



*a Faith Community in the
Anglican Church of Canada*

September 3, 2021

228 Pearl Street
Thunder Bay, ON P7B 1E4

Dear Sisters and Brothers – and Friends – of Gathering Table:

I know it has almost become commonplace to wonder where the time has gone, but it does seem to me that summer is passing quickly into autumn. It will do so whether we are ready or not!

This has been a hot and dry summer for us here in Thunder Bay. Many days the haze of forest fire smoke has hung in the air. I am not sure how this has affected the many kinds of harvest that colour our late summer and autumn seasons.

We are planning to observe Harvest Thanksgiving at Gathering Table during the Eucharist on September 12th. While we would like to have a traditional celebration, we are for a second year under the guidance of pandemic protocols. As was the case last year, in order to minimize potential exposure, we are asking that you not bring ‘harvest fruits’ into the church building. Instead, some representative decorations will be put into place to help us celebrate the goodness of the Creator and the work of those who harvest both here and around the world.

I recently read Louise Penny’s latest novel, which is set in a ‘post-pandemic Canada’, where vaccinations have worked wonders, the COVID pandemic has been declared over, and people are free to mingle and gather again as in pre-pandemic days. She acknowledges that this is not the way the scenario is playing out in reality, and so do we.

While we are re-Gathering for Sunday Eucharist, other areas of our life together as ‘a community of faith’ and the use of our building are still limited. We continue to monitor developments, of course, and prepare for a time when, more like the novelist’s setting, we are free to re-Gather in all ways, as we so much long to do.

Last Sunday we began the observation of Creation Season. Our celebration of the many fruits of the earth is part of this time. Despite the protocol restrictions, we are still called to be a people who appreciate the gifts of the Creator and give thanks, who focus on what we can do (rather than on what we can’t do), and hold on to the hope that ‘God is at work in all things for good’ (even when we can’t easily see what God is doing). We can’t sing with our voices when we gather together, but we can sign in our hearts and our homes the praises to our generous God.

In the many changes that this season brings as we transition from summer to fall, from ‘holiday mode’ to closing camps and returning to school, from the heat of summer to cooler days and even cooler nights – in the midst of all this, we celebrate the unchanging love of God in our midst.

Godspeed.

George+

September 2021 Wardens Notes

Wow, the summer feels like it is pretty much done, now that it is September. We hope everyone is well, has enjoyed the warm (hot sometimes!) weather, and is staying safe. It is good to hear that the number of Covid-19 cases in Thunder Bay remains low, but it appears we are on the verge of a fourth wave, so it will be just as important for us all to continue best practices: regular handwashing, physical distancing, and wearing a mask.

As we hope you know, our church building has been open for in-person worship since August 15th, and it has been really good to worship with, and see folks we have not seen for quite a while. Of course, we still need to do our best practices and keep a register of who attends. If you are unable or reluctant to attend, we understand. If that is the case, we encourage you to tune in to our on-line worship services through our website, Facebook and on YouTube, as you may have internet access to do so.

Various ministries have been carrying on: our food cupboard team; our garden and grounds crews; our prayer chain; readers and counters; finance, Altar Guild, Tech and Camp Gitchigomee property teams, and others we have probably missed! Thanks to all for your continued faithfulness.

We hope to see you soon – perhaps our Harvest Thanksgiving service on September 12th.

Your Servants,

Marg, Jim, Sheila, Michelle

Coming Soon - A Perennial Plant Sale - With A Difference

We are downsizing the flower beds behind the parish house and offering a variety of plants for you and your friends.

It is a **“Take - Out Sale”**. You bring your containers, gloves and shovels. Take-Out the plants you would like and make a donation to Gathering Table. Cash or a cheque written to Gathering Table.

When? Saturday, September 11th from 10:00 am until noon. If it is lightly raining, it is still on.

Or, if it is a downpour then we will try again on Saturday, September 18th from 10:00 am until noon.

Looking For: 2 - 3 volunteers to help me with greeting and accepting money. Please call Erminie at 767 - 4566.

Masks Required by everyone as we can't maintain the social distancing.



Large and small plant varieties include: Bergenia, Hosta, Lilies, Astible, pink Phlox, Veronica, Solomon's Seal, Mallow, Blue Bells, ground covers and maybe some mystery plants.

We are selling 12" x 2" round cement **stepping stones** that were in the back gardens. \$3.00 each.

Looking forward to seeing you at the sale.





September 12th

It's already September and harvest season. Gathering Table will be celebrating Harvest Sunday on September 12.

Usually, we bring in vegetables, fruit flowers and other produce to decorate the church and celebrate the harvest.

This year, however, the COVID protocols prevent us from following that tradition.

Instead, two members of the Altar Guild will each prepare a basket of produce to be displayed in the church. These

baskets will be given to the Food Cupboard following the service.

We hope that next year we can, once again, all participate in preparing the church for Harvest.

The Altar Guild

Office Hours: 10:00am to 2:00pm Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday
08:00am to noon, Fridays

Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2021

"He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8

Available at the Office – please call the office to make arrangements to pick them up.



- Our Daily Bread for September to October
- 2022 Church Calendars are available for \$5.00 each
- 2021 Offering Envelopes are still available and the 2022 Offering Envelopes will be available shortly.

Seeking Volunteers to work on the Technology Production Team

The Sunday broadcasts are an integral part of our services and church life. We are in need of volunteers to make the experience an even better one. The Goal is to have a minimum of 2 teams of 3 persons per Sunday with 3 teams being optimal.

The roles are: **Camera and Media** using Vmix; **Projection Media Visuals** using Powerpoint; and **Sound** using an Allen & Heath QU Chrome Edition Mixer via an iPad.

Training is available. If you are interested, please contact Sharon at sjcorston@gmail.com or 807-355-1549.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Pastor: The Rev. Canon George M. Porter, D.Phil.

Phone: 626-9650

Mobile: 355-5454

Email: porter.george@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Gail M. Clifton, M.Div.

Phone: 768-9865

email: gailx2@shaw.ca

Lay Readers:

Frances Bennett-Sutton, Rose Jardine, Brenda O'Neill and Jim Sutton, **On Leave:** Kim Bienvenue, **Lay Reader in Training:** Richard Pepper

Rector's Warden:

Marg Boone

Deputy Rector's Warden:

Dr. Michelle Proudfoot

People's Warden:

Jim Sutton

Deputy People's Warden:

Sheila Chisholm

Co-Music Directors -

Pianist Donna Hamill
Organist (Vacant)