

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

While I was on holidays, we hosted two friends of ours for a couple of days. She recently experienced two gallstone attacks and was placed on a very restrictive diet for a couple of months. Although they offered to reschedule their visit due to the limited diet, Nathan welcomed the challenge of trying to create tasty food from the few things she was able to eat. One of the items that was absolutely forbidden was bread in any form, although our friend said she missed bread less than she missed not being able to drink red wine. I remarked that I was not a huge bread eater myself, but that if I were on this diet, I would sorely miss the wonderful treat of eating fresh-out-of-the-oven bread with a hunk of old cheddar from the cheese factory around the corner. We all agreed that would be a tremendous sacrifice!

Bread is on a lot of people's black lists these days. The no-carb diets absolutely forbid bread and other starch-filled foods like potatoes and corn. For those who are sensitive or allergic to the gluten found in wheat, most breads and foods made with flour are off-limits. For some, bread can have serious health consequences.

So, in our modern context, how should we hear this statement of Jesus that he is the bread of life? There's a theme running through the readings over the last few weeks: two weeks ago, it was the story of the feeding of the five thousand, and last week we had the first half of the speech where Jesus says that he is the bread of life. The underlying thread in these messages is that Jesus wants to feed us. He relates himself as the bread of life to the manna that the ancestors of the Jews ate in the wilderness. But he goes further: although God provided the bread in the desert, those people still died (not because they were punished, but because it was the natural end of their lives—none who left Egypt lived to see the Promised Land). This is a new bread—but still from God—that, when eaten, will lead to eternal life. Those who eat the bread will live forever.

In order to understand what Jesus might mean, we should first understand why he chose bread as his symbol—why “bread of life”? I don't think I understood how central bread is to Middle Eastern food culture until I went to Israel in 2006. Bread is part of every meal. And it's not just a nice accompaniment to the meal, like a piece of bread and butter that one eats in addition to the rest of the food. In many Eastern cultures, bread is an indispensable tool: bread is required in order to eat the other food. In Israel, every meal began with a bowl of hummus and a bowl of cucumber and tomato finely diced: these were loaded onto pieces of pita to be eaten. East Indian food uses naan bread to scoop up the meat and sauce. And our own Indian tacos have meat or chili and all the fixin's heaped high on a piece of fry bread (and, how convenient, having mentioned this, that you can get an Indian taco this weekend at the pow wow!).

I think Jesus uses bread as one of the images with which he portrays his divine identity (remember, he says, “I AM the bread of life”: relating himself directly to God, who is called “I AM”) because it was so intrinsically a part of people's everyday lives. You could not eat without bread. Jesus' invitation to us, then, goes beyond “Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.” Jesus wants to be like the bread that was so familiar to his first-century Middle eastern audience. He wants everything we do to be done with and through him. We cannot eat without the bread; we cannot live without Jesus.

Come to the table and eat of the bread of life so that you may never be hungry or thirsty; come, and find eternal life.



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 9 August 2015
Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

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

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 6 Sep.

Friendly Manor Visitors—The next Friendly Manor visit is on Thu 27 Aug.

Parish Picnic—Our annual outdoor worship and picnic will be next 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 Episcopal Church, Rochester, USA
The Rt Revd Dr. Prince Singh

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
St. John the Baptist, Lyn
The Revd Canon Michael Read
The Ven. George Lambert

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

Altar Guild

Pray for the families of: Audrey Brant; Beatrice Brant;
David, Adrian & Tayla Brant; Delores J. Brant; Donald & Lillian Brant

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 16 AUGUST

1 Kings 2:10-12, 3:3-14
Ephesians 5:15-20

Psalms 111
John 6:51-58

Stewardship Reflection

Want to live forever? That's what Jesus offers to those who accept him into their lives. A good steward not only knows this, but is able to share it with other "hungry" people.

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$2,030</u>
Shortage	\$ 429

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