



St. Paul's Post

October 2017

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**O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise
to the rock of our salvation!**

**Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!**

Psalm 95:1-2

Message from the Rector

As we approach this Thanksgiving Sunday, I am filled with deep gratitude for so many things, not the least of which is the successful surgery of my faithful though sometimes cheeky and annoying canine companion, Jack. Pet keepers are blessed to live in a town that has such great veterinary care readily available. And this got me thinking about all the other blessings of this town, this province, this country, this parish. As people who live relatively privileged lives in a prosperous country, we have much to give thanks for - like our health care system, and the freedom and the peace we enjoy in this land. It's not perfect. There is still a long way to go before it is good for all but I know that sometimes I forget to give thanks because I start to take it all for granted. Then I watch the evening news and realize how fortunate I am that my father chose this country as our new home. We have much to be thankful for in this parish; the beautiful setting, an incredible number of hardworking volunteers who quietly care for this place, a congregation willing to try new things and work together for the good of the whole, a rich variety of beautiful music and a community with a generous heart that cares for those less fortunate. The list could go on and on.



And I am thankful that our Creator is also a God who invites us to 'keep company'* with the divine - a faithful God who loves and cares about us enough to want to be in a relationship with us - even though we can all be cheeky and annoying by times.

So, this Thanksgiving I would encourage us all to count our blessings and give thanks.

Wishing you all a Blessed Thanksgiving
Blessings, pat (and Jack)

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Meals are an important time to realize how fortunate we are to have enough to eat, and to give God thanks.

We hope you will find these suggestions useful in this season of Thanksgiving.

1. For all we are about to receive, make us truly grateful, Lord. Through Christ we pray. Amen.
- 2 Creator, Sustainer and Life-giver, Bless this food to our use, and us to your service, make us grateful for all your mercies, and mindful of the needs of others. Amen.
4. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below, Praise Him above, ye heavenly Host, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.
5. For food in a world where many walk in hunger;
For faith in a world where many walk in fear;
For friends in a world where many walk alone;
We give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.
6. *From First Nation's tradition:*
We thank Great Spirit for the resources that made this food possible; we thank the Earth Mother for producing it, and we thank all those who labored to bring it to us. May the Wholesomeness of the food before us, bring out the Wholeness of the Spirit within us. Amen.



For children to lead:

7. God is great, God is good.
Let us thank Him for our food. Amen.
8. Our Father, for this day, for our friends, for this food, we thank You. Amen.
9. For food and health and happy days, receive our gratitude and praise, O Lord. Amen.

Worship **TOGETHER**

From our music leader, Wendy Shaw

God's surprises are filled with blessings

Three and a half years ago, much to my own surprise, I applied for the job of Praise Team leader and ended up being offered the job.

Since that day I have had an exciting journey travelling together with a wonderful team of talented musicians and singers who love to praise God with music that is a mixture of contemplative and joyful celebration of our faith.

Last year, much to my surprise, I began a new journey when I offered to *have a go* at directing the choir. And once again I travelled on a musical path with a wonderful group of people whose passion is also to sing their praises in hymns and beautiful choral music.

Music has always been a huge part of my life.

I have happily sung in choirs and musical productions for many years but I never anticipated that my journey would bring me to this moment when I have been given a new hat called Music Leader. God is certainly full of surprises! But along with the surprises are an abundance of blessings. And I am so blessed to work with such gifted people.

Now I look forward to travelling a new path with both these talented groups. Our styles of music may differ, but what we share together is our desire for our music to lift the congregation's hearts into the presence of God.

So together with God, we step out in faith on this new journey of combined music. Together - choir, praise team and congregation - we can grow in mutual respect of each other's music because it is all for the glory of God. And without a doubt, when we work together, we will not only be blessed, we will be so surprised by what God's plans are for our future.



Something's Been Happening Here!

- *Bob Bassett, People's Warden*

Have you been down to our basement "hall" recently? If not, come and check things out.

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of a group of people, the hall has been transformed over the summer.

- Look at the **newly refinished hardwood floors** professionally sanded and sealed thanks to Lanark Hardwood.
- Look up and check out the **new ceiling tiles**, clean and bright and intact, inviting folks to linger in the hall.
- Check out the **repaired and newly painted walls** which add a bright and airy atmosphere to the room.
- The **St Paul's Library** has been relocated to the wall opposite to its previous position, and is now "**open for business**" so that folks can browse and borrow from our extensive collection of books relevant to our congregations. Thanks to Doris and Irene for maintaining this wonderful resource for us all!
- Much of the previous "clutter" that made our hall look small as been disposed of, or relocated elsewhere, to enhance the use of the space for a variety of purposes.
- The Bulletin Board on wheels has been cut down to an easier-to-manage size and will be enhanced more in coming weeks.
- Wendy and Deane have spent many hours over the summer sorting and cataloguing our collection of music so that our newly joined singers and musicians can access materials faster.
- All six of the windows in the hall now can open and allow fresh air to blow through.
- All burnt-out bulbs have been replaced and all lights are functional.
- A huge debt of thanks is owed to many people who, despite the heat, the mould, the dust and the dirt, persevered to bring this project to completion. Remarkably, some of those who helped do not actually attend any of our services, but have come to love and respect our property through the

Centre for Creative Living. To them, in particular, we are truly thankful.

The following is a list of parishioners who took time from busy schedules and from holidays to assist with this project: Sue Evans, Bob Mosher, Tom Coleman, Richard Evans, Dan Berg, Barb Booth, Lois Rochon, Jonathan Playfair, Wendy Shaw, Deane Zeeman, Matthew Bassett, David McCreey, Michael Mavis, and Bob Bassett. (I hope I have not forgotten to mention anyone!)

Our Hall is now ready for everyone to enjoy. On a recent visit from the Fire Marshall, (doing his annual inspection), he remarked that our hall was safe, hospitable, bright, and cheerful. A credit to our fine heritage church and to the ongoing care generations of members have committed to, and will continue to contribute to in so many ways.



**Bishop John has given
Rev. Pat permission to
retire on June 30 2018.**

**Pat's last Sunday with us
will be June 10 2018.**

In due course, the wardens will be meeting with the Ven. Brian Kauk, the new archdeacon of Arnprior Lanark to begin the process of moving forward.

