



Common supplications

Living Into Grace

“May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore.”

These words, out of our liturgical practice, trip off our tongues with ease and familiarity, much like many words in our liturgy, sometimes without understanding of what they mean. Someone asked me recently, “What is grace?” What a lovely question.

The words come from the closing sentence of St. Paul’s second letter to the Christians gathered at the urban metropolis of Corinth. They capture in one sentence an invocation of the three members of the Trinity and the qualities of God that embrace us because of God’s action for the world: grace, love and fellowship.

Grace is something we say before a meal, or we use to describe something beautiful. Grace is also an attribute of God’s actions towards us, that while we are undeserving and even unaware of our need, God moves towards us to find us, forgive us, love us and redeem us. In fact, not just us, but the entire world, and all of creation is included in this gracious act.

It is like Jesus’ stories of the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son in the gospel of Luke. The sheep and the coin are not even aware that they are lost, or even found, but the story focusses on the quality of the shepherd and the woman who express an extraordinary commitment to go to extravagant lengths in order to find that which was lost. This extraordinary commitment and effort can be described as grace. Similarly, in the story of the lost son, the father goes to great lengths to find the son and celebrate when he is found. The lost son encounters grace.

Grace is what is freely given to us and the world. It is a gift given without our work, in spite of our failings, and independent of our faith. Thank God for the gift of grace expressed and communicated effectively through one another and through our liturgical practice of the sacrament. *“May all we who are partakers of this holy communion be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction.”* That is what we pray in the prayer of consecration before communion. These are good things to be reminded of whenever we

meet together to break bread.

We are living into grace at St. John’s. We are graced to have a generous and committed community of people. We are graced with the Portage community, the choirs, and myriad opportunities for fellowship and learning. We don’t earn these gifts, they are given to us, and we respond out of gratitude to ensure that these moments of grace continue to be offered to people in the months and years to come at St. John’s.

We look forward to welcoming our new Assistant Curate, Judy Steers, who begins on October 15 at St. John’s. Judy is a gift of grace. Judy will be ordained a Deacon at Christ’s Church Cathedral on October 20, 4pm and her first Sunday will be October 27th. I encourage you to come to welcome Judy to our community of God’s grace.

Grace be with you.
Paul+

Warden's Message

The pace of summer refreshes and renews, providing clarity in reviewing the tasks, challenges and blessings of the busy fall season. It also provides opportunity to reflect upon the many gifts God has manifested here at St. John's.

We are thankful for the positive response to a modest increase in our annual budget. For this we give thanks to God. Meeting our financial goals gives testimony to our gratitude and commitment. Special thanks to treasurer Peter Barr for his dedicated stewardship of the Parish finances.

We embrace the Rector's vision, one leading to positive momentum at St. John's and the wider community. Paul has worked with the Parish Council to identify five priorities. These are:

1. Engaging Newcomers
2. Information Technology and Online Presence
3. Outreach and Social Justice
4. Children and Youth
5. Accessibility.

Working groups have been formed. The expertise of church members beyond that of Parish Council provides a wealth of ideas and task completion.

We offer thanks to Lynne Jelokhani for her work in the training and mentoring of the Portage acolytes. Lynne has stepped away from this role, after providing significant time and skill. Thomas Littlewood, with the assistance of Ken Reid, has taken on this important work. We are most grateful to them.

Baritone Lawrie McEwan, a Parish Choir member since 1989, sang a final service on Sunday, August 25. Heartfelt thanks are offered for Lawrie's years of dedicated, beautiful singing. Lawrie's many friends at St. John's pray that he and Christyan will find much happiness in their move to Mexico.

Honorary Assistant, Father John Lockyer has blessed us with his instructional and loving leadership this August. Many thanks, John! We also thank Mark Vuorinen and the Elora Singers for their music in July Festival services.

The Church year at St. John's is closely entwined with the prayer and praise of music. It is with joy that we look ahead to the rich blessings of the coming year. We are grateful for the leadership of organist Jurgen Petrenko and the skillful direction of the Parish choir under John Wiens.

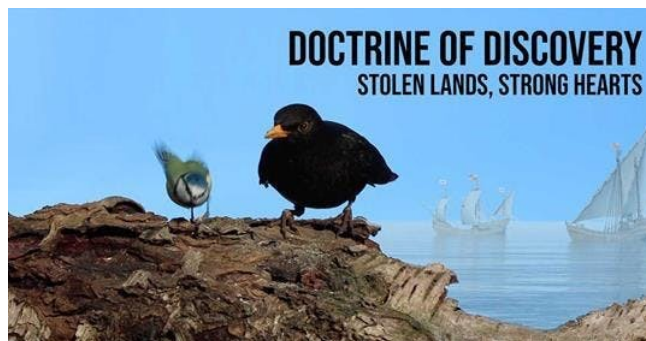
'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.'

