

The Rector's Reflections

"The Anglican Communion Covenant" was one of the most significant things to come out of this year's General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada. We need to think about this in our own parish, suggests our rector, Robert Sears, who plans to lead a parish adult study group on Anglicanism this autumn. (Editor's note)

The Anglican Communion Covenant

Earlier this June, our national church held its 39th General Synod. It is held every three years. This year it was a nine-day affair with 350 delegates, which included lay people, priests, bishops and special guests.

This year 65 resolutions were considered. Most dealt with administrative matters and a number concerned matters of social action. A few dealt with subjects of study, e.g. A111 - enhancing mission, A115 - discernment on human sexuality, A139 - renewed dialogue with United Church; and A142 - Anglican clergy ceasing to solemnize marriages.

I wish to talk about just one resolution that was passed: the Anglican Communion Covenant. By passing resolution A137 General Synod received the final draft

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Holy Trinity, Lascelles once again home to summer evensongs

Our readers will be happy to know that the parish's much loved evensong series will continue this year, every Sunday evening at 7pm at Holy Trinity, from July 4 to August 29. As usual, visiting preachers, choirs and musicians will lead us in the Book of Common Prayer Service. Please visit the parish website, www.anglicansinthehills.ca to see the full program.

Following each service a reception is hosted by a parish household. There is nothing to compare with munching a sandwich and sipping a glass of wine on a summer evening in the churchyard at Lascelles, with the cows lowing in the field below!

Holy Trinity, Lascelles, established in 1866, is the oldest Anglican community in the Gatineau. The original building was replaced between 1906 and 1910 with the current structure. In 1918, Holy Trinity was joined with Good Shepherd, Wakefield in one parish. Until the middle of the 20th century, Holy Trinity had a larger congregation than Good Shepherd. Rural depopulation after WWII shifted the balance. Twenty years ago our present parish, including St. Mary Magdalene, Chelsea, was created. In 2000, Holy Trinity and Good Shepherd merged and Holy Trinity became a chapel church, used for special services.

Lascelles, like Wakefield and Masham, is a place name from Yorkshire in England. The name is of Norman French origin and is pronounced "lasells." It would be nice to think of the name as a gesture of openness to our francophone brothers and sisters, though pronouncing the final English "s" gives us away!

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of the Covenant, requested that materials be prepared for study, and called for a resolution about its adoption in 2013.

The idea of a covenant was first raised in the 2004 *Windsor Report*. Since then three drafts have been written and reviewed. The final draft of the Covenant includes affirmations and commitments that member churches adopt "in order to proclaim more effectively in our different contexts the grace of God revealed in the gospel, to offer God's love in responding to the needs of the world, to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace..."

The Covenant describes what Anglicans, or at least those who adopt the Covenant, hold in common (see sections 1.1, 2.1, and 3.1). It suggests how we are to deal with disputes (see sections 3.2 & 4.2). The Covenant challenges any congregationalist leanings we may have, and raises other interesting and even troubling questions, of which three are notable:

- What should be the relational consequences for churches that hold doctrine or engage in practices incompatible with the affirmations and commitments made in the covenant?
- Does what is essential in the church change from generation to generation, or does it remain the same along with the unchanging Christ?
- Are developments of doctrine true only for a particular time and place, or must they also be catholic, i.e. universal?

These and many other questions arise when considering the Covenant. I encourage you to consider the Covenant and the matters it raises. I plan to make use of the literature provided to us on the Covenant by the national church. I will also offer the parish time to consider together the issues it raises. I think it will complement our next scheduled Adult Education series, which will take place in the fall. We will cover some themes in and on Anglicanism.

I'll be away the last three weeks in July and the first week in August. Four parishioners have volunteered to hold Morning Prayer services while I'm away. Please remember the Holy Trinity Evensong series in July and August. We have eight guest preachers.

May you rest awhile this summer in the cooling shade of God's presence, and may he fill you with a warming compassion for all his people and a deeper understanding of his love and will.

Rector Robert +



Rector Robert with son Timothy at the St. Mary Magdalene Tailgate Sale on June 5, 2010

The prayer of St. Francis (b. 1182, d. 1226)

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy;*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be
consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.*

*For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.*

Diocese of Ottawa's Day on The Practice of Prayer

On March 6, with approximately 120 others, I attended the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa's "Taste and See: Growing in the Practice of Prayer" day.

The atmosphere for the day was set by morning worship. The keynote speaker for the day was Brother Scott Borden, a Benedictine Anglican monk whose first point was very reassuring. He said we will have false starts in our prayer life but we should not let the thought of being perfect in prayer prevent us from praying. His first talk was on prayer as language; prayer is the language we use to communicate with God. In our prayers we need to begin with the familiar and move to the unfamiliar. We are used to talking to God but we need to move on to listening to God.

