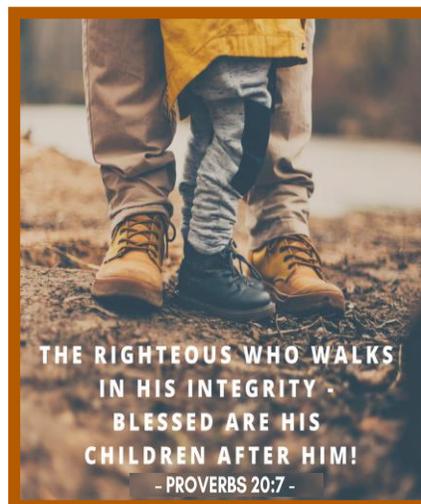
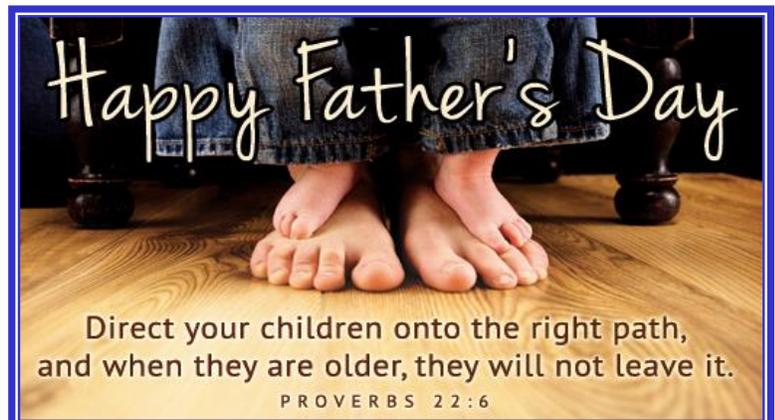
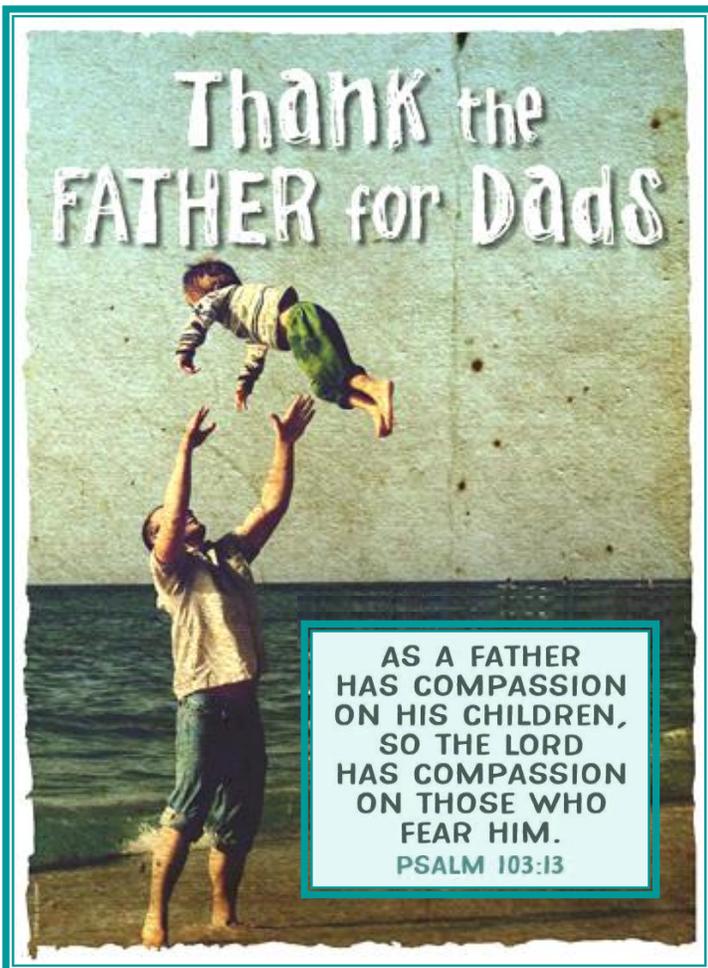


'The Ambassador'

st. paul's
anglican
church

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

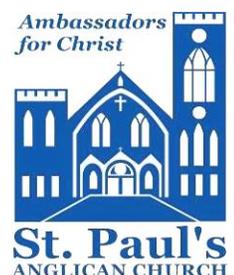
~ Friday June 18, 2021 ~



A "GRACE NOTE" from thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

"There are some things you can only learn in a storm."

