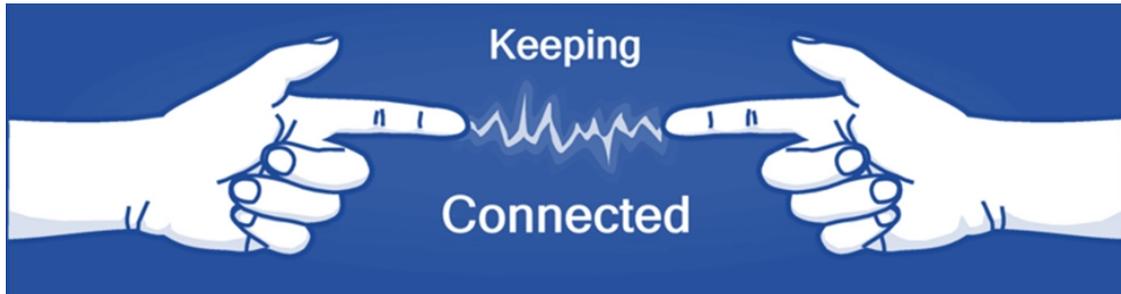


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**For September 27 2020**

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**A Message from Rev. Jonathon**

### **The Importance of Humility**

Both our Epistle and Gospel readings this week touch on the problem of discrimination, and specifically discrimination within the Church. Unfortunately it seems that discrimination is a universal human phenomenon that spans across time and across cultures. It is a problem in our world today and it was a problem in the time of Jesus and the early Church.



In studying this week's Bible readings, I am convinced that one of the factors that leads to discrimination is a lack of humility on the part of individuals and groups. There is a natural human tendency to classify people, things, and ideas into simplistic categories and label them as being either good or bad. Isn't it interesting, though, that people tend to label themselves and people like them as being good, while others are labelled as bad?

Jesus recognized this problem within Judaism as it was being practiced by some during His time. Many of those who were in positions of leadership or who were deeply committed to following their religion (namely the Pharisees, Scribes, and Saducees) believed that they were actually better than their fellow Jews. This was a glaring lack of humility on their part.

Religious leaders and insiders used their position of privilege to look down on and exclude others. These were the marginalized and outcast people who Jesus spent so much time ministering to, because no one else would. They were the people society forgot and neglected. Religious leaders often referred to this group by the derogatory and dismissive term of "sinners". This term indicated an underlying belief that these excluded people were not even worthy of God's love. It was discrimination at its worst.

The Gospel reading reminds us that it was the religious leaders (ironically, people who should have known better) who rejected Him, while the marginalized and outcasts accepted Him. The leaders were convinced that they were right but in fact they were wrong - wrong in their treatment of others, wrong in their rejection of Jesus, and wrong in their lack of humility.

This lack of humility continued in the early Church. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Church in Philippi to remind them of these important truths: "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..." (Philippians 2: 3-5, NRSV).

We continue to struggle with a lack of humility in our own society. This week we will be marking **Orange Shirt Sunday**. It is a time to remember the estimated 150,000 Indigenous children who attended government sponsored and Church run residential schools in Canada over a one hundred year period.

The entire residential school system could be said to have been caused in part by a lack of humility on the part of the government, Church leaders, and society. The system was based on a desire to assimilate Indigenous people into the emerging Canadian society, based on European Christian values. There was a widespread belief that our culture was superior to Indigenous cultures.

In my sermon this week, I will be addressing how we can work to build humility in our lives. I hope that you will be able to join us either in person or online.



Orange Shirt Day

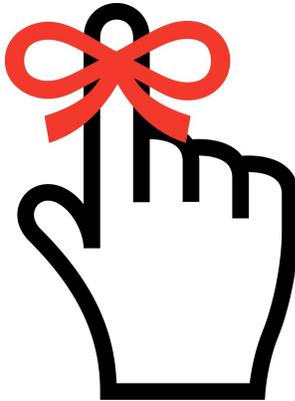
*From Karen Luyendyk*

**If you'll be in church this Sunday September 27th**, you're invited by [Mississippi Mills All My Relations](#) to wear an orange shirt to honour residential school children. Won't be at church? You can wear an orange shirt on September 30 (the actual day).

Orange Shirt day was born out of the experience of Phyllis Webstad who entered a Residential School when she was only 6yrs old. Phyllis's granny had given her a new orange shirt for her first day of school, but it was taken away as soon as she arrived and Phyllis never saw it again. The colour orange has always reminded Phyllis of her experiences at residential school and, "how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared and I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying and no one cared."

We all wear orange on this day to say, '**Every Child Matters**'.

If you're interested in being part of a local group responding to the [calls to action](#) outlined by the [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#) in a respectful, concrete, doable way, contact Mississippi Mills All My Relations on our [website](#). There are members of St Paul's in this group, check us out!



**REMINDER : When you call the office to pre-register for Sunday service, please leave your name and PHONE NUMBER.**

If you have trouble leaving a message, please email the office with your registration request. Thanks!

## **Road Clean Up Fall 2020**

*From Vicki Bassett*



14 parishioners gathered on Saturday Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> for our semi-annual road clean-up.

We had a beautiful day and stayed safe in small groups of 2 to clean our 2 kilometre stretch of County Road 29.

Thanks to all the folks who came out to help!: Katrina and Ron Ayling, Vicki and Bob Bassett, Brenda Beaubien, Barb Booth and Bob Mosher, Sandra Cain and Roger Menard, Michael Mavis, Rob Moulson, Dave Newlands, Doris and Zach Wionzek.

Special thanks to Michael Mavis who continues to lead this ministry since its inception many years ago!



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## Parish Council Highlights

*These highlights are prepared by Rev. Jonathon from notes and are not the official minutes.*

Council met on September 16 via Zoom.

