

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

"For he has broken down the dividing wall."

A stark image comes into my head from the time I spent in Israel in 2006. As we drove along the highways that took us close to the Palestinian territories, a wall was being built to separate the two populations. I don't remember how tall it was, although I expect it was no less than 20 feet high. It was an undulating ribbon of grey concrete that ran, like a jagged scar, across the landscape, interrupted every few hundred feet by a guard tower. I got a close-up of the wall when we went to Bethlehem. In order to visit the Church of the Nativity, we had to leave Israeli-controlled territory, which meant disembarking from the bus to pass through a security checkpoint. Ironically, the least secure I felt on my entire trip was when I was being processed through Israeli security. Another, more profound irony is that the Holy Land—the place where Jesus came to herald God's kingdom of peace and justice—is being torn apart by divisions between Israelis and Palestinians. After bus bombings, intifadas, rocket attacks, and other acts of violence, the Israelis responded with a wall that would reduce, if not eliminate, acts of terror.

Is it not generally true that we humans tend to respond to things that make us fearful or uncertain by building walls? It's easier to just divide ourselves into camps and blame "them" while holding "us" to little account. Yes, this is the natural human response. But it's not the response that Jesus expects from those of us who claim to follow him.

There are a few places where we read in the New Testament about reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5 is one of them. Colossians 1 is another. Ephesians 2—which is this week's epistle—is yet another. In Ephesians 2, Paul reminds the Christians in Ephesus that they had come from lives of sin in a broken world but had accepted the justification offered by Christ. They did this in a time when there was also great division between Jews (including those who followed Jesus) and Gentiles, who the Jews believed to be inferior because they had not the rich tradition of the Abrahamic Covenant and the Mosaic Law. In other words, "we're the chosen ones and you're not". Paul exhorts the Ephesians to set aside these differences and to know that reconciliation is what they are called to and that it's not just idealism but a reality given that they (and all people) have been reconciled to God through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

In our own time, we continue to put people into neat little boxes. When we find there is a conflict, it's easy to write someone off as lost but it's not what we're supposed to do. Paul would remind us, if he were here today, that Jesus has already reconciled us all to God, and if we are thusly reconciled, then we must put in the effort to be reconciled with each other. Our tendency is to build walls in order to maintain our own righteousness but the Scriptural record tells us that our righteousness is not built on isolating ourselves from others or getting up on our high horse. Instead, our righteousness is founded on the righteousness of Jesus, who tears down the walls that divide us, who creates one humanity in place of two, who brings peace, and who claims us all as citizens with the saints and members of the household of God.

In our personal relationships and in our communities, then, let us strive for reconciliation between those who are separated by conflict, creed, or class. Let it be said of us as it is said of Jesus: For they have broken down the dividing wall."



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 July 2015
Eighth 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

Update from Special Meeting of Vestry—Last week, Vestry met to review the financial position of the parish after the first 6 months of the year. We currently have a deficit of just under \$19,000. Financial statements are available at the front of the church to take. Discussion was held on how to shrink the deficit, including sprucing up the basement of the QAPC for renting and maximising rectory rentals. A full-time priest may no longer be possible after this year. Anyone interested in sitting on a committee to discuss work to be done on the QAPC is invited to speak to one of the churchwardens.

Rector's Vacation—Brad will be away starting after worship today and will return on 5 Aug. Cathie and Doug will be responsible for worship the next two Sundays. Administrative queries can be addressed to Elsie in the office or to the wardens. Pastoral care will be provided by Cathie (396-2400).

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 2 Aug.

Friendly Manor Visitors—Due to Brad's holidays, the July Friendly Manor visit will be rescheduled to Thu 6 Aug. We will go again on Thu 27 Aug.

Parish Picnic—our annual outdoor worship and picnic will be on Sun 16 Aug on the east side of All Saints' Churchyard. Please bring a potluck dish to share, a chair, and your feast basket with utensils, cups, plate etc.

Amsterdam Trip—Our visit to St Ann's will take place 18-20 Sep. A block of rooms has been set aside for us in nearby Johnstown at USD106 (approx. CAD135) per night. Please sign up on the sheet being circulated if you plan to attend. If you need a ride, there will be car pooling available: please check the box on the sign-up sheet if you need a ride.

Diocesan Budget Input—If you are interested in the development of the diocesan budget and/or would like some input into it, please visit the diocesan website for more information: <http://ontario.anglican.ca/wp/diocese-of-ontario-2016-budget-development/>. We all have a vested interest in the budget because it is funded for the most part by our assessment through Common Ministry and Mission.

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!

The Mohawk Guild— The Mohawk Guild is a longstanding organization that is committed to the service of our community. The Guild meets at the Parish Hall (1295 Ridge Road) on the last Wed of the month at 7 p.m. Please join us in our efforts. For more information, please call Bev Hill (613-962-5183) or Shirley Maracle (613-962-6137).

PRAYERS THIS WEEK

Anglican Communion

The Most Rev'd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury
The Diocese of Port Elizabeth (South Africa)
The Rt. Revd Nceba Nopece
The Diocese of Pretoria (South Africa)
The Rt. Revd Dr. Johannes Seoka

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
St. Paul's, Brockville
The Revd Barbara Robinson

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

Everyone who does "odd jobs"
Pray for the families of: Margaret Anderson; Tim Anderson;
Jim & Ardeth Armstrong; Harry & Brenda Asselstine; Jim Barefoot

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 26 JULY

2 Samuel 11:1-5
Ephesians 3:14-21

Psalms 14
John 6:1-21

Stewardship Reflection

Imagine, being so famous that people are always wanting you! Small wonder Jesus invites his followers to "an isolated place," where they can "recharge their batteries." A faithful steward knows to take time and do this.

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$2,647</u>
Surplus	\$ 188

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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