

## ABOUT THE TITLE

In the early days of Christianity, followers of Jesus called their faith "the Way". It wasn't until some years after that the growing body of followers of the Way became known as the Church.

As modern followers of Jesus, we remind ourselves that we, too, follow the Way, which becomes a part of every facet of our lives.

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# By the Way

## The Newsletter of the Anglican Parish of Tyendinaga

PENTECOST EDITION

JUNE 2009

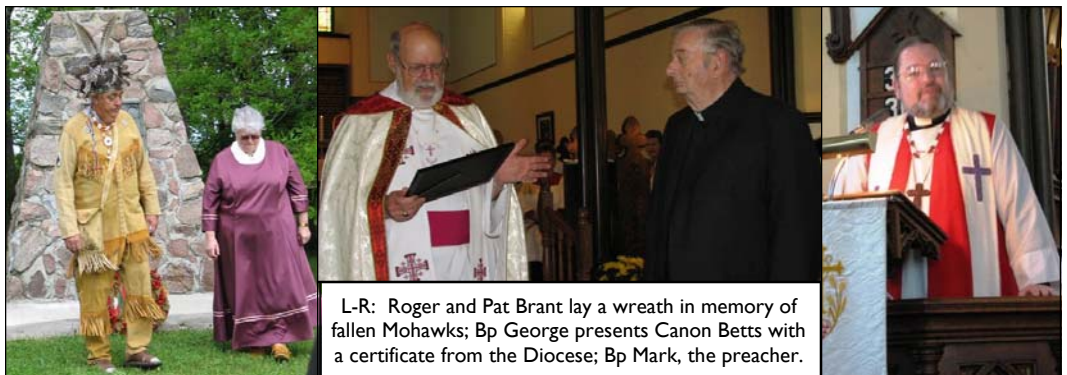
## 225th Anniversary Celebration

On the weekend of 22-24 May, people in Tyendinaga celebrated. On Friday night, a display of historic artefacts—some dating back 11,000 years—was unveiled with a presentation of the history of the Mohawks. The main event on Saturday was the re-enactment of the landing of the Mohawks on the shores of the Bay of the Quinte. This saw six canoes full of Mohawks in traditional dress paddle to shore to be greeted by descendants of the Mississauga nation who were there when the Mohawks arrived

Christ Church, Her Majesty's Chapel Royal of the Mohawks. The service was joyous, a mixture of traditional Anglicanism with traditional Mohawk and aboriginal prayers and hymns. We were blessed to have Bishop George as the presider and Bishop Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Bishop, as the preacher. Bishop Mark shared with us that he considered coming to Tyendinaga a sort of homecoming, because he noted that aboriginal nations all across

1970s and now worships with us. And, as always, when the liturgy was finished, we all made our way to the Mohawk Community Centre to have yet another feast of corn soup and other Mohawk delicacies.

Bishop Mark noted that when the missionaries came to North America, they did not expect to create long-lasting aboriginal Christian communities but hoped that native peoples would eventually assimilate into European worshipping



L-R: Roger and Pat Brant lay a wreath in memory of fallen Mohawks; Bp George presents Canon Betts with a certificate from the Diocese; Bp Mark, the preacher.

and the recitation of the Ohenton Karihwaterkwen (Mohawk Thanksgiving Address). As with most events here, a feast followed with Three Sisters soup, fried fish and scones.

For the Parish of Tyendinaga, the highlight of the weekend was the celebration of our 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday morning. We began with a short liturgy of thanksgiving at the traditional landing site, by the stone cairn, and then processed behind traditional rattles and singing to

Turtle Island (North America) owed the Mohawks thanks for having "invented" popular theology through singing hymns in native languages. A particularly emotional moment came midway through the service when we called Canon Cyril Betts forward to receive certificates from the Bishop and the Parish as well as a traditional necklace made of wampum beads to commemorate his fiftieth anniversary of ordained ministry. Canon Betts was the Rector and Chaplain to the Mohawks in the

communities. As the Parish of Tyendinaga proves, they would be surprised by the longevity of Christianity within aboriginal communities. The Diocese of Ontario can be proud that we have this sister parish among us of a people who come from a vastly different history but who share with us the journey of Christian discipleship. Let us all pray for the next 225 years of ministry in Tyendinaga.

## Way Words from the Rector



“And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting...and all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit.”

—Acts 2:2,4

“There is so much good in the worst of us, and so much bad in the best of us, that it hardly becomes any of us to talk about the rest of us.”

