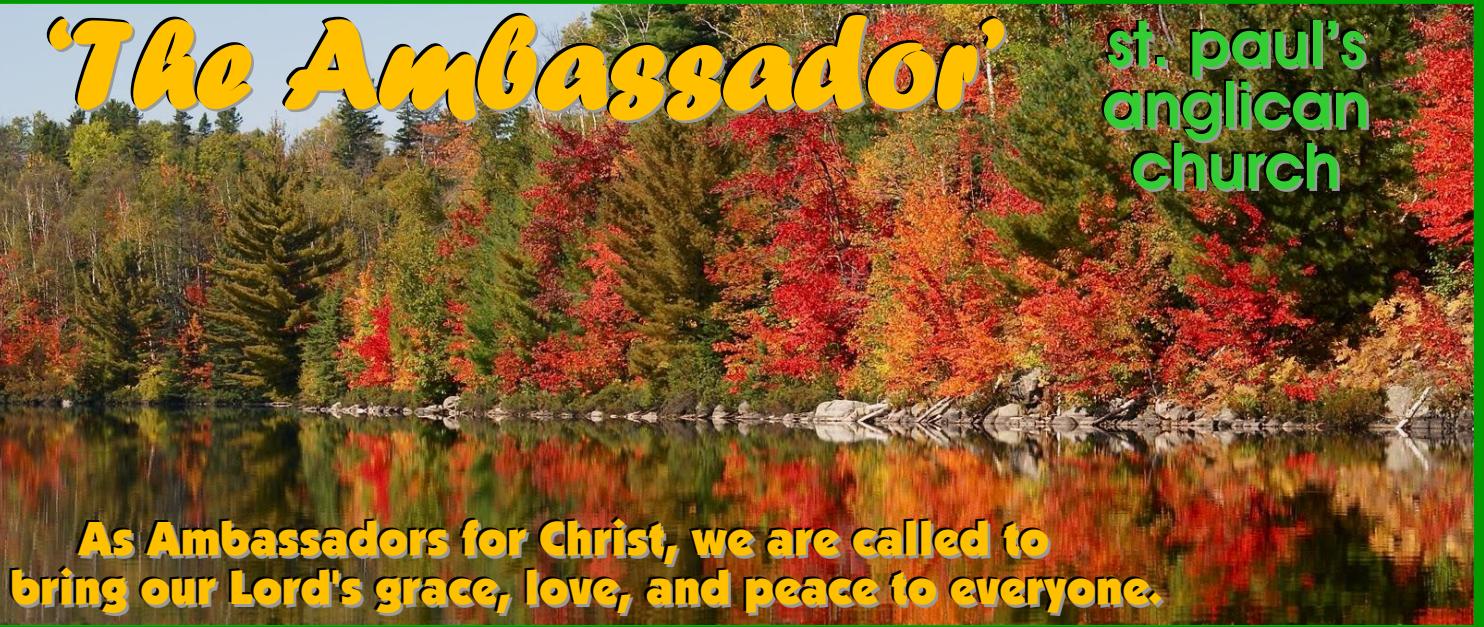


# 'The Ambassador'

st. paul's  
anglican  
church



**As Ambassadors for Christ, we are called to bring our Lord's grace, love, and peace to everyone.**

~ Friday October 29, 2021 ~

Blessing Of The Animals



Nearly 20 pets and more than 30 people attended our annual 'Blessing of the Animals' Service held on October 4th, the *Feast of St. Francis*, Patron Saint of Animals.

Every pet received a special blessing and a certificate. Most of them were content to pose for a portrait with Special Guest "St. Francis" though a few needed a bit of coaxing. And some were just happy to hang out in the pews!

A "GRACE NOTE" from [thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com](http://thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com)

"Each day is a new opportunity to live out God's plan for us."

## **1. Rector's Grace Notes ~**

### **Called Home ...**

The Lord took 100 year old Ken MacKay home on Thursday, October 28, 2021. Ken died peacefully at Roseview Manor in Thunder Bay. Ken loved St. Paul's and a highlight of his later years was attending church. He was a kind and humble man and I will miss him.

