

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

Last weekend, I had dinner with a former military couple with a fascinating story. The husband was a soldier who stepped on an improvised explosive device while in Afghanistan. He lost both legs and very nearly lost his life. One of the medics who provided life-saving first aid was the woman who is now his wife. In the few years since they both released army, they have done great things. He and his brother came second place in a recent season of "The Amazing Race—Canada". He runs marathons on his prosthetic legs. They have raised several million dollars for services provided to wounded soldiers. Their story is impressive, but the most impressive thing of all is that they did any of it. You see, rather than using his injuries as a catalyst to do all of these good works of raising awareness and funds, he could have become depressed, withdrawn. He might have given up on life because he no longer had the use of his legs: a terrible blow to anyone, but especially to an infantry soldier steeped in the warrior culture. But he didn't: and they have made a lot of meaning out of their live together in recent years.

As we talked, I could not help but reflect to them that, from my perspective as a chaplain and person of faith, theirs was a story of redemption. I explained how I believed that God never promised to take away our suffering but that, when we suffer, God would suffer alongside us, and show us a way to make something good from our suffering. Not to make light of the terrible injury he sustained, but the things he has done since that almost-fatal day, have brought much meaning and good out of the loss of his limbs. The wife remarked that she liked that thought and that she learned a new word that night: redemption.

It made me wonder if perhaps this notion of redemption is not only unknown to people who are disconnected from the Church but also increasingly unknown to those of us in the Church. It was certainly a teaching point that Jesus had to make with the disciples in the days following the resurrection. Let's take a look at this week's reading from the Gospel of Luke.

The first thing that Jesus did when he appeared to the disciples was to reassure them. He said, "Peace be with you", which, of course was easier said than done because they were all quite likely to be upset still at his death (and the loss that it represented to the movement he had begun) and, having believed him dead, they were all likely fearful that this was a ghost of some kind that had appeared among them. From a more theological standpoint, Jesus' death was also devastating because it appeared that evil had won the day. All of the injustice and oppression in the world appeared to have overcome things that people believed God desired, especially good, peace, and justice.

Jesus sought to allay the fears that he was a ghost by inviting the disciples to touch his body, which, though still bearing the wounds of his crucifixion, was fully restored to life. He asked for a piece of fish to eat to prove that he was no ghost. Once their fears had been set aside, Jesus did what he had always done, and taught them. He concluded this appearance by commissioning his followers to be prepared to go out to tell the story of his suffering and rising from the dead and to witness to the power of God who overcame death.

Jesus taught his followers that evil, death, injustice and oppression never have the last word but that God has the power to redeem even the worst circumstance in order to turn it to good. Jesus commissioned the disciples to proclaim this good news. Like the disciples, like the soldier and his wife, the same is true for us: "You are witnesses of these things."



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 19 April 2015
Third Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

9:30 a.m.

All Saints' Church, 1295 Ridge Rd

PARISH PRIEST

The Venerable Brad Smith
rector@parishoftyendinaga.org

QUEEN ANNE PARISH CENTRE

1295 Ridge Rd
Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory
962-2787
parish@parishoftyendinaga.org

Website: <http://www.parishoftyendinaga.org>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tyendinagaanglican

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 Theatre Night—*Murder in Bloom*, a mystery comedy 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. "What could be more harmless than a ladies' garden club in a small English village? That's what they thought in sleepy, uneventful St. Basil-on-Green, until one day the richest lady in town is mysteriously murdered during a club meeting! As the police come onto the scene, we realize that this is more than a mere garden club and that more is at stake than begonias. And who among these harmless ladies would be capable of murder? The gripping ending tells all, with plenty of chills, laughs and poignant moments along the way."

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 all clergy, wardens, and treasurers. Sat 25 Apr, Christ Church, Belleville, 9:00-3:00. Brown bag lunch. Morning plenary sessions will be followed by an afternoon workshop in one of 3 streams (Mission, Stewardship, Safe Church). An agenda is posted on the bulletin board. To register, please visit <http://form.jotform.ca/form/50896471281260> or speak to Brad.

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 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 or to financially support Camp Hyanto in order to assist with the provision of Christian camp ministry to youth.

Diocesan Love in Action Appeal—This year, Love in Action Sunday is 3 May. Please support the Diocese of Ontario's Love in Action campaign which is a joint appeal between the Diocese of Ontario Foundation and the Anglican Appeal. Supporters will receive their 2015 mailing by May 15.

Bishop's Dinner—Mon 8 Jun at the Four Points Sheraton, Kingston. Guest speaker journalist and author Lawrence Scanlan wrote *A Year of Living Generously* - a book about compassion that chronicles his 12 months of volunteering with 12 different charities, among them Habitat for Humanity, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and Canadian Crossroads. More info to follow.

Amsterdam Trip—Our visit to St Ann's will take place 18-20 Sep. More to follow.

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PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anglican Communion

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Parish of Nebbi (Uganda)
The Rt. Revd Alphonse Watho-kudi

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
St. John the Evangelist, Stirling
The Rev. Nancy Beale

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

Musicians

Pray for the families of: George & Sharon Hill; Gordon & Sharon Hill;
Jamie & Shelley Hill; Jay Hill; Mary Ann Hill

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 26 APRIL

Acts 4:5-12
1 John 3:16-24

Psalm 23
John 10:11-18

Stewardship Reflection

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

"You are witnesses to this," says Jesus. A faithful steward is one who has experienced the story of Jesus in their own life, and is able to share it with others.

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,623</u>
Shortage	\$ 836

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