

# THE GOOD NEWS

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"Two sounds of autumn are unmistakable...the hurrying rustle of crisp leaves blown along the street...by a gusty wind, and the gabble of a flock of migrating geese."

Hal Borland

## IF GOD EXISTS – REALLY TRULY EXISTS – WHY ARE THERE BEDBUGS?

SUBMITTED BY FATHER JOHN STOPA

### "this article might make you squeamish!"

I have to admit that lately, my TV viewing has mainly been via YouTube.com. If you're not familiar with YouTube, it is a website where people can post video clips – of varying lengths – on the site for other people to watch, and if the poster so desires people can make comments about what has been uploaded. And, lots of people make comments about lots of posted videos. Statistically, every minute 500 videos get posted onto YouTube... extrapolate the math on that one if you want.

The reason I'm sharing this is that I came across a series of videos by an ex-believer. This person had, in their current stage of early adulthood, grown disillusioned with the faith. Granted, this person was a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses, which are rigid in their interpretation of the Bible. But, this person became an Atheist. One of the videos that was posted was of proofs for the non-existence of God. As one piece of evidence, the bedbug was placed into evidence. How could a loving, all-knowing God allow for the existence of the bedbug, which causes such irritation? (A corollary question, I guess, would be why would Noah allow bedbugs on the Ark?)

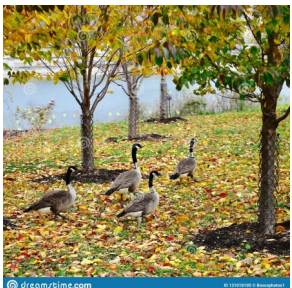
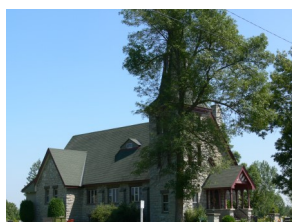
The reality is that with some research, we can learn that bedbugs were all but eradicated by 1950, but for some unknown reason made a comeback in the 1990's. These bugs serve as spider food.

The problem is they like to lie in wait until we're sleeping, and then come and steal our blood – which is their food. With the intensification of population centers (i.e. cities), bedbugs became more common and more apparent. However, products were created – sprays and such, insecticides, which would kill them. These insecticides were too effective – they were lethal on other life forms, and were eventually banned. Currently, the fight is on with this parasite that has entered into the human world more pervasively than ever.

What is it that parents tell their kids as they kiss them good night: "Good night, sleep tight, and ... don't let the bed bugs bite(!)".

But where is God in all this? We profess God is all-knowing (omniscient) and all-powerful (omnipotent). We also believe God to be loving. There is one more component we must acknowledge: we don't profess it, but we believe it to be true... free will. God has given us free will, and just assuredly, God has given all creation free will. By free will, I mean the ability and freedom to choose, an independence of thought and action. God cares about the free will of things so much, that we may give-and-take, that we freely be who we are called to be (or think we are called to be), that all creation is free – to act according to its being and purpose, recognizing that there is in free will the reality of purpose, growth, change, and evolution. Even the bedbug has that free will to act according to its God-given purpose.

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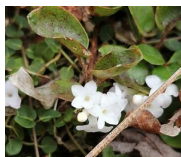


Bittersweet October. The mellow, messy, leaf-kicking, perfect pause between the opposing miseries of summer and winter.

Carol Bishop Hipps



*The year is a book, isn't it, Marilla? Spring's pages are written in Mayflowers and violets,*



*summer's in roses,*



*autumn's in red maple leaves,*



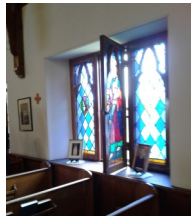
*and winter in holly and evergreens.*



Anne Shirley in  
Anne of Green Gables  
by Lucy Maud Montgomery

## WELCOME BACK

### Welcome back to in-person church services



For the past year and a half, the two churches that make up Fitzroy Parish have met each Sunday through Zoom. It has been an opportunity for us all to gather one group and get to know each other a little more. We've been in each other's homes, virtually, met each other's pets and families. Unfortunately, not everyone has been able to take part and we have missed seeing a lot of people. As Ontario begins to open more, the church has



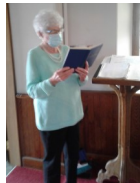
also been moving back to gathering in-person. On September 12, 2021,

Fitzroy Parish's first in-person service in several months was held at St. Thomas'.



Currently, both St. George's and St. Thomas are meeting in-person at 9 am and 11 am respectively. St. George's service is also available online for those who wish to continue taking part in that way.

