



Anglican Church of Canada

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The VOX POP... Voice of the People

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Durham Cathedral, a Gothic masterpiece come rain or shine

The fondly-remembered folk singer, Roger Whittaker, now sadly lamented, enjoyed a huge success in England with his soulful rendering of “Durham Town” back in the very late 1960s. It tells of a young man leaving his roots and that ancient city behind him as he has no family left to hold him back, but he does make a point of mentioning: “that leaving’s gonna get me down.”

Although I am not a Geordie and I have never so much as set foot in a coalmine, I must say that I can sympathize totally with that young man who was leaving behind one of the most ancient and enchanting cities that old England has to offer.

Bonnie and I made the trip to Durham a top priority of our recent “pilgrimage” to the old country, where we visited ten churches including York Minster. But what a delight it was to view Durham’s

magnificent castle and the overwhelming majesty of the gigantic Norman cathedral, inside which lie the bones of St. Cuthbert and the Venerable Bede.

Although England was enduring the wettest summer for years, we travelled its length and breadth while the sun tagged along with us and made each of our stops a sunny delight. Except, that is, in Durham, where our first day was spent in glorious sunshine that disappeared on the second day when we visited the cathedral. But we still stayed dry while the heavens opened on those unfortunate enough to be outdoors.

We had chosen the day fortuitously. Even the cathedral's huge gothic entrance with doors that are close to twenty feet high, shielded us from the rain as we gasped incredulously at the evil-looking sanctuary door knocker that greets visitors with its malevolent stare.

Inside, the grandeur of the old mother church was overwhelming and we couldn't help but marvel at the incredible skills of those ancient masons who, starting in 1093 A.D., turned blocks of anonymous stone into a breathtakingly beautiful edifice, including the Lady Chapel, where we took part in the daily Eucharist celebration. Later, as we gently ambled our way around the various chapels, tombs and memorials, Bonnie noticed that the usual brass eagle lectern, so common in many Anglican churches, was "flying under false colours." What at first appeared to be an eagle was, in fact, a pelican, something we had never before seen.

An honorary guide who was putting a group of tourists through their paces, was delighted when I stopped him and asked for an explanation. Apparently, the ancients believed that the mother pelican, whose young had been born near to death, revived them by pecking at her own breast and feeding them with her blood. This was compared allegorically with Christ's sacrifice of his blood for Christians' salvation and although the original bird had been destroyed during the Civil War on the orders of the famous regicide, Oliver Cromwell, it was replaced back in 1873 and that's the one that is now in pride of place near the Chancel.

I have further tales to relate regarding our trip and could, of course, go on a lot longer about the wonders of this sacred place but space does not permit. I will endeavour to include more in future newsletters. For now, suffice it to say that when we left Durham by train and travelled nearly 700 kilometers the next day, we again found our faithful old sun beaming at us from a cloudless Devon sky in glorious Brixham. - *DH*



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Thank You

God's Blessing on the entire congregation. Thank you for allowing me to be your student and the loving hands that made the prayer shawl

- Mark Wilton+



Rector's Reflection

“Routines & Ruts”



The Fall season has arrived. The lazy, hazy days of summer are past. The return to our usual school and work schedules means that we embrace once again those routines that shape our daily living. And routines can be good. They can provide positive, life-giving structure and direction to our lives.

In getting back to “business as usual” though, I think we are presented with an opportunity to reflect on those routines in an intentional way so that we can make sure that they’re serving us as they should. Unconsidered routines have a way of turning into ruts. Ruts, unlike routines, are paths which we have difficulty getting ourselves out of and which no longer work to our benefit. Ruts are routines that simply have us going through the motions instead of living the vibrant life that God calls us to.

As we consider how we might tackle evaluating our routines, let me first suggest that we recognize the different areas, or spheres, in our lives. While we might label them in different ways, they can broadly be categorized into 4 spheres: intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual. Each of these areas of our lives are important, but for the purposes of this article, let’s focus our attention on the spiritual disciplines that can and should be a part of our daily routines.

One of the things I learned long ago is that everyone is different. There is no “one size fits all” when it comes to cultivating a fulfilling spiritual life. Having said that, there are some pillars that we can identify which are always a vital part when building a fruitful faith life.

The 1st pillar that is essential to every religious journey is prayer. Our faith is rooted in our relationship with God, and the basis for every relationship is communication.



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Welcome back to Ascension, everyone!

All smiles from the two ladies who did so much to make our “Welcome Back Sunday/Sundaes” such a huge success for everyone. Julie and Chris made sure there was plenty of cake and ice cream for us.



Welcome

We are delighted
you've joined us.

May God's word
today strengthen
your faith, inspire
curiosity and
learning, and
motivate your
service of others.



Father Lance gets cozy with the children as he greets them after the summer break, stressing the meaning of the word “holidays” or “Holy Days” and receiving some quaint responses that only children can provide.



Who's that in the pew behind me?