*"Rest eternal grant unto Ken, O Lord,  
and may light perpetual shine upon him."*

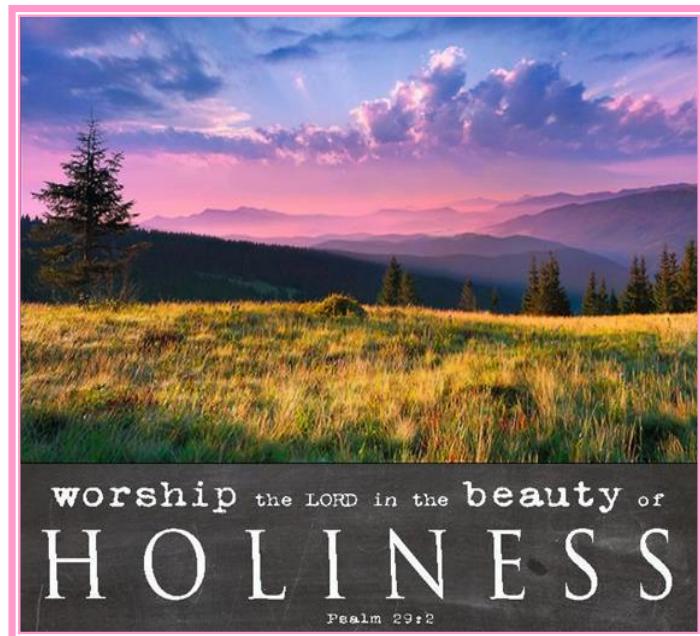
His funeral will be held here at St. Paul's on this coming Tuesday, November 2nd at 11:00 am.



### **We Offer 3 IN-PERSON SERVICES Each Week ~**

- † Saturday at 5 pm
- † Sunday morning at 8:30 am & at 10 am

The 10 am service will continue to be live-streamed (*YouTube/St. Paul's Media*).



### **9:00 am Friday ZOOM Worship Every Week**

Here is your ZOOM invitation for worshipping with me Friday mornings 9 am - 9:30 am. Then you may leave the call or stay for a check-in until 10 am. No supplies needed, same link always ~

Deborah Kraft is inviting you to a scheduled  
ZOOM meeting: **↓ SAME LINK EVERY WEEK ↓**

**<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208698866>**

- ❑ Topic: Morning Prayer with the Parish
- ❑ Time: Every Friday Morning at 9 am
- ❑ Meeting ID: 822 0869 8866

### **OR Dial any one of these numbers ~**

**1-[204]-272-7920    1-[438]-809-7799    1-[587]-328-1099    Meeting ID: 822 0869 8866**

### **Healing Prayer AVAILABLE VIA OUR 'PARISH PRAYER CHAIN'**

The power of prayer to heal and to comfort is truly a blessing! We encourage you to request a Healing Prayer through our **CONFIDENTIAL Prayer Chain ministry**. The dedicated parishioners who undertake this special ministry offer up the names they receive in prayer continually throughout the day. Call/Text **Sandra Rejall** at **629-3431** to leave a name; give as little or as much info as you wish. **"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them."** (James 5: 14)



### **Good News! We're On TV!**

Watch our weekly Sunday 10:00 am service on local TV, Tuesdays at 7:00 pm on **Channel 10, "Shaw Spotlight."** This Sunday's Service will be broadcast **7 pm Tuesday November 2**. This free service from Shaw Spotlight is a blessing to us!

## **Our Sunday Service LIVESTREAMS Are Here For You, Too!**

We live-stream our **Sunday 10 am Eucharist Services**. If you can't get to one of our **3 in-person Services**, you can still worship with us on **YouTube / St. Paul's Media**. Praise God for technology, and for our Live Stream Team!



watch live or [ANYTIME](#)



## **Archdeacon Deborah+**

### **2. Wear A Costume THIS SUNDAY To Our Annual "All Hallows Even" Service October 31 ~**

All children [and all those 'young at heart'!] are invited to come in costume to our 10:00 am Service on "Halloween." [No witches, demons, or devils, please! ☺] Archdeacon Deborah will carve a pumpkin for her 'Jack-O-Lantern' Children's Talk, and we'll have special activities for Sunday School and Children's Bible Study.



