

United in Christ? Importance of Partnerships in Ministry



Most of us would agree with the age old idiom “united we stand, divided we fall” or the biblical version “a house divided against itself will not stand” – living out the wisdom of these words is often a lot trickier than agreeing with them. Whether it is proliferation of hundreds and thousands of different denominations worldwide or even the lack of cooperation between churches of the same denomination in a local area, or even unhealthy competition and rivalries within a congregation – more often than not the Church fails to heed the wisdom of the scriptures when it comes to unity.

We might not think that this is a big deal, after all the church has been divided among different beliefs and practices from the very beginning, but it was a big deal for Jesus. In the gospel of John, Jesus spends a significant amount of time – right before his betrayal and crucifixion – entreating his disciples to be united together in love (for example, *John 17*). It is by this unity of love that people will know they are Jesus’ disciples (*John 13:35*). In many of Paul’s letters he exhorts his readers to unity and love for one another (for example *I Corinthians 1:10*; *Ephesians 4:11–13*; *Galatians 3:26–28*).

Clearly unity and common purpose in the church is important to God, and as such we need to strive as a community to foster unity and love as much as we can in our common life. In our life together as Grace Church it means celebrating everyone’s contributions, celebrating everyone’s achievements, and

joining together in the common and sometimes mundane work of ministry.

In our local community it means continuing to seek out partnerships with local organisations and with churches of other denominations to minister to needs of the people. To this end I am greatly encouraged by the upcoming possibility of partnering with the Church of the Nazarene to host two community lunches in our neighbourhood, and by our increasing ties to the staff of the Kennedy Women’s Shelter.

Finally, we also need to foster closer ties to our sister Anglican Churches here in Scarborough. We need to get to know them, to pray for them, and to share resources with them. We are not in competition with one another, as each of us is part of proclaiming the Kingdom of God here in Scarborough. One place to start is at our monthly prayer meeting – a time where all of our churches are invited to pray for the ministry of the deanery.

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My prayer is that we might move beyond the fear of competition and seek to be united in love, united with a common mission to proclaim the Gospel by word and deed. Perhaps then we will be known more than ever as Christ's disciples, when we can truly show the world that we love one another, even if we worship differently or in different places.

What are some ways that you can think of to foster greater unity in our church, our community, and between our local Anglican neighbouring churches? Please share them with me, or with any of our leadership. I look forward to fostering greater and greater unity with you, with our sister Churches and with the community around us.

Rev. Graham

Parish Events

Deanery Prayer Service – Once per month:

In February the Scarborough Deanery began a monthly prayer meeting where clergy and lay people are invited to share their prayer requests for the ministry of Anglican Churches in Scarborough. Currently the prayer meeting occurs on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at Grace Church. Eventually, the meeting will rotate around the churches in the Scarborough Deanery. The next prayer meeting will be held on **May 30**.

Pentecost Concert: Sunday, May 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Garage Sale, BBQ, and Craft Sale: Saturday, June 2

Come be inspired to share our faith! The ***Invited*** Preaching and Teaching series includes brief scripture study, real stories from real people around the diocese, discussion questions, and video developed by the Diocese of Toronto. Feeling a bit unsure when it comes to inviting and sharing our faith with others? Join us for ***Invited***!

We will be presenting a Preaching and Teaching Series for 6 Sundays from June 3 to July 15 (excluding July 1) for members of

the congregation. We welcome everyone to attend the Teaching series following the 10:30 a.m. service. We especially invite members of the parish leadership and ministry leaders. For more information, speak to Graham McCaffrey, Alice Stewart, or Craig Gustafson.

(Belated) Father's Day Breakfast: Saturday, June 23

Grace Church Town Hall: Saturday, June 23

International Day: Saturday, July 21

Coffee House Open Mic Night: Friday, August 10

Games and Pizza Night: Friday, September 14

Back-to-Church BBQ: Sunday, September 16

Barbados Ex-Police Choir Concert: Sunday, September 23

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

Regular Events and Activities

(check the bulletin for schedule changes and more information)

Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Bible Study
Wednesday	11:00 a.m.	Quilting/Knitting Group
Thursday	7:00 p.m.	Choir Practice
2nd Saturday of each month		
	12:00 noon	Community Lunch
2nd Saturday of each month		
	2:00 p.m.	Craft Workshop
4th Monday of each month		
	7:30 p.m.	Advisory Board

Selection of Next Diocesan Bishop

On June 9, 2018, the Diocese of Toronto will be electing a Coadjutor Bishop who will become the 12th Diocesan Bishop. This will require each member of Synod to discern God's call for the Church. As with all spiritual discernment, this process will involve prayerful listening, reflection, and thoughtfulness.



The Diocese of Toronto is the largest diocese in North America, home to 230 congregations with 54,000 Anglicans, also offering significant leadership both nationally and in the Global Communion. The bishop of Toronto is a central leader in mission to our neighbours, complex administration, safeguarding the faith, unity and reconciliation, justice and outreach amongst others.

In preparation of this important moment of discernment, on June 1 our diocese will engage a day of Prayer & Fasting, uniting together in shared sacrificial listening for the voice of the Holy Spirit.

There is great blessing and power in unified prayer. Throughout the centuries, God's people have gathered in times of discernment and need, seeking God's will to be known and accomplished. These prayers have often been given focus and clarity through the spiritual discipline of fasting, a voluntary and temporary abstinence (primarily) of food.