—Edward Hollis Hoch

“Do this in memory of me.”  
—Jesus



We recently celebrated our 225th anniversary in the Parish of Tyendinaga. We are rightly proud of the longevity of the parish and hopeful for the next 225 years of ministry that lie ahead of us.

The week after our anniversary celebrations, the whole Church celebrated a birthday, too. On 31 May, we marked the feast of Pentecost. This is a word that comes from the historical languages of the Church and it means the “fiftieth day” (you know other words with this Greek

word for “five” in them, like “pentagon”). This is the day that the Holy Spirit, whose arrival had been promised by Jesus, came among the disciples in Jerusalem. For centuries, this giving of the Holy Spirit has been celebrated as the birth of the Church.

In the period after Pentecost, the Church turns her focus from events in the life of Jesus to how Jesus’ ministry and his resurrection inform how we as his disciples should live our faith. Having celebrated the

gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church, we now pray for wisdom and courage from that same Spirit so that we may be guided into knowing and living God’s will.

Whether you’re a regular churchgoer or someone who hasn’t been in a while, this is a great time of year to think about your response to the Holy Spirit. How will you show God’s love to the world?

May we all be blessed by the Holy Spirit in this season of Pentecost.

*Bob +*

## Viewpoint: Intolerance

By Margie Anderson

Recently I tuned in to a rerun of the old television show “Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman”. Some folks reading this will be thinking, “Boy, she doesn’t have much to do!”, but I say one must be allowed to sit at the TV and “veg” once in a while. So, to carry on - this episode was so old that it must have been a re-re-rerun, and the story line pertained to

mistreatment of the First Nations people of that time in Colorado. I couldn’t help but keep watching it until all became right for the Cheyenne people (at least for the ending of that episode). Later while doing the mundane chores of cleaning house I kept thinking about that story and the fact that intolerance seems to be a natural trait of human beings because so many atrocities have been

committed down through the ages, by humans against humans, because of intolerance.

While our character traits may include intolerances of various kinds, I would guess that these are not as atrocious as . . . say a Terrible Tzar, or someone like Adolf Hitler, but I suspect that the more insignificant ones can be just as *(continued on page 3)*

## Sunday Celebrations

Christians are called to live out their faith 24/7 in their daily lives, but we also gather together on Sundays to remember the great gift of life God gave us through Jesus.

Every Sunday there is a celebration in one or both of our churches. Every celebration is followed by food and fellowship.

Services are held:

**8:30 a.m.**—All Saints’ Church  
**10:30 a.m.**—Christ Church

On the 3rd Sunday of the month, both churches worship together at one celebration.

**October to March**  
All Saints’  
**April to September**  
Christ Church

Our worship is formal but fun and we welcome people of all ages and backgrounds. Whether you’re a seasoned worshipper or someone who’s trying church for the first time, you’ll find a place here.

See you in church!

## Intolerance (continued)

unacceptable in the eyes of God because they can lead to committing hurtful, damaging acts against our fellow human beings. Therefore, I've been trying to think of the ones I have, search out the reason why I feel them, and consider what I could do to rid myself of these through meditation. I believe it helps!

Although I have serious intolerances to think about, here on a lighter note I want to express to you my total and sincere intolerance for vacuum cleaners. While I was doing those mundane chores and thinking about intolerance I realized how much I deplore vacuum cleaners, each and every one, of all brand names, makes and engineering design. None that I have owned, over my many many years, was efficient. One can "push" and "push" over and over on a piece of thread or lint and the terrible object will not be consumed by the monster machine. How many times does one push over it before bending down to pick it up. Also, mine in

particular, is the most awkward contraption there is to haul up and down stairs. It has a most obstinate snake-like, thick hose which will always twist in the wrong direction to impede my progress. It's my observation that if its efficiency level was as high as its decibel level, I would have no problem. It often causes me to curse, for which I then need to ask forgiveness - from God though - not from the vacuum cleaner, because I truly mean the terrible names I have called it. I know that hatred is a bad thing and can be the result of intolerance, but I will freely and gladly say that "I never met a vacuum cleaner I didn't hate!"

Perhaps I can ease my intolerances about some things - different nationalities and their ways and customs with which I don't readily agree, banking institutions that won't give me a nice rate of interest, the garbage collector who leaves my empty bin in the middle of the street, the person who butts in front of the line, the motorist who is a road-hog, TV

programming that presents 10 minutes of the show then 15 minutes of commercials. But, the real 'biggies' are difficult to ease - politicians who promise good things but don't deliver, large corporations which gouge the little man, oil companies whose ocean liners leak their commodity into the world's waters doing great harm to sea life, huge company executives who line their own pockets with wealth while others go hungry. One could go on and on about injustices in the world that we find difficult to tolerate. Perhaps what we need to do is "push" harder in the Right direction—for Good, for Jesus, for God. A little bit of dust and lint is really insignificant but I still detest that unruly piece of machinery that won't do its job. Let's do ours!

