

THE GOOD NEWS



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*Oh, Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,
 for his steadfast love endures forever!*

Psalm 107:1

Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!

2 Corinthians 9:15

*Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is
 the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*

1 Thessalonians 5:18

REFLECTION:

SUBMITTED BY FATHER JOHN STOPA

One of the small tourist attractions in downtown Renfrew this summer and fall has been four giant sunflower plants that have been growing alongside a building on the main street in town. The flowers of these plants – these sunflowers – are the biggest I’ve ever seen. They are absolutely beautiful! They have survived all summer and fall, and frankly I’m even surprised they have survived people’s temptation to steal. These flowers are there for all to enjoy; and, people do enjoy them. In fact, they stop to take pictures.

Similarly, you may have noticed the field of sunflowers that grew on the Galetta Side Road near Carp Road this summer. It too was amazing to see and behold. Amidst the different crops that surround us, here was this small field of beautiful yellow flowers. They looked like they were obediently worshipping the sun, happy just to be rooted in God’s great earth.

I am amazed at sunflowers

mainly because of how small the seed is, and how big the flower and plant become. From that tiny seed grows this magnificent, beautiful, radiant creation made by God. A tiny seed holds the promise



of such greatness. There is a parable in there for us – the sunflower seed speaks of our potential as God’s creation. Or, to paraphrase the gospel message from a week ago (Luke 17:5 – 10) if we had faith the size of a sunflower seed, imagine what we could do! It is

God who gives us that faith, nourishes it, and when we allow God to do so, makes that faith grow into something beautiful.

I’ve decided that next spring, one of the things I’m going to look forward to is the planting of sunflower seeds. As they grow, they will for me be more than just a flower. They are a symbol of faith...

At this time of Thanksgiving, I extend to God my thanks for all of you. I am so grateful to be your priest and to be able to serve you. I am so thankful to God for the faith that God has given you; a faith that calls you into action time and again. I pray that each of you will receive a full measure of God’s blessing and that with truly thankful hearts, we may continue to praise God together through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen





If a fellow isn't thankful for what he's got, he isn't likely to be thankful for what he's going to get.
Frank A. Clark



All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.



Sing unto the Lord with thanksgiving; sing praise upon the harp unto our God Who covereth the heaven with clouds, who prepareth rain for the earth, who maketh grass to grow upon the mountains.
Psalms 147:7-8

KEVIN AND LOUISE DAVIS: THE ONGOING JOURNEY

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

The Davis' share a love for each other, for their family and community, and for Christ. They have been on an interesting journey, one that still has a way to go.

Kevin is local. He is the third generation to work the farm on Kinburn Side Road and has deep roots at St. Thomas'. His mother played the organ for church services, and the bell in the church steeple was dedicated to his grandfather. In the church itself, the second stained glass window on the right was installed by his grandmother, Margaret Davis.



Louise hails from Sudbury. Her background is French and Roman Catholic. Of the two, Kevin is inclined to just let things in life turn as they will. Louise is the one who will stride forward, with an enthusiastic "let's do it!" For 39 years and counting, they have shown how successfully they can make their differences work.

Kevin has always been involved in music, a gift he may have gotten from his father who was a well-known Ottawa Valley fiddler, Ralph Davis. You will see Kevin at the front of the church worshipping with his guitar whenever there is special music. He has been a member of a local band Heavenly Blue, as well as Local Traffic and various other bands. Kevin and his friends provided the entertainment for the Christmas dinner organized on behalf of the victims of the September 2018 tornado. He has also played at several Canada Day

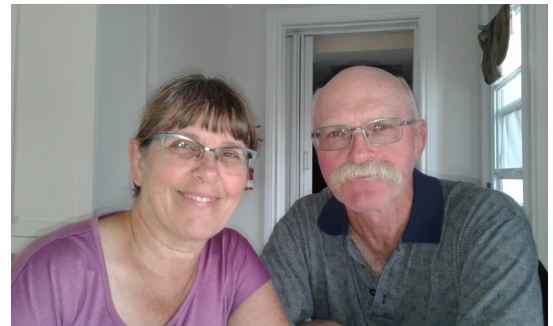
celebrations in Dunrobin.

Louise homeschooled their eight children through to high school. She was behind the creation of Rideau Valley Home Educators Association, a Christian non-profit, volunteer organization that supports Ottawa-area families and builds awareness about home-schooling. The organization was set up in 1986 and continues to help families across the region. Several other home-schooling associations have grown out of Rideau Valley. Louise is also a fixture in St. Thomas' annual fashion show.

When their children were young, Kevin and Louise were very involved in Sunday School and Youth Group at St. Thomas'. Kevin played music and Louise, along with several of the other ladies taught the children. With the Youth Group they went on several outings, including sleigh rides that included Christmas caroling, trips to the wave pool and visiting Seniors. The kids loved it. They were also involved in fundraising, running coffee houses and selling baked good, with the kids voting on which charity would get the funds.

Kevin and Louise's children are now grown, and the once-active Youth Group petered out as children of the families involved also grew up. Retirement and a change in pace may be somewhere down the road. But not yet. They are both excited about their two grandsons who just turned two years old this summer.

So, their journey continues. And their commitment to Christ, their family and community is steadfast. On a parting note they want to share a favourite verse found in Philippians 1:6, "Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."