visit our website @ stpaulsanglicanchurch.ca and find us on facebook



1. Rector's Grace Notes ~

A Litany For Father's Day

For our fathers, who give us life and love, that we may show them respect and love,

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For husbands and grandfathers who give so much of themselves to others, that they may be blessed and strengthened,

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For men without children of their own, who nurture and care for us in the roles of brothers, uncles and godfathers,

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For fathers who have lost a child through death, that their faith may give them hope, and their family and friends support and console them,

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For fathers who have been unable to be a source of strength for their families,

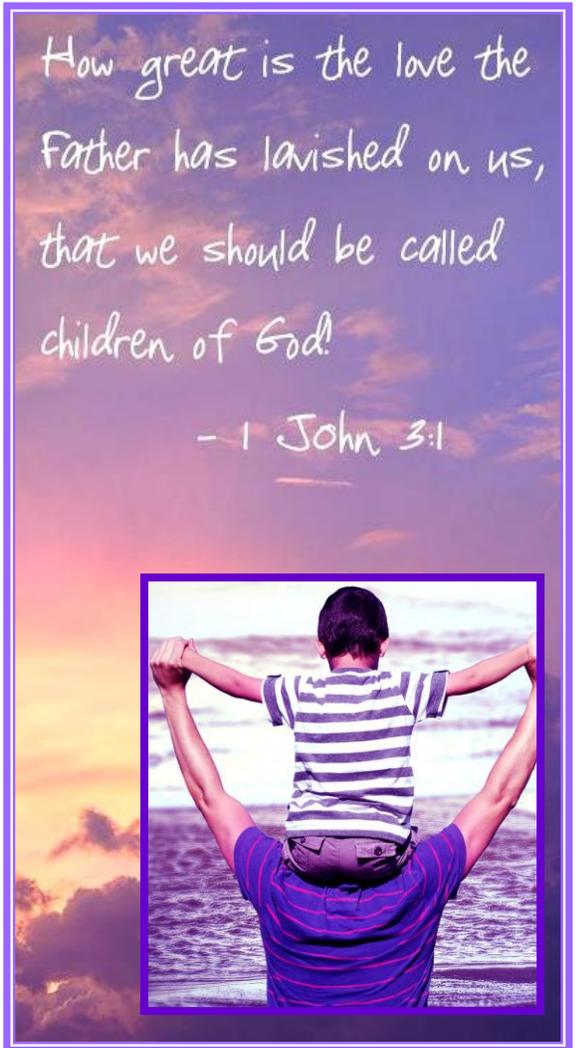
Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

For all the men in our lives, our fathers, grandfathers, and husbands who have passed into heaven, that what was important to them will continue to live in our hearts,

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God, in your wisdom and love you made all things. Bless these men, that they may be strengthened as Christian fathers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honor them always with a spirit of profound respect. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May God bless all the men who have loved you and made a difference in your life. We lift up fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers, great-grandfathers, godfathers, uncles, brothers, friends, and mentors.



Congratulations Anne!

Congratulations to parishioner **Ann Camber**. Archbishop Anne has named Ann a **Postulant for Ordination** in the Anglican Church of Canada. Ann has her **M.Div.** and is currently a **Diocesan Lay Reader**. She is employed as a Counsellor at **Sullivan & Associates**. Ann is the leader of our **Ambassador's Praise Band**. We thank God for Ann's call to ministry and know she will be a huge blessing to the church. God bless her path!

Praise For Our 'Annual Report'

We received some feedback on our Annual Report from Thomas Ferris, MDiv student at **Trinity College**, University of Toronto.

"I took a read through the Annual Report for St. Paul's and it is one of the most detailed Annual Reports I have read for a parish corporation. I am really looking forward to learning about the administrative practices of the parish as well its impact on parish life and the communities St. Paul's serves."

Editor's Note: Thomas asked our Rector for an interview on how she leads the parish. He read our Annual Report on our website looking to find out a bit about us. I'm so glad we went digital! Thnx to our Webmaster Laurie Sandham for posting it on the site. One click takes you right to it; use the linked Index at the left to jump straight to the group Report you'd like to read, or scroll through to browse the dedications, news articles, Bishop Anne's letters, and photos.



Good News! We're On TV!

Now you can now watch our weekly service on local TV. On Tuesday evenings at 7 pm, you will be able to watch our Worship Service from the previous Sunday on

Channel 10, "Shaw Spotlight." This Sunday's Service will be broadcast Tuesday June 22 at 7 pm.