*Editor's Note: Each issue, we would like to feature a Viewpoint column written by someone with an opinion to share. Will yours be the next one we print?*



### SHARING THE BEAUTY OF SUMMER GARDENS

*Are you a gardener? Is your yard filled with the luscious colours and perfumed scents of flowers and shrubs? And what of the local fields of beautiful wildflowers reminding us that "God's garden" is all around us. Perhaps these are evidence that the Garden of Eden has not been completely lost to us.*

*Please consider sharing some of the flowering bounty of God's creation to decorate the altar on Sunday morning. What better way is there to acknowledge and thank the Lord for the gifts we receive from the soil?*

## Love in Action Update

By Paul Robertson

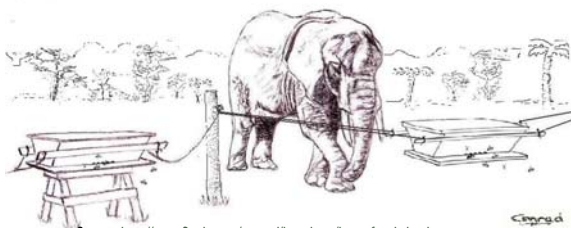
**Bees for Babar: Unlikely Gatekeepers Help Protect Crops from Elephants**

Over the past six years Love in Action has helped support many different outreach activities, a number of them designed to help individuals and communities with food production and self-sustainability. Perhaps the most unusual of these, and the most creative, is "bees for babar".

Love in Action member Canon Cyril Betts first discovered "bees for babar" (BfB) described in an article in *Small Farm Canada* magazine. This innovative approach to farming employs bees to protect crops in rural Ghana.

Led by Nanaimo, BC resident Conrad Bérubé, in 2007 a small group of American, Canadian, and Ghanaian friends founded BfB as a registered charity to

assist subsistence farmers who have suffered crop losses caused by wildlife, particularly wandering elephants who raid and trample gardens in their search for food. BfB provides beehives and beekeeping training for farmers whose cultivated plots are on land adjoining wildlife reserves in



Source: [http://www3.telus.net/conrad/htmghana/bees\\_for\\_babar.htm](http://www3.telus.net/conrad/htmghana/bees_for_babar.htm)

Ghana. When animals such as elephants or other large herbivores disturb the trip-wired hives ringing the fields, the fierce African bees defend themselves by stinging the sensitive ears, eyes, and trunks of the

animals, which learn quickly to avoid these protected cultivated plots.

Funds raised by BfB provide seed money to farmers on a rotary system: the supplemental income from increased pollination of crops and from the sale of honey and wax is used to pay back the loans. This money is then made available to other farmers in the community. Larger crop yields also mean more food for villagers' families.

The word "babar" in the Gonja language of the Northern Region of Ghana where the project has been initiated means "come to my aid". It is also Turkish for lion. Check the story of Samson in the Book of Judges for the story of the lion and the honeybees.

An effective, yet simple idea – Love in Action is pleased to be associated with this endeavour.

# When Prayer Seems Unanswered

By the Reverend R Leigh Spruill,  
St George's Episcopal Church, Nashville

Some years ago I received a telephone call notifying me that a long-suffering parishioner battling severe depression had just committed suicide. Elizabeth (*I have changed her name for the purposes of this article*) was a devout and beloved member of the parish. She and her very faithful husband sought every reasonable source of counsel and remedy for her depression. There were many, many prayers offered up to God for Elizabeth's healing, including many of my own. She was a pleasure to visit. Elizabeth loved the Lord and was especially devoted to her Bible study, spiritual readings and the Eucharist. Tragically, however, she did not experience release from her illness in this life.

I remember showing up at her home immediately following the telephone call. I was met by a step-son, a gracious young man I had come to know through other ministries of the church. He looked at me through darkly burning eyes and demanded, "Why would God allow this to happen?" Perhaps his accusing tone could not be helped in that awful moment, but his searing question resonates with all of us whose fervent prayers sometimes seem to go unanswered.