At that first church service, the people of Fitzroy Parish were delighted to gather in person once again. Here are some comments, along with photos of a few happy smiles, visible above the masks.

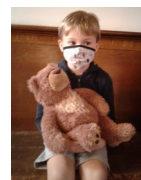


**Sherry:** I'm so excited, I'm really happy to see everyone here today

Submitted by Lorraine Madore

**Brian:** I'm delighted. It's been a long time

**Marcella:** It's good to be back. Online you don't get the sense of community.



My son Thomas was excited to come too.

**Barb:** I'm so happy, really grateful.

**Carmen:** It's great!

**Allan:** The protocols work. It's good to see people again.  
**Audrey:** Very, very nice to be back

**Tom:** It's fantastic, I'm really happy.

**Ann:** It's hard to keep together if we can't get together.

**Roslyn:** It was great. The service felt cohesive. It is hard to coordinate online. We should be praying together.

## WHY ARE THERE BED BUGS? (CONT'D)

SUBMITTED BY FATHER JOHN STOPA

Like humans, animals have something akin to free will, they have freedom of will – they can choose to do or not within the constraints of being animals. (Going off on a tangent for a moment, this reminds me of the old joke of the pastor who decided to skip church one Sunday to take a walk in the woods. Suddenly, he was being stalked by a big bear. The bear caught the pastor in his mouth. Quickly, the pastor nervously prayed: "Lord, make this bear a Christian bear!")

The bear stopped, bowed down, made the sign of the cross and said: "Bless us, O Lord, and

these thy gifts which we are about to receive, from thy bounty through Christ our Lord..."

In 'Googling' "Do insects have free will?", I've just found out the fruit flies do... so why not bedbugs too?

This stress on free will is important. God can only be God if we humans surrender our wills to God and do as God asks. Bedbugs are created for a purpose that is mysterious to us – yes, they are spider food. Somehow over time, their behaviour was such that they adapted themselves

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## BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of animals, is held on October 4 each year. On Saturday, October 2, at St. Thomas', Father John officiated over the blessing of Fitzroy Parish's animals. The respective families of three dogs and a cat met in person. Prayers were also extended to two other cats, two birds and a turtle.



When you reap your harvest in your field and have forgotten a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be for the alien, for the orphan, and for the widow, in order that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hands.

Deuteronomy 24 :19



## WHO WAS ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

EXCERPTS FROM LEARNRELIGIOUS.COM



Born Francesco (or Giovanni) di Pietro de Bernardone, 1811 in Assisi, Italy. His family was wealthy and he wanted to be a knight. He was captured in a war with a neighbouring province and ransom, and turned from

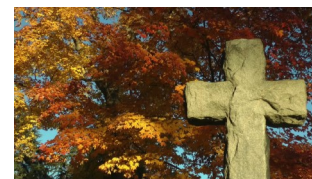
partying. He felt that God wanted him to help the poor, to preach the Gospel to those in need and rebuild the Church. To raise funds he sold some of the textiles from his father's business and a horse. His father took him to the bishop who told Francis to return his father's money. Francis took off his clothes and gave them and the money to his father, exclaiming that God was now his father.

The bishop gave Francis a rough tunic and Francis began his work inspiring other young men to leave behind

their possessions and join him. He is credited with miracles for people including turning three robbers from their life of crime to joining his new order. Miracles for animals taming a wolf that was attacking others. He saw animals as his brothers and sisters, praying God would work through them. Birds sometimes gathered when he spoke and listened to him. He also arranged the first live Nativity scene. He is known as the patron saint of animals and the environment, and the founder of the Franciscan Order.

In confession occurs the breakthrough of the Cross, [...] In the deep mental and physical pain of humiliation before a brother—which means, before God—we experience the Cross of Jesus as our rescue and salvation. The old man dies, but it is God who has conquered him. Now we share in the resurrection of Christ and eternal life.

Dietrich Bonhoeffer



## GARDENING AT ST. THOMAS'

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

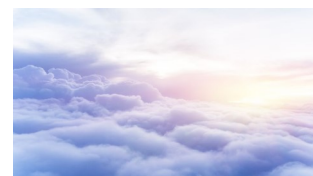
St. Thomas' garden is looking spruced up this fall, thanks to the efforts and green thumb of Lisa Probst with the help of Lorraine, Sarah and Kirk Madore. The mums are giving a last salute to the season and a few perennials have been planted in the hope they will sprout come spring.

Lisa's work is just beginning. Check back after winter to see her next move.



If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world

C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity



Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.



