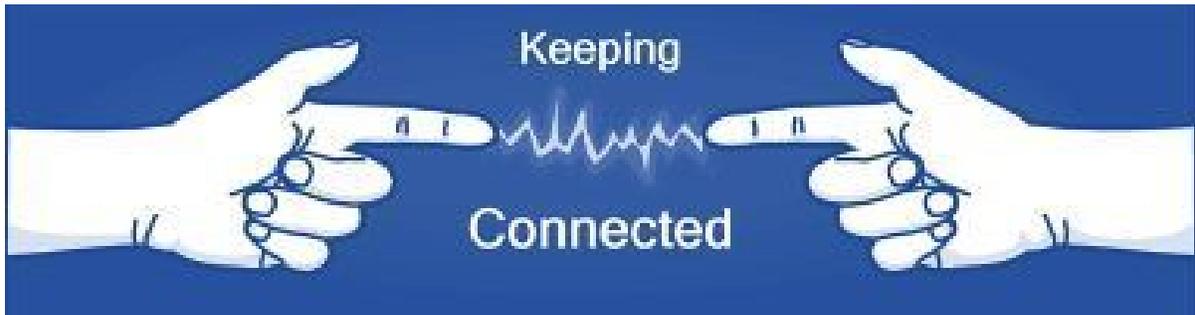


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**St Paul's Anglican Church Almonte**



**For Sunday June 13 2021**

**Pentecost 3**

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

Office: [office@stpaulsalmonte.ca](mailto:office@stpaulsalmonte.ca) Rector: [jonathonkouri@hotmail.com](mailto:jonathonkouri@hotmail.com)

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**CELEBRATING NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DAY:**

**WE ARE ALL TREATY PEOPLE**

**Treaty of Niagara 1764**



**June 21, 2021, 7:00 – 9:00 PM EDT**

**Mississippi Mills All My Relations presents via Zoom:**

**TREATIES ARE ALIVE!**

**How do Treaties Give Us Hope?**

Elder Larry McDermott, Algonquin from Shabot Obaadjiwan, Executive Director of Plenty Canada and Indigenous Advisor and Lecturer for the University of Guelph, will describe the Treaty Relationship between Canadians and Indigenous Peoples beginning with the Treaty of Niagara, 1764, and the significance of this especially with regard to:

- Establishing a foundation for reconciliation
- Creating ethical space for renewing the friendship between Indigenous People and Settlers
- Providing guidance for a sustainable relationship with Mother Earth.

Christa Lowry, Mayor of Mississippi Mills and Warden of Lanark County will moderate the discussion, providing opportunity for questions from participants.

**Registration \$20 at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/treaties-are-alive-tickets-158006675219>**

**Notes:**

- Five dollars of your ticket price will be donated to [Plenty Canada](#)
- Some assistance is available to reduce any financial barrier to participation . Please contact [mm.allmyrelations@gmail.com](mailto:mm.allmyrelations@gmail.com)
- ASL/FSL and English Captions available.

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**A Message from Rev. Jonathon**

**All In the Family - Understanding Mark 3**

Our Gospel reading from last Sunday (Mark 3: 20-35) raises some interesting questions. In this passage, Jesus and his disciples were ministering in Capernaum. This is a town on the Sea of Galilee which Jesus used as a base for much of his public ministry. It is approximately forty kilometres from Jesus' hometown of Nazareth, where Mary and the rest of Jesus' family lived. Joseph was never mentioned in any stories from Jesus' adulthood, presumably because he had passed away by that point.



We read that Jesus' family were concerned about him and that they had come to bring him home. Their concern may have been because Jesus was very busy and the crowds around him were very demanding of his time. His family may have simply wanted him to return home to Nazareth for some much needed rest and relaxation.

Jesus' family may have been concerned because of his sudden change in lifestyle from being a simple village carpenter to being a travelling public teacher, healer, and miracle worker. To those who had known Jesus all of his life, this extreme change probably seemed out of character for him. Furthermore, Jesus' teaching about the Kingdom of God and his relationship to God may have been alarming for Jesus' family.

His teaching was certainly alarming enough for the religious authorities at the time to

send representatives to hear what Jesus was teaching and to monitor his behaviour. These new ideas (or perhaps radical ideas, in that they were simply a return to the original principles of Judaism) that Jesus was teaching were a threat to the religious and political establishment of Jesus' day.