This tragic event raised the sadly familiar issue: why does a good God allow such bad things to happen? What is the value of prayer if what we pray for does not come to pass? The church's centuries-long theological reflection on these matters would fill libraries, and it is not my intention or gift to offer easy answers here. Suffice it to say, there is much about God's ways—and what God would seem to allow—that remains clouded in mystery. Often we can only answer as I did to Elizabeth's step-son, "I do not know."

Nevertheless, we are not totally in the dark on such questions. Persistent pain and illness, sudden loss and tragedy, lingering unhappiness and depression

are all reasonable causes of spiritual struggle for people. We need not feel guilty that we find ourselves wondering about God's potency or goodness when, despite our prayers, things do not turn out as we hope. But we should not succumb entirely to our doubts and questions either and thus lose heart in the promises of the gospel.

It strikes me that there are several important realities to keep in mind as we struggle with unanswered prayer.

We are not alone. Church history and the Bible are filled with stories of people of faith who have become bewildered and even outraged with God because of pain and suffering. Perhaps more than any other writings of the Bible, the Psalms articulate deep disorientation and doubt in the face of the unexpected and unwanted realities of life: "How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? ...Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!" (Psalm 13:1-3). Many of the most moving and inspirational books I have read are by Christians who have suffered mightily, doubted profoundly, and yet did not lose hope.

The point is that while every one of us questions and grieves in our own unique way, we do not have to do so alone. Our faith tradition is filled with people who know something of unanswered prayer as well. Perhaps there is comfort and strength to be taken from this fact; our struggles are shared.

Objecting to God about unanswered prayer is a kind of prayer in itself. Questioning "why" shows at least implicitly that we have not let go of the possibility that God might still do something! Michael Card's beautiful book on grief, *A Sacred Sorrow*, is helpful here: "Why are so many biblical characters shown as disappointed and angry with God? ...People like Job, David, Jeremiah, and even Jesus reveal to us that prayers of complaint can still be prayers of faith. They represent the last refusal to let go of God who may seem to be absent or worse—uncaring.

If this is true, then lament expresses one of the most intimate moments of faith—not a denial of it. It is supreme honesty before a God whom my faith tells me I can trust."

We do not see all that God is doing. The early church theologian and bishop of Constantinople, John Chrysostom, taught that people must be mindful of the limitations of our interpretative capacities. Sounding very much like a modern thinker on this point, Chrysostom nevertheless argued that it is vital for Christians to remember that we see reality through the lens of the gospel. The appearance of things in the moment may not be the final chapter or tell the whole story. The crucifixion of Jesus, for example, was the prerequisite for the resurrection. But who in the darkness of Good Friday foresaw the wondrous joy of Easter Sunday? Chrysostom urged his hearers to "learn and think like a Christian."

When negative events or feelings envelop us, it is not surprising that we may fail to see a much larger picture. In fact this is a common result of an extremely negative experience: to interpret all else in light of it. Yet I have always loved Philip Yancey's line that "faith is believing in advance what only makes sense in reverse." Sometimes when looking back on events we see that God did answer our prayers, though not in the specific ways we had asked.

God is more interested in changing us than in changing our circumstances. At a deep level I wonder that our disappointment in God over unanswered prayer begs the question: what do we think the purpose of prayer really is? Is prayer merely a method to get God to change the circumstances of our lives? Or is the essence of prayer more about intentionally and trustingly placing our lives in God's hands that we might be changed? What if the next time you pray for something specific that does not come to pass, you ask God to show you how this disappointment might help you grow in (*Continued on next page*)

# Unanswered Prayer (continued)

faith?

God cares about the specific needs and desires of our lives (Matthew 10:30). I sincerely believe that our particular petitions and intercessions have an effect on God. I also believe God cares even more about changing *me* than changing my circumstances. Sometimes that change comes through disappointment and struggle.

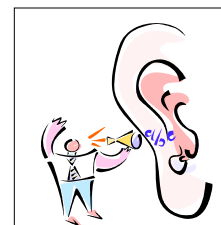
Our spiritual struggles are an opportunity to identify with the crucified Jesus. One of the most moving prayers in all of Scripture is

our Lord's cry from the cross, "my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Of course, Jesus did not want to be crucified! He was no masochist. Yet he surrendered his desire to be spared the pain and suffering of the cross in order that God's will be done and you and I might be changed forever. St Paul therefore reminds us that in the struggles and calamities of this world, Christians enter into the very sufferings of Christ only to find that "we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).

