

## RECTOR'S REFLECTION

I remember the day well. It was in November 2005, and the annual clergy conference had just ended. Bishop George asked me if I could join him for lunch. During lunch, I was informed that I was going to be appointed to the Parish of Tyendinaga starting just before Christmas. I was happy that I was one step closer to ordination and parish ministry, but there was also a significant feeling of fear because it was also one step closer to being “real”. I was rapidly coming to the end of eighteen years of schooling and “real life” was right around the corner. I might even say that my fear and anxiety masked any joy that I might have felt.

I resonate with the women in the Gospel of the Resurrection. As Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome came to the tomb early on the first day of week in order to properly anoint the dead body of Jesus, they could never have expected what they were about to encounter. First, they came to the tomb, only to find that the stone that sealed up the entrance had been removed. Then, when they went inside, they saw a young man in a white robe (an angel), who told them that Jesus was not there, but had been raised, and would in fact, meet them and the disciples in Galilee.

Like the news I received in November 2005, there was certainly good news in what the angel said. “Jesus...was crucified. He has been raised.” “You will see him.” For people who had lost their friend and leader just a day and a half before, people for whom the pain of grief was still so raw, it is understandable that they did not grasp right away what the angel was saying. Notwithstanding the fact that Jesus had told them that he must die, and on the third day be raised again, this message was so radical that it was almost unbelievable. For the women at the tomb, it was much easier to look with alarm upon the young man in the white robe and the empty grave stone and to wonder what had happened to Jesus.

The first reaction to the resurrection of Jesus, then, was terror and amazement. As Mark reports it, “they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” There are many likely reasons for this. Jesus was hanged as a political criminal—those associated with him risked a similar fate. Even if they understood the young man to be an angel, that is still an unnerving prospect: coming face-to-face with a heavenly being. Coming to a grave where they expected to find a dead body and instead finding that body missing would make anyone feel a little frightened.

And yet, somehow, the women and the disciples after them all overcame their initial fears and began to tell the good news of Jesus’ resurrection. In the passage from 1 Corinthians 15, which is likely the earliest recorded account of the resurrection, Paul tells the story of Jesus being buried and raised and then appearing to Peter, the disciples, the crowds, and finally to Paul. In Acts 10 we read of Peter’s speech to the Gentiles. He tells of the ministry of Jesus and of his crucifixion and resurrection. Peter was afraid of who he might proclaim the good news to because he didn’t want to be too “liberal” with it. God showed him a vision that opened his eyes to the radical inclusiveness of God. He spoke to the Gentiles saying, “I truly understand that God shows no partiality.” In our time, how often do we fear being too “liberal” with God’s message of salvation? On this Easter Day, let us, like Peter, be convinced that God shows no partiality. Let us overcome our fears, as did the women at the tomb. Let us boldly proclaim the good news of Christ crucified and raised from the dead. Let us proclaim that God’s salvation is available to all for God truly shows no partiality. Let us rejoice and be glad that on this day the Lord has acted. For Christ is risen! Alleluia!

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Friendly Manor Service**—The next ministry team visit for the Friendly Manor is Thu 23 Apr at 10:30 a.m. In winter weather, please bring indoor footwear.

**Parish Leadership Workshop**—offered by the diocese to clergy, wardens, and treasurers (not just new ones). Sat 25 Apr, Christ Church, Belleville. Time and other details to follow.

**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 3 May.

**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!

**Camp Hyanto**—Registrations are now open. Visit <http://ontario.anglican.ca/wp/camp-hyanto/> to register online. You can financially support Camp Hyanto in order to assist with the provision of Christian camp ministry to youth online (go to the website above and click on the tab that says “2015 PAG form”).

**Love in Action Theatre Night**—*Murder in Bloom*, at the Lennox Community Theatre, 2219 Cty Rd 11, Selby. Wed 22 Apr, 8 p.m. (doors open at 7:45) Tickets \$18, available from Love in Action members.

## **Stewardship Reflection**

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

“The disciples had locked the doors for fear.” “Don’t be afraid.” So much of our modern culture, especially in this part of the world, seems to be based on fear. What would life be like, both personally as well as corporately, were we to live “AS IF” we had nothing to fear? As faithful stewards and disciples can we at least try during these 50 Easter days?

## **Financial Report**

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Weekly Need:          | \$2,459        |
| Last week's Offering: | <u>\$2,099</u> |
| Shortfall             | \$ 360         |

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

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## PRAYERS THIS WEEK

### *Anglican Communion*

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

### *Diocese of Ontario*

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton

Parish of the Rideau

The Rev'd Valerie Kelly

The Rev'd Canon Karen Freaque

### *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*

Parish Council

Pray for the families of: Earl Green; Edith Green;  
Marc Green; Patricia & Jim Green; Peter Green

## READINGS FOR SUNDAY 12 APRIL

Acts 4:32-35  
1 John 1:1-2:2

Psalm 133  
John 20:19-31

## **Thanksgivings**

The flowers in the church are given  
to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

Gladys & Clifford Maracle from the family  
Sadie, Lazarus & Clayton Brant from the family  
Rhonda and Nancy from Ardeth & Jim and family  
Ron Spencer from Donna & family  
Laverne (Fish), Sheridan, Geraldine, Jerry & George Maracle from the family  
Phyllis Eves, Margaret Eves, and Mrs Campbell from John Eves  
Clifford, Jean, & Clayton John from Sandra & family  
Charles (Bud) & Jeff Maracle from Shirley & family  
Brian Maracle from Anne and family  
Lloyd Woodman and Betty Loft from June  
Freda Smith from Caroline and Will Brant  
Clare Brant from Ann and family  
Roger & Mike Brant and Ed & Muriel Peeling from Pat and family  
Helena & Earl Murphy and Freda & Fletcher Vick from their families  
Stafford & Ada Claus and Eldon Hearn from Marion Hearn  
Mary E Brant from Winston  
John P Maracle and Anthony Maracle from Madeline & family