4 families of costumed kids at our 2020 All Hallows Even service.

### **3. Christian Accommodation Required ~**

A devout Christian lady, 67, recently re-located to Thunder Bay from Timmins, is in urgent need of affordable shared accommodation or a small bachelor or 1-bedroom apartment. English and Finn speaking with a heart for music ministry and care home visitation; clean, quiet, and financially dependable. Anywhere in Thunder Bay acceptable, near a bus route preferred. If you know of any place that might be suitable, please contact Irene at 358-7542. Thank you!

### **4. Fr. Gordon's Sermon from Sunday October 24, 2021, 22nd After Pentecost ~ "Ask For Help"**

In her book *Mayday: Asking For Help In Times Of Need*, Nora Klaver writes, "Asking for help is a universally dreaded endeavor. Whether we're struggling with getting that heavy bag in the overhead bin on the airplane, or fixing a flat tire by the side of the road, we are much more likely to say, 'I'm good' instead of 'Can you help?' If we fall and can't get up, we'd generally rather crawl out to the street, and get in the car than inconvenience someone else, and therefore reveal our problem or weakness. 'I got this,' we'd prefer to say."

A friend of mine, who I trained with for my electrical certification, had a terrible accident due to his problem of being afraid of confined spaces. Part of my training was done at a factory in my home town. One evening, I was leaving for the day and I met my friend at the factory gate. He was arriving for his shift, and he told me he had to do some work in the main switchgear room, which was quite confined. Knowing of his problem, I asked him if I should stay to give him a hand, but he said "No, I got it."

I got a phone call about 4 in the morning from the factory owner, asking if I could come in to work. He said my friend had not been seen for a while and the factory was still in darkness. I arrived and went straight to the switchgear room where I knew my friend had been working. I was shocked to find what was left of him on the floor. After the coroner and the police had left, I checked the switchgear then put the factory power back on. The factory owner was right there and asked me "Why didn't he ask for help?"

Klaver believes there are many reasons why we would rather cling to a branch over a cliff than to cry out for help:

- Some of us were never taught how to ask for help.
- Many of us love our independence.
- Others of us don't even think to ask. We're so focused on caring for ourselves that we don't even realize when we need help.

- Still others of us convince ourselves that it's easier to do it alone. And besides whom among us wants to be indebted to someone else?
- A vast majority of us are afraid to ask. We're afraid of what asking for help might say about us.

*"In short," says Klaver, "we're very good at trying to do it ourselves, instead of getting real help and making real progress. And in so doing we miss out on the gifts that someone else can give us."*

In our Gospel reading this morning from Mark 10: 35–52, Bartimaeus had no such qualms about asking for help. The Scripture tells us that as Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho on their way up to Jerusalem a large crowd was following. It was as if every fire department, antique car collector and marching band from the entire city had shown up for a *Canada Day Parade*.

The noise alone would have been deafening. And yet, according to Mark's Gospel, it is the sole voice of Bartimaeus that Jesus hears. The commentary in *Homiletics Magazine* suggests that "*In the eyes of society,*" Bartimaeus was a pathetic figure, having little, if any, value. Also, that "*a beggar like Bartimaeus was virtually worthless; someone who existed at the bottom of the social ladder.*"

Chances are Bartimaeus wasn't even the blind beggar's given name because, as we are told, when translated 'Bartimaeus' literally means 'Son of Timaeus.' Bartimaeus is portrayed by Mark as a nobody: a person with no name and a person of no consequence to the crowd. And yet it is his voice that we, the reader, hear rising above all the other voices within the crowd. And it is his voice that Jesus hears as well!

What is it about his voice that is so different from every other voice in the crowd? What is it that catches the attention of Jesus? Bartimaeus is the only one who is correctly identifying Jesus. The man without sight, the man whom the crowds considered a nobody is the only one who truly sees Jesus for who he truly is. According to the *New Interpreter's Bible Commentary* this is the first time in Mark's Gospel that Mark uses the title '**Son of David**' in reference to Jesus. In other words, it takes a blind man for to see that Jesus is the promised 'Son of David:' the prophesized king that has come forth from David's lineage.

