

Cathedral CORNERSTONE



HARVEST/THANKSGIVING - OCTOBER 2018

Learning to Fall

This summer I reread a book I encountered some years ago with the title; *“Learning To Fall: The Blessings of an Imperfect Life”* by Philip Simmons. It initially caught my attention as it was based on mountain climbing in my native New Hampshire and came back to mind as I took on the challenge of biking up one of those self-same mountains this summer. The book chronicles the author’s personal deteriorating health, following a diagnosis of ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) or Lou Gehrig’s disease, at the age of 35. His loss of motor skills made his passion for mountain climbing progressively more difficult so he set about discovering ways to fall more carefully, as falling was now a constant reality. Far from being a journey down a dark and despairing hole, it is an inspiring insight into “the work of learning to live richly in the face of loss.” The metaphor of falling becomes the overarching theme in his writing. He sees life as a journey, a journey into the unknown, that all of us will make. “From our first faltering steps”, Simmons observes, “we may

fall into disappointment or grief, fall into or out of love, fall from youth or health” And though we have little choice as to the timing or means of our descent(s), we may indeed discover how to, “fall with grace, to grace.”

I share this reflection, in part because *“Learning To Fall”* is indeed a very moving and insightful read, but it occurs to me that this season we are approaching may in fact mirror Simmons’ viewpoint. This time of transition from summer to autumn; cooler temperatures, shorter daylight hours, changing colors, less outdoor and more indoor time, may be God’s reminder of the need for us to learn to let go, slow down, and enjoy life in the moment. Perhaps, seasonally, God wants us to learn how to “Fall”.

Fall is God’s Sabbath time, may it be ours also. As the busyness of summer fades into memory, let us embrace this season to rest and return to the Lord.

Let me leave you with this wonderful poem, that I think captures the mood of this season, and the quiet confidence that is to be ours, as people of faith.

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The poem is by the late Jane Kenyon, who lived in the shadow of the mountain I climbed, this summer, Mount Kearsarge, New Hampshire.

Let Evening Come

Let the light of late afternoon
shine through chinks in the barn, moving
up the bales as the sun moves down.

Let the cricket take up chafing
as a woman takes up her needles
and her yarn. Let evening come.

Let dew collect on the hoe abandoned
in long grass. Let the stars appear
and the moon disclose her silver horn.

Let the fox go back to its sandy den.
Let the wind die down. Let the shed
go black inside. Let evening come.

To the bottle in the ditch, to the scoop
in the oats, to air in the lung
let evening come.

Let it come, as it will, and don't
be afraid. God does not leave us
comfortless, so let evening come.

With blessings,
Dean Paul

Opinion

The Christian faith is becoming more and more fragmented as thoughtful people try to make sense of the ancient Hebrew writings (Old Testament and Apocrypha) and the so-called canonical Christian writings (New Testament). These purport to describe the life and teachings of the remarkable man Jesus, and the growth of the movement which eventually became known as Christianity. It is important to note there are no existing original documents, other than a few scraps, and those writing which were selected to be a part of what we know as the Bible are only a few of the many theological dissertations produced in the first few centuries of the Common Era (CE).

Although the selection of writings included in the Bible are claimed by apologists to be “inspired by God”, they are the product of human interpretation and reflect, to a great extent, the power struggles among the influential religious and secular leaders of the day. Even then dissention and dispute over the person of Jesus and his relationship to the one God was the cause of violence and bitter divisions, resulting in the formation of many sects each claiming to be the sole repository of truth.

Not much has changed! In fact things have become worse! With the proliferation of instant communication and social media, anyone can claim a new revelation and start their own church. Charismatic leaders can always find gullible followers. Even what we call the main-line churches are not immune from this fragmentation. Our Anglican Communion is threatened by schism by those who have a different understanding of Anglican tradition and decision making. For example, there is a trend in some National Provinces toward top-down authoritarianism similar to the Roman Catholic curial system that is at odds with our Anglican ethos of decentralized governance.

The scandal in the Church is the many divisions and doctrinal differences caused by interpretation biases, as religious leaders sought power and control over predominately illiterate masses. The early church recognized the problem and emphasized the unity of the Body in diversity. Romans 4:12 states, “As in one body we have many members, and not all members have the same function, so we, who are many are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another.”

It is easy to find “Bible Bullets” supporting practically any position and developing doctrines without integrating them into the totality of the simple message proclaimed by Jesus. In Mark 1:15 we are told that Jesus came saying, “the kingdom of God has come near, repent, and believe the good news (of God).” It is a conundrum how Jesus’ attempt to change (repentance) and transform how people thought and acted has, over the millennia, had layer upon layer of interpretation imposed by the biases of powerful men and a complicit institution.



