

# Thanksgiving



Dear Friends,

It is hard to believe that summer is over and Thanksgiving is suddenly upon us ! We have a great deal to be thankful for as Canadians and as Anglicans at St. Paul's in Fort Erie. Few of us could argue that we have been richly blessed and that God has been good to us. That blessing begins often with our families, our God given abilities that have enabled us to have good and rewarding vocations, our friends, and our passions in life the inspire us. And while we Anglicans are a bit reserved in saying it we have a beautiful faith that embraces new knowledge, holds tradition close and places scripture and our experience before us as primary means to know God.

We also have some amazing role models in our faith. On Tuesday nights beginning on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October we will begin a series that I've named, 'Meeting the family.' Each week until the end of November we will 'meet' current and few not so current Anglicans by way of their writing; names such as Hooker, Williams, Jones, and Tutu make up our 'family tree' as Anglicans. I hope you will be able to join me on these Tuesday evenings.

It has been a busy fall at St. Paul's. Thank you to everyone who has played their part in making this a wonderful season of the year. Special thanks do go to a few people; to Barb Steele and Eileen George for organizing our Dinner & Auction and all those who took part – an amazing job ! To Bill Reid and Nik Ross for their work with the cemetery and to Bill for waiting hours this past week for repairmen to arrive to fix the litany of things that seemed to break all at once ! ( Thank to Linda Reid as well ). And the list goes on.

I am particularly thankful to all of you for the privilege and challenge of being your Rector; and for the wonderful way you've welcomed me and now Jennifer into your lives. It was a great party in August when I returned from vacation and a wonderful gift you present us. My thanks to all of you and I ask God's continued blessing on St. Paul's and all you us as we seek to make a difference in one another's lives and in the world.

Your friend in Christ,

*Mark +*

## *Dreams & Visions*

Having just returned from a two week holiday in England and Wales and still suffering from “jet lag” I opened my email and found a note from Fr. Mark asking me to do a short piece for the newsletter. I quickly replied “sure” and a few hours later I thought “about what”. I put writing it on hold for a couple of days not sure what to say until this morning when I flipped on the TV and had my coffee watching “The Chapel” in Buffalo ... in his sermon the pastor said ... **“when memories overwhelm dreams the church is dead”**. There was my answer.

When Fr. Mark arrived at St Paul’s just over a year ago he brought with him new dreams and visions for St. Paul’s. That brought to mind another priest Fr. David Russell who arrived in our midst just over 25 years ago ...with a dream ... to see a Centre next to the church and so that dream became a reality in 1984. Chasing that dream was an exciting time for St Paul’s as we worked and planned and raised funds. The parish was full of life and excitement. But not all dreams have to be “bricks and mortar” dreams. Worship must be a priority. Later when I got to church this was reinforced in Fr. Mark’s sermon when I heard the words...

*“Sunday morning at church is a time and place where we are all equal, where there should be no divisions, a place and time in which we’re all invited to enter in. Ours is a dream of a world that can live at peace, and so we share the peace of Christ with one another. Ours is a dream in which no one goes hungry and so we share one bread. Ours is a dream in which we all serve and no one has a special place – where leadership is shown by service. Ours is a dream that understands that with hope comes sacrifice, and we are willing to sacrifice in order to love. Such is the hope we are called to strive for.”*

The key points hit home ... we are all equal ... we all serve equally ... leadership is shown in service ... and with hopes and dreams come sacrifices. So as we grow and develop new dreams for St Paul’s there will be a place for leadership and for sacrifice ... we can cherish the memories of things past but the future lies in the dreams and visions of tomorrow. As I wrote this piece... the quote “old men dream dreams”... kept running through my head so I sourced it out on the internet and found it comes from Joel 2 (28-29).

*“I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Old men will dream dreams. Young men will see visions. I will pour out my Spirit on men and women alike.”*

We here at St Paul’s are blessed with a “Spirit filled” community with many dreams and visions ... great leaders and workers who are not afraid of sacrifice to see the fruition of their dreams for St Paul’s. Many new possibilities lie ahead we just need to be open to the Spirit within each of us and give **“THANKS”** for who we are.

**Sharon Insley** - Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2008



## *A Day of Discernment for the Vocational Diaconate in Niagara*

On Saturday, Oct. 4 Fr. Mark and I traveled to St. Luke's in Burlington to join with other vocational deacons and their rectors for a day of discernment on the future of the diaconate in Niagara. Also present were Bishop Michael Bird and our diocesan executive officer, Archdeacon Michael Patterson.

Bishop Michael has placed a moratorium on the ordination of new vocational deacons. While Michael is himself a supporter of the order of deacons, and in fact as a parish priest mentioned two of our present deacons to their ordination, he wanted to pause and examine our role and how our vocation is discerned.

After the obligatory morning coffee, we had a brief service of morning prayer. Michael then spoke to us and gave us a highlight of his emerging vision for the Diocese entitled "Pursuing Excellence in Ministry, bearing witness to the Transforming Love of God."