Colossians 3:16

Doctrine of Discovery

"Doctrine of Discovery: Stolen lands, Strong Hearts" is a film about a devastating decision, made over 500 years ago, which continues to profoundly impact Indigenous and Settler people worldwide. Pope Alexander VI ruled that the lands being discovered by European explorers at the time was "empty" land and its millions of Indigenous inhabitants were "non-human".

Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission released 94 Calls to Action in 2015, with Doctrine of Discovery and This film is one of the responses of the Anglican Church's Reconciliation Commission. The purpose of this action by helping to provide education and insight into the racist foundations of many of our property and other laws still in existence to this day. Come to a screening of the **Sunday November 10,**



Reconciliation Commission released 94 many of them referring to the calling for its repudiation. sponses of the Anglican Church's Discovery, Reconciliation and film is to respond to the calls to education and insight into the our property and other laws still in

film followed by a panel Q&A on **1:00pm at the Gorge Cinema.**

This event sponsored by St. John's Social Justice and Outreach Working Group (Ian Hornsby, Nancy Scott and Ian Rice).

MEMORIAL FLOWERS

The flowers which adorn our church are often dedicated by parishioners in remembrance of a loved one or in commemoration of a special birthday or anniversary. A gift of ANY amount is welcome recognizing that the cost of flowers is usually \$75.00. So that your dedication may be printed in the bulletins please phone the Church Office (519.846.5911) with your request six days before the Sunday of your choice. You may wish to ask for a special flower or color, which the Flower Guild will accommodate if at all possible. Your contribution may be mailed to or left in the Church Office or placed on the plate at a Sunday service. Please generously consider this way of remembering a loved one or celebrating an enhancing our beautiful church.



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Submitted by Elaine Dightam

DAILY MATTINS

Monday to Friday, **8:30-9:00 am**, a small group of us gather in church to say morning prayer, hear the daily Bible readings, say the daily Psalms, and read from a devotional classic.

PARISH CENTRE—INVITATIONAL ART SPACE



To begin our new fall season at St. John's in our Parish Centre Invitational Art Space (PCIAS), we have an evocative oil-on-canvas, **Apollo in Lunenburg**, painted by local artist, Dick Marvin, in 2006. What caused Dick to want to make this painting was that Lunenburg, a World Heritage Site, once a booming shipbuilding centre, was now a place where most of the shipyards were closed. More detail is on the accompanying signage beside the painting in the Parish Centre.

Submitted by Susan Brown

ORDER OF NIAGARA

Congratulations to our own Linda Coultres who will be admitted to the Order of Niagara by Bishop Susan on Sunday October 6, 4 pm at the Cathedral. Linda continues to serve us in outstanding and largely invisible ways by volunteering her time and skills preparing Sunday bulletins, newsletters, Diocesan reporting and maintaining office equipment. You are invited to attend the service.



Guidelines for Sidespeople and Greeters/Pastoral Care

The Engaging Newcomers Working Group sponsored an informative workshop for all Sidespeople and Greeters in September to review our roles and responsibilities and focus on being a welcoming and hospitable presence to all who come through our doors for worship. One of the results of the workshop was a brochure called “Guidelines for Sidespeople” which is available at the back of the church.

Pastoral Care Team

Many thanks to Donna Keating for her role in assisting the clergy with formal pastoral visits and home communions. Donna is taking a sabbatical from this ministry and the Rector is looking to establish a Pastoral Care Team. If you are interested in learning more or participating in such a ministry, please speak to the Rector or Assistant Curate.

Ladies Group



Our first dinner speaker in September was Colin Fox. In October we will have the female perspective on the cycling trip that many of our community went on in August. (That will be to balance any mis-information that the Men’s Group might have heard). In November, Tez Darnell will amaze us with you stunning photographic exploration of birds. Future speakers will be announced later. While we love to have interesting, amusing, thoughtful, and engaging themes for these evenings, our purpose is to provide a time for you to introduce friends and neighbours to a welcoming and supportive community while enjoying some good food. We hope you will mark the third Wednesday of the month for this activity. See you then!

PWRDF



On October 27, our guest preacher will be Musu Taylor-Lewis. Musu is the Director for Resources and Public Engagement at the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, of which the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund is a member. Musu will tell us about the PWRDF/CFGB partnership and also about the Makueni project.