This free service from Shaw Spotlight is a blessing for us. We are still trying to arrange forward to being on TBayTel's community channel too, so everyone will have access to our services.



EVERY FRIDAY ~ 9:00am Morning Prayer 'ZOOM' / PHONE-IN Worship Service

↓ **SAVE THIS LINK** ↓

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

Thank the Lord for bringing you safely to the close of another week of change and challenge. Praise the Lord for the blessing of refreshment the weekend brings. Ask the Lord to strengthen you for the week ahead. Worship with us from the

comfort of home by ZOOM or PHONE. Deborah Kraft is inviting you to a scheduled ZOOM:

SAME LINK ALWAYS! → <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 ~ Meeting ID: 822 0869 8866

 1-[204]-272-7920

 1-[438]-809-7799

 1-[587]-328-1099



watch live or ANYTIME

 **YouTube**
St. Paul's Media

Our 2 Sunday Service LIVESTREAMS ARE HERE FOR YOU!

We live-stream both our **10:00 am Morning Prayer Service** and **11:30 am Children's Service** every Sunday. Worship with us on **YouTube / St. Paul's Media** or watch the Sunday service on **Shaw TV Channel 10, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm.**

Office STILL Closed, But WE ARE HERE FOR YOU! 😊

Our Church Office is still closed to the public, but we are still available to address your questions, requests, or concerns. We are here every day, often on the phone or attending multiple 'ZOOM' meetings, so please do leave a message if we can't answer your call! We continually check messages and emails as we work behind the scenes to bring you the livestreams and keep you updated. You are most welcome to email myself (stpauls.rector@shaw.ca) or call us at 622-4945 (office messages) or 624-7161 (Rector's cell).





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)

Who Would You Like Us To Pray For?

I value your prayer requests and love including them in our live-stream service. Until in-person worship resumes, **please email me directly (stpauls.rector@shaw.ca) or text me (807-624-7161) by Friday evening** with your prayer petitions and gratitude prayers. I will include all I receive by 11:00pm. Thank you!

Archdeacon Deborah+



2. My Sermon from Sunday June 13, 2021, '3rd Sunday After Pentecost' ~ "God Gives The Growth!"

Speak Lord, your servants are listening. Amen.

Our next door neighbours, the Jarva's, recently planted a maple tree in their front yard. They bought it just after the major frost of a couple of weeks ago. The tree suffered damage from the frost. In faith, they bought and planted this tree with care. I took a careful look at the tree and I noticed that there was almost no growth on the tree and I counted only two healthy leaves. Now, the tree is coming back to life. There are more green leaves on it than I can count!

They planted it. They watered it. God gave the growth.

I know their young son Jayce is eager to tap the tree for the maple sap in the spring and the whole family and their neighbours, including us, are looking forward to bright red leaves in the fall. What a harvest to look forward to! The tree is at 156 Winnipeg Avenue, right next door to us.



This young maple tree reminds me of the kingdom of God. About how it comes from ordinary small things that take root and grow. Heaven comes down to earth when we are active participants in the process. It doesn't just happen by snapping our fingers.

Jesus spoke frequently about the kingdom of God and related it to the miracle of growth in his many farming and growing parables. Two of them are part of our gospel reading this morning from the fourth Chapter of Mark.



In the **Parable of The Growing Seed**, *“Jesus said, the kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground . . . And the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.”* (Mark 4:26-27)

In the **Parable of The Mustard Seed**, Jesus said, *“the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seed on earth yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”* (Mark 4:30-32)

Over the May long weekend, I planted our cottage vegetable garden. I carefully used a hoe, twine, and sticks to make straight rows and then I planted the seeds. Just 3 weeks later, the seeds have started to grow. Everything is up ~ potatoes, beans, romaine, dill, swiss chard, spinach, lettuce. Here is how the camp garden is looking now:

At the beginning of his letter to Christians in Corinth, Paul writes this:

“I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.”

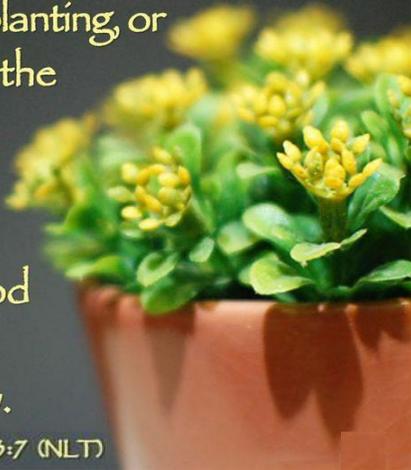
(1 Corinthians 3:6-7)



Apollos was an early Christian leader and a colleague of the apostle Paul. Apollos played a strong role in the development of the church in Corinth.

