call that Jesus places on us. In this week's Gospel reading, Mark recounts the calling of the first four: Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, and John. These working class men, all of them fishermen, were at their daily labour—fishing and mending nets—when Jesus passed them by. Now, they had likely heard him speaking, and as Doug reminded us last week when he was preaching on Jesus' encounter with Nathanael, they would certainly have heard what John the Baptist was saying about his cousin Jesus, so Jesus would not have been a completely unknown quantity to them. He would not have been, however, overly familiar, either. So, what happens next is pretty amazing. As he walks by these four men who are busy at their work, he calls to them and simply invites them to "Follow me". And they do, James and John even abandoning their father Zebedee in the boat to do the work himself!

We must not miss a crucial part of this story, though. Mark reminds us, before he tells us about Jesus calling out to Simon, Andrew, James, and John, that Jesus was going around Galilee proclaiming the good news of God and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." The call of Jesus is not just an invitation to come along because he might promise a good time. It is predicated on hearing the invitation to repent—to turn away from those things that are contrary to his good news—before truly being able to follow. It means putting discipleship above everything else, even to the point where the sons of Zebedee left their father behind.

Discipleship is not a walk on the beach with Jesus. It is costly and difficult and often in opposition to many of the things we have been taught to value. But the true disciple knows that in God alone is hope and salvation. That God alone is our strong rock and our refuge. Knowing this, then, when Jesus invites you to follow him, how will you respond?



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 25 January 2015
Third 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

Love in Action—The next meeting is tomorrow, Mon 26 Jan, at 7:00 p.m. at Marilyn Brant's.

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.

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.

Palm Crosses for Ashes—Palm crosses from last year may be given to Brad until Sun 8 Feb in order to be burned and sifted for the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

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 The sign-up sheets can be found in the boardroom beside the kitchen.

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 Long Island
The Rt. Revd Lawrence Provenzano

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
Parish of Marysburgh
The Rev. Canon David Smith

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

Fellowship and Refreshment Hosts
Pray for the families of: Beatrice Brant; David, Adrian & Tayla Brant;
Delores J. Brant; Donald & Lillian Brant; Elaine Brant

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 1 FEBRUARY

Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Psalms 111
Mark 1:21-28

Stewardship Reflection

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

Do you hear Jesus calling you? Where does he want you to be? What does he want you to do? As one who wants to be a faithful steward, how do you respond?

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,972
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,382</u>
Shortfall last week	\$1,590

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