

St. Thomas' Anglican Church



TRINITY SUNDAY

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

June 2nd and 3rd, 2012

Come and worship with us on:
Thursday—10:00 a.m.—Quiet Communion
Saturday—5:00 p.m.—Contemporary Communion
Sunday—8:30 a.m.—Holy Communion
Sunday—10:30 a.m.—Holy Communion



Weekly Notices



Last Sunday there was no one to set up, serve, and clean-up at the **Fellowship Hour** after the 10:30 a.m. service. This is a crucial ministry for the health of St. Thomas by nurturing bonds of affection and unity in our church. **Please** prayerfully consider volunteering even one Sunday per month. Teams of 2-3 would be ideal. Training will be provided. Contact Pastor Doug if interested, 623-3608.

St. Thomas will host a **Celebration of New Ministry** between our parish and new Incumbent, **Rev. Doug McClure**, on Monday, June 18th @ 7:00 p.m. Archdeacon Deborah Kraft will be the Officiant and the Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton, Bishop of the Diocese of Athabasca will be the preacher. (*see photo of Bishop Fraser to the right*). Please be on hand as we, the people of St. Thomas, along with Pastor Doug, commit ourselves to a shared ministry in this parish.

St. Thomas will host a **Deanery of Thunder Bay special event** on Tuesday, June 19th from 7:00—9:00 p.m. Guest presenter will be the Rt. Rev. Fraser Lawton, Bishop of Athabasca (Northern Alberta), and includes an uplifting time of prayer and praise followed by refreshments and fellowship. No cost, no registration—just come as you are and bring a friend in need of encouragement.

Please remember your food or cash donations this week, the first Saturday and Sunday of June, to **"Feed the Hungry"** through our Parish Food Cupboard. The following items are needed: pasta (bags), pasta sauce (cans), Kraft dinner, soup, canned vegetables, canned pasta (e.g. alpagetti), canned pork & beans, canned fruit, packaged flavoured rice, packaged instant potatoes, instant noodles, tuna/salmon, tea bags, peanut butter, cereal, instant oatmeal, jam, honey, cookies, granola bars, juice, toilet paper, Kleenex, toothpaste, toothbrushes, diapers, baby wipes, baby food. Please **NO**: pop, expired cans or packages, large/oversized cans & packages, unusual foods like refried beans. Thank you.

The next **Improvement of Church Property** (Goal 3) meeting will be Wednesday, June 6th @ 6:00 p.m. in the Education Centre. All welcome.

Weekly Notices continued...

Next Sunday, Sunday, June 10th will be a special **CHILDREN'S SERVICE** featuring our IBM Sunday School children and teachers followed by our **Parish Picnic** in the Rectory yard with BBQ, games, songs, and more. Invite your family and friends!

This Sunday, June 3rd is Trinity Sunday and we celebrate the **Holy Trinity**—God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We'll have a special **INSTRUCTED EUCHARIST**, designed to give a deeper understanding of the Holy Eucharist (Holy Communion). Each part of our Communion service will be explained to make it more meaningful. Don't miss it!

St. Thomas has a goal for 2012 of '**Building Bridges with First Nations People.**' If you are interested to learn how this can happen, then please come to a special gathering this Saturday, June 2nd @ 10:00 a.m. in the Education Centre. Our First Nations brothers and sisters are especially welcome.

Camp Gitchigomee is hosting an **Open House** on Sunday, June 24th. You can see what the camp has to offer and enjoy a hike, swim, or canoeing.

Additional **Ushers** are needed for the Sunday 10:30 a.m. services. Feel good about serving God and His Church by greeting people, handing out bulletins, and helping to keep things tidy and orderly. If you're interested in volunteering to serve one Sunday/month, contact **Greg Koza @ 623-2842** or the Church Office @ 623-3608.

Parish Goals for 2012:

- **Feeding the Hungry**
- **Building Bridges with First Nations People**
- **Improvement in Church Property**

*With God,
all things
are possible!*

A visitor says, "THANK YOU!"

Many of the ladies at St. Thomas remember receiving a beautiful carnation at the end of the service on Mother's Day, thanks to Margaret Irwin's thoughtfulness and generosity. Below is a letter of 'Thank You' from a visitor that day.

"Dear Fr. Douglas,

Greetings to you and your congregation from my husband, The Rev'd Fr. John Swain, and me (and from the Church of Saint James, Goulais River, just north of Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario!).

I just wanted to thank you for one of the pink carnations that every woman in the congregation received last Sunday, Mother's Day. The flower was, and is, much appreciated by me, and it has brought to me, and it continues to bring to me, joy whenever I think about it or catch a glimpse of the now fully open carnation which is in a vase on my kitchen window-sill.

May GOD bless you and the Church of Saint Thomas in Thunder Bay.

With kind regards,

Eleanor P.B. Swain"





Ellis' Christening 2012-05

On May 13th, Mother's Day, St. Thomas welcomed newly baptized Ellis Gibson into the Household of God. Ellis' Mom and Dad, Sean and Alana, came home to Thunder Bay from Greeley, Ontario (outside Ottawa) where they now reside and work. Monica and Walter Gibson are proud grandparents to Ellis and his older brother Sullivan, also baptized previously at St. Thomas.



Pastor Doug and Lesley Joy's granddaughter, **Jazlyn Joy**, was learning how to blow bubbles over the long-weekend. As she holds one of those bubbles in her hands and it picks up the reflection of her surroundings, it reminds us that she, as a young child, holds the world at her fingertips. She will shape the future, and so we as adults have a responsibility to teach her and all young children well.

"Jesus loves the little children. All the children of the world. Black and Yellow, Red and White, they're all precious in His sight. Jesus loves the little children of the world."