It's not important who
does the planting, or
who does the
watering.
What's
important
is that God
makes the
seed grow.

~ 1 Corinthians 3:7 (NLT)



Jesus is calling upon us to do God's work. Maybe the simple *Gardener's Prayer* says it best:

*I plant the seed,
You make it grow.
You send the rain,
I work the hoe.*

Jesus reminds us that we have to plant the seeds and then water them and weed them and take care of them. That requires commitment and faithfulness.

When I was pregnant with each of our four child, I cherished the growth of the baby inside me. I had a book which explained the growth that was happening during each week of pregnancy. I was thrilled to learn about the intricate detail of what was occurring within the child. It was all being done in secret. I gave thanks to God for the

gift of life and that I could be part of it, *“sharing in the great mystery of childbirth”* (from p. 612, *BAS*, ‘Thanksgiving For The Gift of a Child’)

In these two parables, we know that Jesus is thinking about other things besides gardening and farming. He is thinking about us and the seeds of holy love that we can plant. Then we trust in the wonderful mystery of growth. You and I can only wait and watch and be patient and thrilled when it happens. When the little seeds that I plant take root and I see evidence of the new shoots coming up out of the soil, I am always excited when this happens. My brother-in-law, **Veli**, gave me some of his blue and white perennial ‘forget-me-nots’ to plant. I have nurtured them carefully and all have taken hold.

I understand the line in the poem titled *God's Garden* by Dorothy Gurney that:

*“one is nearer God's heart in a garden
than anywhere else on earth.”*

There is a wonder and an appreciation of planting and caring for our flowers and our vegetables. It draws us closer to the love of God, the gifts of creation, and God's call to us to be part of the kingdom of God.

There is a reverence to gardening and trust. As St. Paul writes, *“We walk by faith, not by sight.”* (2 Corinthians 5:7)

The kingdom of God is like that, Jesus said. When someone plants a seed, God's kingdom comes by God's mysterious power, the power of love. When we plant tiny seeds of affirmation in the hearts and minds of others, God causes them to take root and to grow.

When you get both vaccines, each of those two tiny shots in your arm is a seed of hope to protect the world.

I presided at a funeral last week for a teen-ager and the service was live-streamed. I always try to sow seeds of hope. A person who watched the service reached out to me by finding my contact information and has asked me to speak with them about their faith. They have questions and a yearning in their heart. I planted. The person watered. And God is giving the growth.

We were all horrified last week by the senseless and racist killing of the **Afzaal Family** in London, Ontario. And yet out of the seeds of anguish in the hearts of thousands in London, the people rose up and marched against racism and Islamophobia on Friday. A mighty shrub grew out of that tiny mustard seed.

Plant seeds every single day ~ seeds of love, seeds of kindness, seeds of support, and know that they will take root and grow under God's grace. You may not see the harvest but you will be blessed by planting the seeds. You will be an active participant in bringing the kingdom of God right here and right now. In hope and in trust, you will be giving space for God to be God.

In spite of COVID, our church is continuing to grow and that growth is due to God and God alone. You are planting seeds and watering them by worshipping together even in a virtual way. You are chatting together on this live-stream. You are staying in touch with each other. You are praying for each other. You are blessing each other. The large branches are spreading all around the world and giving people safety and comfort, just like the birds of the air who make nests in the shade of the mustard tree.

"I planted. Apollos watered. God gave the growth."

I will go back to kneel in my vegetable garden this afternoon. I will put my hands in the dirt, and probably take off my gardening gloves to do this, and I will remember the **Parable of The Growing Seed** and the **Parable of The Mustard Seed**. And as I weed and take care of the young shoots, I will pray to scatter the eternal seeds of God.

*"The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth ~
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth."*

From the poem God's Garden, Dorothy Gurney

Archdeacon Deborah+



3. The Last Laugh ~ "A cheerful heart is good medicine." [Proverbs 7:22]

"The Original And Best . . ."

May God renew your youth like the eagle's!
(Psalm 103:5)

Archdeacon Deborah+

"The Happy Rector & Archdeacon"

