

The Parish Light

*The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter
November 2015*



When the church is what it should be

Posted in The Community (anglican.ca) on October 19, 2015 by Kyle Norman

Two weeks ago, our organist went into the hospital. He had arrived at church that Sunday morning, but to all who looked upon him, it was clear that he was not in good health. He was sweaty and lethargic. He could hardly stand, let alone concentrate. Expressing our concern for him, and doing my duty as 'the boss,' I instructed him that he needed to go home, or possibly to the hospital. He did, and at the start of the service we all bowed our heads in prayer for his healing and safety.

This past Sunday, there was a note left for our organist in his church mail box. The note was clearly written by one of our Sunday-school aged parishioners, who wanted to express their concern for him, and their prayer that he get better. This was not a project in Sunday school. It was not suggested by a parent that they write a get well note. The note was spontaneous: a pure expression of prayer filled care for the organist. In case you cannot read the writing in the picture, this is what the note says:

Dear Doug. I hope you are feeling better. God bless you and keep you, always to shine on you. (happy face, church, heart).

There are moments where the church is exactly what Christ has called it to be: this is one of those moments. This small note, so beautifully penned, is a profound illustration of what community is all about. It is a faith-fueled and spirit-filled expression of the care of one person to another. The misspelling and the drawings express the purity of this young one's desire to pray down the blessings of God upon the one who leads the music at *their* church. How beautiful is it that this young one blessed our organist with ancient words? It is a poignant illustration that this weekly blessing, said over them at the communion rail, has become so rooted deep within them that it has formed their very understanding and language of the church. And when they wanted express their hope that God would touch someone just as much as God has touched them, these are the words that are found waiting. This note does not just show the blessing of the young to the old, but it shows how much this child experiences the blessings of the community of faith in their own individual life.

Community: true, authentic, Spirit-filled community, occurs when our lives of faith are so intertwined that care for one another crosses all human boundaries and barriers. We are called to be a people joined together in faith: young and old, rich and poor, male and female. The church lives out the blessedness of its own calling when such care for one another becomes the natural and free

expression of our life together. A blessed community is one where the love of God for one another is not just something we say of ourselves, but is something live out together.

This is where true community is lived. This is where the church rightly exists. The blessedness of the church, living as the church is called to live, is not about our programs or our numbers. It is simply when we share our lives together. The blessedness of community happens when adult parishioners delight in caring for our younger members, allowing them to explore and create, and to remind us that we are all children before our Heavenly Father. When adults delight in the cries and the giggles interrupting the sermon, when they value a toddler singing during the prayer of confession, or when they feel blessed by a child's excitement about God as they run or skip down the centre aisle, then the church is what it is called to be. When kids care for adult parishioners as important members in their tiny, but meaningful worlds; when kids feel so comfortable within the community that they begin to notice when someone is missing; when they, out of pure expression of their love for the church, write a note of blessing to another, then the church is fueled by a divine fire that can't help but be spread through all members.

CONNECTED BY LOVE

It is October 26th and I am trying to get this done as I know the editor is going away for a holiday and wants to finish off the newsletter. So I am going to make this short and sweet.

I can't begin to express my appreciation to everyone who so lovingly participated in my birthday celebrations over this past weekend. Each and every message that was written or sent in my booklet or in a card is very precious to me. It was a fantastic weekend with family and friends doing what I love to do - weddings and baptisms and pot luck meals with the community. I truly appreciate it and it was all such a surprise. Thank you so very much. I am truly blessed beyond measure and know that God is Good - All the Time.

With love;

Lesley+

The first ever cordless phone was created by God.
He named it prayer.
It never loses it's signal and you never have to recharge it.
Use it anywhere!

Don't Forget To Smile

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to the elementary school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with thunder and lightning. The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school and she herself feared that the electrical storm might harm her child.

Following the roar of thunder, lightning, like a flaming sword, would cut through the sky. Full of concern, the mother quickly got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did so, she saw her little girl walking along, but at each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up and smile. Another and another were to follow quickly and with each the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile.

When the mother's car drove up beside the child she lowered the window and called to her.

