

### Love Thy Neighbour?

Growing up as a child – as I did – moving every two to four years, I never really got to know my neighbours. I never spent enough time anywhere to forge deep bonds with neighbourhood kids until I was in the 7th grade. The idea of the neighbourliness, or being a good neighbour, or bonds between the neighbours, was foreign to me. And so when, as a child, I first heard in church that the second greatest commandment was to “love your neighbour,” I was a little perplexed and at a loss as to what that might entail.



I think sometimes as a Church – both locally and globally – we can be just as perplexed about who our neighbours are, and how it is to love them as Jesus commanded. After all, Jesus says this is the second greatest commandment; this is the commandment which follows directly from the first: loving God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. And so as a Church it seems like this is something we should get right, something we should be striving to live out in our walk as the Body of Christ.

Culturally being a good neighbour means being nice, saying hello, perhaps doing odd jobs for your neighbours – but unfortunately as a Church that just does not cut it. Jesus doesn't ask us to be nice to people, and he doesn't ask us to be considerate or helpful. No, he asks us to love our neighbours; he asks us to be with our neighbours. In fact, while worshipping and enjoying God is the end and purpose of the Church, our worship is not true, complete worship unless we love our neighbours; our worship is not true and complete unless we

are with our neighbours and our neighbours are with us.

And so it is time at Grace Church, that we assess what it means to be a good neighbour at the intersection of Kennedy and Eglinton. First and foremost, who are our neighbours? Who are the neighbours that Christ calls us to love and be amongst? To start with, we worship in the midst of the poor, in the midst of those who are isolated, in the midst of those who lack access to good and healthy food, in the midst of refugees and new immigrants to this country. These are our neighbours, these are the people who Christ calls us to love, to be with and ultimately to worship and encounter God amidst.

Loving and being with our neighbour is more than just giving money or resources to support programmes which help – though that is important; it is about actually being with them, finding ways to encounter them, serve them, learn from them, encounter Jesus in them, and ultimately to come to a place where there are no distinctions between us and them: where we can worship with them and they with us. All that we have done up to this point –

(continued)

1	Love Thy Neighbour?
2	Weekly Services * Our Leadership * This is Your Newsletter * A Hymn for Thanksgiving
3	Stewardship? A Conversation * Vacation Bible School: Outback Rock
4	Summer Community BBQs * Young Adults at Grace * First Priority Prayer Service * Scouting at Grace Church
5	Christmas in Popular Song * Chancel Guild



our Community Lunch, the Good Food Box, the English Conversation, and more – have been the baby steps of the Body of Christ here at Grace Church, but now it is time to learn to walk; it is our time to learn what it means to love and be with our neighbours here south of Kennedy and Eglinton and to act out of that love. It is time for each us to take stock of how we follow Jesus' command to "Love thy neighbour;" it is time for each of us to find ways that we can live out that command more faithfully so that we can enrich our common life and worship.

Yours in Christ,  
*Rev. Graham*

## Weekly Services

Sunday	8:45 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	10:30 a.m.	Sung Eucharist
	7:00 p.m.	First Priority Prayer Service (1st of the month)
Wednesday	10:15 a.m.	Said Eucharist

## Our Leadership

### Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Graham McCaffrey

### Associate Priest

The Rev. Ronald Duncan

### Lay Pastor

Andrew Kaye

### Secretary

Doreen Brown

### Choir Director

Morris Ellington

### Children & Youth

Jonelle Douglas

### Churchwardens

Yvonne Erwin-Knox

Walter Snaith

### Deputy Churchwardens

Linda Painter

Ryan Ramsden

## This is Your Newsletter

We hope you will contribute to the articles. If you attend a conference or an event either inside or outside the parish, we hope you will tell us about it. Feel free to send photographs or clipart, and we will try to include them. Submissions can be sent to [communications@gracechurchscarborough.com](mailto:communications@gracechurchscarborough.com) (be sure to have "Newsletter" in the subject line).

The deadline for the next newsletter will be November 13.

