



Late Summer
2016

Inside this issue:

<i>Program Vestry—Sun 11 Sep</i>	2
<i>Re-instituting the Parish Advisory Board</i>	2
<i>Christian Education Opportunities</i>	3
<i>Ministry and Service Opportunities</i>	3
<i>Financial Update to 20 August</i>	4
<i>2016 Stewardship Campaign</i>	4
<i>A Culture of Disciple-making</i>	6

Special points of interest:

- We will elect a new area bishop on 17 September and he or she will be installed in January.
- The Strawberry Fair (photos on page 5) raised \$3,735. Thanks to the organisers and everyone who helped out!

Peterborough Covenant Update

In early July, the most recent report of the Peterborough Covenant Commission was released. If you have not read it, you can visit our website to download it (the link is near the top of the home page: www.stjohnspeterborough.ca)

The report makes two options for us to consider.

Option 1 recommends one parish with a new name and a single governance structure worshipping in All Saints' and St John's. Additional community ministry would be undertaken from satellite locations which would likely be rented (a store front, for example).

Option 2 recommends two parishes with separate governance structures and at least two buildings, with the goal being to reduce to one building per parish in time. The "dance partners" would

be St John's and All Saints' as one parish and Christ Lutheran, St Barnabas's and St Luke's as the other.

Parishioners were asked to read the report and consider the options in order to provide feedback in September so that the Commission can gather responses and issue a final report in the early fall. When the final report is published, each parish will consider it and vote on a way forward at the 2017 annual meetings of Vestry.

The Covenant Council met in early July and discussed how to support the ongoing discussion that the Commission asked us to have. Out of that conversation, a retreat was suggested. On the weekend of 24-25 September, a retreat titled "Listening to the Spirit: Gathered Together as the Body of Christ" will be held to



promote dialogue in guided conversations, to listen to people from all of the parishes, and reflect about the options recommended by the Covenant Commission. We are all invited to participate on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the discussion and on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. for an all-parish worship service. Both days will take place at Ashburnham Funeral Home (840 Armour Rd). There will be NO services at St John's on the Sunday morning.

Return to Regular Worship Schedule

St John's will return to our regular worship schedule on Sunday 11 September. Holy Communion according to the *Book of Common Prayer*

will be in the Nave at 8:15 a.m. The choir returns for Choral Eucharist according the *Book of Alternative Services* in the Nave at 10:00

a.m. and the Open Circle gathers at 10:00 in the Guild Hall. Refreshments and fellowship will follow each service as usual.



Election of Bishops Suffragan

On Saturday 17 September, the Diocesan Synod will gather at St Paul's, Bloor Street, to elect three suffragan bishops for the diocese. Twelve priests have allowed their names to stand in the

election. Information on the electoral Synod and biographies of the candidates are posted on the diocesan website: <http://www.toronto.anglican.ca/about-the-diocese/corporate-information/synod/2016-electoral-synod/>. On that day, please pray for the

Synod, the candidates, and our Synod delegates: Brad Smith, Sharon Watkins, Jennifer Passmore, and Emily Coombes. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit leads us to elect wise and faithful leaders for the diocese.

Program Vestry—Sunday 11 September

The Program Vestry will be held after the 10:00 services on 11 September. The Parish Advisory Board will be re-instituted with a number of members being selected at this meeting. We will consider a motion from the Diocesan Social Justice

and Advocacy Department on implementing the Calls to Action from the Final Report of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission of Canada. Finally, we will consider a significant reconfiguration of our Outreach Committee and

some other ministry groups into St John's Community Outreach Ministries, which will act as a sub-committee of the Parish Advisory Board in the oversight of all community ministries carried out under the auspices of the parish. This

will be the last year where the Financial and Program Vestry meetings are split: in 2017 there will be one annual meeting on Sunday 29 January.

Re-instituting the Parish Advisory Board

For the past couple of years, you might have noticed that the Parish Advisory Board (PAB) has been inactive.

This fall, the PAB will be re-instituted for two reasons. The first is that Canon 17 requires us to have one. The second is that the role of the PAB is to advise the clergy and churchwardens, which is especially important in a larger parish such as St John's where it is more of a challenge to seek the opinion of every member. Canon 17 outlines the composition of the PAB.

Members include the clergy, churchwardens and deputy churchwardens, treasurer, lay members of Synod, at least two members-at-large, and, if desired, representatives of various parish organisations.

The new Board at St John's will comprise the required members as outlined above. In addition, two members-at-large will be chosen—one appointed by the Incumbent, and one elected by the Vestry—and a representative from each of five areas of ministry in the

parish will be chosen to represent the constituent groups in that area of ministry. These will include Parish Life (Hospitality, St Margaret's Guild, St Michael's Guild etc), Worship (Chancel Guild, Servers, Music, etc), Christian Education, Family Ministries (to be established), and Community Ministries (which will take the place of the old Outreach Committee). Meetings are expected to be held once a month 9-10 times a year and will focus on providing strategic



leadership to the parish. If you are interested in serving on the Board, please speak to Brad.