Spring



Summer

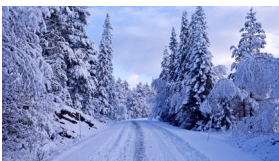
There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.

God will bring to judgement  
Both the righteous and the wicked,  
For there will be a time for every activity,  
A time for every deed.

Ecclesiastes 3:1, 17



Autumn



Winter

## TOM & AUDREY JONES

### TRUSTED MEMBERS OF FITZROY HARBOUR AND ST. GEORGE'S

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

Tom and Audrey Jones' ties to Fitzroy Harbour date back to before they were born. In 1952, Audrey's parents built a cottage on Willola Beach, a small place that was to become a constant in her family's life. Her father worked for the federal department of External Affairs and her mother, as Audrey describes her, had "itchy feet". As a result, Audrey, her parents and two sisters moved often and lived in numerous places. Throughout, Audrey was raised in the United Presbyterian Church. When her parents retired, they expanded their cottage, moved in and became regular attendees at St. Andrew's in Fitzroy Harbour.

Tom, who hails from the United Kingdom, was raised in a family that attended St. Paulinus Church in the Church of England's Diocese of Rochester. He loved the 880-year-old church and, in his teens, he decided that he wanted more and chose to take confirmation classes. He recalls when he took his first communion at the confirmation ceremony, he experienced warm feelings of happiness and goodness.

In the summer of 1975, while attending college in the United States, Audrey got a job as a camp counsellor in Maryland. As fate would have it, a young phys-

ed. student from the UK, Tom Jones, was working at a nearby camp. They met in a special moment both describe as "love at first sight." Two years later, after a long-distance letter-writing romance, they were married. They moved to England, where Tom taught and Audrey worked in administration.

After their first son Russell was born in 1981, Audrey felt it was time to go back to Canada. So they immigrated. Tom began work with Rugby Canada and the young couple chose Ottawa as their home. Some 36 years ago they decided to settle in Kanata, which remains their base. While regularly visiting Audrey's parents in Fitzroy Harbour, Tom soon came to know the neighbourhood.

They spied a lovely old stone church – one which somehow reminded Tom of the ancient Norman church of his childhood – and one Sunday morning in November 1983, Tom and Audrey attended St. George's. They were welcomed at the door by Amy Newell who made them feel completely at home. "The rest," as Tom says, "Is history."

What has kept them there for 38 years is the feeling that it is the right place to be. The people of the church have become family. Over the years Tom and Audrey

have been involved in fellowship and worked at outreach events. Today they continue to laugh and share with their friends at St. George's and during the pandemic joined online services and were very happy to make new friends at St. Thomas'. Tom has twice been a warden and remains active in the virtual choir as he was in Morley's in-person choir. Audrey holds to her strong beliefs in a faithful and spiritual journey.

As for the cottage, it belongs to the family and remains in Tom and Audrey's care, solidifying their foothold in Fitzroy. They are often there, working alongside their neighbours as they did through the floods, remaining trusted members of the community and church. As Tom explains, "We have been able to contribute to the life of the church for 38 years. It would be lovely if that could continue."



## THE INDIGENOUS ANGLICAN CHURCH

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

September 30, 2021 marked the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation in Canada. It is a day set aside to honour First Nations, Inuit and Metis survivors of the residential school system, and ensures a public commemoration of this tragic part of Canada's history.

Where is the Anglican Church in this? According to the Anglican.ca website, in 1969, the church ended a century of running residential schools and committed to a new relationship with Indigenous peoples. Since 1989 14 Indigenous bishops have been elected. In 1993, Indigenous

Anglicans accepted from the Primate, Archbishop Michael Peers, an apology from the church for the residential school system.

In March 2003, the leaders of the Anglican Church and federal official ratified an agreement that

(cont'd page 5)



# I LOVE AUTUMN

BY BETTY CASTLEBERRY (SOURCE : I LOVE AUTUMN FAITHWRITERS )

I love autumn. The dance of a brisk fall breeze signals colder days ahead, and maple trees punctuate the landscape with bright tartan colors. Flower beds sing with a chorus of vividly colored pansies and mums. Roadside stands beckon travelers to stop and fill rustic wooden baskets with firm red apples. Front porches are adorned with scarecrows and hay bales. Chatter at the local grocery stores often turns to which team will win the Friday night football game, or when the first freeze will occur.

Our nation's countryside is sprinkled with autumn celebrations. They may be called fall festivals, harvest festivals, or something entirely different, but their common thread is to applaud the autumn season. I dare anyone to leave one of these wonderful gatherings without being wooed by a sweet funnel cake, or a spicy homemade candle.

