

Putting Faith in Food

What do you think about when you hear the word "food?" This question was one of the primary questions asked at the recent *Food, Faith, and Mission Conference* that I was able to attend this week, hosted in Montreal by the Presbyterian College. The conference sought to talk about food, food security, and our relationship to food in the context of our relationship to God and as part of our mission in the Church.



In our current culture, food is more often than not thought of as a commodity – something which we can buy, something which we can take, something which is ultimately for profit (whether that is financial profit or physical profit). The two primary speakers at the conference, Rachel Marie Stone – author of *Eat with Joy* and the editor of the *More with Less* cookbook, and Norman Wirzba – Professor of Theology, Ecology, and Agrarian Studies at Duke University and the author of *Food and Faith*, highlighted that we need to consider food as gift, as one of the ways that God expressed his love to us in Creation.

Rachel Marie Stone challenged us to view food and eating as sacramental – as a visible sign of invisible grace. Rachel highlighted the ways in which eating brings people together, breaks boundaries, and helps people to love one another. As a community centred on the Eucharist – the celebration of breaking bread and wine – eating together is at the heart of who we are as a Church, but our whole life needs to be shaped by the gift of God that we receive at the table.

Professor Wirzba challenged us to develop a richer and more Biblical food imagination – that we should begin our thoughts about

food with the assertion that it is "God's love made nutritious and delicious," in an effort to change our relationship with food to one of loving gift rather than one of consumption of a commodity. Professor Wirzba led us through thought exercises about the miracle that is soil or seeds, germinating to remind us of the amazing things that God has done in creation, which we often overlook when it comes to where our food comes from and how it is cultivated and produced.

Mixed in with the more theological discussions around food and faith, we were treated to three different practitioners in the realm of food: The Raw Carrot Ministry, A Rocha Canada, and St. Columba Presbyterian Montreal. Hearing stories of the way food ministries have been able to engage different communities and share the love of God to communities was a wonderful opportunity to frame the conversations we were having about food as inherently a gift of God and a sign of God's love.

The conference has reinforced for me Grace Church's focus on food ministry and food security as necessary and essential parts of our mission, perhaps over and above other priorities that we may have. The possibilities

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for sharing the love of God and engaging our community with the realm of food are limitless and I hope that we as a Church can expand our food imaginations to realise this potential.

Blessings,
Rev. Graham

Upcoming Events

Father's Day Breakfast

Saturday, June 17

Literary Night

Saturday, June 24

Family Picnic

July or August

Community BBQ

Saturday, July 22

International Day

September

Games Night with Pizza

Friday, September 8

Barbados Ex-Police Concert

Saturday, September 16 or 23

Young Adults at Grace

We will be planning events throughout the year. Please see the Sunday bulletin for dates and details.

Bus Trips

Pentanguishene

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat"

Saturday, August 12

Port Severn

Big Chute Colour Cruise

Saturday, September 30

Niagara Falls

Holiday Lights

Saturday, December 2

This is Your Newsletter

We hope you will contribute to the articles. If you have attended a conference or an event either inside or outside the parish, tell us about it. Tell us in what activities your group is engaged. Send us information about upcoming events. Feel free to send photographs or clipart, and we will try to include them. Submissions can be sent to communications@gracechurchscarborough.com (be sure to have "Newsletter" in the subject line).

The deadline for the next newsletter will be September 10.

Our Leadership

Incumbent

The Rev. Graham McCaffrey

Honorary Assistants

The Rev. Julie Golding-Page

The Rev. Steve Page

Lay Pastor

Andrew Kaye

Secretary

Doreen Brown

Choir Director

Morris Ellington

Children & Youth

Jonelle Douglas

Churchwardens

Nadia Murray

Ryan Ramsden

Deputy Churchwardens

Margaret Crossman

Jonelle Douglas

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 |

Prayer in the Bible

You probably know that prayer is an integral part of the Bible. Here is a challenge to test your knowledge. Who spoke the following words to God? For extra credit, where in the Bible would you find the passages, and what is the context of each prayer? Answers will be provided in the next edition of the newsletter.



Craig Gustafson

I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.

There is no Holy One like the Lord,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.

Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

O eternal God, you know what is secret and are aware of all things before they come to be; you know that these men have given false evidence against me. And now I am to die, though I have done none of the wicked things that they have charged against me!

I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

“Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?”

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

“Hear, and I will speak;
I will question you, and you declare to me.”