Regardless of what the motives of Jesus' family were, it is clear from this passage that at this point in his ministry, his family did not fully understand who Jesus was and what God had called him to do. This should not be surprising, because much like with Jesus' disciples, his family only had a limited understanding at first, which developed gradually over time.

When understood only on a literal level, this passage may be interpreted as meaning that Jesus was rejecting his family in favour of his disciples and other followers. I don't believe that is a correct interpretation. There are many other passages in the Bible and from Jesus' other teachings where the importance of family is emphasized.

Rather than being a rejection of family, I believe that this passage is an affirmation of family. Jesus was teaching that in addition to our biological family, as his followers we are also members of God's family. Anyone who follows Jesus and does his will is a member of that family, which we call the Church.

In fact, the New Testament uses the language of human families to describe many relationships in God's family. Two of the three persons of the Trinity are referred to as Father and Son. And fellow Christians are referred to as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Of course, there may also be times when our Christian faith puts us in conflict with our biological family, who may or may not be Christians, or who may or may not have the same level of faith as we do. And there may also be times when we don't have the comfort and support from our biological family that other individuals enjoy. This may be because we come from a relatively small family, or because our family members live far away from us, or because family relationships are strained, or because certain family members have passed away.

How comforting, then, to know that whatever the situation is with our biological family, we will always have a spiritual family to provide comfort, support, and fellowship in Christ. The message from this passage is that we are all welcome in God's family.

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When they buried the children  
What they didn't know  
They were lovingly embraced  
By the land  
Held and cradled in a mother's heart  
The trees wept for them, with the wind  
they sang mourning songs their mother's  
didn't know to sing  
bending branches to touch the earth  
around them. The Creator cried for them  
the tears falling like rain.

Mother Earth held them  
until they could be found.  
Now our voices sing the mourning songs.  
with the trees. the wind. light sacred fire  
ensure they are never forgotten as we sing  
**JUSTICE**

-abigail echo-hawk

@echohawk06

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## Letting Go of What Used to Be

Richard Rohr, Daily Meditation for Thursday June 3,2021. [Centre for Action and Contemplation](#)

*God is doing new things, Jesus proclaimed, but only those with new minds and hearts can see a new world breaking through the cracks of the old.*

—Ilia Delio, *The Hours of the Universe*

If evolution is the language of growth and change, then an evolving faith is one that accepts and even embraces change. While the word change normally refers to new beginnings, real transformation happens more often when something falls apart. The pain of something old cracking apart or unraveling invites us to evolve instead of

tightening our controls and certitudes. Episcopal priest Stephanie Spellers is a leading thinker on change and growth in the church, and sees the current challenges of church and society as way of God “cracking open” people for greater possibility: Institutions and cultures are durable partly because they obey the law of inertia.

Even if you think you’ve exerted a strong external push and knocked a moving object or an entire institution off its set course, wait. Just wait. With barely a nudge, the object will drift right back to its original path.

Think of your own experience. When you see a crack, what’s your first instinct? Push the pieces back together and patch it over. Eventually a contractor comes with the bad news: there is deep damage here, and if you don’t address it, before long the whole structure will be fundamentally compromised. You sigh and negotiate. I don’t know about you, but I have a surprising capacity to delude myself about how broken the structure is. With enough duct tape and rope, I will get back to normal. *[I call this “rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic!”]*

So it is for a nation and a church. In the midst of displacement, destabilization, and decentering, Americans and church folks have been tempted to replace, restabilize, and recenter. Let’s return to the building. Let’s encourage the protesters to come off the streets. . . . Let’s move past division. Let’s reestablish majority American Christianity in its former, privileged cultural post.

Or we could acknowledge the unraveling, breaking, and cracking...as a bearer of truth and even a gift. Perhaps, as Alan Roxburgh suggested, the Holy Spirit has been nudging and calling Christians “to embrace a new imagination, but the other one had to unravel for us to see it for what it was. In this sense the malaise of our churches has been the work of God.”

A church that has been humbled by disruption and decline may be a less arrogant and presumptuous church. It may have fewer illusions about its own power and centrality. It may become curious. It may be less willing to ally with the empires and powers that have long defined it. It may finally admit how much it needs the true power and wisdom of the Holy Spirit. That’s a church God can work with.

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## **Close Encounters of the Friendly Kind**

By Wendy Shaw

When I moved to Almonte in 1977, the water tower was on the right side of Main Street, near the present location of the organic food wagon today. Written in large letters on the water tower were the words” WELCOME TO ALMONTE THE FRIENDLY TOWN”.

