

## Thanksgiving 2011

Dear Friends,

To be truly thankful, maybe I need to be happy with less.

Maybe North American sadness is a result of having too much stuff.

You would think that with all the rights and freedoms we enjoy, with all the new cellphones and technologies being offered to us each week, and with grocery stores and shopping malls overflowing with merchandise, we'd be as happy as clams. But look around and you'll see it isn't so.

Over indulgence is neither a good thing for the body or the soul. Sometimes less is more. The less you have, sometimes the more appreciative you are for what you've got. Let's avoid the stereotype of the happy, poor person, but anyone who has done a little travelling will have discovered people living with much less can be quite happy and well-adjusted in life.

One serious repercussion of our affluence has been the pollution and destruction of our environment. The extraction of oil and gas, the burning of fossil fuels to run our global economy, the dumping of all our waste products into the land, sea and air has reached such a critical point that it is plain to see the adverse effects on animal and human populations and a change in the global climate. What are we to do when corporations are geared to earning profits and governments enjoy the tax benefits of increased development and consumption?

"Whoever dies with the most stuff wins" proclaims the bumper sticker. We laugh because it is so absurd and yet we live like it's true. We expect corporations and governments to fix the problems that our overconsumption has created. But we need to look in the mirror and see who is truly responsible for the shape of the world. You and me. While advertisers will always try and sell us the illusion of happiness through consumption, you and I need to exercise spiritual discernment and ask: What leads to true peace and contentment in this world? And, how can I live on this earth in a way that respects other people, as well as the fish in the sea and the birds of the sky? For far too long, we have lived on planet earth as a species who couldn't care less about creation. Only lately have we begun to ask ourselves, what does it mean to be a good steward of God's creation?

In both the Old Testament and the New Testament, God calls us to walk lightly upon the earth, to seek justice and to do kindness to one another. That's such a different way of living than the one proclaimed by the bumper sticker. Christians today need to join with the voices of the environmental movement and with the voice of the young who call us to live responsibly upon the earth and treat creation with care and respect. Recycling, buying less, and using alternative, cleaner energy are all part of the solution. And when we find we don't need as much as we thought we did, we'll be much happier, and more truly thankful.

*Glorify the Lord, all you works of the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.  
In the firmament of his power, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.*

*Glorify the Lord, O springs of water, seas and streams, O whales and all that move in the waters.  
All birds of the air, glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him for ever.*

*Glorify the Lord, O beasts of the wild, and all you flocks and herds.  
O men and women everywhere, glorify the Lord,  
praise him and highly exalt him for ever.*

**Since we last wrote to you:**

We enjoyed another **Ecumenical Celebration** on Sunday, May 15<sup>th</sup> here at Grace Church where Anglicans, Roman Catholics, Baptist and United Churches of Sutton joined together for singing, prayer, and Eucharist. Afterwards, we had a full house in the parish hall as we ate a BBQ lunch together.

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we hosted a **Rural Ministry Workshop** for 6 young people from Montreal who are considering their vocation to the ordained ministry.

In August, we bid farewell to **Yvonne Wakeland** whom we have grown to know and love over these past few years as friend and church warden. Yvonne and Gordon moved to Ottawa to be nearer to her daughter. We still hope to see them back in the diocese and the parish from time to time.

On August 28<sup>th</sup>, Cynthia and John Dinsmore once again hosted a wonderful **parish picnic**. After a service in their living room with a shared homily, we enjoyed a pot-luck lunch in the dining room and living room

**Baptisms:**

On May 29<sup>th</sup> we baptized Michaela Garin Meacher, daughter of Jody Murray and Garin Meacher.

On June 19<sup>th</sup> we baptized Ella Faith Mitchell, daughter of Jessica Sharman and Kevin Mitchell

On June 19<sup>th</sup>, we baptized Owen Thomas Gillis, son of Sarah Stierli and Joel Gillis

**Weddings:**

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, Andra Syvanen and Joshua Farrington were wedded in Holy Matrimony

On September 24<sup>th</sup>, Sharon Marcoux and Nicholas Kirby were wedded in Holy Matrimony

**Funerals and Interments:**

Christy Frary on June 12<sup>th</sup>

Dorothy Gillespie on June 16<sup>th</sup>

Clayton Judd on July 7<sup>th</sup>

Zaida (Patsy) Sullivan Baillie on July 9<sup>th</sup>

Cora Hazard on July 16<sup>th</sup>

Kenneth Caswell on August 13<sup>th</sup>

Lawrence Marcoux on August 20<sup>th</sup>

**Upcoming Events:**

**Thanksgiving Sunday** October 9<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am. With our church beautifully decorated for Thanksgiving, we gather together to give thanks to God for all the blessings in our lives. Please join us.

Our **Annual Christmas Bazaar** hosted by the Anglican Church Women (ACW) is on Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup> beginning at 2 pm in the afternoon. Come out and enjoy wonderful food and baked goods and do some early Christmas shopping.

**Ecumenical OutMass** on Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup>, at 3 pm. Our guest preacher will be The Very Rev. Paul Kennington, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Montreal. Celebrating the presence of gay and lesbian people in our churches and communities. Together we are all in the family of God.

**Our Ecumenical Study Group** continues to meet on Monday mornings at 11 am in the parish hall. Currently, we are currently following a series of DVDs on the 'Great Figures of the New Testament.

**The Rev. Linda Spear** welcomes you to a mid-week Eucharist service here at Grace Church on Wednesdays at 11 am. All are welcome.

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