

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

Have you ever encountered someone who made you think, "Wow, is that person ever holier-than-thou?" Maybe you don't even think that they're believable. I sort of feel that way about King Solomon and the story of his dream at Gibeon.

After King David died, Solomon was anointed as his successor. In 1 Kings we read that Solomon went to Gibeon, where he was accustomed to making his sacrifice, and there one night the Lord came to him in a dream. God said, "Ask what I should give you"—not unlike the mythical genie in the bottle. Solomon responds with praise for the Lord's favour to David and then asks for "an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil."

God is pleased and grants Solomon's request, and with it riches and honour. It seems that this encounter was a test of sorts: had Solomon asked for riches and honour, God would have known that he was vain and unworthy to rule. But, having asked for wisdom to rule, God knew that he was worthy and granted not only wisdom but the other kingly trappings, too. Solomon went on to become one of the great kings of Israel.

This week, we also read Paul's exhortation to the Ephesians to live not as unwise people but as wise; not to be foolish, but to understand the will of the Lord; not to be drunk with wine but to be filled with the Spirit. Wisdom is our theme!

I am often reminded that wisdom and knowledge are not the same thing. Many years of school do not necessarily make one wise, nor does age. It seems that wisdom is a gift: Solomon had good instincts and had the gifts to be called to kingship but it was in answer to his prayer that God gave him the wisdom to rule well. It is, perhaps, not unlike the prayer we say with the newly baptised: "Give them an enquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love [God]. And the gift of joy and wonder in all [God's] works."

And so, this brings me to the real point of my reflection this week: in Solomon's dream, God invited him to ask God for something. I wonder if Solomon's response might be a good template for how we pray. God invites us to ask for what we need and Jesus promised that whatever we ask for in his name the Father will be pleased to grant. How many of us, however, jump straight to what we most desire? How many ask for riches and honour (or their substitutes) without thought for much else? Solomon gives us a good model for how we might consider praying.

First, he recounts the favour that God showed to David: "you have shown great and steadfast love...." Then he revealed his humility: "I am only a little child" (this is the part that makes me think he might come across as holier-than-thou). Only then does he come to the point where he asks for what he desires. Perhaps, because he has taken time to give thanks and praise and to present himself in humility, Solomon is able to see that he needs more than riches and honour and asks for wisdom. In the end, he receives them all.

In our lives of prayer, are we able to take a bigger vision and to discern what might be the best thing for which to pray? Or, do we narrow our vision to our immediate needs and desires, thus potentially shutting ourselves out of even greater things? As we worship outside the walls of the church this week, let us take this opportunity to examine our prayers and relationship to God. Are we focussed on ourselves alone, seeking only greater riches and honour, or are we looking at it from another perspective—God's perspective—able to pray for that which we truly need, asking for it from God, who can give us more than we could ever ask or imagine?



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 16 August 2015
Twelfth 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

1295 Ridge Rd
Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory
962-2787
parish@parishoftyendinaga.org

Website: <http://www.parishoftyendinaga.org>
Facebook: www.facebook.com/tyendinagaanglican

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 Visitors—The next Friendly Manor visit is on Thu 27 Aug. Visitors are invited to join Brad afterwards in Deseronto for lunch and a conversation about how the ministry is going.

Parish Council—The next meeting is Wed 2 Sep at 7 p.m. in the QAPC.

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.

Evensong to Commemorate Her Majesty The Queen becoming the longest-reigning monarch in British history—Sun 13 Sep, 4:00 p.m., Christ Church. An offering will be taken to be directed to the MBQ Christ Church Utilities Fund.

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.

Guitar Raffle—A raffle for the benefit of the parish is being held on 20 Dec for a BR-180 Blueridge Guitar, with case, strap, capo and picks, all of which have been generously donated by Margie Anderson (and which are valued at around \$2,000 new). It would make a wonderful Christmas gift for a musician. Tickets: \$5 ea. or 3/\$10. Margie has books of tickets if you are able to help sell them and she welcomes suggestions of places who might sell them for us. If you'd like to know more about the guitar, a review can be found here: <http://www.acousticguitar.com/Gear/Reviews/Blueridge-BR-180A-Review>.

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 Ruvuma (Tanzania)
The Rt Revd Dr. Maternus Kapinga

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
The Parish of Christ Church, Gananoque
The Revd Christine Downey

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

Lay Ministers of Communion
Pray for the families of: Elaine Brant; Elton, Kate, Spencer & Damien Brant;
Elwood & Myrtle Brant; Glenn & Jean Brant; Helen Brant

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 23 AUGUST

1 Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43
Ephesians 6:10-20

Psalm 84
John 6:56-69

Stewardship Reflection

One translation of the word "manna" is "bread." "Bread" has been used as a slang word for "money." Kind of gives a whole different slant to this passage, doesn't it. Having money won't allow you to live forever. But, having Jesus ("the bread of heaven") will!

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,691</u>
Shortage	\$ 768

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