Welcome back everybody. Now that you've had a little time to relax and enjoy the summer. I thought I'd start you all off with a tiny teaser to get those little grey cells, as Agatha Christie's famous detective refers to your brain, up and running.

Here's an unlikely shot of a person most of us see on Sunday in church but the snag is that the picture was taken quite a few years ago.



?? So who is it? It might be the man or woman in the pew quite close to you or it might be someone a few more metres away. Who knows? They might even be watching you from behind.



Unfortunately, there aren't any prizes offered for anyone who gets it right but you will get your name in next month's Newsletter. So, if you think you have the right answer, write it down along with your name, put it in a sealed envelope and drop it in the Vox Pop box at the back of the church. I'd like to keep this going every month so if you have an old picture of yourself or your significant other half, bring it in and together we can keep everyone guessing.



Beautiful day for a baptism, or two, or three

Our 1st Sunday back after the summer holidays was started off with a bang!

We had 2 babies and 1 adult baptized.

*We had the great granddaughter of long parishioners
Don & Margaret Shearer - **Emma Elizabeth Buckland**
and Emma's Father **David William Glen Buckland**
also Archdeacon Ron's great granddaughter **Serena Mary Angeli**.*



Canon Lance has his arms full holding Serena Mary Angeli on his left arm and Emma Elizabeth Buckland on his right arm with her newly baptized father David William Glen Buckland.

It was a wonderful service and celebration.





Singing their way through 50 years of happiness

*Happy
Anniversary
50
Years together*



Singing comes very naturally to Tom and Vicky Moffat. But I'm sure that comes as no surprise to the members of the congregation at Church of the Ascension. What might surprise many people, however, is that this pair of songbirds have been singing for all of their 50 years of marriage, and will be celebrating their Golden Anniversary on October 12th .

Their wedding took place at Central United Church and was conducted by the Rev. Don Wilson. Tom and Vicky remained members of the United Church and sang in the

Community Choir and the Windsor Symphony Chorus. In 1990 they left the United Church and joined Church of the Ascension, where they were Confirmed as Family by Bishop Jack Peck during that year's Easter Season. And they also renewed their wedding vows on their 25th wedding anniversary with Canon Dr. Don Hull and family & friends. Tom is very active in Masonic Orders and also the Shriners, where you may see him now and then as a parade member riding a 50 cc Honda bike. Vicky is active as a Temperance Lady in the Rum Runners' Tour.

They wanted to stress that they are thankful to God, "the head of our household," for their 50 years together, during which time they have raised three children, Kevin, Victor and Karen who have together provided them with six grandchildren. I'm sure everyone will join me in wishing them many more happy years to come.



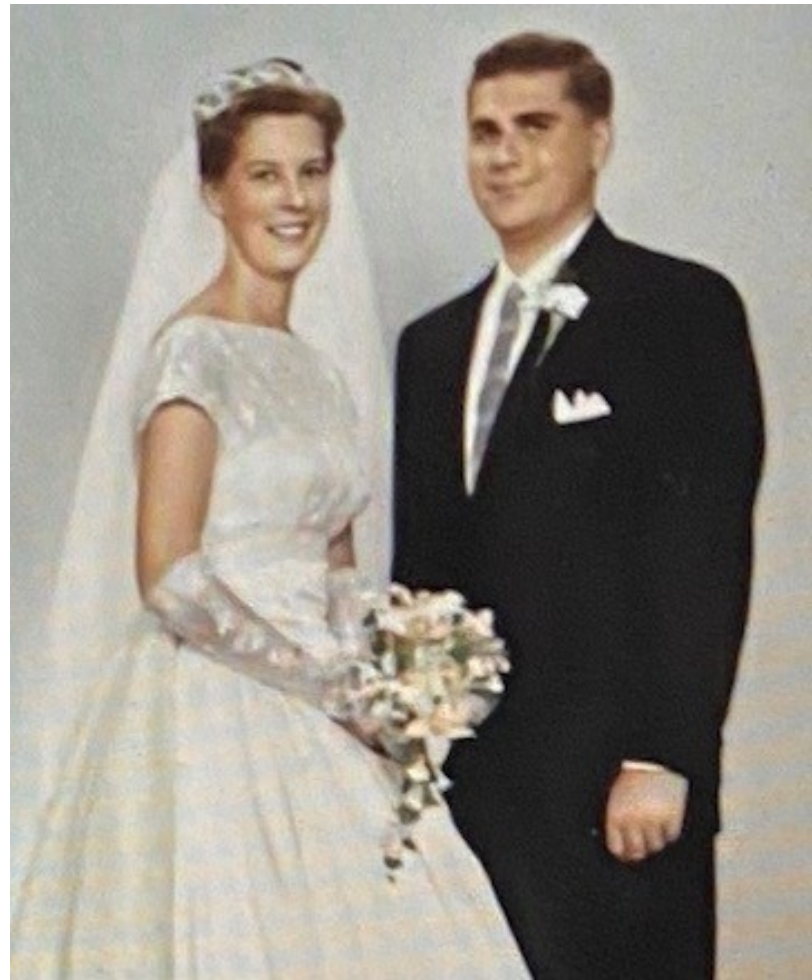
A Blue Sapphire casts its sparkle.....



