

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

At the last meeting of Synod Council, the person charged with leading the opening devotion talked for a few minutes about indigenous understandings of the relationship of humanity to the environment. In her remarks, she mused that perhaps we have misinterpreted the meaning of these verses:

God blessed them and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." (Genesis 1:28).

She wondered if we have taken words such as "dominion" and "subdue" too literally, that we have seen the earth as something that exists only for our pleasure and use, something that we can use and then throw away when we're done with it. Perhaps, she wondered, we should revise our understanding to be more like an indigenous understanding, where we are not the owners of a world over which we exercise dominion, but that God is the owner and we are one part of the complex whole of creation.

Words are important. We might chant the old schoolyard ditty, "Sticks and stones will break my bones, but names will never hurt me", but we know it's not true. Words do hurt. I have a book called *Speaking Christian* and it talks about the importance of language and the need to reclaim or redefine some of the words that are commonplace in our tradition.

In the readings this week there is a phrase to which I think we need to pay close attention. In the First Letter of John, we read, "For whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?" The phrase in question is "conquers the world". For many, these three words have come to mean that Christians must set themselves up in a fight against everyone who does not believe as they do. Using military imagery, this view teaches that it is the role of every Christian to engage in a spiritual (and, sadly, all too often physical) warfare in order to subdue those who are different. This has led to Christians killing other Christians and people of other faiths/spiritual traditions, all because they felt it was justified by the Scriptural injunction to conquer the world. What should conquer the world? Christian faith. Who should conquer the world? Those who believe in Jesus. When you read this through the same sort of lens that I wrote about above in the reference to Genesis, it becomes easy (maybe even inevitable) that Christians would perceive that we are to fight others to win.

Nothing could be more wrong. The world we are meant to conquer is not everyone else who is different than we are. The 'world' is Scripture's way to refer to the ways of the world: the values, thinking, and priorities of the world. We are to struggle against the things that lead us away from God, not against other people. This struggle is to follow Jesus more closely, not to impose our faith on others. How could it be otherwise, when John himself tells us in the chapters that we've been reading over the last couple of weeks that we are to love one another as God has loved us. We are not to conquer others but to be prepared to die for them, as we read in this week's Gospel. In a world where we are constantly bombarded with the message that we should look out for ourselves and accumulate wealth and possessions, the message that love demands sacrifice is profoundly countercultural. Yes, friends, we are called to conquer the world. The fight begins, however, not with those who do not believe as we do, but within our own hearts.



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 10 May 2015
Sixth Sunday of Easter

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

9:30 a.m.

All Saints' Church, 1295 Ridge Rd

PARISH PRIEST

The Venerable Brad Smith
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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

Memorial Tree Planting—A spruce tree will be planted in the churchyard on Tue 12 May at 1 p.m. in memory of Canon Cyril Betts. All are welcome to attend.

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

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.

Walk-a-Thon—Sat 30 May. Sponsor sheets will be available this week or next. Students from Quinte Mohawk School will be joining us this year as they raise money for a school trip.

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 7 Jun.

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.

Strawberry Social—Sun 5 Jul. Save the date, more info to follow.

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.

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anglican Communion

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Diocese of Nike (Enugu, Nigeria)
The Rt. Revd Evans Jonathan Ibeagha

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
St. George's, Trenton
The Rev. Steve Timpson
The Rev. Ada Rochford

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

Church Wardens

Pray for the families of: Amos Maracle; Anne Maracle; Audrey Maracle;
Bernice, Douglas & Bonnie Jane Maracle; Bruce Maracle

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 17 MAY

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26
1 John 5:9-13

Psalm 1
John 17:6-19

Stewardship Reflection

The Rt Rev'd Michael Pollesel

"This is my command to you: You are to love each other." A faithful steward takes up this challenge on a daily basis, knowing that it's not an easy thing, but that this is what Jesus asks of them.

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,797</u>
Shortage	\$ 662

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