

RECTOR'S REFLECTION

It's Labour Day Weekend—for many, the last weekend of summer. The weather is still summery (it's not always nice on the next long weekend, at Thanksgiving) and the kids have one last weekend before they head back to school. Interestingly, on "Labour Day" most of us rest from our labours and enjoy the benefits of a three-day weekend.

I read a Facebook post the other day that featured a list of "Eleven of the Dumbest Tweets" (on Twitter). One of them was from someone in the States who posted, "Remember why we have Labor Day: this weekend, thank all mothers who went through labor". Although the thought is nice, it's dead wrong. Labour Day isn't about the labour of childbirth. It's about the labour movement: those people who have struggled over the years to achieve a 40-hour work week, fair wages, vacation time, and safe working conditions for those who labour. As much as union bashing is popular right now, it's not only those unionised workers who benefit from the work of unions. All workers enjoy benefits that came as a result of the efforts of the labour movement and we do well to remember this.

I saw a cartoon recently that had a paramedic in the back of an ambulance that had obviously just finished a call on one side and, on the other side, fast food restaurant employees with signs. The caption said, "The man on the left makes \$15/hr if he's lucky. He just lost his battle trying to save someone's life and he is 10 hours into his 24 hour shift. He spent a year of his life and countless hours away from his family training to save a life. The people on the right are picketing to make \$15/hr flipping burgers. If you can't see the difference, you're not worth the explanation." This cartoon makes me angry. Let me tell you why.

First, the very last line is so demeaning of someone who might not share the opinion of the person who made the cartoon. I lament that our society no longer seems able to abide disagreement. Instead, we default to "if you disagree with me, you're worthless." There is no concession that one might be wrong or that there is room for more than one perspective, just "You, as a human being, are worthless, because you don't think like I do." Not only is this childish and simple, it's decidedly unchristian.

But the more important issue in this cartoon is that the two kinds of labour are being pitted against one another and one is being held up as more worthy than the other. Certainly being a paramedic takes more skill and training than working at McDonald's. But both are work and represent meaningful employment to the people who hold both jobs. When we say that the paramedic in this example is worthier than the fast food worker, we play right into the hands of business owners who want to divide us and make us think that fast food workers are inferior. The real question that we should ask is not "who do fast food workers think they are, asking for \$15/hr" but "why don't ALL employees make \$15/hr?" We have been so well-trained by capitalists that we don't even see this. But when studies show that a living wage (which means that people have enough to pay housing and food costs, plus have a little extra for things like a movie once a month) is around \$17/hr in Ontario, we need to fight harder for just pay for ALL workers.

So, this Labour Day weekend, we will give thanks for those who have so valiantly struggled for better working conditions for all labourers. And, as those who follow Jesus, who gave up his life for his vision of the Kingdom, we must recommit ourselves to the struggle for a just economy where no one is taken advantage of and where no one is left behind.



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 6 September 2015
Fifteenth 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
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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

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. Hotel reservations are made. If you need a ride, there will be car pooling available.

Friendly Manor Visitors—The next Friendly Manor visit is on Thu 24 Sep.

Literacy Group Volunteers—The reading group starts this week with school. This ministry helps students at Quinte Mohawk School to develop confidence in reading and to build social skills and caring relationships. If you are interested in volunteering for this important ministry, please speak to Pam Detlor or Pat Brant.

Aboriginal ArtFest 2015—Sat 3-Sun 4 Oct, Mohawk Community Centre, 1807 York Rd. An amazing show and sale presented by 22 Tyendinaga artists! For more info, please speak to Deb Vincent.

Ministry Covenant Celebration—Sun 4 Oct, 2-4 p.m., Christ Church, Belleville. Join with the Bishop and fellow Anglicans from the archdeaconry as we share stories about work being done with the Ministry Covenants across the diocese.

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 4 Oct.

Harvest Thanksgiving—Sun 11 Oct. Edgar Tumak and Pam Detlor will be decorating—if you'd like to help, please speak to them.

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 Sialkot (Pakistan)
The Rt Revd Alwin Samuel

Diocese of Ontario

The Rt Rev'd Michael Oulton
The Parish of St. Andrew's, Wellington
The Revd Andrew Wilson

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

Readers

Pray for the families of: Rodger & Gloria Brant; Russel & Joan Brant;
Sandra Brant; Sandra, Cedar & Miigwun Brant; Scott, Molly & Theodore Brant

READINGS FOR SUNDAY 13 SEPTEMBER

Proverbs 1:20-33
James 3:1-12

Psalms 19
Mark 8:27-38

Stewardship Reflection

One of the things Jesus seems to be able to do, with a variety of people, is to take care of them. A faithful steward is one who also takes care — of others, of self, of the environment, of . . . (you name it).

Financial Report

Weekly Need:	\$2,459
Last week's Offering:	<u>\$1,402</u>
Shortage	\$1,057

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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