A THEOLOGY OF THANKSGIVING

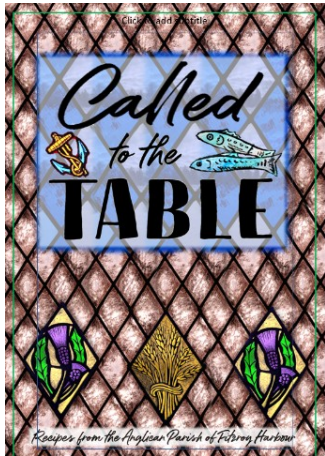
BY LUKE WAYNE, CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS AND RESEARCH MINISTRY

The Bible has a surprisingly large amount to say about giving thanks. Humble gratitude to God for all that He is and all that He has done is a resounding drumbeat of all of God's people throughout the scriptures. Exalting in God's mercies and the works of His hands is an essential aspect of biblical worship. Declaring God's goodness to others so that they too will honor God in thanksgiving is central to biblical proclamation. God's

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THE COOKBOOK IS ALMOST HERE

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE



It has been over a year in the making. This is to announce that "Called to the Table", the Fitzroy Parish cookbook of 2019 will soon be available!

The project began with a conversation at the parish picnic, July 2018. The food was fabulous, as always. Victoria Emerson and I wondered if the church had a cookbook for all these fantastic dishes people kept bringing to our various potlucks, suppers and picnics. Victoria, who is also very practical, thought it might also be a great fundraiser for the church. The excitement grew with every bite and the plan was launched. Sort of.

Things really did not get going until later that fall, when we started collecting recipes. The

project Creative Director and resident artist Bethany Braun was brought on board. Yes, the cover is her gorgeous design!



Victoria took on the role of Executive Director finding a terrific platform to publish. She paused only to give birth. I type, sort of, and helped with inputting the recipes. Fortunately, Victoria is also a terrific proofreader.

Along the way, Sherry Wiedman shared a fantastic gem, the 1966 cookbook entitled, *Favourite Recipes of St. Thomas' Talent Guild*. People involved included Karen Wilson, Margaret Needham and Greta Vance to name just a few. Sherry recommended the recipe "Shipwreck" and I can't wait to try it! We also learned that St. George's was among the several churches across several denominations that pulled together the 2003 cookbook *Share the Harvest*. Jessie Beaudoin and Amy Newell were among the people working on that project.

The compilation of the new

cookbook has taken place during interesting times. We have a new parishioner, Wee Nora



Emerson, who was born in the middle of it, a tornado blew through, there was that brutal winter, the floods came and went again, throughout everyone continued with their day jobs, laundry, dishes, meals to cook, houses to clean and a Weston to chase. Then there was always more laundry.

Cookbooks are a reflection of the people who create them. *Called to the Table* reflects the hospitality, love and generosity of the people of St. George's and St. Thomas'. Thank you so much for contributing your special recipes. A special thanks goes to Pat Weir and Sherry Wiedman for providing the history of St. George's and St. Thomas', and to Father John for going along with the plan! Everyone has made *Called to the Table* a delight to work on. I hope you enjoy your cookbook!



We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is good, because it is good; if bad, because it works in us patience, humility, contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country.

C. S. Lewis

More Summer Fun



What a Summer it was !!

Submitted by Lorraine Madore

Just yesterday we were basking in the warm summer sun, hanging out with friends, hitting the beach. Remember the corn roast? The Coffee Hours? The Fitzroy Parish kiosk at the market? Here are just a few pictures to remind you of the wonderful summer it was. If you have any pictures you would like to share in the next newsletter, please send them to Cathy at the parish office.



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If you know
of or have
any pictures
of events

that you would like to have
included in the next newslet-
ter please send them to Cathy
or Lorraine



Let your **roots** go down into
Christ, and let your lives be
built on Him. Then your faith
will grow strong in the truth
you were taught, and **you will
overflow with thankfulness.**

Colossians 2:7

The Parish of Fitzroy Harbour is a community inspired and strengthened by the Holy Spirit guided through spiritual discernment, to Support, Share and Serve in the World



St. George's and St. Thomas' are strong churches, beautifully warm sanctuaries brimming with history, love and devotion. The sacred religious traditions are carried out by Father John Stopa. The dedicated congregations, actively keep the church-going practices alive.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come into his presence with singing. Know that the LORD is God. It is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him, bless his name.

Psalm 100: 1-4

A THEOLOGY OF THANKSGIVING CONT'D

BY LUKE WAYNE, CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS AND RESEARCH MINISTRY

wonders and grace are abundant, and He rightly desires that the nations be thankful in their hearts and praise Him with their mouths. We have much to be thankful for, and God is worthy of our ultimate gratitude in all things. The Christian ought to be a thankful person.

God, in Christ Jesus, makes our hearts new and calls us by faith to a better way. Paul writes to the Philippians:

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God," (Philippians 4:4-6)

And likewise to the Thessalonians:

"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus," (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

God has graciously redeemed a sinful and ungrateful people and made us His own, and He calls on us to humbly be thankful to Him. Paul instructed the Ephesians:

"There must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks," (Ephesians 5:4)

And went on to tell them that they ought to be:
"always giving thanks for all

things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father," (Ephesians 5:20)

The Author of the Hebrews similarly declares:

"Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name," (Hebrews 13:15)

"Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe,"

(Hebrews 12:28)

<https://carm.org/theology-of-thanksgiving>

PRAYER

SUBMITTED BY FATHER JOHN STOPA

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give an preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labour to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.