September is a very busy month with two fundraising events for Makueni – **Harvest Tea** and **All Things Bright and Beautiful**. Also, the **Ride for Refuge** took place on Saturday, October 5, 2019, in communities across Canada. PWRDF’s goal is to raise \$30,000 that will be directed to the Panzi Hospital in the D.R. of Congo. Read more about this project at <https://pwrdf.org/ride-the-road-to-recovery-with-pwrdf-and-panzi/> .

Building and Property - Summer Update

Masonry: Almost \$5,000 worth of work was done in the spring, including lowering and capping the old north chimney, and doing considerable repair in various places on the bell tower and Church walls. Repairs involve replacing some brick and repointing mortar lines. This project will continue next year, focusing on patches higher up on the bell tower.

Stained Glass Windows: While the work began in early spring, Neil Hanscomb suffered a severe attack of diverticulitis in early summer, which put the project on hold. You will see that he has been back at work, having returned the refurbished windows of the west entry. We can only hope for a warm dry autumn so the project, also involving the 2 quatrefoils, the 2 side chancel windows and the vestry window can be completed before winter.

Christmas Candles: For many Christmas seasons, we have placed 10 candle holders at the end of the pews along the centre aisle, each holding up 3 candles. Even with high quality dripless candles and brass followers in place, considerable wax overflowed onto the pews and often the shoulders of unsuspecting parishioners, leading to extra custodial time and much work removing wax from jackets. The open flame of these candles needed to be watched carefully, and candles changed perhaps twice over the course of December. This year, to avoid this wax problem and make the use of candles safer, the holders have been modified. The 3-candle top has been replaced with a metal “cup” to hold one large votive-style candle in a glass holder. This is a change that has been made at some other Churches, including our Cathedral. This change was made after much discussion by the altar guild and others who considered many options: no candles, electric “candles”, small lanterns and votive candles. Thanks are due to Father Paul’s brother-in-law, who performed the work on the holders at a “family” rate, and also designed and built a wooden stand for safe storage.

Church WIFI: Our phone and internet services have been upgraded over the summer, thanks to the technical expertise of Steve Hornet. This is all part of a larger plan to increase our digital presence, upgrade equipment and manage costs. While the parish centre has had Wi-Fi available for several years, the Church itself now has Wi-Fi, too. The equipment is in the southwest corner of the music area in Thompson Hall, with a sign above indicating the user name and password for those who wish it.

Decennial Inspection: Every ten years the diocese requires the parish to hire a building inspector from an approved list and undertake a thorough inspection of the Church properties. After the inspection report is received, the parish must present a plan to address any significant issues arising. Our next inspection is due in 2021, but as we are about to once again address the issue of Church accessibility, and must have had an inspection within the last 5 years before the diocese will support any building project, the corporation has decided to proceed with the inspection in 2020. The last inspection cost us about \$1,500. All annual inspections of Church equipment are up-to-date and we have spent a considerable amount of money in the last ten years on building improvements such as a new Church roof and upgraded windows, and a completely upgraded parish centre. So I do not expect any surprises during the inspection.

Termite Inspection: As the downtown area of Elora is a termite hotspot, inspections are necessary. Our most recent inspection on September 13 indicated no termite activity in the Church or parish centre. However, the posts holding up the large grey sign to the west of the driveway showed damage due to past termite activity. Other posts in the area of the columbarium seemed termite free. To protect the sign posts and the post holding up the flood lights for the chancel windows, a termite treatment will take place soon. We were advised never to use wood mulch in flower beds, to avoid wooden stakes for gardens near the Church and not to bring plants to our flower beds from Elora gardens.

Thank You: Patrick Ellis has now been on the job as custodian for nearly 5 months. I would like to thank him for his good work, attention to detail and willingness to help out. As we do our own weekend lock up now, thanks are also due to Jon Warland, Norman Morris, Barbara Gow and Lynne Jelokhani for helping out on weekends over the summer.

Our flower beds and grounds have looked beautiful again this summer. Many thanks are due to Dawn McClure, Gordon & Dinah Bristowe and many other volunteers for their work. (Our parish centre lawn is **not** the responsibility of the gardeners. But as the area near the driveway has become mostly dandelions and other weeds, professional advice is being sought!)

For the last 8 months or so, a small informal group has been looking at the setup of rooms in the Church and parish centre, looking for efficiencies, possible improvements and surplus materials. Many thanks are due to Susan Brown, Elizabeth Litch and Barbara Gow for their work, especially in the Church kitchen.

