

## RECTOR'S REFLECTION

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it." One of those old adages that we all know. And one that we seem to hear quite a bit in church. I'm thinking of throwing it out of my vocabulary, though. Although it is not an unsound principle—why waste money buying a new TV just for the sake of having a new TV when the old one works just fine still—the way I've heard it of late is less to do with fiscal frugality and more to do with, "I don't want to change".

I was at a conference the other day where one of the presenters was telling us that the organisation for whom he worked was losing funding partners and was beginning to be unable to provide its programs. He started to implement a new way of looking at the delivery of resources and a client came into the office one day during the transition. She was upset that the program she was using was going to change. Her argument was, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it." From her perspective, of course, everything was working fine. She had been getting what she wanted. But there were other people who were not receiving the services they needed and the money was drying up in the former funding model. She was unable to see this big picture and only knew that what she was dealing with appeared not to be broken. She just couldn't see that, in fact, the whole thing was broken.

The more I think about it, the more I see that our culture in church has become one of saying, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it". We don't actually reflect on anything, we just like the way things have always been, and so we trot out this wonderful old adage in order to justify our complacency. Those who insist on fixing things get accused of "change for the sake of change". Tensions build.

In the Gospel for this week, we read of Jesus' first foray into public ministry after calling the first disciples. In Capernaum, on the Sabbath, Jesus went into the synagogue. It is noteworthy that, after taking Simon, Andrew, James, and John from their routines, he took them to the synagogue, a place of security, ritual and tradition. While there, he stood up to teach, and we are told that the congregation was astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority. Suddenly, in the synagogue, there was a man who was possessed by an unholy demon whom Jesus confronted. While the congregation was astounded at Jesus' boldness in teaching, the demon appears to be the only character who truly understood who Jesus was. There is a tension here: the people who so desperately long for the liberation of the Messiah failed to recognise him. Sure, they perceived that he taught with authority, but it was only the demon who said, "I know who you are, the Holy One of God". Into this place of security and tradition, a new authority had come that the people really didn't understand and which threatened to turn everything upside down. As the story continues to unfold, Jesus' fame spreads and he takes his message out of the synagogue and into the villages and towns of the region all around.

As we invite Jesus into our midst in our celebration of the Lord's Supper this week, let us pray that he will come with a new authority that enables us to truly see him for who he is, that allows us to truly commit ourselves to follow him, and that gives us the courage to proclaim his message not only in our congregation but in the towns and villages all around us. Let us see that Jesus comes to fix our broken world and desires change not for its own sake but for ours. Let the scales of security and tradition fall from our eyes, that they may be opened to the potential of our becoming a people who are prepared to follow Jesus in creating opportunities for healing and transformation for ourselves, for our neighbours, for the world.



## THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF TYENDINAGA

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

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# SUNDAY CELEBRATION

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**Sunday 1 February 2015**  
**Fourth 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

The Venerable Brad Smith  
rector@parishoftyendinaga.org

### QUEEN ANNE PARISH CENTRE

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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

**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 signup 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.

**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 Mar.

**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](http://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 Luwero, Uganda  
The Rt. Revd Canon Eridard Kironde Nsubuga

### *Diocese of Ontario*

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton  
Parish of Merrickville  
The Venerable Andrew Chisholm  
The Rev. Robert Porter  
The Rev. Lisa Chisholm-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*

#### Gardeners

Pray for the families of: Elton, Kate, Spencer & Damien Brant;  
Elwood & Myrtle Brant; Glenn & Jean Brant; Helen Brant;  
Jason, Jenny, Foster & Ariel Brant

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY 8 FEBRUARY

Isaiah 40:21-31  
1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Psalms 147:1-12, 21c  
Mark 1:29-39

## **Stewardship Reflection**

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

The actions of Jesus seem to have a remarkable effect, and "his fame began to spread." What kind of effect do our actions, as stewards, have on those around us?

## **Financial Report**

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,702</u>
Shortfall last week	\$ 757

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: \$40                      Monthly: \$173