

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 5th & 6th, 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



Please join Pastor Doug for **HOUR OF PRAYER** on Tuesdays from 11:30—12:30 in the Chapel. Prayer is offered for our city & nation, family & friends, our church, and much more. Everyone is welcome to join in this important work of our church.

Please encourage youth aged 13-24 to register early for this year's **Diocesan YOUTH SYNOD** to be held at Camp Manitou, Whitefish Falls, Ontario, Saturday, August 4th—Tuesday, August 7th. For more information and registration forms, contact Ellen in the Parish Office.

If you or a loved one are **in the hospital** and would like **Pastor Doug to visit**, please let him or the Church Office know, 623-3608.

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 on Sunday, May 13th. Come and find a little extra for Mother's Day!

Eight interested members of the congregation met for the **Church Property Enhancement Meeting**. (Goal 3). We began with prayer and then did some brainstorming on how we could enhance the appearance of our church/property. We also took a walk about tour inside and outside of the church. The group came up with three top priorities, in no particular order: 1) Building Entrances; 2) Outside of building, including doors and windows; 3) Haddon Hall and adjacent rooms. We are moving forward to get quotes on doors and windows. If you are interested in helping with these plans, our next meeting is Tuesday, May 22nd @ 7:00 p.m.

A.C.W. Meeting—please note that the May meeting will be on Tuesday, May 15th @ 1:30 p.m. in Haddon Hall.

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**.

Thunder Bay North Shore Anglicans 2012 Annual Deanery Day — “Enhancing Relationships” will take place this Saturday May 5th from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. @ St. Paul's Anglican Church. Speakers: Bishop Stephen Andrews, Bishop of Algoma and Bishop Lydia Mamakwa, Bishop of Keewatin. **Cost is \$10/person** which includes: Coffee/Tea, Muffins, & Lasagna Lunch. Pre-Registration is appreciated. Please contact: Irene 344-8049 or yeozubsb@hotmail.com. Registration @ 9:00 a.m.—Eucharist @ 9:30 a.m. All are welcome!

Missions to Seafarers is holding a fund-raiser with meats from European Meats. Contact Marg Irwin or Garry Barker to order by Monday, May 7th (delivery, Wednesday, May 16th).

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.

Men's Simulcast Conference, ‘Game Plan for Life’ is on Saturday, May 26th from 9:00 a.m.—12:00 noon at Redwood Park Church, featuring 3-time champion Super Bowl Coach, Joe Gibbs. Tickets are \$10, including a full breakfast, and are available from Pastor Doug or Redwood Church.

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.



“Feed the Hungry Sunday” begins this Sunday, May 6th. Bring your cash and non-perishable donations for St. Thomas' Food Cupboard. Our Sunday School children will present them at the altar for a blessing at the 10:30 a.m. service. This practice will continue the **first Sunday of each month** as our **Food Cupboard** needs continual replenishment.

A year or so ago, I heard the tragic story of a young man who was a cousin to a family member of ours. He was in his 30's and had worked for the same company for several years. He had dreamed of getting a particular position in this company and when it came available, he applied for it. Unfortunately, it wasn't offered to him, and in fact, he was asked to train the person who did get the job. The Monday morning that this young man was to train the new employee was fast approaching, but it was just too much for him to bear. On the Sunday evening, the night before, this young man shot himself.

Shattered dreams can be tragic. They can get hold of us so badly that they cause us to become depressed, physically ill, or to just give up on life all together. But when people or circumstances bring us down by their words or actions, we must continue to move forward. We must shake off those who would try to defeat us and keep our eyes on the prize, staying focused on our goals. Our destiny is not determined by our dissenters, or critics, or bubble bursters. Our destiny is determined by God. He is the Giver of our dreams and direction. He has the final say.

I don't know if you've ever read any of Bruce Wilkinson's books. He is the author of "The Prayer of Jabez" and "Secrets of the Vine" and "The Dream Giver" to name a few of his books. He shows us how to identify and overcome the obstacles that keep us from living the life that we were created for. In his book, "The Dream Giver," Bruce Wilkinson begins with a modern-day parable about Ordinary, who dares to leave the Land of Familiar to pursue his Big Dream. With the help of the Dream Giver, Ordinary begins the hardest and most rewarding journey of his life. Wilkinson gives us practical, biblical keys to fulfilling our dreams, revealing that there's no limit to what God can accomplish when we choose to pursue the dream He gives us for His honour.

All of us are dreamers to some extent, but some find it easier than others to dream big. But what if we, with God's help, were to dare to dream at the expense of risk and let God be our launching pad? Would we see and reach places we never thought possible? I think so. Would there be a trail of tears and rocky roads of experience? Most likely. But would there come a day when we would arrive at the destination of our dreams and the pages of our journey would unfold, revealing it's purpose? I believe we would. Are you ready to let God anoint the book of your life and breathe hope into its pages? I hope so. Because the Dream Giver is waiting to hand you over to a waiting world who needs what you have to offer.

~ **Lesley Joy McClure**

*Dare to
dream, dare
to fly, dare to
be the ever
chosen one to
touch the
sky.*



"The adventure of life is to learn.
The purpose of life is to grow.
The nature of life is to change.
The challenge of life is to overcome.
The essence of life is to care.
The opportunity of life is to serve.
The secret of life is to dare.
The spice of life is to befriend.
The beauty of life is to give.
The joy of life is to love."

~ *William Arthur Ward*

"It doesn't interest me what you do for a living. I want to know what you ache for and if you dare to dream of meeting your heart's longing..."

~ *'The Invitation' by Oriah Mountain Dreamer*

"The journey toward your Big Dream changes you. In fact, the journey itself is what prepares you to succeed at what you were born to do. And until you decide to pursue your Dream, you are never going to love life the way you were meant to."

~ *Bruce Wilkinson*



The pastor was getting to the end of his job interview. The search committee had discussed what their expectations were of their new senior pastor as well as the responsibilities that were not part of his job description but were carried out by other staff members. Finally, it came time to discuss the all important question of money. The chair of the search committee asked the pastor if he was satisfied with the remuneration package. "Well, not really," said the pastor. "What exactly are you looking for?" asked the chairman. "Well, I was hoping for something in the \$140,000 a year range, depending on the benefits package," said the pastor. "Okay," said the chairman. "How about if we give you a package of five weeks vacation, 14 paid holidays, full medical and dental coverage, a matching retirement fund to 50% of your salary, and a new car every two years?" "Wow!" said the pastor. "Are you kidding?" "Yes," said the chairman, "but you started it."

This year's winners of — "That's not my job" Award.

