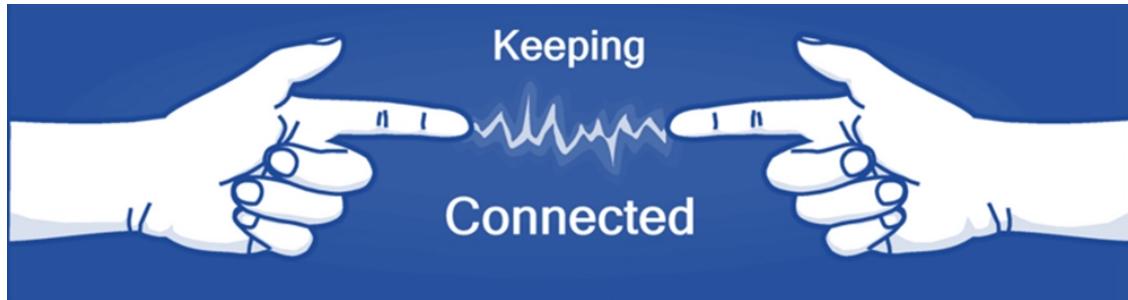


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**For Sunday January 17 2021
Epiphany 2**

See us on the [WWW](#) - [Facebook](#) - [YouTube](#)



New Pandemic Restrictions

On Tuesday our provincial government announced a new stay-at-home order to help limit and slow the spread of COVID-19.

In response to this order, **our diocese announced that in-person church services will now be limited to a maximum of five (5) people**. This includes the priest, the readers, and one or two others to assist with technology.

We can still celebrate communion as there will be more than one person present.* We will continue to record our service on Sunday mornings and upload it to our YouTube channel - usually by 12:30 or 1:00 on Sunday afternoons.

Our satellite location of the Lanark County Food Bank will continue to operate on Tuesday afternoons because this is deemed an essential service. All other in-person church

activities will be held online or over the telephone.

* Jesus' promise to us in Matthew 18:20: "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.".



The Order of Service for each week is posted on our web site in *What's New* every week by Friday. It contains the text that is projected on the screen at the service (minus the text of the readings).

You are invited to download and print it before watching the service on YouTube, You will find it [HERE](#), just below the banner image of the church building. And, of course, our YouTube channel is [HERE](#). Click on the date of the service you wish to view.

Take-Out Christmas Dinner Aftermath

Inside the Ottawa Valley and the *Almonte-Carleton Place Canadian Gazette* reported on our innovative Christmas Dinner again on December 31. The article, "100 meals handed out during Almonte's free Christmas Day dinner" can be consulted [HERE](#).

A Message from Rev. Jonathon

A Word of Encouragement - Part 1

This is the first in a four-part series of articles on encouragement.

There is no doubt that we are living in very challenging times. The worsening coronavirus pandemic, the new provincial stay-at-home order, and ongoing political tensions in the United States may have some of us wishing that we could actually go back to the "good old days" of 2020!



We could probably all use some encouragement during these very troubled times. Encouragement is a word that is often used in both secular and religious language. But do we really know what the biblical concept of encouragement means?

The New Testament was originally written in Greek. The word encouragement (and other related words) in our English language Bibles are actually translations of the Greek word *parakaleo*, which is made up of *para* meaning "close" or "beside" and *kaleo* meaning "call". Therefore *parakaleo* literally means "a close and personal call".

In the context of its New Testament usage, *parakaleo* refers to numerous actions that

have been translated into English words such as request, urge, implore, appeal, persuade, exhort, admonish, comfort, console, strengthen, support, and many other related words. Christian writer Jenn Arman thus describes biblical encouragement as "calling someone to your side in order to teach, comfort, strengthen, or push them to act a certain way."

In light of this definition, we can see that Christian encouragement is not simply making a person feel better about themselves or their situation, as it is often used in contemporary secular usage. True Christian encouragement is about telling a person what they need to hear (not what they want to hear) so that they can be strengthened and grow emotionally and spiritually. It is one way in which we can minister to others.

Encouragement is referred to as a function of the Holy Spirit, and it is actually one of the titles of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. John 14:16 refers to the Holy Spirit as the *parakaleo*, which has been translated into English as Comforter, Helper, and Advocate.