It is an exciting plan emphasizing the need to foster Anglican spirituality and involving all of us in our baptismal ministry. For deacons, he stressed our need to model the role of the first deacons, such as St. Stephen who served the poor, the orphaned, the widowed and the hungry. After we had a chance to dialogue with Michael, we then engaged in a process of sharing. Each of the deacons, along with their rectors, shared in the type of ministry Christ is calling them to live and how this was working in their parish. The deacons in this diocese enable volunteers, serve with construction workers, refugees, foster children, the mentally challenged and visit in hospitals and nursing homes. Many of the rectors emphasized that we are not pastoral assistants nor want to be priests, but those who should carry out the servant role in the world. Bishop Michael listened carefully.

We then divided up with the priests in one large group, and the deacons in 3 different groups to dialogue and later report on the joys and challenges of the ministry and discuss how best to construct a process to discern new candidates. We then reported back and all of the reports will be recorded and presented to Michael. In November, Bishop Michael and Archdeacon Michael will meet with two of our senior deacons to examine where we go from here.

It was a wonderful day of sharing, bonding and learning with others. The hour long trip each way also offered a special chance for Mark and I strengthen the partnership which we both find so valuable.

I urge as many of you as possible to learn as much as you can about Bishop Michael's vision for us as a Diocesan family and our role as the Church in the world. It was an inspiring beginning for Mark and me and I hope all you will soon have a similar experience.



*Rev'd Rod McDowell,*  
Deacon



## Financial Update to the end of August 2008

	2007	2008	
Total Giving by members of the parish	\$ 65,855	70,755	increase of 6%
Giving to the P.W.R.D.F. (outreach)	977	1,874	increase of 92%
Hall Donations	6,605	9,910	increase of 50%
Expenses	135,171	125,831	decrease of 7%

All of which is great news but we do have to remember that at the end of August all this means we had a deficit of \$ 24,999. This is \$ 10,000 less than last year at the end of August but still a large amount for us to 'make up' in the four months left in the year.

*Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another  
with whatever gift each of you has received.  
( 1 Peter 4:10 )*



Your support of St. Paul's financially is greatly appreciated! You can give to St. Paul's through our envelop system or through direct withdrawal from your bank account. A service provided at no cost to St. Paul's by the Diocese of Niagara. Forms are available at the entrance to the Church for this program and to request envelopes.

*Some dreams we've been dreaming for St. Paul's*

- Air condition the worship space
- Remodel the lounge complete with a fireplace
- A new sound system for the parish hall
- A projector and screen for the parish hall
- A sign for the front of the church to advertise events here at St. Paul's.
- and many more !



*Upcoming events at St. Paul's*

***The 3 Cantors in Concert***

Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30 p.m.

Peter Wall, William Cliff and David Pickett are Canadian Anglican Priests who, with accompanist Maestro Angus Sinclair, sing to benefit The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, seeking lasting solutions to world hunger through sustainable development.

Cost is \$ 20.00 per ticket  
proceeds from the evening will also  
go to our local food bank COPE.

***Fall Clean up Day***

We have company coming !

Help up us do all those extra  
cleaning jobs that need to be done.

- wash windows
- rake leaves
- paint the men's washroom
- etc., etc., etc.

***All are welcome!***

Bring a bag lunch, coffee etc.  
provided.

***Kavinoky Theatre  
and dinner at St. Paul's.***

Sunday November 16<sup>th</sup> – 2 p.m.  
matinee performance of Heroes  
followed by dinner prepared by chef  
Abdul Arefi, former Chef of the  
Afghanistan Embassy in  
Washington D.C.

It promises to be a wonderful play  
and dinner !

Please phone the office or sign up  
sheet in the church entrance.

***Saturday November 8<sup>th</sup>  
ACW Christmas Pudding Sale  
and Lunch!***

***Saturday December 6<sup>th</sup>  
St. Nik's Shopping Day***

***Don't miss either of these  
Christmas Traditions at  
St. Paul's !***

*And many more wonderful opportunities to grow in faith and friendship with one another at  
St. Paul's and to together make a difference in our world !*

## ***Weird Facts About Turkeys\****



What do you know about turkeys? Test your turkey knowledge with this fun trivia quiz!

### **Here turkey, turkey, turkey!**

- Turkeys are able to adapt to a wide variety of habitats. However, most turkeys are found in hardwood forests with grassy areas.
- The best time to see a turkey is on a warm clear day or in a light rain.

### **They what?**

- Turkeys have heart attacks. When the Air Force was conducting test runs and breaking the sound barrier, fields of turkeys would drop dead.
- Turkeys can drown if they look up when it is raining.

### **Eat, sleep, gobble**

- Turkeys spend the night in trees. They fly to their roosts around sunset.
- Turkeys fly to the ground at first light and feed until mid-morning. Feeding resumes in mid-afternoon.
- Gobbling starts before sunrise and can continue through most of the morning.

### **Eyes in the backs of their heads?**

- A wild turkey has excellent vision and hearing. Their field of vision is about 270 degrees. This is the main reason they continue to elude some hunters.

### **And they're fast, too!**

- A spooked turkey can run at speeds up to 32 kilometers (20 mph) per hour. They can also burst into flight approaching speeds between 88 kilometers per hour (50-55 mph) in a matter of seconds.