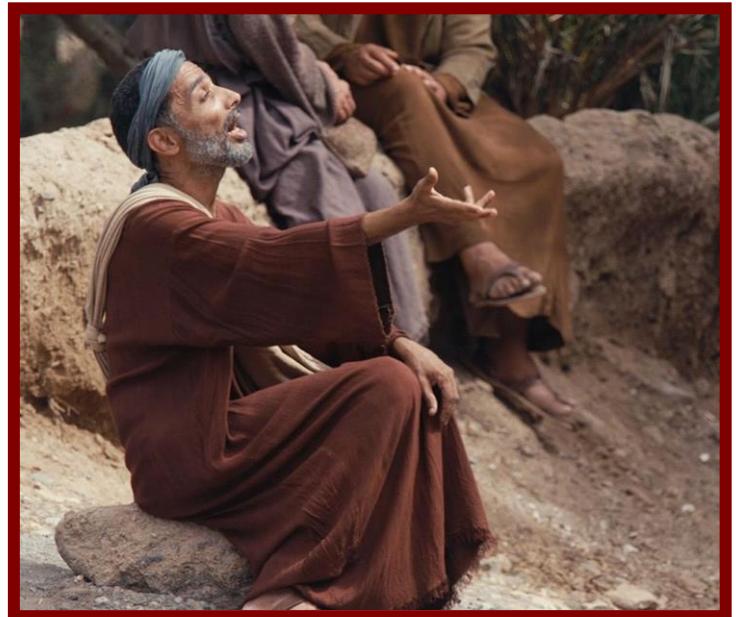
The implications of this passage are mind-shattering. The very man who has fallen and can't get up is the only one who sees Jesus for who he is. Hearing his cries, the crowds order him to be quiet, but the louder he shouts the louder the crowds become. Their goal is to drown out Bartimaeus' voice, their goal is to push him further back from Jesus. Their desire is for Jesus to see them and not to hear the babbling voice of an old blind fool who has no value.

But the more they order him to be quiet, the louder he becomes: "**Son of David, Jesus! Mercy, have mercy on me!**" It's kind of like those infomercials on TV of an older lady who has fallen and can't get up. Nobody, except for '*Life Alarm*', even cares that she has fallen. The rest of the world is out doing other things, but the poor lady is at home laying on the kitchen floor. Bartimaeus is no different from this lady; he keeps getting pushed off into the background. The crowds are hoping that he will soon be forgotten and that they will have captured the attention of Jesus.

The only problem is that the crowds see Jesus as the flavor of the day, whereas the blind son of Timaeus, the man with no name, the man with no sight, sees Jesus as the Promised One.

What can we learn about ourselves from this blind man? First, we learn that we must name our need before the Lord, and we have to admit that we have a much bigger problem than blindness.

Like Bartimaeus, we have all fallen and like Bartimaeus none of us can get up by ourselves. Bartimaeus was a blind beggar, which meant that his only hope for a productive life was to regain his sight. He knows his need, but notice that he doesn't lead with his need for sight, but rather with his need to receive mercy. Notice that in the scripture text Bartimaeus is not crying out "*I've fallen and I can't get up*" or as in his case "*I'm blind and I cannot see.*" For Bartimaeus, Jesus is not just some 'fix' that heals us from what ails us. Jesus is the Son of



David, in whom there is justice and mercy.