The Apostle Paul was a master of using encouragement - in all its various forms - in his writings. Paul actually identifies encouragement and preaching (a form of encouragement) as spiritual gifts (see Romans 12:8 and 2 Timothy 4:2). Therefore encouragement is something that the Holy Spirit gives to some individuals so that they are able to encourage others in a way that they would not be able to do on their own. All spiritual gifts are given to help others and to build up the church, so encouragement has a helping and a building up function.

We have all experienced encouragement throughout our lives and as Christians we are all called to encourage others. In Hebrews 3:13 encouragement is identified as one of our responsibilities towards other believers. We all know the power of the right word, spoken at the right time, by the right person, to change lives for the better.

Encouragement is a powerful force has the ability to change our thoughts, feelings, and actions. It can even change the course of our lives. In next week's article I will be exploring some of the psychological dynamics of encouragement.

We're SO Proud of "Our" Children!

In December, **Johnathan Stroud** (son of Melissa and Rich) wrote a Letter to the Editor of *The Millstone*, proclaiming his passion for football.

You can read the article, "Why Football Matters", [HERE](#).

This week, **Andy Bassett** (youngest son of Vicki and Bob) and his company *Little Victories Coffee* were featured in a news article from the CBC, "Innovation, flexibility essential to surviving lockdown", describing some young entrepreneurs and their business strategy during the pandemic. You can read the article [HERE](#).



Andy, outside his shop on Bank St. in Ottawa

Special Prayer Request

A request from Rev. Jonathon

In light of the worsening pandemic in Ontario (and elsewhere) and the continuing political tensions in the United States, I am asking that we all take time each day over the next few weeks to pray specifically for those affected by these situations.

Let us pray for all those affected by the pandemic, for an easing of tensions and healing of deep divisions in the United States, for a peaceful transfer of power next week, and for an end to political violence.

As Christians, we are called to pray for each other and to bring before God those people, places, and situations in our lives and in the wider world.

If there ever was a time to pray for our world, this is it.



Barbara Evans, 1940-2021

We were sad to learn of Barbara's death. A long-time parishioner and wife of Richard, she loved to serve God in the sanctuary. She will be missed..

{Seen here with Jim Blair in a 2016 photo}

Her obituary may be consulted [HERE](#).

If you're an encourager, *encourage*.
If you're a listener, *listen*.
If you're a nurturer, *nurture*.
If you're a counselor, *counsel*.
If you're a smiler, *smile*.
If you're a helper, *help*.
If you're a builder, *build*.
If you're a leader, *lead*.
If you're a mender, *mend*.

You have been gifted by God
to be a gift to the world.

Use *your* gift.~♥

Stacy L. Sanchez

READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

Epiphany 2

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

- **1st Reading:** [1 Samuel 3:1-10](#)
 - **Psalm:** [139:1-6, 13-18](#)
 - **2nd Reading:** [1 Corinthians 6:12-20](#)
 - **Gospel:** [John 1:43-51](#)
-



This coming week is the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The theme this year is ***Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9)***, calling us to pray and to work for reconciliation and unity in the church, with our human family, and with all of creation.

Drawing on the Gospel image of vine and branches, it invites us to nourish unity with God and with one another through contemplative silence, prayer, and common action. Grafted into Christ the vine as many diverse branches, may we bear rich fruit and create new ways of living, with respect for and communion with all of creation.

Prayer Resources on this theme can be found [HERE](#). (Canadian Council of Churches)

In the World. Pray for the Anglican Church of Australia.

In Canada. Pray for Executive Director, Will Postma, and staff of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund at the national church. We pray for the people and churches involved in the Bales-for-the-North program.

In our Diocese. Pray for the Rt. Rev. Shane Parker, our bishop and Michael Bird, our assisting bishop; for the work and ministry of our Diocesan Ecumenical Officer, The Reverend Canon John Wilker-Blakley. For our Diocesan newspaper Crosstalk, and for Leigh Anne Williams, editor.

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 the leaders, staff, volunteers and clients of the non-profit organization, The Hub.

In Our Parish. We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other. We ask for God's comfort for the grieving family of Barbara Evans, remembering especially Richard and Barbara's children Robert, David and Sandra Gloss. We ask for God's blessing on our members Bonnie McCurdy, Joie Meehan, Barbara Milford, Paul and Fay Mills, Debbie Morton and Barb Booth and Bob Mosher. We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.



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