Respectfully submitted,
Walter Langford, Chair of B&P

ST. JOHN'S IN HISTORY—#18

The metal filing cabinet located in the Parish Centre basement is proving to be a 'mother-lode' of personal recollections penned by some of the early parishioners and clergy. One of these is Dorothy Start who as President of the 33 Club typed up a 9-page document with the title "Club '44 History". I've chosen a section that deals with the Parish Hall which is the former Baptist Church across Henderson Street.

Time out to describe the Parish Hall where everything took place except the Church services. A brick building of square dimensions 40 feet by 40 feet approximately. One doorway, six windows with twelve panes, circular tops church style. Wide unfinished boards on the floor. One small walk-in cupboard that held the dishes and the mice. A pot bellied stove in the centre, a metal stove in one corner that burned coal-oil, this was in a glass container attached to one end. Under the burners were the cylinder shaped metal chimneys with tiny mica covered doors. Opening the doors revealed the wick saturated with the coal-oil ready to be lighted. Upholstered benches all around the perimeter, plus unfinished wooden chairs, a lectern desk, a baby grand piano (always out of tune), a treadle sewing machine with a detachable top bearing the sign "Do Not touch" and believe it or not, no one went near it. On the end wall was a huge dirty fly specked panel of the Ten Commandments, also the same type with the 'Beatitudes' (the pronouncements in the Sermon on the Mount). The equipment consisted of a copper boiler, a copper kettle, a large tin box containing tea leaves, another tin with damp sugar, a cardboard Morton salt box, a sealer full of wooden matches, a beautiful wicker basket containing the cutlery that was actually made of tin, a large pail, a coal scuttle and some trays. To the right of the entrance (inside) was the woodpile, donated, cut, delivered and piled by the different farmers who belonged to the parish. There were no facilities whatever, water was carried by the pail full from a pump on the property next door. If you had to go, you left through the only doorway, and just went, winter and summer. In the winter the snow melted, in the summer the grass grew greener. Had to keep a darning needle handy, someone was always getting a sliver out of the chairs or the kids from the floor boards. The building had been a Baptist Church. There was a twelve by twelve foot square cut in the floor, this was on hinges and lifted like a trap door. This had been the tank for the baptismal ceremonies. Now was St. John's Parish Hall coal bin. It took two people to lift the door, climb down and full the scuttle because some 'sucker' had to light the fire in the pot bellied stove for every event. The Church caretaker cut the grass but didn't consider this part was in his jurisdiction. Grandpa Jefferies was the caretaker for years at a salary of five dollars a month. He took care of all this up until the winter that he died at the age of 85. In place of one meeting during the spring, the Club '44 house cleaned the premises, scrubbed the wooden floor with a brush and washed the seventy-two panes of glass inside and out. Mary Scott has a picture of the gang and can testify that this stupid event really took place year after year.

I wish we had a copy of that picture.

Submitted by Susan Edwards

Assistant Curate

Please extend a warm welcome to our new Assistant Curate, Judy Steers. Judy has been appointed as Assistant Curate (half time) by the bishop under the Rector's supervision. Judy will be ordained as a Deacon at Christ's Church Cathedral on October 20, 4:00pm, and her first Sunday with us will be October 27. Judy has completed a B.A. at the University of Ottawa and St. Paul's University; a three year diploma course in professional lay ministry at the Centre for Christian Studies; and most recently, her Masters degree from Huron University College. She has over 25 years of professional lay ministry experience from across the Canadian Church. Judy brings a wealth of ministry experiences. Judy and her partner, Sarah, live in Guelph; Judy has two adult children; and they share a home with one lovely dog and two cats.



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CENTRE WELLINGTON FOOD BANK

1984 just a few years after Canada's first Food Bank opened in Edmonton, several local churches came together to establish a food pantry in the basement of Melville United Church.

By 1997 the volume of foods distributed, number of clients served, and a roster of volunteers had grown to the point whereby the Centre Wellington Food Bank required a manager.

The charity moved several times before settling in 2009 into its present home in the historic Fergus Marketplace.

The majority of our funds come from individual, group and business donations and fundraising events such as the Stuff a Police Car.

Last year, 2018, 723 individuals looked to the Food Bank for help on a repeat basis, one third of them children. Their reasons may be temporary or ongoing, low wages, unemployment or government assistance programs and pensions that fall short of expenses.

Including regular and drop in visits, monthly Community Dinners and special programs and events last year there were 6,738 interactions with those seeking help and over 9,000 individual meals were provided. Beyond providing food the Food Bank is committed to making connections to other agencies and programs, providing advice in times of need and crisis, fostering self esteem through participation, sharing the commercial kitchen, and supporting the ongoing struggle for social justice.

