

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

I have been asked what the nature of our covenant with the diocese is with respect to the ministry task force. To refresh your memory, at Vestry we approved a covenant wherein we would look at strengthening an existing ministry (the monthly visitation and worship at Friendly Manor) and step out in faith in a new ministry (the literacy program at Quinte Mohawk School). If you still aren't sure what I'm talking about, please see pages 10-11 of our vestry reports at www.parishoftyendinaga.org/parishcouncil/2015VestryCC.pdf. The question about the nature of the covenant was if it was binding, how it would be enforced etc. I think there might have been some worry that we were taking on a huge new responsibility that would put a strain on us. This is not the case, and it is intended by the diocese that it not be the case. In our situation, the covenant is perfect for us because it gives us a framework in which to situate two ministries that we were already planning to do. One, the Friendly Manor, was something I've been doing for several years and we have folded in a lay visiting team to that ministry. The second, the literacy program, is a few months old and represents something completely new for us—ministry outside our walls. We took “step out in faith” literally!

The preamble to our covenant with the diocese reads as follows:

We are a People of the Covenant. We have a long history in the Diocese of Ontario of using the word Covenant—it is a rich biblical concept. By far the most common use of the term has its roots in what the Bible tells us happened in the early days. The Old Testament stories, especially those of Abraham and Sarah, of Noah, and of David tell us of God's promise to our biblical ancestors – promises of what the future will be like. “As people of Faith and Covenant we recognize God is ultimately in charge, also, as followers of our Lord Jesus we acknowledge God's call and invitation to take our part in the building up of the Kingdom of God through. That is, to work with God to make our world the world he intended and dreamed for us at the beginning of Creation. As we take that work and ministry seriously we become a living and active sign of God's covenant of love to one another and to the world around us”. By choosing to take part in this Covenant, we choose to work together as a Diocese, to work with God, to make God's dream for all of creation come to reality.

In the Old Testament reading for this week, from Genesis 9, we read of the covenant that God made with Noah and his sons after the waters of the great flood had receded. The covenant between God and Noah was a little more profound than the one we have just entered into with the rest of the diocese. After a catastrophic “un-creation”, God starts fresh and makes this promise: “I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth....[It shall be an] everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.”

In the covenant made with Noah and his sons, a new start is made by the remnant that was spared by God. Humanity had strayed far from the ideal existence of Eden and God had punished the destroyers but saved some to start over. In the covenant, there is promise of new beginnings, new life, new blessings. As we enter into a covenant coming out of the recommendations of the diocesan ministry task force and look forward to strengthening established ministries and starting new ones, I pray that the same promise will be true for us. May our covenant lead us into new beginnings, new life, new blessings!



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 22 February 2015
First Sunday in Lent

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 Mar.

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.

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. There are 12 books available at the front of the church for those planning to attend.

Friendly Manor Service—The ministry team for the Friendly Manor is reminded that our next visit is Thu 26 Feb at 10:30 a.m.

Parish Council—The next meeting of Parish Council is Wed 4 Mar at 7 pm. At the QAPC.

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
Parish of Maseno North (Kenya)
The Rt. Revd Simon Oketch
Parish of Maseno South (Kenya)
The Rt. Revd Francis Abiero

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
Parish of North Hastings
The Rev. Jonathon Kouri

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

Mohawk Guild
Pray for the families of: Russel & Joan Brant; Sandra Brant;
Sandra, Cedar & Miigwun Brant; Scott, Molly & Theodore Brant; Shirley Brant

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 1 MARCH

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Romans 4:13-25

Psalms 22:22-30
Mark 8:31-38

Stewardship Reflection

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

“Change your ways, and put your trust in the good news,” Jesus tells us. What things might need to be changed around in your life so that you can become a better steward?

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,029</u>
Profit last week	\$1,430

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