

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

Every year, this Fourth Sunday of Easter is kept as "Good Shepherd Sunday". We read the 23rd Psalm, with its familiar image of "the Lord is my shepherd...he makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters." We read from John's gospel, where Jesus says, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." We sing hymns with this familiar theme, "The Lord's My Shepherd", "Saviour, Like a Shepherd Lead Us", etc. And, when we go out for coffee hour, we can look at the hanging on the north wall of the parish hall and see Jesus surrounded by sheep.

What do you think when you hear Jesus referred to as the good shepherd? I suspect that most of us have been trained to think of him in a sort of domesticated way, that is, of a compassionate caretaker of pristine, white cuddly sheep. And, of course, then there is the other side of the equation: the good shepherd requires sheep. We are the sheep, and we like to think of ourselves in the same way: cuddly and respectable. But, are these images the way Jesus intended us to understand the good shepherd?

I have often spoken of how shepherds in the first century were anything but nice guys. But I'm not really sure that those shepherds are the ones that Jesus had in mind when he claimed for himself the title of good shepherd. There was already a long tradition in Israel's history of referring to leaders as shepherds. After all, since sheep herding was one of the first occupations of humankind, it provided plenty of parallels for the role of a leader. The shepherd was responsible for finding sufficient food and water for the sheep and for protecting them from disease and predators. Although God is rarely referred to as a shepherd in the Old Testament—the best example of this is Psalm 23—there are plenty of places where we can assume this is image the writers had in mind, for example, in the book of Exodus.

At the same time, human leaders were often referred to as shepherds. In the book of Numbers, we read that God allowed for human leaders to be appointed so that Israel would not be like "sheep without a shepherd" (Num 27:16). David, as we know, was a shepherd when Samuel came looking for a replacement for Saul and he grew into the metaphorical role of provider and protector of the flock of Israel when he was anointed king. In the Prophets, kings are referred to as shepherds, although it usually refers to how poorly they tended the flock!

These two common uses of the shepherd image are what Jesus intends for us to understand when he calls himself the good shepherd. We must remember, first of all, that the "ego eimi" ("I am" in Greek) statements in John's gospel (e.g. "I am the bread of life, the good shepherd, the gate, etc) are all direct references to the revelation of the Name of God to Moses in Exodus 3:14, where we learn that God is "Ego Eimi", I AM. In claiming to be the good shepherd, Jesus is laying a double claim ("I am" and "shepherd") to being from God, who is I AM and the Shepherd of Israel. He also claims human leadership, in the tradition of the kings of Israel.

This is sophisticated stuff—it is the product of the most literary and latest of the four gospels. The Jesus we see in John is neither nice nor cuddly nor domesticated. He is the Son of I AM and he claims his right to provide for and protect the people of God. In return then, we respond with love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. As the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep, the sheep are called to lay down their lives for each other. The goal of the sheep is not just to lie around idle but to strive more and more to be like the shepherd, sharing in the responsibility of providing for and protecting the flock.



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 26 April 2015
Fourth 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

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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

Friendly Manor Service—The next ministry team visit for the Friendly Manor is Thu 28 May at 10:30 a.m. In winter weather, please bring indoor footwear.

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.

Melos Choir Concert—“Italian Music from the 15th to 17th Centuries”, Sun 3 May, 3 p.m., St George’s Cathedral, Kingston. Tickets: \$25, \$22 Seniors, \$15 students available at the Church Bookroom, Cathedral office, or at the door. This concert of Renaissance and Baroque music will feature the Melos choir (Paul and Edgar sing in it) and period instrument ensemble with guest lutenist Michael Leopold.

Parish Council—The next meeting is Wed 6 May. Material will be available next Sun.

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.

Pentecost/Mohawk Landing Celebration—Sun 24 May. You’re invited to wear red or traditional attire.

Bishop’s Dinner—Mon 8 Jun, 6:30 for 7 p.m., 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. Tickets: \$100 ea or \$170/pr. See the poster for more info.

Summer Fruits for Souls—21-24 Jul. Sponsored by the Lay Reader’s Association and the Diocese, this conference is open to all interested lay people who wish to attend. This conference will focus on training, learning and development in Christian ministry within an Anglican context. Please see Brad, Cathie or Doug for more info.

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

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.

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PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anglican Communion

The Most Rev’d and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Diocese of New Jersey (the Episcopal Church)
The Rt. Revd William Stokes

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev’d Michael Oulton
Camp Hyanto Sunday
Carol Fitzpatrick, Camp Manager
Ven. Bill Clarke, Chair of Diocesan Camp Committee
All staff and volunteers

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

Intercessors

Pray for the families of: Mike & Kathy Hill; Wendi Hudson; Lorre Jensen;
Sandra, Karen & Barbara John; Ruby Kells

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 3 MAY

Acts 8:26-40
1 John 4:7-21

Psalm 22:24-30
John 15:1-8

Stewardship Reflection

The Rt Rev’d Michael Pollesel

Jesus is, as he tells us here, “the good shepherd.” His sheep recognize his voice, he goes on to say. Heard Jesus speaking to you lately?

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week’s Offering:	<u>\$1,467</u>
Shortage	\$ 992

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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