Denominationalism, fundamentalism and relativism are still thriving. Christianity is not being well served. God's creative power and revelation remains dynamic and continuous. It was not withdrawn from the world nor ceased to be operative in the 16th and 17th centuries.

*-Reverend Canon John Smith
July, 2018 for Fall issue of Cornerstone*

In Reply

To my friend and colleague in ministry, Canon John Smith.

I think 'living by faith' each day enables one to keep a positive view of things. The Christian believes that the Spirit of God will guide his or her thinking and endeavors, and provide for one's needs. To have faith implies a belief in a Divine being, God, who exists beyond our world and universe(s). As such God is not affected by the confusion and corruption in society. Yet, he chooses to be concerned for our sakes and to further his purposes in the world.

For he created us in his 'image and likeness'. This suggests more than being endowed with talent(s) and abilities to reason and make decisions, to act, but, being endowed with a spiritual nature as well, making the self or soul complete. This gives us the potential to be like God in some ways, to be loving, forgiving, and to do what is right, embracing those intangible qualities which make life more human and inclusive of other people and situations. The completed self enables us to see the bigger picture and go beyond our personal desires and perhaps self-centeredness. It can help us to see the perplexities in life and help us deal with them. It helps in achieving a 'balanced' view of life. And scripture even suggests that with an openness to the Spirit one can maintain a sense of well-being and joy in the worst times, when things threaten to come down around us. We can be 'inspired' to respond to life around us.

We all are inspired at times to pursue interests, otherwise we would not grow or enjoy life. Artists and writers can be inspired to pursue their crafts,

to depict an essence or beauty, and to gain an appreciation of their work. However, when we think of the bible, the question of divine inspiration comes up. Is the bible divinely inspired or are the authors of the different book inspired?

The second book of Timothy, (3:16), says: 'All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching the truth, rebuke error, correct faults and giving instruction for right living'. Yet, the authors of the biblical books were ordinary men. As such their work contains errors, repetitions and confusion as to dates and places. Such reading seems to reflect human authors. Yet, for the believer the bible is the book of God, containing his word. Moses and the prophets were said to be divinely inspired, and the early Fathers of the church supported an inspired bible.

Today we might say that the biblical authors were inspired to record their thoughts but the finished product was their own words. Others might say that the words in scripture concerning God and his majesty are not the words of men, but of God. Still others might say that the authors were inspired to choose their words from among others, but the end result is their own. Certainly we treat the bible as the word of God, implying a certain divine inspiration.

In respect to 'Bias'. We all are biased at times. We have preferences and do things in our own way. And this would apply to the authors of scripture and to the early leaders of the church. These leaders governed the church based on their understanding and assessment and resources available to them. It's interesting to note that even negative bias was used by God in some way. The Egyptian pharaoh was said to be hardened by God in order to highlight the rescue of the Israelites during the Exodus. And in times of religious dispute and political involvement during the growth of the church. God may well have been working through individuals, politicians and clergy, to further his purposes.

'Bible Bullets', to quote John, chosen to the exclusion of other verses in scripture do not give a true view of the message of scripture. This is one rea-



son why some people stay away from church because they don't like to hear teaching that differs from their own ideas about God. One must read the whole chapter or book in order to understand the true meaning of some verses. The letter of first John, (4:1) bids hearers to test the Spirits or theories about Jesus to see which is right in keeping with the overall message of the gospels. What would Jesus do or say?

-The Reverend John Swain

The Ruth Ballah Memorial

Bible Quiz # 2

(answers on Page 6)

1. Name the two birds sent by Noah from the Ark.
2. Who commanded the sun and the moon to stay still?
3. Horeb is a town in Israel True or False?
4. Name the female judge and her companion in the Old Testament.
5. Name at least 3 persons that are prisoners in bible stories.
6. Which King had a sundial?
7. What is the name of the Jewish observance held when Jesus had the meal known as the last supper?
8. What official released the body of Jesus to Joseph of Arithamea?
9. Where did Paul send his letter that proclaims the greatest way is love, for disciples of Jesus?
10. Name six of the bible's special references to water. answer creation, flood, parting of the sea, baptism, water into wine, feet washing

Choir Auditions

The Choir of All Saints Cathedral, Halifax, under the direction of Paul Halley, comprises professional singers, choral scholars and volunteer singers. The choir sings at the 10:30 AM Choral Eucharist

most Sundays, September through June, and offers services of Evensong, Lessons & Carols and Readings & Music on a monthly basis, as well as an annual concert.

If you are interested in auditioning for the choir please contact Paul Halley at paulhalley@eastlink.ca.

