



## Anglican Church of Canada

Rector: The Rev. Canon Lance Smith

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# PARISH NEWS

## September, 2023

**A New Season is upon us.**

**Welcome Back!**

The fall season always brings an assortment of activities and events in the life of our Parish. There will be many opportunities for re-connecting with old friends and welcoming new ones.

Have you considered where your time and talents can be offered in our worship and community life? Call the church office for the name of the contact for each of the following groups.

The Choir:

Can you read music, love to sing or at least, carry a tune? If so, the choir, which leads the music during our Sunday 10:30 am liturgy has a robe with your name on it. Music is supplied, there is no cost for you. Choir practice is held on Thursday evening.

The Chancel Guild:

This group consists of smaller groups of two or three men and women who clean brass & silver, set the altar for services, arrange the flowers, and seasonal

decorations. A rotating schedule means that you are on duty for two weeks in a row, approximately every three months.

The St. Katherine's Group (the ladies of the parish) and The Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen (the men of the parish) have projects that they do individually and some which are done jointly. It seems that food is almost always included when they gather! When fund raising events are sponsored, the rewards are put to good use in capital building projects or local, national and international outreach.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - this group typically meets on the first Saturday of each month to knit prayer shawls

for distribution to people needing to be wrapped in the healing prayers of our community.

Volunteers are also required for:

Greeting at the Door

before services;

Reading the Scriptures

during Sunday and/or Wednesday services;

Supplying cookies and/or light snacks for the coffee hour

which follows the 10:30 pm service on Sunday.

Again, please reach out to the church office (519-256-4341) and leave your name for the proper contact person.

## **Community Outreach at Canterbury College**

**The Anglican College on the University of Windsor campus is looking for a few more people to join the volunteers who prepare a weekly community meal for the students in residence.**

**Please contact Cynthia Connell at 519-981-9603 or [cconnell@uwindsor.ca](mailto:cconnell@uwindsor.ca) for more information.**

# *A message from the Rector*

Dear friends,

In his book, “Finding God in Unexpected Places,” Philip Yancey shares a recollection. He writes, “I read somewhere that in the early days of the Alaska Highway, tractor-trailer trucks would make deep ruts in the gravel as they carried construction equipment to boomtowns up north. Someone posted this sign at the beginning of the road: CHOOSE YOUR RUT CAREFULLY, YOU’LL BE IN IT FOR THE NEXT 200 MILES.



I think that sign and its message is both humorous and cautionary. As we head into the Fall and take up once again the usual routines that make up the ebb and flow of our daily lives, we have choices to make. We’re setting up new routines (which in fact may not be new at all) and in doing so, we are making statements about what we value and prioritize as most important in our lives.

This September, we’re choosing and establishing the “ruts” that we’ll be in for the rest of the year. We would do well to take the advice of that sign and choose carefully. Amidst all the demands and interests vying for your time and attention this Fall, remember to make space for God. Choose the “rut” that leads to holiness. It’s a choice you’ll never regret. Setting aside the time to pray, read scripture and join in worship will strengthen you to be the person God created you to be. It is in growing into that image of the divine, the image in which we were created, that we will find meaning and purpose for our lives. As we leap into this new season of faith, I look forward to travelling along the “rut of holiness” with you all. *Lance +*

## **A warm Ascension ‘Welcome’ to The Rev. Richard Mark Wilton**



Mark will be joining us for training in Parish Ministry this fall.