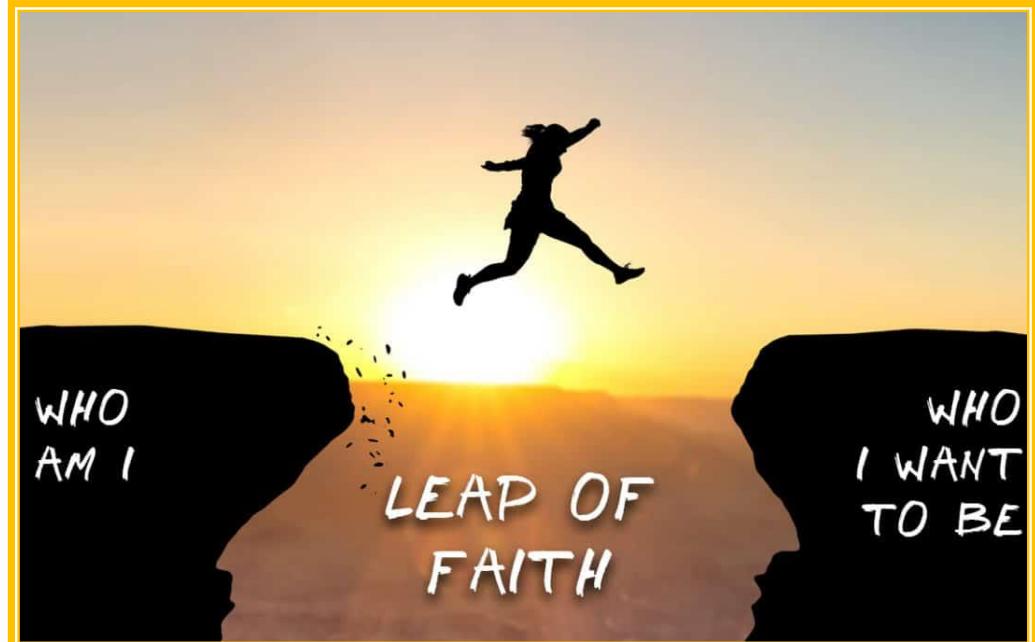
Bartimaeus knows that Jesus can do something about the things that bind him, he also knows that he has to take a leap of faith. As the crowds were pushing him further into the background, what does scripture tell us Bartimaeus did? He shouted out all the more: "***Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!***" Even when the crowds told him to be quiet, what did he do? He shouted out all the more: "***Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!***" In spite of the crowds pushing him further and further away Bartimaeus takes the leap of faith and keeps on shouting.

But this isn't the only time he takes a leap of faith. Scripture tells us that when Jesus heard his cries, and said, "***Call him here,***" Bartimaeus responded by throwing off his cloak and leaping up off the floor. The commentary in Homiletics Magazine describes the scene like this ~ "*When Bartimaeus heard this amazing invitation, he threw off his cloak, which held every coin that people had tossed into it, and ran as fast as he could toward Jesus, being guided by Jesus' voice.*"

When following Jesus there comes a point in our lives when we must take the leap of faith and jump up off the floor. In spite of what blinds us, in spite of whatever is pushing us back, in spite of having fallen and the inability to get up off the floor. And in spite of waiting on the floor until the *Life Alarm* team finally comes to our rescue

When Jesus calls to us we must take that leap of faith and get up off the floor. Bartimaeus, blind as he was, and without any help from the crowd, follows the voice of Jesus! We might ask 'Why?' Well, because he

recognized in Jesus that he had found his Lord and his Savior. The leap of faith we must take is a stronger faith in Christ, a faith that brings forth a new and transformed life, and as a result of that new life, brings us to be grateful for all things.



When we have an 'attitude of gratitude,' it tends to shake us out of our self-sufficiency, and allows us to celebrate what others have done for us. You and I live in a world that has fallen, and can't get up on its own. We, as individuals, have fallen too, and there are times that we need help in order to stand again. Like Bartimaeus, may we not be afraid to ask, may we step out in faith, may we be made new in Christ, and may we be grateful to God who supplies our every need.

**Amen.**

**Fr. Gordon+**

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## **5. Fr. Gordon's Sermon from Sunday October 17, 2021, 21st After Pentecost ~ " " " ***Serve Others***"**

A couple of questions, if I may:

- Why did you come to worship today? What motivated you to get yourself organized, move away from a comfortable place, and travel some distance, in order to be in the church at this moment? It takes some effort to participate in worship. It never happens by accident . . .
- Why are you an active member of this congregation? We live at a time when many people flee from any kind of commitment, avoid community, and refuse to volunteer for anything. The big trend today is "cocooning," wrapping yourself up in your home, and, let's face it, you certainly do not enhance your social status by participating in a church anymore. And yet people like us regularly share in the gathered Christian community, we support the work of this congregation with our gifts, and many of you work in many quiet and humble ways to further Christ's mission and ministry here at St. Paul's,

to serve, not to be served . . .