Christian Education Opportunities

“So what if the church is a little weak in education? It’s not the end of the world.” Don’t be so sure. The latest studies indicate that education can be the church’s most potent tool for growing its people’s faith. Search Institute surveyed over 11,000 adults and youth in churches of several denominations. [They found that] “Christian education matters much more than we expected. Of all the areas of congregational life we examined, involvement in an effective Christian education program has the strongest ties to a person’s growth in faith. While other congregational factors also matter, nothing matters more than effective Christian education. And this is as true for adults as it is for adolescents.”

If our people aren’t learning, they’re not growing in their faith.¹

There are a number of study opportunities available this fall in the Peterborough Covenant churches.

Don Freeman will lead “Hiking Through the Bible: Trail XI—The Early Apostolic Period (Career and Journeys of the Apostle Paul) here at St John’s — a sign-up sheet is on the welcome table in the lobby.

A book study and discussion group on *Christ of the Celts: The Healing of Creation* by John Philip Newell will be led by Mary Bell-Plouffe at St Barnabas’s on Tuesday evenings starting September 27th.

The Fictional Writings of C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien will be the subject of a course at Sacred Heart of Peterborough instructed by Ian Storey Tuesday afternoons beginning September 13th.

For more information on any of these, please see the

bulletin board opposite the coat racks in the hallway.

We are also looking at the possibility in the near future of discussion groups on “This Holy Estate”, the report of the Marriage Commission to the General Synod on amending the marriage canon to include all legally-qualified persons (which means permitting same-gender marriage); the Report of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and the Calls to Action contained therein as we seek to discern if there are ways we as a parish can work on reconciliation with our Indigenous neighbours; and a year-round stewardship education program sponsored by the diocese. Stay tuned for news.

¹ Thom and Joani Schultz, *Why Nobody Learns Much of Anything at Church: And How to Fix It*, Rev. Ed. (Loveland, CO: Group Publishing, 1996), 10-11.



“Of all the areas of congregational life we examined, involvement in an effective Christian education program has the strongest ties to a person’s growth in faith.”

Ministry/Service Opportunities

Are you looking for an opportunity to contribute to parish life? Some of the ministry groups that are looking for new members include the Chancel Guild (who prepare the altar for worship, Esther Doré), Offering Counters (who count the money offering, Sharon Schriver), and

Stewardship Committee (who are responsible for the annual stewardship campaign, Brad Smith).

Brad would also like to capitalize on our downtown location and historic building to keep the church open during the day for prayer and tours. We are

recruiting Tour Guides to sit in the church to welcome visitors and to answer questions. If you are interested in any of these ministry opportunities, please speak with the person named in the brackets.



L-R: Esther Doré, Lyman Harding, Betty Hinton, and Margaret Harding tie palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

Financial Update to 20 August

Copyright 2003 by Randy Glasbergen.
www.glasbergen.com



"Our books are balanced. 50% of our numbers are real and 50% are made up."

The Wardens report that we are in a deficit of approximately \$20,000 which is typical at this time of year. Donations are close to budget which is appreciated by the Wardens and Finance Committee.

The deficit is reflective of maintenance and repairs we typically undertake in the summer months.

Tower repairs are expected

to start by the end of August which will be paid for by reserve funds. We are anticipating an estate gift which will replenish these funds.

As always, if you have not already made the move to pre-authorized remittance, this form of giving provides donors with a hassle-free way to donate on a regular basis.

Revenue	Actual to date	2016 Budget
General Donations	129,878	226,000
Other Revenues	149,196	274,600
Total	279,074	500,600
Expenditures	300,683	499,900
Net Income(Loss)	-21,609	700



Stewardship
a way of life

Stewardship Campaign 2016

In 2016, after a couple of years of diminishing returns from the format of the annual stewardship campaign, we will try a new format.

Starting Sunday 4 September, we will launch "Stewardship Season" with a thematic sermon and the distribution of a stewardship package to every household.

In the package, you will find a cover letter from the stewardship committee and a commitment brochure. In years past, the commitment card has only asked about what financial commitment parishioners plan to make for the upcoming year. This year, the brochure will still

ask for prayerful commitment to supporting the work of the parish with your money, but it also takes into account that money is not the only way we can support ministry at St John's. There are a variety of ministry opportunities in the brochure and you can check off any that you might be interested in and someone will contact you to discuss it.

When you complete your brochure, it can be returned at any time before

Thanksgiving. Callers will begin checking in with parishioners in the week of 19 September to make sure you received your package and to answer any questions. On Thanksgiving Sunday, all brochures will be placed in a basket on the altar as a way to consecrate our commitment of time, talent, and treasure to the work to which God calls us.