They say you can learn something new every day. And it can come as a very pleasant surprise when that old saying comes true for the very best of reasons. For example, what do you call a 65th wedding anniversary? Everyone knows that 25 years is silver, 50 years is gold and 60 years is diamond, but very few people know that a blue sapphire is the jewell that denotes 65 years of married bliss. How do I know? Well, I looked it up on Google because I have the delightful job of writing this little announcement on behalf of Frank and Jean Stuhlmueeller, who celebrated that very anniversary this past Thursday.

Frank and Jean, long-time members of The Church of the Ascension, were married right here by the Rev. Walter Cunningham, on September 12th, 1959.

And in case you find it hard to think about just how long ago that was, here's a hint to aid your thought patterns: in 1959, a loaf of bread cost 20 cents, a burger cost 15 cents and a draught beer was about 10 cents or slightly less. Hard to believe, isn't it?



But let's not stray too far from the subject of this little peep back into the past. In my career as a journalist I have written about all kinds of events from movie premiers to royal events, but I have never before written about a Blue Sapphire wedding. Congratulations, Frank and Jean from all your friends at Church of the Ascension, and may I point out that the happy couple are hosting the Fellowship Gathering following today's 10:30 morning service. There's a slice of cake waiting for everyone.





Centering Prayer Group

Tuesday's 2pm

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

Talk to Deacon Fred if you have any questions



**Please join us,
in prayer.**

Announcements



St. Katherine's ACW will meet in the parish hall this Sun. Sept. 15th at 9:15am. All ladies of the Parish are welcome.



There will be a Service of Healing following the 10:00 am Eucharist on Wed. Sept. 25th

Sacrament of Anointing



Chancel Guild will be decorating the church for Harvest on Sat. Oct. 5th at 9:00. All members are encouraged to attend. If you have any fruits, vegetables, flowers etc. to help with the decorating, please bring to the church Wed Oct. 2nd, Thurs Oct. 3rd, or Sat Oct. 5th.

Upcoming Special Church Services

Sunday Oct. 6th - Harvest Home Sunday Oct. 13th - Thanksgiving.
The church office will be closed on Mon. Oct. 14th.



Choir practices have resumed on Thurs. nights at 7:00pm. Please speak with our music director, Trudy, if you'd like to add your voice to this enthusiastic group. No experience necessary!



E-transfer donations now accepted at Ascension!

E-transfer is a new and easy way to make your donations in support of our parish ministry. E-transfers can be sent to our parish email address;

ascension@bellnet.ca . All e-transfer donations will still be credited to your envelope number and will be included in your annual income tax receipt. If you wish to specifically designate where the funds are to be directed (i.e. Altar flowers, Memorials, etc.) simply indicate it in the memo or message line and we'll be sure to account for it accordingly. If you would like more information or have questions please contact Canon Lance.

Generally speaking, there are 2 main ways that we can implement prayer into the routines of our life; personal and communal.

Personal devotions are an integral means to keep ourselves connected to the Lord. Jesus modeled this Himself when He drew away from the crowds and the disciples to pray (Mark 1:35, Luke 5:16, Luke 6:12). Jesus' profound personal prayer life however didn't mean He didn't value the importance of gathering with the people of God to worship and pray together (Mark 3:1, Mark 6:2, Luke 4:16). It is in combining both of these approaches to prayer that we cultivate a meaningful prayer life connecting us to the Lord. Make both a part of your routine.

The 2nd pillar I'd like to suggest that is a must to be included into our routines is study. This includes not only scripture, but also devotional material. There are a myriad of scriptural reading guides available (not the least of which are found in our prayer books!). And of course, you can simply open up God's Word anytime and just start reading. Again, Jesus provides us with an example as He routinely quoted scripture when teaching and preaching (Matt 4:4-10, Matt 21:42, Mk 12:29-30). The importance of religious and spiritual writings about faith can also not be overstated. Many of us have a favourite author or two (C.S. Lewis, N.T. Wright) and we can be inspired and taught a great deal by the reflections and religious experiences of fellow disciples of Christ.

The final pillar I'd like to highlight as important to our cultivation of a healthy spiritual routine is action. How do we translate what we believe into action? How do we do our part in making God's Kingdom a reality in the world? As we read in the Epistle of James 2:17, "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." When we create a space in our lives to act on our faith and discern what it is that God is calling us to, His grace and love becomes visible to others in all that we say and do.

As we embark upon another busy Fall season, I know that the Lord will walk alongside you because you've made Him a part of your routine. May the routines of our family of faith in turn, help us all to grow into the disciples Jesus calls us to be. In His Holy Name, *Lance+*