I knew a person who worked really hard at appearing humble. In public, he was always putting himself down, always declining praise when he'd done something good. But in private, it was a different story. One time he told me of a particularly generous thing he'd done for someone we both knew. And then he said, "But of course, I don't want anyone to know it was me. Jesus says to give alms in secret." And I thought, "But you just told me."

This same person complained to me, privately of course, when he didn't receive an award for community service that he was hoping to get. He thought the person who did receive the award "*didn't go above and beyond the call of duty*" as much as he did, and wasn't humble enough.

In reality, my friend was pretty proud of his humility. He didn't understand that true humility comes from thinking less of yourself, and more of someone else. Real humility is the foundation of real greatness, particularly because it doesn't care at all about recognition or glory, it only cares about the good of others.

Reading a magazine the other day, I came across this little bit of humour that I thought was quite relevant, keeping in mind humility. A Priest, Donald Trump, Barack Obama, and a little boy were on an airplane heading to give aide to an area of the US. The plane suddenly started losing altitude very fast. There were only 3 parachutes on board. Donald Trump grabbed the first parachute and jumped off the plane shouting, "*The whole world needs my leadership!*"

Barack Obama grabbed a parachute and said, "*I need to help people to make good choices for our world,*" so he jumped off the plane. Now only, the Priest and the little boy are left on the plane. The Priest says to the boy, "*You take the last parachute; I am old and I'm going to die soon anyway.*" The little boy said, "*Actually you don't have to worry, Father. We still have two parachutes . . . Donald Trump grabbed my backpack.*"

I would like to share a story with you, if I may. I think it really highlights this morning's Gospel passage from Mark 10: 35–45, telling us about service and greatness.

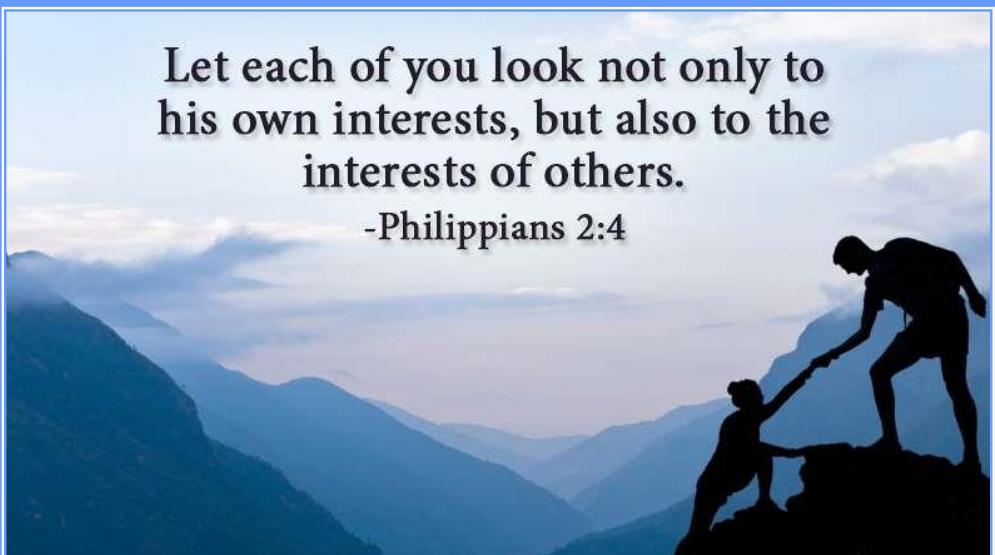
A man was driving his car, when he saw an elderly lady, stranded on the side of the road. He could see that she needed help. So he stopped his aging Pontiac near her new electric Cadillac SUV and got out. He smiled while he was approaching her, but she still looked worried, as nobody had stopped for hours. Moreover, he did not look safe, as his appearance was so poor and shabby. He could see how frightened she was, so he tried to calm her: "*I'm here to help you, don't worry. My name is Bryan Anderson.*"

A tire was flat on the SUV, so he had to crawl under it to jack it up. While changing the tire, he got dirty and his hands were hurt. When the job was done, she asked how much she owed him for his help. Bryan just smiled. He said: "*If you really want to pay me, the next time you see someone, who needs help, give that person the needed assistance for free, and think of me.*" Later that same evening, the lady stopped by a small cafe. That place looked dingy. Then she saw a waitress, nearly eight months pregnant, wiping her brow with a towel. The waitress had a sweet friendly smile, although she had been on her feet the whole day; she told of having to work at the café because there were no other jobs available in the area and that she desperately needed the small amount she was paid.