*I typically go by Mark in most of my daily interactions with people. I am a 58 year old cradle Anglican. Throughout my entire life I have felt a comfort in my spiritual life and have been involved in the life of all the church congregations to which I have been a member. I felt a call to ministry some time ago but, I was in denial that it was genuine in nature. My work at the Ford Motor Company*

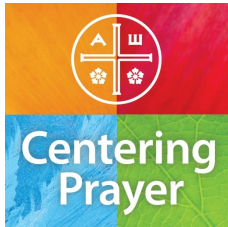
*and in the tool and die trade brought to me by an apprenticeship and a college education. While in college I applied myself as an adult student and was rewarded with the following awards, Academic Honour Roll, President’s List, and Faculty Academic Award. All of these awards have given me the ability to have a very rewarding career in the trades.*

*Not having a BA had always been a block to my calling . As educational opportunities opened up locally, I began taking courses in the lay reader program, the licentiate in theology, and Priest for Specialized Ministry.*

*During my interview with Bishop Todd to become a postulant for Ordination he asked me about my educational aspirations: “Do you plan on getting your M.Div?” My response was an emphatic ‘yes’, but I wouldn’t be able to commit to that until I retired from my career as a tool designer.*

*The bishop accepted me as a postulant for ordination and since then I have completed the LTh., attended*





*“But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father, who sees in secret, will reward you.” Matt.6:6*

The above text, from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount forms the origin of Centering Prayer.

The method of Centering Prayer was developed in the second and third centuries of the Christian era, by the monks and nuns in the north African desert.

The practice became a very prevalent and well known way of approaching the Divine. During the turmoil of the Reformation, the practice was nearly lost, although, still a big part of life in monasteries and other religious communities. The past 50 years have seen a revival or re-emergence of interest, and now the practice is growing outside of religious communities and across a broader non-denominational line.

The method of Centering Prayer is very simple to practice. We begin with a reading from Scripture or a brief reflection from a Christian spiritual writer.

Before the session we choose a word as a symbol of our intention to consent to God’s presence and action within us. Examples such as: God Jesus Mary, Love Listen, Peace Mercy, Love, Abba, Hope. After the approximate 20 minute session ends, people are free to share.

At Ascension, the group meets once a week on Tuesday afternoon. The hope is that this practice becomes part of our individual daily prayer practice, developing a daily conversation with the Divine, or in other words to move in harmony with the Spirit.

Our Centering Prayer group at Ascension has been going on for a number of years and has a devoted following— a testament to the influence it has on their conversation with their good companion.

Deacon Frederick

# Annual Christmas Bazaar

## Saturday, November 18th



### What we need:

Household items and small furniture in good working condition for the Rummage Sale:

Books—new and used; Jewelry;

Home made Baked Goods, Jams, Jellies, Pickles, and Candies:

Sandwiches and squares for the tea room;

Collectables such as brass, crystal, fine china, and new Re-gift items for the Variety Booth

Knitted Items: hats, scarves, mittens, baby sets, blankets, dishclothes

Sewing Table: Aprons, placemats, doll clothes, cloth tote bags

### Volunteers for tasks required:

Set up help in the days before

Kitchen Prep (Friday and Saturday)

Sales help at the individual booths and servers for the kitchen and tea room

Greeters at the door

Pack-up, tear down at the end of the day

For more information and to volunteer, contact Gillian Matthewman at (519) 819-4341 or [gillianmatthewman@gmail.com](mailto:gillianmatthewman@gmail.com)

## Mark your Calendar

### Sunday, September 10th

Join us for lunch following the 10:30am service



### Tuesday, September 12th, 2:00 pm

Centering Prayer Group meets

### Sunday, September 17th

The Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen and the St. Katherine's Group will hold their breakfast meetings at 9:15 am, between the two morning services

### Saturday, September 30th, 9:00 am

Chanel Guild will be decorating for Harvest

### Sunday, October 1st thru Sunday, October 8th

Harvest/Thanksgiving Celebration

Donations of fruits, vegetables and flowers for the decoration of the church can be dropped off on Wednesday and Thursday mornings ( Sept 27, 28th before noon) or Saturday morning (Sept. 30th before 9:30am)

### Sunday, November 5th

Remembrance Sunday with guests from the Royal Canadian Naval Association taking part in our 10:30 am service

### Saturday, November 18th 9:00am —2:00pm

Annual Parish Bazaar