All Saints' Day—I November

As part of an effort to offer a more diverse worship experience, we will celebrate Solemn Eucharists on selected holy days throughout the year. A Solemn Eucharist is a more formal celebration that includes extra ministers,

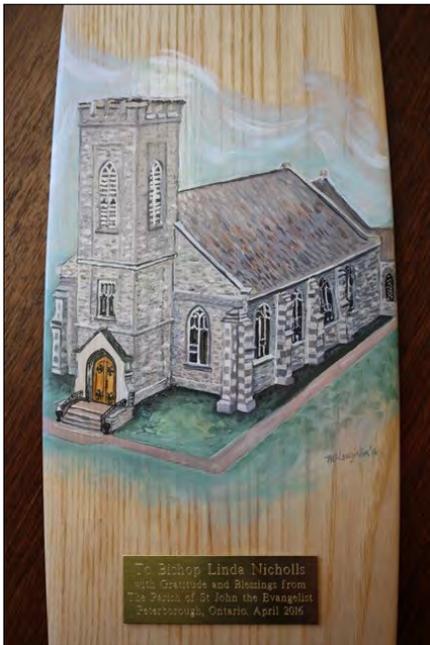
more chanting/singing and "smells and bells": incense and Sanctus bells. The selected Holy Days will be those with fixed dates and will be celebrated in the evening of the day. The first one will be Tuesday 1 November, the Solemnity of

All Saints, at 7:00 p.m. Other days will likely include the Feast of the Epiphany (6 January) and Ascension Day (the Thursday 40 days after Easter).

From the Parish Paparazzi



St John's hosted a farewell party for Bishop Linda Nicholls on Saturday 23 April. The parish presented her with a paddle handpainted with an image of the church. Top photo (by Bruce Pond): Bishop Linda with Mary McLoughlin, who painted the paddle. Bottom: Close-up of the painting.



Left: On 11 May, the Ven. Lyman Harding celebrated his 53rd anniversary of ordination.

Below, Top: A good crowd enjoyed the music of the Peterborough Concert Band at the Strawberry Fair on 21 June.

Below, Left: Walter Howell enjoys a light moment with Archbishop Johnson.

Below, Right: A dedicated team hulled dozens of quarts of strawberries for the Strawberry Fair.

Bottom: The Archbishop with the newly-confirmed (John Noble, Sue Lumley, Eric Vreugdenhil, Rob Carter, Julianna Haines, and Cole Hayward).



99 Brock St
Peterborough ON K9H 2P2
Phone: 705-745-7624
Fax: 705-742-6457
Email: office@stjohnspeterborough.ca

Stay up to date by visiting us online:



www.stjohnspeterborough.ca



www.facebook.com/StJohnsPtbo

We have a vision for ministry at St John's that is uplifting, joyful, and nourishing for the soul. It involves people learning about Jesus and growing in discipleship as they seek to be active in the kingdom he proclaimed. It involves being a servant community in our city committed to outreach and issues of justice. It involves being good stewards of creation and of all the resources that have been placed in our hands.

Stay tuned!

Our totally redesigned website will be launched soon!



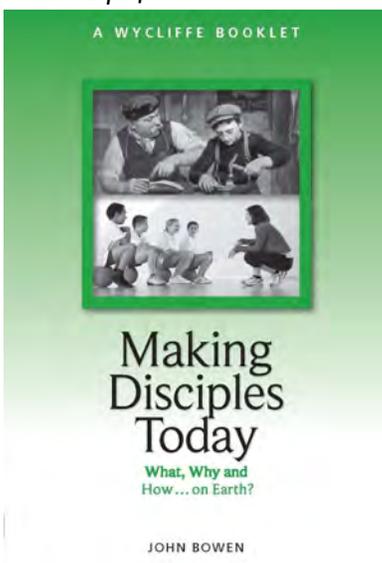
Upcoming Events

- Sunday 11 September—Program Vestry
- Sunday 18 September—Coffee Hour with the Naseri family
- Friday 23 September—Pub Night
- Saturday/Sunday 24-5 September—Peterborough Covenant Retreat Weekend
- Sunday 9 October—Harvest Thanksgiving

More information on upcoming events may be found inside this newsletter, in the Grapevine each week, and on the parish events bulletin board across from the coat racks in the lobby.

Creating a Culture of Disciple-making

An excerpt from...



If discipleship is really important, then helping people grow as disciples needs to become a central part of every church's culture—part of the way the church “does things” in every area of life. Discipleship needs to become our “new normal.”

Which means, of course, that some of the old ways “we do things round here” will have to be replaced with different ways of “doing things.” Deep-rooted cultural change of this kind is tough. Old ways are resistant to change, whether for individuals or for communities. Old habits die

hard—whether habits of thought, word, or deed. They are comfortable and familiar, like a pair of old shoes—and sometimes they simply confirm our old nature, rather than fostering a new and Christ-like nature. So they are difficult to change.

How then might cultural change happen? There is no one-shot deal. The change has to be tackled on a number of different fronts:

- We need to talk about discipleship: to make it the normal, everyday language of the church;
- We need to pick leaders who are disciples: the

main qualification for leadership in a community which wants to produce disciples of Jesus is for the leaders to be disciples themselves;

- We need to put money into disciple-making: how much of the budget goes into making disciples and how much is about keeping the building in good shape?
- We need to affirm disciple-making in public: every attempt to make disciples must be honoured.