



Giving Thanks for Life

At our May 1st Sunday services, we launched an initiative aimed at demonstrating our love for our neighbours both near and far.

In 2021, our diocese undertook a major consultation with all the parishes. Here at St. Paul's our members indicated a strong desire *to live out and share our love for Christ with each other and the wider community.*

These days, when we are fewer in number, we're getting a little older, and we're not as physically active as we used to be the ways that we live out this ministry of caring are changing.

And this new initiative **Giving Thanks for Life** is a way to minister to others without making undue calls on our waning physical resources. With minimal work we can contribute to making life better for many people.

What is Giving Thanks for Life?

If you've ever given money to World Vision or other charity, you know that you can make your donation as a gift in honour of someone. Many of us have done this: given a donation to a charity at Christmas in honour of a family member or friend instead of giving them a gift that they probably don't need or want.

This initiative works on the same principal. Mostly we don't need "stuff" – although grandchildren are an exception! Both you and the person who receives your card will experience the joy and satisfaction of having "made a difference" in the life of others.

How does it work?

When you decide to donate in honour of someone's birthday - or Mother's Day or Father's Day or Christmas - you can take one of the packages from the card display on the table at the back of the church.

In the package you will find a beautiful card with a photograph of clear blue water with a white feather reflected in the water. This photo comes from a gorgeous *Waterways* collection created of our members, Sue Evans, and we very much appreciate her generous support and use of this photo.

On the inside flap is printed

Giving Thanks for Life

In celebration of your life, a donation has been made to the **Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership**, working with Canadian Indigenous partners to bring clean water to 25 communities in Ontario and Manitoba.

On the blank inside section of the card you would write personal greeting to your dear one.

In the package you will also find a smaller envelope with a label, in which you can put your donation.

- On the front you will fill in your name and address or envelope number.
- Place your donation (either cash – bills only please – or a cheque made out to *St. Paul's Almonte*) in the envelope and put it on the collection plate.
- The counters will enter your donation as a donation to *Giving Thanks for Life*.

At year end your tax receipt will reflect the amount(s) you have given as Giving Thanks donations in the total of your donations for the year

The money collected in the Giving Thanks for Life fund (minus 10%) will be sent by our Treasurer to the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) which is managing donations to the **Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership**.

The remaining 10% will stay at St Paul's and added to our General Fund as a small way in helping our deficit budget status.

Why water?

Water is a necessity of life. It is the essential element that no human can live without.

Canada contains approximately 20% of the planet's freshwater. And here in Mississippi Mills we are blessed with an abundance of fresh water – in our river and from our taps!

But there are 20 indigenous communities in Ontario alone living under long-term water advisories and many communities have been waiting a very long time for pure clean water!

This is obviously a need that must be addressed.

For hundreds of years the church has taken the initiative and led in addressing social needs, providing schools and hospitals, for example. This is an opportunity for us to lead in addressing injustice and inequity once again; to help redress the wrongs of our past colonialism and ensure that our indigenous neighbours experience the same quality of life as we do.

We can make a difference!

Whenever you wish throughout the year, you can pick up a donation package, put your donation in the envelope provided and use the card to write your message to your loved one.

If you have any questions about the Giving Thanks for Life initiative, Rev. Jonathon and Wendy Shaw will be happy to discuss them with you anytime.

We feel confident that you'll find this initiative a double blessing. Not only will you be sharing your love with the person dear to you but also sharing your love with your Canadian indigenous neighbours who are in need of a basic necessity for life - pure, clean water.