"What are you doing? Why do you keep stopping?"

The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty, God keeps taking my picture."

A LITTLE BOY'S EXPLANATION OF GOD ...

Out of the mouths of babes ... "And a Little Child Shall Lead them"

This was written by an 8 year old name Danny Dutton, who lives in Chula Vista, California. He wrote it for his third grade homework assignment, to 'explain God'.

EXPLANATION OF GOD: One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are small and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God!

Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he pleases.

And...that's why I believe in God.

"There was a very cautious man who never laughed or cried,

He never cared, he never dared, he never dreamed or tried.

And when one day he passed away, his insurance was denied.

For since he never really lived, they claimed he never died."

- Author unknown

I arrive at the conference feeling a bit grumpy. Traffic was tied up at rush hour. The leader gives directions while I am hanging my coat. "Take 20 minutes and list your three most life-changing experiences." After catching my breath, I begin to write: train ride to college in a strange city, first solo in an airplane, falling in love and more. The leader summarized the responses. Something was common to all the lists. Every life-changing event meant taking risks, stepping beyond usual boundaries, try something new.

I reflected that we are exposed to risks every day. An oncoming driver may swerve and hit you. The food in a restaurant may contain a deadly virus. A man with a rifle may shoot at you in a mall. You may go to church and your heart will stop before the service is over. We are not God. We do not know about tomorrow.

In her book GOD, BUT I'M BORED, Eileen Guder writes, "You can live on bland food so as to avoid an ulcer; drink no tea or coffee or other stimulants, in the name of health; go to bed early and stay away from nightlife; avoid all controversial subjects so as never to give offence; mind your own business and avoid

involvement in other people's problems; spend money only on necessities and save all you can. You can still break your neck in the bathtub, and it will serve you right."

You cannot avoid risk even if you want to. Our plans for tomorrow's activities can be shattered by a thousand unknown whether we stay at home under the covers or back out of our garage,

The biblical writer James gives practical advice: "Now listen to me, you that say, "Today or tomorrow we will travel to a certain city, where we will stay a year and go into business and make a lot of money." You don't even know what your life tomorrow will be! You are like a puff of smoke, which appears for a moment and then disappears. What you should say is this: "If the Lord is willing, we will live and do this or that."

Sherlock Holmes and Watson were camping. In the middle of the night Sherlock Holmes awoke and looked up at the stars. He asked, "Watson, what do you see?" Woken from his sleep Watson looked up and said, "stars." "Yes, but that do these stars tell you?" Watson said, "Cosmologically they tell me that we are part of a large universe – that we are one of billions and billions of planets. Theologically they tell me that we have a great God who made all of it. Meteorologically they tell me that the sky is clear and we will have good weathers tomorrow. Temporally they tell me that it is the middle of the night and we should be sleeping! Sherlock, what do they tell you?" "Well, Sherlock replied, "they tell me that someone has stolen our tent."

The Swiss philosopher and poet Henri Frederic Amiel wrote this blessing: "Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the journey with us, so be swift to love and make haste to be kind."

Suggested Scripture: Psalm 147, James 4: 13-15

.....Rod Andrews is a retired Anglican Bishop. He lives in Saskatoon.



November 8th – Back to Church Sunday, St Thomas, Perryvale

November 21st – Christmas Tea, Craft and Bake Sale ~ 10 am – 2 pm ~ St Andrew's Zion Church
Hosted by St Thomas, Perryvale and St Andrew's Zion, Colinton

November 27th - Bishop Fraser will give a presentation on his trip to South Africa –
St Andrew's Zion, Colinton – 7:00 pm

November 29th – Fifth Sunday Service at St Andrew's Zion Colinton at 11 am ~ pot luck follows

YOUTH GROUP

Upcoming Youth Group Dates/Events (7:30pm-9:30pm, unless noted different), in Colinton. All youth 12-18 (Grades 7-12) are welcome! Bring a friend. Anyone wishing to help with the youth group please contact Joanna joannamuzyka@hotmail.com or **780-689-4326.**

November 6/15, November 2015 and December 4/15