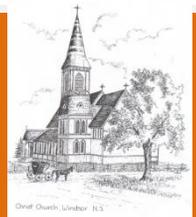


Christ Church Chronicles

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www.christchurchwindsor.ca



Vol. No. 1 Issue No. 3 Michaelmas 2009

Rector's Ramblings

eptember air is angelic air, clear and pristine. The Fall is, after all, our glory season. There is something of the grandeur of God made visible in the fruits of creation. What about our spiritual lives?

Some time ago, I wrote the text for some bookmarks for delegates at General Synod. One of them deals with the idea of spiritual growth: "Deep roots ... new growth."

"Bringing forth the fruit of good living' means living from the spiritual roots of our faith. Cut off from the roots, there can be no fruit. We are sustained by the spiritual roots that convey to us the nourishment that our souls require. To honour our spiritual roots is to bring forth good fruit in our lives, our lives of prayer and praise, our lives of service and sacrifice; in short, our lives of worship.

Intentional and serious, yet joyous and delightful, the Book of Common Prayer is about the living roots of our Anglican spiritual tradition. Lose it and we lose our vital connection to the continuum of prayer and praise, the continuum of biblically-based worship and life. We can only live from our roots. New life springs out of the roots of

faith by God's grace and mercy. Souls are made anew and set free. Free to pray "graft in our hearts the love of thy Name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of thy great mercy keep us in the same." Such is life from the roots of grace.

The images are those of growth and commitment through a strong connection to 'the author and giver of all good things', the 'Lord of all power and might,' the Lord who alone can turn the desert wilderness of our lives into the holy garden of delight. Only if we live from the deep roots of our Anglican spirituality: the spirituality of the Book of Common Prayer."

What is cut off from the root withers and dies. It belongs to our task to learn again to live from the roots, thoughtfully and prayerfully.

The image of the garden in the fruit of its autumnal glory is strongly and visibly before us in the gardens of the Parish. Many thanks to Jacoba Morash!

easts and fêtes. 2009 has been the year of the 90s. We have had the ninetieth birthdays of three parishioners! Grace Reese, Bert Galley and Helen

Gibson! Grace's ninetieth was celebrated in the winter, Bert in the spring and Helen's on July 1st! The gracious doyenne of hospitality and devotion, Helen enjoyed a special birthday celebration with a proper tea, to boot. Congratulations!

But, of course, there were other birthday observations, too, like Megan Balding's 12th on the 10th of August, and Harold from Windsor House, whose 47th birthday was on Sunday, August 23rd. The cycle of the generations goes on. Actually, this is something which we have lost sight of in our communities and culture; namely, the interplay between the generations. It is quite wonderful to see Megan and Brittany, for instance, acting as the charioteers for Grace each Sunday!

The year before us brings many challenges, not least of which are the prudential matters about property. We are in the process of selling some property in order to secure the future of the mission and ministry of the Parish. Not an easy matter, but a necessary one.

Marilyn and I just missed Helen's birthday feast, returning from Elizabeth's graduation from Cambridge, England, on the day of the

celebration. We missed the feast but found ourselves wonderfully fêted with a meal brought to our home the next day by Moira Burgess, Jacoba Morash and Aggie Langille, and involving the hands of many others, such as young Victoria O'Handley! Thank you!

Elizabeth's graduation showed that formality need not be at the expense of intimacy. In the neo-classical glory of the Senate House, degrees are conferred with the solemnity of the Invocation of the Trinity, God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, the very essence of the Christian faith. It brought to mind George Herbert's poem which speaks of the Trinity and the Incarnation as "two rare cabinets full of treasure" which have been "unlockt" and have become "jewels to betroth/The work of thy creation/Unto thy self in everlasting pleasure." Such words capture wonderfully the intimacy of the soul and the Triune God.

All of these things belong to a sense, too, of the celebration of harvest, the gathering to God of the fruit of people's lives, whether young or old. Our lives all have to do with the roots from which we live. No roots, no fruit.

September ends with the feast of *St. Michael and All Angels*. October brings us the joy and delight of *Harvest Festival*, and November begins with the great harvest festival of *All Saints*. These are all feasts and festivals of harvest, of the gathering of fruit that has

grown from the roots of God's grace – a grace that is at work in the principles that govern the relationship between man and God and his world. Angels, we might say, are the intellectual principles of creation and spiritual presences in prayer and redemption. In a wonderfully quaint phrase, one of our Anglican Divines, Mark Frank, speaks of the communion of Angels and Men, echoing the Collect, in terms of being "*dwellers all in the same house*" of God, the Angels above stairs, and we below. But all in the same house and in the same service of prayer and praise of the majesty of the Triune God.

Michaelmas signals the strong message that we are not alone in our prayers and praises. We find ourselves in a glorious company about which we are constantly reminded in the liturgy: "*therefore with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name,*" the glorious name of the Trinity.

Parish News

Challenges often offer opportunities. It is not just a cliché. There are a number of projects and programmes that I hope will be of interest to you and to others beyond the Parish.

I am happy to announce a Christ Church Book Club and a Christ Church "*Cinema Paradiso*" Movie night. The Book Club will happen on the first Tuesday of the month

and involves a designated book (or excerpt) that will be considered along with other works. The Movie Night is on certain Thursday evenings, followed by a brief discussion. Both programmes will take place in the Parish Hall; dates noted in the Parish Schedule.

The Book Club 'books' are: "*The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*", "*The Twilight of Atheism*", "*The Mind of the Maker*", "*The Shack*", and "*Vermeer's Hat*". The Movie Night will be on the fourth Thursday of each month and offers a rich variety of movies such as "*Waking Ned Divine*", "*Slum Dog Millionaire*", "*Wit*", "*The Children of Men*", "*Babette's Feast*", "*Chariots of Fire*", and "*The Merchant of Venice*". All welcome!

Other Parish programmes include: an hour-long Sunday evening of readings from T.S. Eliot's "*Murder in the Cathedral*", as well as a series of family services involving our Confirmands and Sunday School Scholars.



Looking ahead, I would like to promote the idea of a *Windsor Choral Festival*, celebrating choirs, young and old, near and far, and making use of the venues that we have here in Windsor, not the least of which is our own historic Church. It is a very big undertaking, to be sure, but one worth doing, to the glory of God and in the company of his angels.

Fr. David Curry