After living here for only a couple of weeks I soon discovered how those words rang true. In the 44 years I have lived in this town I have met so many wonderful and kind people. I did feel a bit sad when the new water tower was installed without the friendly slogan written on it. However,

that hasn't changed the fact that this town is such a friendly and wonderful place to live.

Last Saturday morning I experienced two separate events that emphasize the friendliness of this town.

### **First Encounter**

On my morning dog-walk, I ran into a couple who moved into the new neighborhood 2 years ago. They were walking their dog along the river walk on Spring Street. I noticed he was carrying giant tongs and garbage bag and I could see he was picking up little bits of litter with the tongs and putting it in the bag.

This has become a daily ritual for this couple when they walk their dog from Riverview estate down to the main Street and back. I joked with them and said I'll call them next time we do a highway clean-up for the church. I then chatted to them about how we're learning to become more environmentally-conscious at our church and that I was so inspired by the way they have taken it upon themselves to help keep part of our community free of litter.

I asked permission to take their picture for our newsletter as what they are doing is so inspiring (The wife shyly declined and hubby very humbly said OK.) I feel this is a great Almonte community item as they are such a great example for all of us of how each of us in our own way can make a significant impact in taking care of God's creation.



### **Second Encounter**

A little later, whilst playing with my dogs in my front yard, I saw Rodney and Judith Senior, members of St Paul's, walking near my house and they stopped for a little chat with me. As I was taking the dogs back to the house after our chat, I heard Rodney shout my name. When I turned, I saw that Judith was lying on the ground and Rodney was trying to help her to her feet! I ran to see what I could do to help and we were able to get Judith to sit up but she was not able to stand.

We decided Rodney would go and get his car (one street away from mine) to drive Judith home and I would stay with her. During this time, were several people walking along Spring Street, and some driving their cars. So many people stopped, showing concern and offering to help Judith who thanked them and said she was fine as she was waiting for her husband.

Just before Rodney arrived with the car, another car pulled up alongside us and the lady passenger jumped out, saying that she was a nurse and would help -- she wasn't taking no for an answer! She checked Judith's pulse and determined she was OK and had probably been overcome with the heat. When Rodney arrived, the nurse instructed her husband how to help her lift Judith to her feet and into the car. She gave Rodney instructions of what to do when they got home.

This all probably took about 5 minutes and during that time at least a dozen people stopped to offer help. Along with Judith, I thanked them all exclaiming what a wonderful town we live in with so many kind people showing their concern.

With both these events happening in one morning I felt so blessed to be living in this wonderful community. Not only is our location beautiful, so are the people.

\*Judith is doing well now but not going for any more walks until things cool down!

### **What about a Friendly Encounter of the Third (or 4th or 5th or...) Kind?**

Please share your own experiences with us. Call or email the office. Or speak to Deane.

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## **OUR MISSION PARTNERS**

This week in our occasional series focusing on one of our mission partners, we look at SchoolBOX.

SchoolBOX was founded in 2006 by Tom Affleck, a former member of St Paul's. Tom's background in International Development and desire to make a difference prompted him to give a notebook and pencil to 2 girls in Nicaragua. One of their fathers, seeing this simple gift smiled broadly and said 'Now that you have a notebook and a pencil you can go to school this year.' This simple statement profoundly impacted Tom and eventually led to the creation of SchoolBOX.

From this simple beginning and one man's desire to make a difference, SchoolBOX has grown, helping thousands and thousands of kids go to school. As of 2020 SchoolBox's achievements are:

- 117 classrooms built
- 11 classrooms with major renovations and overhauls
- 63 washrooms built and 9 refurbished
- 5 playing fields constructed
- 160,065 educational packages delivered to students and teachers (including 669,974 notebooks)
- 718 international volunteers
- 87 libraries installed

- 165 reading days held
- 25 Soccer Dreams Tournaments

SchoolBOX also partners with indigenous communities in the Canadian north, helping to improve education outcomes through lunchbox programs, support for school libraries and funding youth exchanges with their programs in Nicaragua.

You can learn more about SchoolBOX [HERE](#). And you can make a donation through St Paul's collection plate or by using the SchoolBOX online donations page [HERE](#).