I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
but now my eye sees you;
therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.

And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?

What Are Seniors Worth?

Original Author Unknown

What are seniors worth?
We are worth a fortune!



Remember, old folks are worth a fortune – with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs! I have become a little older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life – frankly, I have become a frivolous old gal!

I am seeing five gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up, WILL POWER helps me out of bed. Then I go to see JOHN. Next, CHARLIE HORSE comes along and when he is here he takes a lot of my time and attention. When he leaves, ARTHUR RITIS shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day I am really tired and glad to go to bed with BEN GAY. What a life! Oh yes, I am also flirting with AL ZYMER.

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said that at my age, I should be thinking a lot about the hereafter. I told him, “Oh I do, all the time. No matter where I am, in the parlour, upstairs, in the kitchen or down in the basement, I ask myself – **Now, what am I here after?**”

Submitted by Margaret Crossman

What is This Thing Called Love?

What is love, I love you, I love chocolate? Webster's dictionary defines love as a strong affection for another arising out of kinship or personal ties, attraction based on sexual desire.



Wikipedia defines love as the emotion of strong affection and personal attachment; Love is a virtue representing all human kindness, compassion, and affection.

Love is one of the most common and often misused/misunderstood words in the English language. Love is of vital importance because I Corinthians 13:13 states, "and now faith, hope, and love abide; these three, the greatest of these is love"

I Corinthians 13:4 defines love as "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth."

The word love can refer to a variety of different feelings, states and attitudes ranging from generic pleasure to intense interpersonal attraction. What does it mean to say:

- I love that movie;
- I love my wife/I love my husband; or
- I love my child?

Love can refer to a variety of different feelings. Perhaps that is why the Greeks have 2 words for love depending on the type of love; Eros is possessive, sexual love and Agape is the unconditional, self-sacrificing love.

I Googled love and got 7,710,000,000 results; love is mentioned in the Bible 310 times in the King James Version and 538 in New Revised Standard Version. Love is mentioned 57 times in John's gospel and 22 times in Genesis. The command to love one another is mentioned 11 times in the Bible. In Luke's gospel, Jesus extends love to those who crucify him!

Frank Sinatra sang, "Love is a many splendored thing; it's the April rose that only grown in early spring; love is nature's way of giving a reason for living, the golden crown that makes a man a king; in the morning mist, 2 lovers kissed and the world stood still; then your fingers touched my silent heart and taught it to sing; Yes, true love is a many splendored thing."

One writer wrote, "Falling in love is the most splendid and exhilarating feeling in the entire world. Just to love and be loved is one of the greatest reasons on earth for living and for giving."

The premier publisher of romance novels, Harlequin, publishes 500 new titles per month in 25 languages in every major market around the world. In 2007, they sold 130 million books; 32% of adult mass market paperback sales are romances. Millions of us like to read romance novels where the guy gets the girl and they live happily ever after. Is it that we like the possibility of happy-ever-after for ourselves in a world of increasing divorce rates? What is it about love that has us so enthralled? Love can make us feel on top of the world or in the pits of hell.

We are all fascinated by love and romance; whether it is the story of rich girl falling for poor boy – the top grossing romance film is Titanic which grossed \$601 million and tells about the romance of a rich girl and a poor boy on the ill-fated Titanic, or it is the ill-fated story of Romeo and Juliet? I'm sure everyone is familiar with the story of Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare's most famous play; it is said that Shakespeare wrote 154 love sonnets. In Pretty Woman, Richard Gere, the millionaire, falls for Julia Roberts; we were all touched by the ending where the street girl gets the guy and they drive off to live happily ever after.

What if . . . the girl finds the love of God and she lives happily ever after? Or we find the love of God and we live happily ever after?

What does love mean in the Bible?

- In spite of Israel's disobedience and unfaithfulness, in Jeremiah 31:3 God

says, "I have loved you with an everlasting love"

- In I John 4:16, "God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God"
- John 3:16 tell us "For God so loved (agape) the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life"
- Matthew's Gospel says the very essence of the law and the prophets is to love God and love our neighbours
- We are told to love our neighbours as ourselves and to love our enemies, and most of all to love God
- We are called to love one another, by that we show our faith in God and that we are God's people.

How do you individually, and we collectively as a church (the body of Christ) reflect God's love? By caring for those in need; giving freely and generously; or by loving our neighbours?