The second talk was on prayer tools (e.g., scripture, silence, music) which are not the destination but the means to bring us into God's presence. We need to pick the tools that are the most effective in our own life. He suggested the most powerful tool is living, that is, we experience God's presence in our daily activities.

Scott Borden's third talk was on silence, which is not necessarily a quiet place we go to but an inner quiet where we are available to hear God.

Workshops followed Borden's talks. I chose "Praying with Scripture" which provided both teaching on, and practice of, *Lectio Divina* and Ignatian contemplation. I also attended a workshop on silence within the context of singing. Other workshops offered were: praying with icons, the contemplative tradition, embodied prayer, and art as an opportunity for prayer.

I left the workshop with a better understanding of prayer, feeling inspired to pray more faithfully. I would encourage everyone to attend the next diocesan conference on prayer: "A Praying Congregation," May 13-14, 2011.

Paul Heintzman

Rector's Warden, St. Mary Magdalene



News from Good Shepherd , Wakefield with Holy Trinity, Lascelles

As you may have heard, beekeepers across North America are concerned because their bees are in distress. Well, I am happy to report that the worker bees at God Shepherd and Holy Trinity are alive and well and working hard.

Our annual summer evensong series at Holy Trinity Church will begin on July 4, at 7:00 pm and continue until the end of August. The guest preachers and musicians are always a delight to hear and I urge you all to join us whenever you can.

On another musical note, we are pleased to announce that a new, digital organ / piano is being purchased for Holy Trinity and should be available for the first service in the series. I am sure that Laurel O'Connor, our wonderful summer organist and artist in residence will enjoy playing this new instrument.

Many thanks go to Sharon O'Reilly who served us faithfully as organist for eight years and who also created beautiful flower arrangements for our special events. Deborah McLaughlin filled in for us over the last few months and we have all benefited from her talent and enthusiasm. Linda Pallister, Marlene Bogert and Bob Martin also played on occasion and we thank them all.

This year we have welcomed new families to our Sunday services and in addition a baptism was held recently. What a joy it is to see the smiles on the faces of these children.

Our spring garage sale was a huge success with lots of "treasures" and plants on sale. It is also a great social event – as is our "lemonade and chat" session after service each Sunday in the summer. We also enjoyed a fine Sunday afternoon at the Sears' home, as Patty made us delicious goodies and we bought some nice kitchen equipment, with all the profits going to Good Shepherd Church. Thank you so much Patty.

So, as you can see, our busy bees are buzzing along nicely!

Mary Nodwell

People's Warden, Good Shepherd

Holy Baptism - On June 6, 2010, the parish welcomed Dean McConnery, the daughter of Kristi Dean and Jim McConnery into Christ's church. The baptism took place at Good Shepherd, Wakefield, with Robert Sears, the Rector, officiating.

St. Mary Magdalene's Astonishing Tailgate Sale, June 5, 2010

"Didn't the good Lord shine his face on us!" said Margaret Coleman, the sale coordinator, in her best southern accent, as she reported the next day on SMM's second annual tailgate sale. Dozens of people were attracted to the bake table, the barbecue, the book sale, and the alluring objects offered by the 24 vendors who filled the parking lot. It was even suggested that the collection of over 100 china pigs, left to the editor by his late cousin Mary, contained the most coveted articles on offer. Unaccountably, some 50 of these little darlings remain to be sold next year.

The sale was a great success financially. After expenses were paid, we raised \$2586.19, of which \$2,240.69 will go to the church's outreach projects and \$335.50 will go for building repairs. More than the financial success was the fun that we had as a congregation. Above all, the sale gave us an opportunity to show to many people around us that we are a loving and welcoming Christian community, striving to do God's work in our region and beyond.

Thanks to the many who worked so hard and contributed financially either by donating their sales proceeds or covering expenses. A special nod goes for work done: by Jake and Marian Blair on publicity and crowd control; by Rene Nielsen and Kathleen MacKinnon on the bake table; by Bent Nielsen and John Shearman on the barbecue; and by Mary Trafford and Sue Owen on the book sale. We seem to have found a winning formula that we hope can be repeated for many years to come. Well done!



True or False? This stained glass window of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is in the Church of the Good Shepherd in Wakefield.



False! The window is behind the altar of Holy Trinity, Lascelles. Come to the summer evensong series, July 4-Aug 29, to see for yourself.

anglicansinthehills.ca is the quarterly newsletter of the Parish of Chelsea, Lascelles, Wakefield. Our three churches are St. Mary Magdalene, Chelsea, Holy Trinity, Lascelles, and Good Shepherd, Wakefield.

anglicansinthehills.ca is edited by John Coleman (819 827 2297: jc.coleman@sympatico.ca). Paul Heintzman, Mary Nodwell, and Robert Sears contributed to this issue. (A new editor will be needed starting in 2011. If you are interested, please let us know.)

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Regular Sunday Services:

St. Mary Magdalene (Chelsea)	9:00 am
Good Shepherd (Wakefield)	11:00 am