

St. Thomas' Anglican Church

WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER

October 6th and 7th, 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



An **Adult Christian Learning Class (ACLC)** is planned for eight weekly sessions beginning on Wednesday, October 10th from 7:00—9:00 p.m. in the Education Centre. Adults wishing to reaffirm their faith, be confirmed, be officially received into the Anglican Church, or simply grow in their knowledge of the faith, please contact Pastor Doug. Registration forms are also available at the back of the church.

A New Men's Group has begun at St. Thomas with a video series, "Wild at Heart—a Band of Brothers" - about discovering God, authentic masculinity, and the spirit of adventure. This new group will be facilitated by Charlie Wilson, Missionary and Regional Co-Director of Nation at Prayer, and by Pastor Doug. All men are challenged to come join the group Friday mornings @ 7:30 a.m. in the Education Centre.

St. Thomas' new Men's Group is being hosted by the **NORWEST OUTDOOR CENTRE** on Mountain Road, Sunday, October 21st from 2:00—5:00 p.m., including team building, hiking and a campfire. No cost. Contact Pastor Doug as soon as possible if you are interested in joining in this outdoor adventure.

The Church Office will be closed on Monday, October 8th. Happy Thanksgiving to all!

Please remember to bring your **food offerings** this Sunday, October 7th. Financial contributions to 'Feed the Hungry' or the 'Food Cupboard' are also welcomed with thanks.

There will be an **ACW Meeting** on Tuesday, October 9th @ 1:30 p.m. in Haddon Hall. All parish women are welcome.

Many thanks to the '**Feed the Hungry**' Committee—most especially to **Carolyn Napierala, Janice Koza, and Greg Koza** for all their hard work in providing the wonderful Stone Soup Lunch last Sunday, and for how attractively the hall was set up.

Weekly Notices continued...

St. Thomas will host the **Deanery of Thunder Bay Council Meeting** on Saturday, October 13th from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parish Advisory Board members are encouraged to attend all or part of this meeting of Thunder Bay and North Shore Anglicans. Thank you to Janis Barker, et al, for providing refreshments and lunch.

If you wish to arrange to have flowers put on either of the Altars, we have a **new binder** for the 'Flower Charts' in the entry (green binder beside the visitors' book) that we will be trying out, while still using the Flower Charts that are posted at the bottom of the stairs (going down to the hall).

The 13th annual '**Empty Bowls Caring Hearts Dinner**' in support of Shelter House and the Thunder Bay Food Bank, is on Sunday, October 21st @ 6:00 p.m. at the Moose Hall on Fort William Road. Tickets are \$30 and available at Fireweed or George's Market.

There will be a **Bake Sale** on Sunday, October 14th after the 10:30 a.m. service; proceeds will help with the travel costs of the upcoming Women of Faith event.

Mark your calendars for the **Annual Tea & Bazaar**, Saturday, November 3rd from 1:00—3:00 p.m. Tickets will be \$4.00, or \$2.00 for children under 12.



"Let us give thanks to the Lord, Our God."

Lord God of all Creation, we give you thanks not only with our lips, but with our heart and mind and soul. Every day is a gift. Each day is a blessing. Open our eyes to see your living presence in each other. Help us grow stronger each day, in faith, hope, and love. We ask you this through Jesus Christ Our Lord who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever.

Amen



Harvest Thanksgiving
Sunday School Skit
September 30th

'The Stone Soup Story'

Great job!
Children and teachers.

The soup was
yummy!



I've been busy lately being 'creative' with paints and fabrics. Admittedly, some of my 'creations' are better than others, but all of them help put me in a peaceful and thankful frame of mind. I find 'hands on activities' very therapeutic. But regardless of how creative we may be, or what masterpieces we may produce, nothing can compare to the masterpieces of God. He created us and He created the world that we live in, and this is a perfect time of year to give Him thanks for all of it.

I find it easy to thank God for His creation at this time of year. I love the Fall colours and the cooler temperatures. But sometimes it's not so easy to be thankful for the people God created. How thankful are we for the co-worker who belittles us, for the child who rebels against us, for the friend who turns cold towards us, for the parishioner who denigrates us, for the spouse who betrays us, for the stranger who robs us, for all those who in one way or another bring pain into our lives?

The answer to this question is—it's hard, really hard to be thankful. In fact, it's almost impossible to look favourably upon someone who hurts or offends us in some way. And it takes something or should I say Someone 'supernatural' to change our hearts. But God can change our hearts. We, of course, have to be willing to let Him. Brother Lawrence, was a monk who looked at every task in his life, no matter how mundane or routine, as a medium of God's love. And every person he encountered, no matter how difficult, was a child of God to be looked at through His eyes. He is quoted as saying, "I began to live as if there were no one save God and me in the world." Do we see God in every person we encounter? Is it even possible? Brother Lawrence admitted that the path to this union was difficult. He spent years disciplining his heart and mind to yield to God's presence. In his writings he said, "As often as I could, I placed myself as a worshipper before Him, fixing my mind upon His Holy presence, recalling it when I found it wandering from Him. This proved to be an exercise frequently painful, yet I persisted through all difficulties." May we too have that same persistence of heart and mind to see God in all those we encounter.

I want to share with you an entry from '**The Friendship Book**' - the author writes:

'One thing I've always particularly liked about our friend Laura is her ability to see the best in everyone. Knowing how difficult that can sometimes be, I once asked her how she managed it. "My family moved around a lot when I was growing up," she told me, "and I often found it really hard to make friends. Then one day my mother told me about the little prayer of a French Jesuit priest called Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. *'Grant me to recognise in others, Lord God, the radiance of your own face.'* It never fails to remind me that whatever our differences, we are all children of God. It's simply a matter of looking for the family resemblance." And if we could all take that attitude, how quickly suspicion and divisions would fade away.'

My prayer for this thanksgiving is that as we thank Him for all He has given us—the bounty of the earth and all those He has created—that He will give us in return His eyes to see. The words to a wonderful Christian song by Brandon Heath are for all of us:

**"Give me your eyes for just one second
Give me your eyes so I can see
Everything that I keep missing
Give me your love for humanity
Give me your arms for the broken hearted
Ones that are far beyond my reach
Give me your heart for the ones forgotten
Give me your eyes so I can see."**

Lesley Joy McClure