## A Hymn for Thanksgiving

"Hear Us, Our Father"

Hymn #380 Anglican/Lutheran  
Text by Walter Henry  
Farquharson



Hear us, our father, as we pray  
for those who till the soil;  
grant us a sense of growing worth,  
give purpose to our toil.

The world has hungry people yet;  
our soils produce good grain.  
Lord, use our skills and practised arts  
to take away man's pain.

Our work, our knowledge, and our plans,  
we offer for your use;  
teach us to live in such a way  
this land knows no abuse.

Our heritage of fields and herds  
demands our thankful praise.  
Lord, bless our farming enterprise,  
the labour of our days.

Faithful with those who pioneered  
these fertile lands we till,  
we bless you, Father of mankind,  
whose purpose governs still.

**Editor's Note:** Lawrence Ritchey (1939-2006) composed the tune, "Lanigan," for this hymn. I played with Lawrence when I attend the Chapel at St. John's Anglican College at the University of Manitoba. – Craig

## Stewardship? A Conversation

Heavenly Father, creator of the universe that produced one of your gems, this awesome planet Earth with its constant continuing evolution, thank you for making man and woman a part of your plan. We were to enjoy and prosper, BUT you gave us a job. We were to be good stewards of our gift. I am afraid we have not done too well there.



I may be labelled an anti-garbage fiend. I admit the results of garbage scare me. It has been the cause of many disasters, a few of which I have encountered:

- The Keele Street dump filled in a green valley and in so doing polluted a heathy stream on which a water-related research station was situated (it had to be closed as workers became ill).
- During my years at the zoo, I saw dump trucks pile a mountain of garbage within sight of the Rouge River; shortly thereafter pipes appeared all around it to burn off the methane the garbage created.
- I have spent time on the Wabigon First Nations lands; their reliance on water and nature are obvious but we have polluted the water and interfered with the forest.
- I have stood on the shore of a Caribbean Island with ladies and their enamel bowls waiting for the local fishermen to bring in their catch, their families main source of protein. The catch was meagre. Even the sea is contaminated.

In more ways you have pricked my conscious. Right here at Grace Church we can very easily reduce our garbage to a minimum having been given a recycling opportunity. Help us to exercise that plan at work as a small bit of our stewardship in appreciation of this great earth we inhabit.

We were trying. Each month we recycled 2 big blue bins and 4 green bins so that garbage would be very little. Goodness, that is 24 blue bins and 48 greens a year.

Ever thankful of your love and energy. Amen.

*Margaret Crossman*

## Vacation Bible School: Outback Rock



From August 26-29, Grace Church opened its doors to 14 children, 2 of which were members of Grace, and the rest either had a connection to Grace or were from the community with no previous connection. The theme was "God is with us" (Matthew 28:20).

As part of the Bible adventures, we participated in the stories of Joseph and his coat of many colours, and Joshua and knocking down the wall of Jericho, as well as the life of Jesus. As a craft, we made "wash-a-roos," which are kangaroos made out of washcloths, and they have a bar of soap in their "pouch." These wash-a-roos will be given to an Out-of-the-Cold programme to be given to their participants. Each wash-a-roo comes with a personalised tag, letting the person know that it was made with care for use and is a reminder that God is always with the recipient. The outback games demonstrated that God is on our team, and that we can accomplish much by working together. We also had time to sing together, and for snack and other crafts.

It was a real pleasure and honour to have the chance to meet and work with this amazing group of children. I was fortunate that I was able to take part of my vacation to be present for the entire Bible School. We needed several more staff members, however, to share in the fun and the work required for a successful Bible School. Hopefully more people will be staff members next year.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to Jonelle Douglas for her commitment and dedication to this programme to ensure its accomplishment. It was an enriching and enjoyment time for the children and the staff.

*Craig Gustafson*

## Summer Community BBQs

For the second consecutive summer, members of Grace Church have gathered on Wednesdays around lunchtime to offer free hot dogs and a cold drink to any passerby out on our front steps. For 15 of 18 weeks from June 1 to September 21, we had an opportunity to meet and serve members of the community enjoying conversations and laughs, and the chance to really get to know some of our neighbours. Over the summer we gave away on average 60-80 hot dogs and cold drinks, and frequently we encountered the same people week-in and week-out allowing us to begin to get to know some of our neighbours around the church. We had a wonderful group of parish members who came out every week to ensure that this ministry would go one without a hitch! Thank you very much!



