



May 2010
Spring Issue

St. Paul's Post

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May is Mission & Outreach Month at St. Paul's!

"Reaching out - around the world, and around the corner!"

The month of May is designated as "**Mission & Outreach Month**" ... a celebration and recognition of the work of our Mission Partners, those local, national and international organizations that the Parish has committed to support on an on-going basis, both financially and in our prayers. Our major Mission Partners are listed at the right.

The Mission & Outreach Committee has a modest budget of \$ 5,000, which enables us to provide meaningful support to not only our major Mission Partners, but also provides some flexibility to respond to the unexpected and to support the local outreach initiatives identified at right.

Thanks to the generosity of folks in our Parish, we received over \$ 28,000 last year in designated funds for our Mission Partners. This is in addition to regular offerings and is quite remarkable for a small Parish.

We have set aside two Sundays to mark this month.

- On **Sunday May 9th**, the **Aventura Nica Youth Group** will make a presentation on their recent mission to SchoolBox in Nicaragua. They will present to the **8 AM service**, and **again at a joint service at 10 AM**.
- And on the **last Sunday of the month, May 30th**, the Rev. Canon Bill Prentice, Director of Parish & Diocesan services for the Diocese of Ottawa will speak on **Diocesan Outreach Ministries** such as Centre 454, The Well/La Source and others. There will be a **major coffee hour** between the **9:15 and 11 AM services**, hosted by the Mission & Outreach Committee.
 - Also on this Sunday, we hope to receive donations for the Lanark County Food Bank. This is a small but important mission we are encouraging for the last Sunday of the month throughout the year.

There is much to celebrate in our Mission & Outreach programs. The work of our Mission Partners continues with our blessings and our financial support. If you would like to contribute to any of our Mission Partners or local charities at anytime, envelopes are available at the back of the church or please see a Warden.

If you would like to learn more about our Mission & Outreach activities or would like to contribute to our efforts, please speak to Reverend Pat Martin.

Submitted by Ron Ayling,
Chair, Mission & Outreach

Major Mission Partners

Lanark County Food Bank

Ottawa Inner City Ministries

Bales for the North

Anglican Mission Services (Mary Sherwood & the Madagascar orphanages)

SchoolBox (Tom Affleck in Nicaragua)

Vidas Mission (Max & Raquel Candia in Peru)

Primate's World Relief & Development Fund

Local Outreach Initiatives

Lanark County Interval House

Lanark County Snowsuit Fund

Almonte Lions Club Christmas Basket

Almonte's Taking Young People Seriously

(TYPS)

Springtime Visioning for St. Paul`s

Submitted by Reverend Pat Martin

The springtime greening of the earth is always a welcome sight and it is particularly pleasant on the Mississippi. As Jack and I settle into life in the rectory (a new experience for us) it is wonderful to be able to sit quietly on the river bank. On rainy days we get to enjoy the river from the sanctuary of the front porch. Either way, it is a good place to be still, to think and to listen.

In addition to the sights and sounds, I am also learning about the rhythm of life in this parish. Getting a sense of meeting and service schedules, group and special activities, and other expectations is a bit like learning a new dance. It takes time and I am grateful for your support and encouragement.

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Spring is a time of renewal. As we move through Easter into Pentecost, we begin to think about the greening and renewal of this parish.

To this end, we are having a visioning day on Saturday, May 29 and I hope that you will join us to share your dreams and visions for St. Paul's as we move forward together.

Blessings, Pat + (and Jack)

Mark Your Calendars ... Upcoming Events

In addition to the special services planned for two Sundays in May, in support of Mission & Outreach, be sure to note the following important dates of events at St Paul`s:

Wednesday, May 19th Reverend Pat Martin Induction Service, 7:00 PM

Please plan to attend the Induction Service for Reverend Pat Martin.

Archdeacon Jim Roberts will preside, with Reverend Peter Barkway preaching during the service.

Saturday, May 29th Visioning Day, 9 AM to 2 PM

Join your Parish Council and others to share your dreams and visions for St. Paul's as we move forward together.