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## READINGS FOR THIS SUNDAY

### Pentecost 3

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

- First reading: [1 Samuel 15:34 - 16:13](#)
  - Psalm: [Psalm 20](#)
  - Second reading: [2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17](#)
  - Gospel: [Mark 4:26-34](#)
- 



**Beckoning God, as you moved in the lives of Elijah and Elisha, move in our lives, inviting us to journey to unknown territory, to listen for your voice, and to speak your prophetic word in a world that does not want to hear.**

**Empowered by your Spirit, grant us the courage we need to journey, trust, listen, speak, and accept your commission to be your faithful servant people. Amen.**

**In the World.** The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion); our Companion Diocese, The Diocese of Jerusalem and The Middle East and Archbishop Hosam Naoum; the ministry of School Box in Central America and in Canadian indigenous communities.

**In Canada.** The Most Rev. Gregory Kerr-Wilson, Metropolitan, and the clergy and people of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land; The Most Rev. Anne Germond, our Metropolitan, and our Primate, The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls; our sisters and brothers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and their Bishop, Michael Pryse.

**In our Diocese.** Our Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Shane Parker; St. Alban the Martyr, Mattawa - The Reverend Karen Galt, Priest-in-Charge; St. Margaret of Scotland, Rutherglen - The Reverend

David Shields, Priest-in-Charge.

**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 work of our local hospice initiative, Home Hospice North Lanark, for staff, carers and clients.

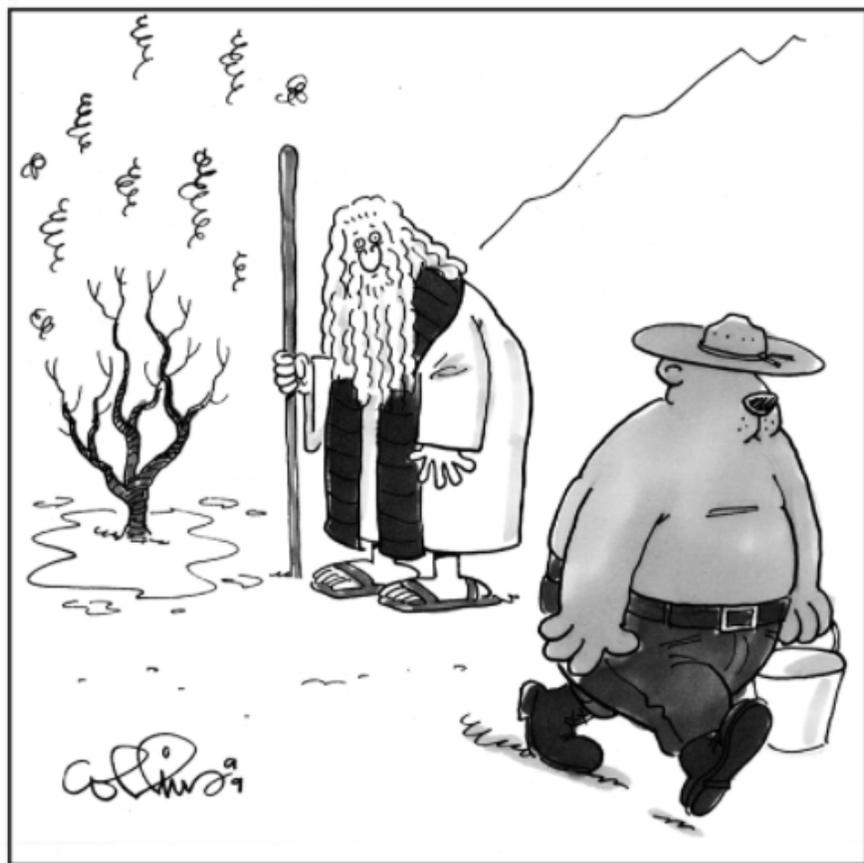
We pray for the health, safety and well-being of our neighbours in the face of increased numbers of covid-19 cases in our area and for everyone involved in the distribution of covid-19 vaccines.

**In Our Parish.** We pray for Jonathon, our priest, for ourselves and for each other; we pray God's guidance for the members of Parish Council : Wendy Shaw, Katrina Ayling, Eric Hammond, Rev. Jonathon, Sandra Cain, Sally Hortop, Karen Masson, Claire Marson and Deane Zeeman meeting next on June 16.

We ask for God's healing hand to cover our members who are struggling with health issues.

We ask for God's blessing on our members Mary and Wayne Pearson, Joan and Murray Pierce, Jonathan Playfair, Lucy Poaps, Jayne Richeson, and Joan Robinson

We remember our neighbors, especially Assad, Alsit, Lana and Elias.



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