The animals know when it is autumn. My hummingbird feeder, a place in spring and summer for the tiny winged ones to congregate, is now abandoned. At the same time, crows are abundant. They convene on high wires and in tree tops, greeting the day with a cacophony of calls. Other creatures tend to the business of preparing for winter. Sometimes, I think they are wiser than we are. They don't neglect their chores, but go about them with gusto, gathering and storing and hiding.

Autumn is the perfect season for making pumpkin pie. There is nothing like the aroma of cinnamon and ginger to make a kitchen extra cozy. Sharing a piece of warm pumpkin pie with a loved one is one of life's vastly underrated pleasures.

Some people do not like to see autumn arrive. They view it as an end to lazy summer days, instead of heralding in a new season filled with brilliant color. As I enter the autumn of my life, I realize how blessed I am. My life is dotted with the rich hues of children and grandchildren. I no longer receive a pay check, but I am quite wealthy. Watching a toddler, head bowed in prayer, is the most wonderful harvest anyone could reap.

The cooler autumn days do not bother me. I welcome them, knowing soon it will be winter, and the winter of my life will soon arrive as well. I'm not afraid. If it's as wonderful as my autumn, I'm going to have a ball.

# THE INDIGENOUS ANGLICAN CHURCH

(CONT'D)

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

detailed the payment of compensation to victims with valid claims of sexual and physical abuse at Anglican-run residential schools. The All-Parties Settlement Agreement came in 2005.

Also in 2005, the Rt. Rev

Mark MacDonald was called to be the first National Indigenous Anglican Bishop. At the General Synod in 2010, a new church law was approved that firmly established a self-determining national indigenous ministry within the

church. In 2015, there was agreement to move forward with self-determination and a focus group was established to undertake related tasks. Much has taken place since then.

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# FOOD SUPPORT

The West Carleton Food Access Centre is available if you are experiencing food insecurity. **An appointment is required.** Call 613-832-5685 or email [wcfoodaid@gmail.com](mailto:wcfoodaid@gmail.com) and you will be contacted back. There is also a [Facebook Page](#) for more information or if you would also like to donate. Please call if you would like to donate, do not leave items at the door.



The Parish Cookbook  
"Called to the TABLE"

Is available for \$15.00

Contact the Office at 613-623-3882,

Victoria Emerson or  
Lorraine Madore if you are  
interested in  
purchasing a copy.

# RECONCILE TO GOD

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old one has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation.

2 Corinthians 5: 17-18



We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: reconcile to God

2 Corinthians 5: 20

Parish of Fitzroy Harbour

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twitter feed  
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facebook.com/stthomaswoodlawn  
facebook.com/stgeorgesfitzroyharbour



If you know  
of or have  
any pic-  
tures of  
events that

you would like to have includ-  
ed in the next newsletter  
please send them to Cathy or  
Lorraine at church office

613 623 3882



Prayer Requests

Do you have a special prayer  
request, or a concern that  
needs prayer support? Click  
[here](#) or call the Parish Office  
at 613-623-3882

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.*

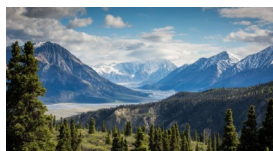
## THE INDIGENOUS ANGLICAN CHURCH

(CONT'D)

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

The Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples and other Indigenous leaders are committed to working to becoming a fully Indigenous Church within the Anglican Church of Canada.

The National Day for Truth and Reconciliation is a statutory holiday for employees in the federal government and federally regulated workplaces in Canada on September 30th.



The day is intended to educate and remind Canadians about the history of residential schools, honour the victims and celebrate the survivors.

## WHY ARE THERE BEDBUGS? (CONT'D)

to survive in a certain way.

It is the same thing with the planet we inhabit, which behaves in certain ways. We are learning that our stewardship of the planet is such that if we are not careful, something like climate change will very definitely have an impact on the natural cycle of the earthly order. As the earth's temperature rises, so too does the rate of hurricanes, tornadoes, and other adverse weather conditions.

Lastly, to me it seems odd to say

that bedbugs would be evidence that God doesn't exist. They are parasites, yes. But they are also a food source in the grand scheme of things. In the end, by their very being – like all living, breathing things, in their own way, they praise God... just as in a far greater way, in our own way, we do too.

Respectfully Submitted.

Fr John Stopa+

## A FALL PRAYER

Submitted by Father John Stopa



O Lord, in all ways, help me to make the choices in my life that affirm life, and love, and heart. Do not let me be moved by fear, but help me make those decisions that best collaborate with the brilliant, generous light of your Holy Spirit, without whom I would surely be less. AMEN.