Fasting helps in deepening our attentiveness to God and God's will by turning from the desires of the body and towards the life-giving desire of serving and knowing Jesus Christ. In prayerful fasting, we are brought closer to the humble reality of our dependence upon God for all things, drawing from him as the Bread of Life, and are often given a sense of spiritual clarity which further helps hone our prayers and discernment.

He guides the humble in what is right and teaches the humble his way. (Psalm 25:9)

The Bible speaks in many ways to practices of prayer and fasting in both individual and corporate expressions (see Exodus 34:28; Nehemiah 1:4; Matthew 4:2, 6:16-18; Mark 2:18; Luke 2:37; Acts 13:2-3, 14:23, 27:9). Jesus engaged in prayer and fasting as did his disciples and other followers. Indeed, the Early Fathers and Mothers of the Church modelled and taught prayer and fasting as a universally applied practice for deepening in Christ-likeness.

On June 1st, you might choose to withhold one or two meals, or if you are familiar with the practice, to avoid food throughout the day. It is important always to ensure proper hydration with water. This discipline can also include withholding any contemporary behaviour or practice that represents a significant aspect of one's daily "diet of life," such as an intake of internet/TV/media. This is especially relevant for those whom restricting food is not medically advisable.

Almighty God, giver of all good gifts, look on your Church with grace, and guide the minds of those who shall choose a Coadjutor Bishop for this diocese, that we may receive a faithful servant who will care for your people and support us in our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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 9.

Cancer Research

I have intermittently been coming to Grace Church for a number of years. I am now serving on the Advisory Board, and you will see me with greater regularity.



One thing that will occupy me this Spring and Summer is training for a fundraising walk, and coming up with as many donations as possible. I actually have a big goal of \$10,000 to raise by September 2018, and the big goal comes from becoming aware of the story of Alicia, I met through an educational programme.

She is a 34-year-old wife and mother of a child who is almost 3 years old. She was not feeling well throughout summer and fall 2017. She had several headaches and developed seizures, and was quite off balance and unsteady. In January 2018 she was diagnosed with a brain tumour, on which was operated and she was put into a medically induced coma for 10 days. She had to relearn to walk, but she was very determined to live a healthy and meaningful life. She had gone a round of chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

I am now walking 15 km to raise money for Personalized Cancer Medicine, in her name, under the Team's name: Allie's Allies. The money goes towards Princess Margaret Cancer Centre which is one of the 5 main cancer research centres in the world. Much success to cancer treatments has been attributed to customised treatments and personalised medicine.

Would you find it in your heart to make a contribution to this worthy cause? Alicia and many other patients going through treatment appreciate your support. Various ways to make a donation are possible. Online, the link is

http://www.onewalk.ca/site/TR/Walk/Toronto2018?px=1364809&pg=personal&fr_id=1151

You can also bring a cheque (\$10 will give you a receipt at a later time).

For the summer we are planning a fundraising event, and Jonelle Douglas is going to provide some assistance to make

this event a reality. More details will follow at a later time.

Thank you all for considering in making a contribution. If you have any questions, please see me.

Brigitte Livingstone

Ordination of Transitional Deacons at St. James Cathedral on May 6



Photos by Nadia Murray

Stewardship Celebration



In fall 2017, the Stewardship Group put together a Narrative Budget, which we distributed with a Thanksgiving letter. In February 2018 we put together a package with an intention sheet that asked members to consider what groups in our parish God is calling them in which to participate, and what amount of God's blessings they plan to donate to our church so that the leadership can invest donations in the ministries of the church. We acknowledge that we have asked the membership to participate in a new discipline.

To date, we have received 36 intention sheets, which is about 25% of our membership. \$54,200 has been pledged to fund our various ministries. We want to thank each member and household for responding. These responses will assist the leadership in planning for the remainder of 2018.

We continue to encourage you to complete the intention sheet and return it to Linda Painter or leave it on the collection plate. Stewardship packages are available in the Narthex. Please speak to a member of the Stewardship Group if you have any questions, or feedback on the process.

We also want to express our thanks to the lay witnesses who participated in the sermon talks for the campaign: Margaret Crossman, Michèle de Dombal, Glenn Feltham, and Debbie Googh.

Growing Healthy Stewards Group

Mary Ann Wong, Chair

Brenda Lovell, Vice Chair

Everette Moore, Arrangements Coordinator

Linda Painter, Commitment Coordinator

Craig Gustafson, Information Coordinator

A Hymn for Trinity

"Yours the Hand That Made Creation"

Hymn #256 Common Praise

Text by Elliot Rose



Yours the hand that made creation,
womb of every constellation,
every species, every nation:
glory to the Three-in-One.

Jesus, from the first descending,
by your birth the broken mending,
Word of God the never-ending:
glory to the Three-in-One.

Holy Wisdom, ever near us,
tongue of fire to teach all hearers,
sanctify and guard and cheer us:
glory to the Three-in-One.

A Little Biblical Humour

- Q. Which area of the Middle East was especially wealthy?
- A. The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.
- Q. Who is the greatest babysitter mentioned in the Bible?
- A. David. He rocked Goliath to a very deep sleep.

Our Leadership

Incumbent

The Rev. Graham McCaffrey

Honorary Assistants

The Rev. Julie Golding-Page

The Rev. Steve Page

Secretary

Doreen Brown

Choir Director

Rachel Colman

Pastor of Outreach & Mission

Alice Stewart

Children & Youth

Jonelle Douglas

Churchwardens

Jonelle Douglas

Nadia Murray

Deputy Churchwarden

Craig Gustafson