## Young Adults Group at Grace

For more information about our group and upcoming events, please speak to Jonelle Douglas, Brian Manning, Viv Snead, or Craig Gustafson.

**Ripley's Aquarium:** Friday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m.

**Retreat at SSJD:** November 18-19 at 233 Cummer Avenue. Activities will include movie ("The War Room"), Bible Study ("The Shepherd"), and games. More details will be coming soon and a registration form will be available soon. As we booked a limited number of spaces, please let us know that you would like to come so that we can book more spaces if needed.

**Christmas Potluck:** Sunday, December 11 following the 10:30 a.m. service.

## First Priority Prayer Service

Prayer is where we learn that we are loved by God, and learn to share that love with others. Prayer is a foundation of the Christian life and the starting point for all we do as a community. **On the first Sunday of each month**, we will begin the month by praying for the work of the church, and for the community in which we serve. We invite you to come and join in prayer.



## Scouting at Grace Church

A brand new Beaver Colony (age 5-7) has begun on Wednesday nights from 6:30 – 8:00, and a Cub Pack (age 8-10) has begun on Tuesday nights from 6:30 – 8:00.

What is Scouting, and what are Beavers and Cubs? Well, we are a Christian organisation started in 1907. We focus on age-appropriate games, crafts, music, and learning in order to teach children about teamwork, friendship, self-confidence, and respect.

If your children like to have fun, learn, and go on exciting adventures, then Scouting is for them! We are a team of experienced leaders who are passionate about children and fun within the Scouting programme. If you are interested in helping with the Beaver Colony or Cub Pack, or if your child would like to sign-up for either group, please contact Glenn Feltham at (416) 431-1751 or Caitlin Sweet at [talktotictac@hotmail.com](mailto:talktotictac@hotmail.com) for more information.

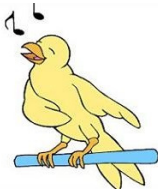
## **Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday, November 6.**

Please remember to set your clocks **BACK** one hour before you go to bed on Saturday.



## Christmas in Popular Song

Songwriters of popular music try to capture the meaning, joys, and sorrows of Christmas. Some songs are widely known, whereas others would only be familiar if you knew the singer/songwriter. In any case, you would not hear them sung in a church service. In preparation for the Christmas season last Advent, we listened to some of these songs and discussed what the writer was trying to express. There will be 2 opportunities this year to participate in similar discussions.



Along with Margaret, we will have a discussion about **the symbols of Christmas** and how they are portrayed in song. We will gather **following the Community Lunch on Saturday, December 10 at 2:30 p.m.**

Sisters Connie and Beryl came to our discussion last year, and as a result SSJD asked Craig to lead the annual Christmas retreat at the convent this year with this theme. The sessions will be similar to the workshop last year, but some different songs are being planned. If you are looking for something different to celebrate Christmas, you may want to consider coming to the Convent this year. For more information and to register, contact the Guesthouse at **guesthouse@ssjd.ca** or (416) 226-2201 ext. 305. The retreat fills up pretty quickly every year. Call today if you are interested.

*Margaret Crossman & Craig Gustafson*

## Chancel Guild

The Chancel Guild welcomes back Dorothy Barton as a team member. She will be joining Linda Painters' team and has already been active for the past year with our Nursing Home ministry, where we take Eucharist to three different nursing homes in our area – Fieldstone Commons, Kennedy Lodge, and Craiglee.

We are always ready to welcome new members who would like to serve at the Lord's table. This is a quiet (and I think rewarding) ministry.

October 9 is our Harvest Festival, coinciding this year with National Thanksgiving. If you are driving in the country and see some of the fancy grasses or bull rushes, take a moment to gather them and bring them to the church to help decorate. Some decorations will be placed in the church for the October 2 Parish Anniversary service. Donations for Harvest Thanksgiving are welcome and needed as usual. After the weekend all edible food is given to the Food Bank at St. Ninian's.

*Sylvia Slemmestad*