

St. Thomas' Anglican Church

Parish Goals for 2012:

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

*With God,
all things
are possible!*

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

May 12th & 13th, 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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!



Weekly Notices



A **VESTRY MEETING** will be held on Sunday, May 20th after the 10:30 a.m. service. This is an important meeting for all parishioners regarding the renovations needed for the rectory.

A **bake sale** to raise funds for Women of Faith will be held in Haddon Hall after the 10:30 a.m. service this Sunday, May 13th. Come and find a little extra for Mother's Day!

Next meeting regarding '**Improvement of Church Property**' (Goal 3) will be Tuesday, May 22nd @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre. All welcome.

Next meeting regarding '**Feeding the Hungry**' (Goal 1) will be Wednesday, May 16th @ 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre. All welcome.

A.C.W. Meeting, this coming Tuesday, May 15th @ 1:30 p.m. in Haddon Hall.

Volunteers, both men and women, are needed for setting-up, serving, and clean-up at **Fellowship Hour** after the 10:30 a.m. service on Sundays. 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. 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.

Weekly Notices continued...

Parish Executive has begun the planning to bring the **rectory** next to the church into good repair in order to enhance and protect our equity in the property. In addition to having a professional building assessment, **Ken Koza** has been appointed as Project Manager to ensure all necessary work is done in a cost-effective and timely manner. The exact work required is being determined by Executive and Ken this week, after which cost estimates and quotes will be obtained. A Diocesan loan will be applied for and repaid largely from rent to be received from our second rectory on North Edward, which will become available, hopefully in the fall of 2012 when the McClures move into the primary rectory. Our A.C.W. has pledged a generous donation of \$1,000 to assist with this project! Parishioners also wishing to assist with the cost of the rectory renovations may designate their donations to our **Parish GIFT Fund**.

Parish Picnic will be on Sunday, June 10th in the Rectory yard with BBQ, games, songs, and more. Invite your family and friends! Contact Ralph and Wendy Day.

Pastor Doug invites you to join him in bringing the love of God to residents of **McKellar Place and Grandview Lodge** this Tuesday @ 2:00 p.m. (McKellar, 4th floor) and Wednesday @ 10:30 a.m. (Grandview Chapel). A half hour, hope-giving service of favourite songs, prayers, and Holy Communion.



What a wealth of bounty we received from the congregation for our first 'Feed the Hungry' Sunday! The children weren't able to fit everything in to their wagon. Thank you to all who gave so generously.



Thank you to Dawn Schibler for her many years of service of setting up, cleaning, and serving coffee and tea at our fellowship hour. A gift of gratitude was presented to Dawn this past Sunday.

Mother's Day is just around the corner, and I know that this can be a day that you either really like or one that you could do without. For some people, Mother's Day only brings sad memories because they have perhaps lost their Mom through passing, or their Mom was not a positive influence in their lives, or perhaps because their own children don't acknowledge and honour them on this occasion. So I wasn't sure whether to make this reflection about Mother's Day or not until I kept being drawn to a Scripture reference in Proverbs. Then when I received a Mother's Day card in the mail from my son Sean with the Bible verse from Proverbs 31:26 which says, "When she speaks, her words are wise and kindness is the rule for everything she says," I knew I just had to write about mothers this week.

As mothers, one of the greatest gifts we can pass on to our children is wisdom. Proverbs 4:5-13 is a section of the Bible that talks about getting wisdom. I don't think it's any chance that wisdom is portrayed as a woman, in fact it is portrayed a lot like a mother who cares for her children. When we have genuine love and concern for our children, speak instruction to them, and try to teach them right from wrong, then we set the stage for the choices they will make as adults. The choices we make as adults, whether wise or foolish, tell others how we have been raised.

The church and our schools have a part of course in giving children the knowledge they need, and can help them cultivate attitudes that will assist them in making the most of their lives, but what happens in the home is supremely important. So, as verse 5 says, it is essential for mothers to "Get wisdom! Get understanding!" The wisdom that we as mothers pass on to our children will preserve and keep them strong later in life. Mothers can have a tremendous influence on the lives of their children. Napoleon Bonaparte was quoted as saying, "The future destiny of the child is always the work of the mother." And Abraham Lincoln once said, "All that I am or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." As our children grow, we want them to see that we have given them the basic instructions to travel through life, and to recognize the healthy signs and markers that we've planted in their minds. These markers or guideposts will lead them into the path of wisdom and understanding.