Monday Aug 23rd to Thursday, Aug 26th Vacation Bible School (V.B.S.)

Theme: Egypt – the story of Joseph – more details to come ...

Money Matters

Lovingly submitted by Ann Bird

Some years ago I was asked to write an article for this newsletter about why I give money to the church. I did so then in humility, with much reservation. The essence of that article I share with you now.

The Blessing of Giving

I'm sure that most of you consider how much you give to St. Paul's to be a private matter before you and God, and, of course, it is. I can assure you that no one at St. Paul's, other than God and our Envelope/Deft Secretary, knows how much that is. But that is not the issue to be addressed here. This article is meant to be about why I give money to the church.

So, why do I give money to the church? I give out of an overwhelming feeling of thankfulness to God for all that I have received. I understand that all that I have is not my own, but is God's, given to me by God to enjoy and to share, not only with my immediate family, but with others. I'm reminded of the words, *"Those, to whom much is given, much will be required."* I know that I have been given much. My bank book says a great deal about my faith, and I want my children to know and understand what money means to me.

I know that there are many other charities seeking my donations. But, I give money to the church because I believe that it is imperative for the world to hear God's life-giving message of salvation and hope. Other charities spring from this message, of course. However, the need for the church, as the people of God, to be the active, empowering agent of love in a desperate world, in Jesus' name, is, for me, everything.

I once attended a church in New York State that took up a collection, before the service began, for the Sunday School. During the service, the tithe, the 10% offering of all one had earned the previous week, was received.

Later still, and much to my amazement, an offertory anthem was announced, and the members of the congregation, moved by the music they were singing, circled the church in great joy, bringing their offering forward for the Lord's work in the world. This was indeed a sacrificial gift for each one of them, as the congregation was poor.

After the service, members told me that they didn't believe in giving until it hurt, but rather, giving until they were freed from the bondage that money could have held them in. The love of money, after all, really is the root of all evil.

At the time the above article was written, St. Paul's was running a deficit. As your current treasurer, I share the following figures with you. These figures were shared with Parish Council 21 April 2010.

In the first three months of 2010, St. Paul's received \$43,189 of the budgeted income of \$44,431 for that time period. In the first three months St. Paul's spent \$53,647. Of this spent amount, there was a onetime cost of \$8,681 for refurbishing the Rectory.

I wonder what St. Paul's would be like if tithing were taken seriously.

Balance

Submitted by Ron Ayling

God was missing for six days. Eventually, Michael, the archangel, found Him resting on the seventh day.

He inquired, "Where have you been?"

God smiled deeply and proudly pointed downwards through the clouds, "Look, Michael. Look what I've made." Archangel Michael looked puzzled, and said, "What is it?" "It's a planet," replied God and I've put life on it... I'm going to call it Earth. It's going to be a place to test Balance."

"Balance?" inquired Michael, "I'm still confused."

God explained, pointing to different parts of earth. "For example, northern Europe will be a place of great opportunity and wealth, while southern Europe is going to be poor. Over here I've placed a continent of white people, and over there is a continent of black people. Balance in all things."

God continued pointing to different countries. "This one will be extremely hot, while this one will be very cold and covered in ice."

The Archangel, impressed by God's work, then pointed to a land area and said, "What's that one?" "That's the Province of Ontario... the most glorious place on earth. There are beautiful mountains, rivers and streams, lakes, forests, hills, and beaches.

The people from Ontario are going to be handsome, modest, intelligent, and humorous, and they are going to travel the world. They will be extremely sociable, hardworking, high achieving, carriers of peace, and producers of good things." Michael gasped in wonder and admiration, but then asked, "But what about balance, God? You said there would be balance. "

God smiled, "Ah, but there's Toronto. Wait till you see the hockey team I put there."

Recommended Reading

By Harry Brown – *“have found it a most helpful book”*

THE LANGUAGE OF GOD"
by Dr. Francis S. Collins

Can be ordered at our local book store for just under twenty dollars.