Any donations of foods would be most appreciated.

Thank you.

Submitted by Barbara and John Hamilton

PWRDF Cont'd

.Being Church Without Borders

Stretching our view, our understanding and caring beyond any – internally imposed – walls has indeed been a great blessing over the years. Many parishioners have shared in these services and have become deeply engaged in this part of our core ministry. We have learned from many visitors and guest preachers who exposed us different ways of living under God's grace; our existential realities may differ sharply, yet God's grace is always the same.

Makueni Water Project, Kenya

Most of Kenya's land is semi-arid or arid. The land is indeed so dry that it cannot absorb the water when the rains come. Within a day or two after the rains, the river beds are dry and much of the soil is swept away. This situation is worsening exponentially by climate change.

However, in parts of south-eastern Kenya, the semi desert has been turned into a lush landscape with fertile soil due to more than 1500 sand dams across river beds, built by local communities. This is a very ancient and highly effective and efficient method to maintain water and food security. The impact of sufficient and safe water is felt in soil preservation, high crop yields not only for better nutrition, but for market gardening; secondary impacts have been found in health, education, gender equality and employment.



Sealed hand pump wells are built and installed along river beds because water levels both upstream and downstream are rising significantly. **The cost for material, installation and training of maintenance technicians is \$4,000. It is our goal to finance two of these water pumps.** So far we have raised \$3,984 for Makueni!!



Any parishioner may continue to earmark a PWRDF gift to another purpose, such as for relief and rehabilitation in the Bahamas, or any other project. If that is your wish, please earmark the purpose clearly on your envelop or cheque.

Angeline and Leah Update

Many of you will remember that St. John's helped Angela and Leah Otiende through university. They are HIV/AIDS orphans in Kenya. Angie graduated with a B.Comm. and as CPC . She works as an accountant with a non-governmental organization in Kisumu and has been promoted, but would love to find a more challenging position. She also hopes to enter a master's program either in Nairobi or overseas. Leah just passed her bar examination and will be admitted to the bar in the course of this year. They remember us with deep gratefulness.

LOOKING FOR AN INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC FOR YOUR CHILD?



Join **KIDS WHO SING!** for children in Grades 3 - 8.

We are accepting new choir members in September, 2019.

Your child will be taught by highly qualified staff, make new friends, perform in concerts, learn music theory, and have fun.

Rehearsals on Thursdays 4:45 - 5:15 at St. John's, Elora

Directed by Emily Petrenko, M.Mus, B.Ed, B.Mus, A.Mus

For more information, contact kidswhosing@gmail.com

Wednesday Music Series at St. John's

Under John Wiens' initiative, St John's is launching a new music series starting November 13. Typically it will be held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:00 pm.

The first will feature Canadian countertenor, Daniel Cabena.

Watch the bulletin and website for updated information. This is intended to be an outreach to the broader community.



Church of St. John the Evangelist

36 Henderson Street
Elora, Ontario
NOB 1S0

Phone: 519.846.5911
E-mail: stjohns@sentex.net

The Rev'd Paul J. Walker, *Rector*
The Rev'd Canon Robert Hulse, C.M., M.A., D.D., *Rector Emeritus*
The Reverend David Mulholland, *Honorary Assistant*
The Reverend John Lockyer, *Honorary Assistant*
John Wiens, *Director of Music*
Emily Petrenko, *Kids Who Sing Director*
Jurgen Petrenko, *Titular Organist and Volunteer Choir Director*

Regular Sunday Services at St. John's are:
8 a.m. *BCP Holy Eucharist (said)*
9 a.m. *BAS Contemporary Eucharist*
11 a.m. *BCP Choral Eucharist (1st and 3rd Sundays)*
BCP Choral Mattins (2nd and 4th Sundays)
8:30 - 9:00 am *Monday to Friday, Mattins*
Regular mid-week Eucharist on Wednesday at 10:30 am

Fall Thanksgiving at St. John's

October 13	8, 9 and 11 am	Harvest Thanksgiving
October 20	3:00 pm	Choral Evensong
November 3	8, 9 and 11 am	All Souls
November 10	11 am	Remembrance Day service
December 1	5:00 pm	Advent Lessons and Carols (Parish Choir)



Follow us on Facebook St Johns Elora

We are also on the web

Visit our website:
www.stjohnselora.ca

The next edition of Common Supplications, our parish newsletter will be available in December. Articles will be due **November 25, 2019**. Please leave in the parish centre or email to lmcoultres7@gmail.com