Our children may not become famous or rich or even 'successful' in the eyes of the world, but if we can give them treasure of the spirit and the soul by showering them with love, emotional support, and wisdom, then we will have given them much. One Bible commentator in the Interpreter's Bible wrote: "Proverbs pays high tribute to mothers. Their instruction may be less stern than that of a father, but it may provide the climate of love and affection in which the best attributes can grow. That man is fortunate who has a mother who provides the emotional security which is needed by everyone. He who is sure of his mother's love has a great asset to sustain him during the trying times in his life."

As mothers, we have a compass to help guide our children to safety. And that compass is all the godly teachings and instructions that we ourselves received over the many years of our lives. If you were blessed to have an 'angel' mother who encouraged and supported and taught you well, as I have, then treasure that and honour her by continuing to live your life as a reflection of her teachings. If that has not been your experience, then it's never too late to learn and grow in this area yourself. With God, all things are possible. Whether your Mom is no longer with you or whether you are blessed to still have her as part of your life, the greatest gift you can give her is to honour all that was and is good about her.

On this Mother's Day, do not dwell on your mother's faults but on the times that she truly did try to do her best for you. Honour her by the way you live your life and by the decisions you make. And if you are blessed to have children of your own, then pass this wisdom on to them. There is no greater gift that you could possibly give your children than to give them your time, your support, and your encouragement. Teach them right from wrong. Be their guideposts and love them unconditionally. Then when they become adults, they will be certain that they were loved by their mother. And the bonus, of course, is that you get that love back—even if it's not as much as you'd like or as often as you'd like. But what a joy it is when you get a card from your adult child that says, "You spread Christ's love in the best way there is—with a gentle spirit and a generous heart...You're an amazing woman, a wonderful mother—and you're loved so very much!" Thank you Jesus!

~ **Lesley Joy McClure**



A Sunday School teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to 'honour' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?" Without missing a beat, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

The children had all been photographed, and the teacher was trying to persuade them each to buy a copy of the group picture. "Just think how nice it will be to look at it when you are all grown up," she said. "You can say, there's Jennifer, she's a lawyer, or that's Michael, he's a doctor." A small voice at the back of the room rang out, "And there's the teacher, she's dead."

Here are some more Church Bulletin Bloopers:

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.' The sermon this evening: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Miss Charlene Mason sang, 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Potluck Supper this Sunday at 5:00 p.m. Prayer and medication to follow.

Ladies Bible Study will be held Thursday morning at 10:00 a.m. All ladies are invited to lunch in the Fellowship Hall after the B.S. is done.

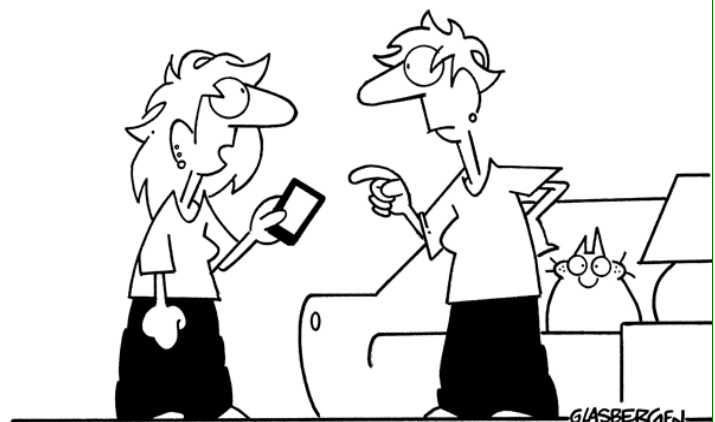
Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7:00 p.m. Please use the back door.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday: 'I Upped My Pledge—Up Yours.'

Dear God
Maybe Cain and Abel
would not kill each so much
if they had their own rooms.
It works with my brother
Larry

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"It's okay if I text behind the wheel. I have an app that drives the car."