- New Council member: Deane Zeeman joined Council as an Alternate Member of Synod, replacing Karen Luyendyk who has stepped down from this position.
- In-person worship services: resumed on September 6 and are going well. The service is recorded and is uploaded to our YouTube channel. The recorded Morning Prayer services and our Sunday Morning Coffee Hour on Zoom have been discontinued.
- Refugee family support: New means of encouraging independence of the our Syrian refugee family will be looked at going forward. Council decided to conclude our official participation in the Syrian refugee program and no longer accept donations for that program.
- Office phone system: Council approved changing to a simple Bell line with voice mail as the current phone system is outdated and unreliable.
- Finances: Thanks in large part to the Jubilee announced by our diocese, and payments for ECOPS and Fair Share being forgiven for April and May, finances look OK
- Fundraising: Ways and means to make up the funding difference resulting from not being able to offer either the annual Harvest Supper or November tourtières were discussed. A temporary working group was established to help with this.
- Rectory business: The R3 Group will not be able to meet until we can have large, in-person meetings again; The current rectory tenant and her family will be moving at the end of September. A new tenant will move in on October 1.
- Property projects completed over the summer: The exterior concrete steps and railing were replaced by Michael Gallagher, assisted by his family members and friends. Exterior painting was completed on the Church fascia, parish house, parish house garage, and back porch of the rectory. Electrical repair work was done at the Church and some items are ongoing. The Church sign was repaired by Eric and Sue Hammond. The fridge in the Parish House broke and had to be replaced.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place on October 21. We will continue meeting via Zoom for the foreseeable future.

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# A Response to Matthew 20: 1-16

The parable of the landlord who paid everyone the same wage  
regardless of how much of the day they had worked

*From Deane Zeeman*

*Disclaimer:* I'm just an ordinary member of St. Paul's. I'm no theologian. But sermons cause me to think – some prompt more extensive thinking than others. Here's what I've been thinking...

I'm with those grumbling workers - It really **isn't fair** that the workers who were hired at the end of the day should be paid as much as those who worked away all day in the hot sun!

And I get it that this is a metaphor; that Jesus is trying to tell us something about the Kingdom – to show us that the Kingdom is different from the way things have always been.

I start to see that this is a false parallel.. Does this mean that if we want to live in the Kingdom, we have to pay everyone the same wage regardless of their productivity?

The grumbling workers are living in the Economy of Money, where, as we find in Proverbs, "the worker is worthy of his hire".

But God is the landlord, not me. God's Kingdom is the Economy of Love, where, in the words of the Prayer for St. Paul's, "every soul finds a loving home in the community of [His] Son".

In the Kingdom Economy of Love, God provides everyone with what they *need*, whether they "deserve" it or not!

And so, I find that I can understand Grace in a new way. I call it *undeserved love, with no strings attached!*



## Calling all Knitters

*From Wendy Shaw*

We'll all soon be looking for things to do as we cocoon for the colder weather. And I have a potential solution: knitting and embellishing **twiddlemuffs**.

"Twiddlemuffs?" you say?

Twiddlemuffs (or twiddlemitts) are knitted hand-warmers that provide sensory stimulation for people living with dementia. They keep restless hands busy and soothe and comfort those who are anxious or agitated.

Twiddlemuffs are usually made from left-over acrylic wool, however fleece tubes and other recycled wool products are also suitable.

I got interested in making these last winter while I was recovering from knee surgery and got a few other people involved. We bought some brightly coloured acrylic yarn and some "bits and bobs" to use as decorations (i.e., bits to "twiddle" with).

Recently volunteers at The Hub expressed an interest in stocking these for its customers. I've

got the yarn and the bits and bobs - who'd like to join we in making more? You could also crochet one, or make a mini-blanket and attach the "twiddles".

I've got patterns, yarn and "bits". Give me a call (613-256-3433) or email me (wendytrala@gmail.com) and we'll arrange a time when you could pick up some supplies.

Honestly, you won't believe how much fun it is to creatively customize them!

Here are just a couple of examples of muffins that I have made. Join me!



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## READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

### Pentecost 17

Click on a reading to see the text from the  
New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) on the Bible Gateway

First reading: [Exodus 17:1-7](#)

Psalm: [Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16](#)

Second reading: [Philippians 2:1-13](#)

Gospel: [Matthew 21:23-32](#)



Your prayers are requested for communities as they struggle with increasing numbers of new case of COVID-19, that all will feel a sense of solidarity and concern for each other.

**In the World.** Pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan. Pray for Casita Copán - a home away from home for at risk children in Honduras.

**In Canada.** Pray for The Bishop, people, and clergy of The Territory of the People (formerly the Anglican Parishes of the Central Interior).

**In our Diocese.** Pray for the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, our bishop and Michael Bird, our assisting bishop; and for St. Matthew's, Ottawa - The Reverend Geoff Chapman; and for the chaplain to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police -The Reverend Canon Catherine Ascah. In our Companion Diocese, the Diocese of Jerusalem, we pray for St. Matthew's Church, Zababdeh, West Bank; for pray for the Theodore Schneller Chapel, Amman Jordan, and for the School for Boys.

**In Our Community.** We ask God's blessing on local faith communities and on their ministries and, we pray for the people and leaders of this town of Almonte and the surrounding communities that the Lord will help us contribute to its well-being. We pray for leaders, staff volunteers and clients of our local hospice initiative, Home Hospice North Lanark.

**In Our Parish.** We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other. For comfort and healing for Lucy Poaps, Anne Wheatley, and Sally Gentry. We ask for God's blessing on our members Ralph Stratford, Richard and Melissa Stroud, Gord Teskey, Mary Tessier, and Frank and Julia Thomas. We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.