As I sit writing this on Good Friday, I reflect of the love of a Father who suffered a painful death on the cross; he was willing to be flogged, spit upon and nailed to a cross all for love, love of his children, children who at times are disobedient, selfish, and sinful, yet Jesus loves us unconditionally. Jesus paid the ultimate price so that nothing can separate us from God's love.

It is Jennifer Lopez telling us that "Love don't cost a thing," or the Beatles singing that "All you need is love," or Paul Anka saying, "Love makes the world go round," or Meat Loaf saying "I would do anything for love." How many women's hearts flutter when Barry white sings "I can't get enough of your love" or the Bee Gees singing "How deep is your love?" Robert Frost said that to love is an irresistible desire to be irresistibly desirable. Karen Sunde (actor, writer, playwright, and screenwriter) said that to love is to receive a glimpse of heaven.

Writers tell us what love is; singers sing about love; the Bible tells us that God's love is unselfish and unconditional, but what does the word love mean to you? What is your interpretation of love? How do you reflect God's love?

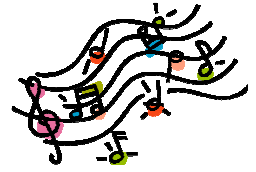
Nadia Murray

A Hymn for Creation

"When Long Before Time"

Hymn #307 Common Praise

Text by Peter Davison



When long before time and the worlds were begun,
when there was no earth and no sky and no sun,
and all was deep silence and night reigned supreme,
and even our Maker had only a dream . . .
. . . the silence was broken when God sang the Song,
and light pierced the darkness and rhythm began,
and with its first birth-cries creation was born,
and creaturely voices sang praise to the morn.

The sounds of the creatures were one with their Lord's,
their harmonies sweet and befitting the Word;
the Singer was pleased as the earth sang the Song;
the choir of the creatures re-echoed it long.
Though, down through the ages, the Song disappeared—
its harmonies broken and almost unheard—
the Singer comes to us to sing it again:
our God-is-with-us in the world now as then.

The Light has returned as it came once before,
the Song of the Lord is our own song once more;
so let us all sing with one heart and one voice
the Song of the Singer in whom we rejoice.
To you, God the Singer, our voices we raise;
to you, Song incarnate, we give all our praise;
to you, Holy Spirit, our life and our breath,
be glory forever, through life and through death.

Vacation Bible School



Come experience South America with us August 23 – 27!

We welcome all children between ages 4 to 12 to join us for Grace Church Scarborough's 2017 Vacation Bible School.

It's a time of music, craft, games, worship, and fun!

To register for our programme, visit our website www.gracechurchscarborough.com or call us at (416) 755-5316

We have started a fundraising campaign to fund the VBS Summer Camp, in order to compensate for a low charge for children in the neighbourhood. Our goal is \$1,000.

You can look at the thermometer in the Narthex and see how far the campaign has come every week.

So that you can receive a tax receipt, please place your donation in the plate with the initials "VBS" and your name or envelope number.

To make our campaign fun, we will see funny announcements when we reach \$250, \$500, \$750, and \$1,000.

A Little Biblical Humour

- Q. What do they call pastors in Germany?
A. German Shepherds

Christian Foundations



I began a course at Wycliffe last year; it is a pilot course lead by Judy Paulsen. I went to this course thinking that it would be a refresher, but from day 1 it has been a blessing, from the explanation of the Old and New Testament time, to the creeds, and to different denominations. We serve a God that has a divine plan for all of us and attending that course has shown me that not only is our God living, but is a living tribunal God, who created us to be a part of a community that is bigger than ourselves and our imagination.

Our lives have a purpose; we have a reason to be here and it is not just to reach our personal goals. It is to achieve God's purpose. I plan to lead this course next year and I pray that as we go through our Christian Foundations, we remember that we are here to serve, love, care, forgive, be strong, comfort, support, protect, and share God's love with all people.

In our worship on Sundays, we say the Creed and Lord's Prayer, and we listen to the Gospel; our practice is done to lift Jesus up and elevate him for the world to know he is Lord, King of kings, and he came to save us and he paid for our sins with his blood. We come for Communion as a family and we share in remembering his sacrifice; we share in a huge part of Christian Foundations. Our time together every Sunday is a great part of our Christian Foundations, but it is only a part our story. Our story continues into everything we do; it flows into who we are and what drives us to be Christians, followers of Jesus Christ, and doers of his word.

I hope that you join me on this journey next year as we walk our divine plan as a part of God's family.

Jonelle Douglas