

THE PARISH LIGHT

The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter – October 2017



A Wonderful Thanksgiving Story

A blind boy sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said: "I am blind, please help."

There were only a few coins in the hat.

A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind boy. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were.

The boy recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way." I wrote: "Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it."

Both signs told people that the boy was blind. But the first sign simply said the boy was blind. The second sign told people that they were so lucky that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

Moral of the Story: Be thankful for what you have. Be creative. Be innovative. Think differently and positively. When life gives you a 100 reasons to cry, show life that you have 1000 reasons to smile. Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear. Keep the faith and drop the fear.

The most beautiful thing is to see a person smiling. And even more beautiful, is knowing that you are the reason behind it! Happy Thanksgiving to all!

THE STORY BEHIND THE SONG

“Nearer, My God, To Thee”

This hymn was written by a woman named Sarah Flower Adams. She was born in Harlow, England, in the winter of 1805. Her father was a newspaper editor and a man of prominence.

Sarah herself grew up enjoying the spotlight. She showed great interest in the stage and dreamed of being an actress. In 1834 she married William Bridges Adams, a civil engineer. The couple lived in London, where Sarah could be near the great theaters. In 1837 she played “Lady Macbeth” in the Richmond Theater in London to rave reviews.

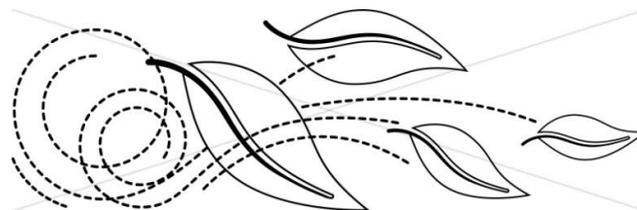
Her frail health hampered her career, however, and she found herself focusing more on her literary gifts. It’s said that she wrote quickly, as if under compulsion; and seldom did editors find anything to change in her work. Among her compositions were hymns of praise to the Lord. Sarah’s sister, Eliza, a gifted musician, often wrote the music for her hymns. The two were very close.

One day in 1841, their pastor, William Johnson Fox, paid a visit. He was compiling a church hymnbook, and he wanted to include some of their hymns. He further mentioned that he was frustrated in his inability to find a hymn to go along with the upcoming Sunday’s message, which was from the story of Jacob at Beth-el in Genesis 28:20-22.

Sarah offered to write a hymn based on those verses. For the rest of the week, she pored over the passage, visualizing Jacob’s sleeping with a stone for his pillow as he dreamed of a ladder reaching to Heaven. The following Sunday their church sang Sarah’s “Nearer, My God, To Thee.”

Eliza, who was suffering from tuberculosis, died in 1846. Sarah had faithfully cared for her sister during the illness, but by the time Eliza died, Sarah was also showing signs of illness.

Sarah passed away on August 14, 1848 at the age of 43.



GOD SAID NO!!

I asked God to take away my habit. God said, No, it is not for me to take away, but for you to give it up.

I asked God to make my handicapped child whole. God said, No, his spirit is whole, his body is only temporary.

I asked God to grant me patience. God said, No, patience is a by-product of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is learned.

I asked God to give me happiness. God said, No, I give you blessings; Happiness is up to you.

I asked God to spare me pain. God said, No, suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me.

I asked God to make my spirit grow. God said, No, you must grow on your own, and I will prune you to make you fruitful.

I asked God for all things that I might enjoy life. God said, No, I will give you life, so that you may enjoy all things.

I asked God to help me LOVE others, as much as He loves me. God said....Ahhh, finally you have the idea.

THIS DAY IS YOURS DON'T THROW IT AWAY.....

May God Bless You



Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; be thankful unto him, and bless his name.

Psalm 100:4

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THE VALUE OF A SMILE

A smile is nature's best antidote for discouragement. It brings rest to the weary, sunshine to those who are sad, and hope to those who are hopeless and defeated.

A smile is so valuable that it can't be bought, begged, borrowed, or taken away against your will. You have to be willing to give a smile away before it can do anyone else any good.

So if someone is too tired or grumpy to flash you a smile, let him have one of yours anyway. Nobody needs a smile as much as the person who has none to give.



A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek.

She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?"

"Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago"

"Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago."

Feeling their respective faces again, she observed,

"God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

Insights from Flying Geese

Perhaps you have seen geese flying through the sky in a “V” formation. Christians can learn some valuable lessons from their habits.

Flying in a “V” formation decreases the wind drag for all but the lead geese. The uplift of the wings of the bird in front makes it easier for the flock to fly long distances. Christians can learn from this that we always accomplish far more by working together than by acting individually. That’s why God created the church and instructed us to “bear one another’s burdens.” When we share a common goal and work together in harmony, there is no limit to what can be accomplished.

When flying together in a “V”, the lead goose will drop back into the formation to rest a bit while another takes his place as leader. We can learn from this that it pays to take turns doing the hard jobs, lest a few become “weary in well doing.” What excuses have you been giving God when asked to serve?

Seasoned goose observers have also noticed that when a goose becomes ill or wounded and falls out of formation, two others will fall out with him and remain behind to nurse him until he recovers enough to join another flock. What a lesson we Christians can learn from this!

Why do we condemn those of our number who fall rather than love and nurse them back to wholeness? If the world knew we would love unconditionally and stand by one another no matter what, we would have to build thousands of new churches to accommodate all the people.

Service Schedule for Month of October

St Thomas, Perryvale: Oct. 1st ~ Joanna Muzyka; Oct. 15th ~ Mike Griffin;

Oct 22nd ~ Rev Christobel Lines

St Paul’s, Boyle: Oct 1st ~ Phil Sedgwick; Oct 8th – Rev. Christobel Lines; Oct 22nd ~ Mike Griffin

St Andrew’s Zion, Colinton: Oct 1st – Joanna Muzyka; Oct 15th ~ Mike Griffin;

Oct 22nd ~ Rev. Christobel Lines

Christ Church, Wandering River: Oct 1st ~ Phil Sedgwick; Oct 8th ~ Rev. Christobel Lines;

Oct. 22nd ~ David Lines



SYNOD 2017

Diocese of Athabasca

RENEWAL IN MISSION

Thursday October 12 – Sunday October 15

Catholic Conference Centre, Peace River

Workshops, Bishop Kamani, Diocese of Ibba, South Sudan;

Ven. Canon Terry Leer, and Rev. David Greenwood.

Friday, October 20th

Join us for Soup and Sandwich

11:30 am – 1:30 pm at St Paul's, Boyle

Sponsored by the St Paul's ACW

November 17th

Fall Supper at St Paul's Church, Boyle

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

\$15. Adults, \$8.00 Children 7 -12 years, Free to 6 years and under

Boyle Community Centre