

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

• The dot just to the left of the text is roughly the same size as a mustard seed. Now, I have a particular fondness for mustard seeds because they are one of the crucial ingredients in one of my favourite snacks: pickled eggs. I have a large bottle of mustard seeds in the baking cupboard and, every few months I make the brine for a dozen pickled eggs so I can savour a snack that makes me think about my childhood. You see, when I was young, every year my dad would have my mom make twelve dozen pickled eggs for him to take as his contribution to the hunting camp. She made an extra dozen for us to eat at home. The four of us who stayed behind when dad went hunting got three eggs each. This was a treat that only came once in the whole year! So, it was quite a treat. The nice thing about it now, as I think back on those times, is that the little mustard seeds that helped to make the brine have contributed to a much bigger thing: a fond memory of my childhood which helps me to remain connected to my family.

In the Gospel this week, Jesus talks about the kingdom of God. He starts by saying that the kingdom is like someone who scatters seed on the ground, goes to bed, and then wakes up the next morning to find that the seed has sprouted and grown—all on its own! If you remember the NCD survey we did a couple of years ago, one of the principles of NCD is that God gives the growth of the seeds we plant. All we have to do is to prepare the soil and sow the seed, and then get the heck out of the way! When seeds don't grow it's because we try to micromanage them. That's a new thought for many of us, isn't it? Do less, not more, in order for the Church to grow!

Jesus then gets more specific and says that the kingdom is like a mustard seed which, when sown, is the smallest of the seeds on earth and then grows up into the greatest of shrubs and puts forth large branches so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade. Now, if we read this literally, Jesus was wrong on two counts. First, mustard seeds are not the smallest of the seeds on the earth (even in first century Palestine). Second, mustard does not grow up into a gigantic shrub with huge branches in which birds can make nests. If one is a literalist, this parable becomes rather difficult to understand because, quite simply, Jesus was mistaken.

The good news is that this parable, or comparison of the mustard seed with the kingdom, is not meant to be taken literally. I am sure that Jesus knew that the mustard seed was not the smallest of seeds and he definitely knew that it did not grow up into a shrub. That was, and is, after all, the natural order of things. But that is precisely Jesus' point: the kingdom of God is NOT like the natural order of things. When God is involved, even tiny little mustard seeds can grow up into great trees.

The once-a-year treat of three pickled eggs was a small thing but it grew into a memory of childhood that reminds me of love and belonging. And I didn't have to do much: I peeled the eggs when they were boiled, but the real work of making pickled eggs was to let them sit in the brine long enough to pickle. The kingdom of God is a place where we can prepare soil and sow seeds, but we are invited to let God do the hard work of growing the kingdom. We have to sometimes let things sit in the brine for a time until they are ready to go.

For me, the bottom line in this parable is that there is still plenty of work for us to do in our world, but we can count on God to grow the kingdom even without our help. With God all things are possible, even turning a tiny mustard seed into a gigantic tree.



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 14 June 2015
Third Sunday after Pentecost

SUNDAY CELEBRATIONS

9:30 a.m.

All Saints' Church, 1295 Ridge Rd

PARISH PRIEST

The Venerable Brad Smith
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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

22 Days—An initiative by the Anglican Church of Canada to mark the 22 days between the final national event of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission (31 May) and National Aboriginal Day (21 Jun). We are called by the Primate to listen to the stories of survivors, to pray, to work for justice for indigenous people, and to toll our bells in solidarity. For more info, visit www.22days.ca. We will ring our bell 1,181 times Wed 3, 10, 17 Jun, 2:00-3:38 p.m. Anyone interested in joining for a time of reflection and to assist with the ringing, please just show up.

Release of the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada—The report is available in its entirety on the TRC website: www.trc.ca. Click the “About Us” tab and then “Findings” when the menu opens. Especially recommended is the part of the report called “Calls to Action”, with 94 recommendations for government, churches, media, educational institutions, and all Canadians.

Unveiling of New Interpretive Panel—The Lower Burial Ground Restoration Society will unveil a new panel featuring Molly Brant and several unnamed Mohawks buried in the Lower Burial Ground (now St Paul’s Churchyard, at the corner of Queen and Montreal Sts in Kingston). All are welcome to attend, Sun 21 Jun at 1:00 p.m.

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 5 Jul.

Strawberry Social—Sun 5 Jul, 1-4 p.m. at the Mohawk Community Centre. Freewill offering. Entertainment and a children’s craft corner will be provided.

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 Okigive (Owerri, Nigeria)
The Rt. Revd Edward Osuegbu

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev’d Michael Oulton
Parish of All Saints’, South Grenville
The Revd Tracey Lloyd Smith, The Revd Dr David Smith

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

Clergy

Pray for the families of: Vanessa, Stephanie & Dorian Mayville;
Blake & Savannah McEwen; Mark Miller & Leslie Green; Suzan O’Coin;
Connie & Guy Perron

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 21 JUNE

1 Samuel 17:1a, 4-11, 19-23, 32-49
2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Psalms 9:9-20
Mark 4:35-41

Stewardship Reflection

The Ven Brad Smith

Jesus often uses agricultural parables to describe the Kingdom of God. This week, we hear that the kingdom is like a seed that sprouts and grows, and the sower knows not how. But the sower becomes the reaper, taking his sickle to harvest the grain when it ripens. The kingdom is like a mustard seed, a tiny seed, which (at least in the parable) grows up and puts forth large branches. A good steward prepares the soil but knows that God gives the growth and that even the tiniest seed can grow into a great bush if God gives the growth.

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week’s Offering:	<u>\$1,787</u>
Shortage	\$ 672

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