The lady wondered how someone who has so little and tired could be so kind, friendly and attentive to a stranger. Then she remembered Bryan. The lady finished her meal and put a hundred dollar bill on the table to pay for her food. The waitress went to get change and when she came back, the lady was gone. She had left a note on her napkin: "*In case you were getting anxious, you don't owe me anything. Somebody once helped me, just like I am now helping you. If you really want to pay me back, do not let this chain of love, giving and serving end with*

**Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

-Philippians 2:4



*you.*" The waitress was shocked to find four more one hundred bills tucked under the napkin.

That night the waitress got home earlier than usual. She was thinking about the lady and all the money she had left. She was wondering, even though she had tried to explain to her, how the lady could know just how much she and her husband needed the money, especially now when the baby would soon arrive. She knew that her husband worried about that, so she was glad to tell him the good news. Then she kissed him and whispered "Now everything will be all right. I love you." Her husband's name (you probably guessed it): Bryan Anderson.

Jesus tells us quite plainly, "*Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*"

Amen.

Fr. Gordon+



## **6. Scriptures for this Saturday & Sunday October 30 & 31, 2021 ~ "23rd Sunday after Pentecost"**

**Rectors' Note:** I encourage you to read these passages. If you don't have a Bible they are all accessible online. The church uses the NRSV (New Revised Standard Version).

- **Ruth 1:1-18** ~ "Where you go, I will go . . . Your people shall be my people and your God my God."
- **Psalm 146** ~ "I will praise the Lord as long as I live."
- **Hebrews 9:11-14** ~ The sacrifice of Christ offers us eternal redemption.
- **Mark 12:28-34** ~ Jesus tells us to love God and to love one another.

## **7. Financial News:**

A letter from our Offering Secretary Ernie Tilbury ~

### **"Advance Information For Envelope Users"**



Because of an ordering situation and costs; regular "Monthly Boxed Envelopes" will NOT be available for 2022.

In there place I ordered regular **Weekly** boxed envelopes. I can suggest two ways for you to handle your monthly pattern if you wish to maintain this monthly method:

1. – Take one envelope for the month involved and recycle the balance for that month.
2. – Cherry pick 1 envelope from each month and recycle the remaining envelopes.

I'll leave it up to you how you wish to handle your monthly pattern. There is also the **EOP** to consider as a monthly method. The EOP **Electronic Offering Program** is a safe and convenient monthly offering method. If you need more information please contact me.

Twelve months equals twelve posted tax entries for my part. The COVID-19 situation with church services cancelled changed all of our normal patterns of giving our offerings. Many parishioners used **E-Transfers** and **CanadaHelps** during this COVID time.

If you were unable to mail or drop off your offerings or have not attended church since opening in August or participate in E-Transfers or [Canada Helps](#) your 2021 tax receipt may not be at a figure normally expected at tax time.

Many thanks for your continued stewardship, hopefully the reminder of 2021 and all 2022 will be considerably better for all of us.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ernie Tilbury*

Offering Sect'y

PS – Envelopes should be ready for pick up 1st or 2nd week of December for those wishing to use envelopes. Thanks.

#### Here Are 5 Ways To Give:

1. e-transfer to [stpaulsthunderbay@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulsthunderbay@outlook.com)
  2. visit [canadahelps.org](http://canadahelps.org) and use your credit card
  3. mail a cheque (St. Paul's, 808 Ridgeway St., Thunder Bay, ON, P7E 5H5)
  4. join the monthly withdrawal program **EOP** (Call Ernie 807-577-3104)
  5. we still accept **cash** ☺
- 
8. **The Last Laugh** ~ “A cheerful heart is good medicine.” [Proverbs 7:22]



© Shower of Roses

## HALLOWEEN

You're Doing It Right.

**Best Practices . . .**



Ruth called out to Naomi: “Your people shall be my people and your God my God.”

*Archdeacon Deborah+* “The Happy Rector & Archdeacon”