God has placed us in the church for many reasons, one of which is for fellowship—the open, honest, vulnerable and deep relationship where we share the application of God's word in our lives. Spiritual growth is never a matter of mere individual pursuit of God, it is, rather, something we pursue as community. These times of assembly together are also for mutual edification and for the opportunity to use the gifts that God has given us. And because God does not gift any of us so much that we can meet all our own needs, our gifts are for the common good, i.e. for the good of others.

Our English word 'fellowship' is the translation of the Greek word 'koinonia.' The word is used to denote a relationship that is dependent on more than one individual. In other words, an interdependent relationship. And real 'koinonia' means not just attendance at a meeting or two, but successfully building supportive relationships.

What some may not realize is that fellowship is primarily an action word. 'Koinonia' is used 19 times in the New Testament and in addition to being translated as 'fellowship,' it is also translated by the words 'contribution,' 'sharing,' and 'participation.' A close study of the usage of this word shows that action is always included in its meaning. It's not just the presence of members that we need but also their function. Because of our unique relationship with Christ, Christian fellowship is not just being in relationship with Christ, or being part of the body of Christ, it is also 'doing with Christ.' It is our partnership with Christ in fulfilling God's will. Devotional writer Bob Gilliam defines biblical fellowship as "a relationship of inner unity among believers that expresses itself in outer co-participation with Christ and with one another in accomplishing God's will on earth." So biblical fellowship is an inner unity expressed outwardly. It is not just being together but doing together. And it is not just doing anything together but it is working together to accomplish God's will.

We may feel that it's not important to attend worship services, or join others during fellowship hour, or offer our help on committees and projects, or participate in other church functions. And of course we will always have good and important priorities outside the church, but the best and most important priority for us is to grab on to the opportunity to speak the truth of love to the Christian relationships we are developing and to authentically share the life of Christ with one another. It is in the context of loving relationships that we can learn to stimulate each other to love and good deeds. Devoting time to our meetings and gatherings is an essential part of this scenario. (See *Hebrews 10: 24,25*).

In Scripture we are told that Christ puts special emphasis on His presence during times of Christian fellowship (see *Matthew 18: 19,20*). And it just may be that some prayers will not be answered until we pray "Our Father" rather than "My Father." This is why it is so important to be connected to a local body of believers. If it is just me and Jesus, or as some call the "lone ranger Christian," then we cannot be of benefit to others, and we ourselves become starved of the benefits that come from being in community. Thus, we fail to fulfill God's purpose for our lives.

How can we be united in vision and purpose if we do not gather together? How can we accomplish our goals? Being there first hand not only helps us understand the concepts of each other, it also helps us understand the concepts of God. His thoughts are not our thoughts. When we practice fellowship by taking an active part, we not only keep the lines of communication open and clear, we also see where we can best help with our goals.

The story is told of a pastor who spent a summer on a pipeline crew. The first day he was given a shovel and a piece of ground and told to dig six feet deep and three feet wide. By noon, he had dug down over his head and felt all alone at his work. By the middle of the afternoon, he was pretty discouraged as he thought of the miles of line still to be dug. Finally, however, about five o'clock, he broke through into the trench the man in front of him was digging. As he cleared away the loose dirt, this man broke through into the next hole and as they stood and watched, man after man broke through until several hundred feet of ditch was visible and the pastor felt quite a sense of accomplishment.

This is the way fellowship affects us when we get in and dig together. With the unity of the Holy Spirit and a divine purpose, we see how exciting it is when we all put our shoulders to the plow and watch God's plan unfolding in our church. Perhaps you've drifted away or have been hesitant to give worship, fellowship, and other church gatherings priority in your life. Why not ask God to show you how He can use all those wonderful gifts He's given you for the benefit of others. You will be blessed—and so will we.

~ Lesley Joy McClure



Pastor Doug has just come across this exercise, suggested for seniors, to build muscle strength in the arms and shoulders. It seems so easy, so I thought I'd pass it on to some of you. It is suggested that you do these exercises three days a week.

Begin by standing on a comfortable surface where you have plenty of room at each side. With a 5 lb. potato sack in each hand, extend your arms straight out from your sides and hold them there as long as you can. Try to reach a full minute, then relax.

Each day, you'll find that you can hold this position for just a bit longer. After a couple of weeks, move up to 10 lb. potato sacks.

Then 50 lb. potato sacks and then eventually try to get to where you can lift a 100 lb. potato sack in each hand and hold your arms straight for more than a full minute.

(As I write this, I have to admit that I'm at this level).

After you feel confident at that level, put a potato in each of the sacks.



Some people never seem motivated to participate, but are just content to watch while others do the work. They are called **'Spec Taters'**.

Some people never do anything to help, but are gifted at finding fault with the way others do the work. They are called **'Comment Taters'**.

Some people are very bossy and like to tell others what to do, but don't want to soil their own hands. They are called **'Dick Taters'**.

Some people are always looking to cause problems by asking others to agree with them. It is too hot or too cold, too sour or too sweet. They are called, not Silly Billies but **'Aggie Taters'**.

There are those who say they will help, but somehow just never get around to actually doing the promised help. They are called **'Hezzie Taters'**.

Some people can put up a front and pretend to be someone they are not. They are called **'Immy Taters'**.

Then there are those who love others and do what they say they will. They are always prepared to stop whatever they are doing and lend a helping hand. They bring real sunshine into the lives of others. They are called **'Sweet Po Taters'**.



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I'M AFRAID THE CHURCH'S FINANCIAL OUTLOOK IS NOT SO GOOD

God promised men that good and obedient wives would be found in all corners of the world.

Then He laughed and made the earth round.