All of us have had experiences

when our quite specific prayers were not answered as we had hoped. Can we say that God is merely aloof, or is possible that there is some larger spiritual purpose at work? It is not to take our disappointments in apparently unanswered prayers lightly also to be mindful that one of the central claims of our faith is that God can work all things for good. And there is power to redeem our circumstances as well as change our lives.

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**WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

**If you have any comments or suggestions about this newsletter or would like to contribute a short article, news item, upcoming event, or anything else you think people would like to see (cartoons, humour, poetry), please call, write to, or email us through the ways listed on the back page.**

**Thanks for reading this edition!**

## On the lighter side...

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, 'My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50.'

The second boy says, 'That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100.'

The third boy says, 'I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight people to collect all the money!'



## Outreach and Mission

As you know from the previous issue of *By the Way*, the parish budgeted 34% of its expenditures to outreach and mission. Here's an update on where some of that money has been spent so far.

All Saints' Church continues to give \$200 every quarter to the Resource Room Class at Quinte Mohawk School. Most recently, the class bought a digital camera and some language resources.

The Parish contributed \$100 to the Town of Deseronto to help sponsor a child to sail aboard the STV *Fair Jeanne*.

The Parish contributed to the Bishop's Discretionary Fund, which helps to provide for emergency needs for clergy and for unbudgeted expenses.

We also gave money to PWRDF, celebrating its 50th anniversary.

On the other side of the balance sheet: on Sat 30 May, a small group of walkers raised over \$1700 to support outreach at All Saints'. Well done!

Will you consider giving to help us continue this vital ministry of outreach? Tax receipts are issued each February for all donations of money over \$10.00 made in the previous year.



**50 YEARS**

**IN FAITH JOIN HANDS INSPIRE HOPE**

THE PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND  
Anglican Agency for Relief, Refugees, Development and Justice



**THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF TYENDINAGA  
IN THE DIOCESE OF ONTARIO**

Christ Church, HM Chapel Royal of the Mohawks  
All Saints Church, Tyendinaga

**Mohawk Rectory**

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Deseronto ON K0K 1X0

Phone: 613-396-3797

E-mail: [parish@parishoftyendinaga.org](mailto:parish@parishoftyendinaga.org)

Christ Church, HM Chapel Royal of the  
Mohawks, 52 South Church Lane

All Saints' Church (and Queen Anne Parish  
Centre), 1295 Ridge Rd

Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory

**Rector of Tyendinaga**

Chaplain of HM Chapel Royal of the Mohawks  
The Reverend Bradley D Smith

*To be a Spirit-filled and life-giving place where  
strangers become friends and friends become  
disciples.*

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.



## Coming Events

### **Fun, Food and Fellowship Nights**

Second Wednesday of the month  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Queen Anne Parish Centre  
Every month, we bring games and snacks and enjoy each other's company. Everyone is welcome—feel free to bring your favourite game! Upcoming dates are: 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October.

### **Parish Council Meetings**

Third Wednesday of the month  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Queen Anne Parish Centre  
All are welcome to attend and to have your voice heard. Upcoming dates are: 15 July, 19 August, 16 September, 21 October.

### **The Shack Book Study**

Tue 23, 30 June, 7, 14 July  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Queen Anne Parish Centre  
We'll study the popular book *The*

*Shack* and try to answer questions and stimulate discussion over some of the ideas presented in the novel. Please bring a copy of the book with you.

### **Strawberry Social and Tea**

Sunday 5 July  
1:00 to 4:00 p.m.  
792 Ridge Rd

Proceeds in aid of All Saints' Church & Christ Church. Tickets \$7.99 ea. More info: Connie 968-2909 or Pam 961-1852. Silent Auction, 50/50, Door Prizes. Rain location: Queen Anne Parish Centre.

### **Parish Outdoor Service & Picnic**

Sunday 19 July  
10:30 a.m.

West Lawn of the Rectory  
As is our custom, we celebrate the parish service in July with an outdoor liturgy and potluck picnic. All are invited to the Rectory for this

service. Please bring something to eat for the potluck as well as dinnerware and utensils so we can avoid creating more garbage. In case of rain, the service will move to Christ Church.

### **Harvest Thanksgiving**

Sunday 11 October  
8:30 a.m.—All Saints' Church  
10:30 a.m.—Christ Church

Come and celebrate the harvest at the Thanksgiving liturgy! If you're interested in helping to decorate the churches with produce from your garden, please speak to Brad or to the Altar Guild.

### **Things to Watch For**

Please check our website often under 'Upcoming Events'. We place a monthly ad in *Ori:wase* (Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory newsletter) and in each issue of the Deseronto Newsletter (every other month).