Dr. Collins is prominent American Medical Scientist, who in his own life, has moved from agnosticism, to atheism, to faith in Jesus Christ. His primary thesis is that our God speaks to us both through the Scriptures, but also through the entire world that He has made. There is seemingly contradiction only when we ask the wrong questions in the wrong places.

**St. Paul's Cemetery
Work Party!
Saturday May 8th
9am - noon**

**Fence Painting!
Young, Old, Men, Women &
Children
Paint & Brushes Provided;
Bring Scraper**

**Please Sign Up at the Back of
the Church**

or

Phone Ron at 256-4617

Update on Haiti from PWRDF

Submitted by Ron Ayling

In the aftermath of the devastating earthquake that hit Haiti on January 12th, Anglicans in Canada donated a remarkable \$ 2,131,733 for relief and development work in the island nation through PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund). Some \$ 1,990,000 of this amount is eligible for matching by the Canadian government. Within 24 hours of the earthquake, PWRDF had released \$ 15,000 through the Action by Churches Together (ACT) Alliance for immediate work in Haiti. As the scope of the disaster became clearer, the work expanded.

At this point in time, PWRDF has committed funds for:

- An additional \$ 35,000 to meet immediate needs (disbursement of water purification and other survival goods, as well as, rapid response coordination work to help with communication and coordination between ACT, the United Nations and other bodies;
- \$ 700,000 through ACT to provide 1600 households (9600 people) with tool kits, hygiene kits, blankets, mosquito netting, bedding, and emergency shelter needs; and to distribute transitional housing materials to an additional 5000 families in rural communities (more than half a million affected people have migrated from the cities to rural areas, causing enormous strain on local, rural resources);
- \$ 250,000 through the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti to provide over 20,000 people with food, water, medicine and temporary shelter.

As PWRDF continues to support relief and development efforts in Haiti, the focus will be on providing support to reopen more than 100 schools damaged or destroyed by the earthquake. The support will include providing large tents for classrooms; a school feeding program in

collaboration with the World Food Program; educational supplies in collaboration with UNICEF; psycho-social support to teachers and children; salaries for teachers for at least six months; drinking water; and latrines in schools.

PWRDF will work with ACT partners such as the Lutheran World Federation and FinChurch Aid to support the efforts of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti to reopen schools.

*PWRDF is one of St. Paul's
Mission Partners*



A Prayer for All Missionary Workers

O God, who wishes that all people should be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth:

Prosper, we pray you, all those who labour in the Gospel at home and in distant lands, particularly those who represent and work for St. Paul's Mission Partners.

Protect them in all perils, and support them in loneliness and in their hours of trial. Give them your grace to bear faithful witness unto you.

Endue them with burning zeal and love that they may turn many to righteousness, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Origins of our Common Expressions

Submitted by Wendy Shaw

Ever wonder about where the expression "*it's raining cats and dogs!*" came from?

Wendy Shaw found the origins of some of our common expressions fascinating and sometimes very humorous. Below are a few explanations of how they came to be. It sure helps us appreciate our blessings in this day and age.

The next time you are washing your hands and complain because the water temperature isn't just how you like it, think about how things used to be.

Here are some facts about the 1500s:

First, people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May, and they still smelled pretty good by June. However, since they were starting to smell ... brides carried a bouquet of flowers to hide the body odour. Hence, this explains the custom today of carrying a bouquet when getting married.

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children. Last of all, came the babies. By then, the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water!"

Houses had thatched roofs – thick straw – piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and, sometimes, the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence, the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things from falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence, a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence, the saying, "Dirt poor." The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread thresh (straw) on floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more thresh until, when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance way. Hence: a thresh hold.

Getting quite an education? Look for more "origins" of expressions in future newsletters!

The St. Paul's Post is edited and published quarterly by Jan Brazeau on behalf of St. Paul's Anglican Church in Almonte. Suggestions and contributions of news items and ideas are most welcome. Please contact Jan at 613-256-0127 or jbrazeau@storm.ca