A Luncheon for the Young at Heart

With a Musical Sing Along



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26TH FROM 11AM-1PM
IN THE GREAT HALL

Lunch is provided
Please RSVP on the Sign up Sheets in the Cathedral
available at both entrances

If you require Transportation, please contact
Deacon Heather at (902) 434-0719



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Three Ps—Past Present Preview

“Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love.” Mother Teresa

Some Anglicans regard their church’s, their congregation’s, as much like our schools - there is a kind of recess for June, July, and August. Then, as with schools, church life returns after Labour Day.

Our Cathedral just had its “recess” time during the past summer, and ministries flourished throughout the dangerously hot humid days of the summer. Our cathedral worship and praise and prayer welcomed us and our visitors each week.

Volunteer and paid workers supported our cathedral’s ministries in day by day pastoral support, through our outreach ministries, in the care of the bereaved, and with support for the new families



our cathedral sponsors, through the refugee services in our diocese. Our cathedral tour program was a wonderful addition to our summer ministries, and attended professionally by Jamie Whitley. Visitors and cathedral members were treated to a warm welcome, great displays and an open door; as well, an attractive sign to welcome everyone.



Jamie Whitley, our summer Tour Guide

There is no recess for our cathedral’s property matters; the outer and the inner parts of the building had special attention and care; volunteers gave their time to work on our lawn and shrubs. While choristers and Sunday School

teachers had a summer break, children visited us, and music was another part of summer. Two beautiful concerts were given by Dr. James Burchill, and free will offerings of \$730 were added to our Organ Restoration Fund. As at other concerts by

Dr. Burchill, the audience included many tourists, church musicians, and music lovers of our municipality and province. Sunday Bulletins, attractive information cards, and internet announcements all passed along updates on cathedral life.



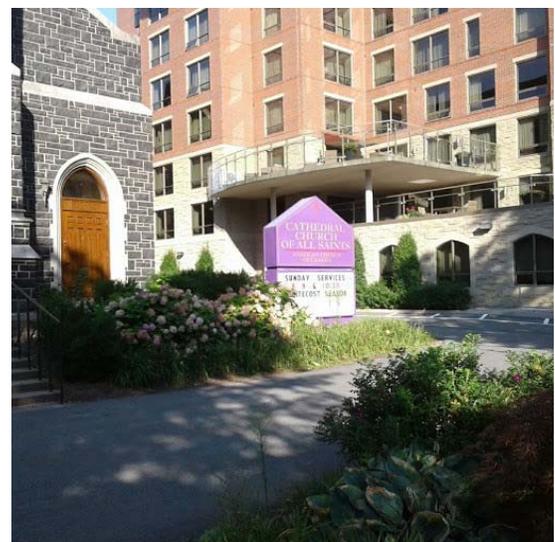
Ken Dauphinee mowing the Cathedral lawn

Our congregation may have interested members who visit and use the excellent facilities of the diocesan Archives ~ now celebrating 100 years in service this year! Ms. Lorraine Slopek, Diocesan Archivist, and Ms. Taunya Dawson, Genealogical Researcher, oversee the Archives.

And now we are into the Church’s latter part of Pentecost/Trinity season with Harvest/ Thanksgiving’s arrival and the arrival soon of our Patronal Festival. All Saints’ Octave and All Souls’ Day are from November 1 to November 8. Once we move into the end of Pentecost/Trinity, Anglicans will get to ask God to “Stir up we beseech thee O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people...”

Our Sunday School and Nursery are up and running, our cathedral choir recruits and welcomes new choristers, and we welcome Shirley Cole, a new student from the Atlantic School of Theology.

-By Kent Doe



St. Catherine's Group welcomes Anglican Foundation Folks

On Friday June 8th, the St. Catherine's Group welcomed the Reverend Canon Dr. Judy Rois, Executive Director and Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Administrator of the *Anglican Foundation*, for tea at the Cathedral. Both were in town for Provincial Synod, and welcomed the opportunity to meet, greet and thank members of the St. Catherine's Group, for its ministry of gifting the newly baptised at the Cathedral with an Anglican Foundation Hope Bear.



Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Rois and Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Administrator of the Anglican Foundation with members of the St. Catherine's Group

Saint Francis of Assisi Blessing of the Animals

Please join us Sunday afternoon, October 14 at 2pm for our Blessing of the Animals Service. We welcome all creatures great and small. Bring your animal friends to be blessed and celebrated, in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures.



Happy Anniversary Diocesan Archives!

On September 27th the Diocesan Archives Committee hosted a luncheon to celebrate **50 years** of a dedicated Diocesan Archives space (1968-2018) and **100 years** of a Diocesan Standing Committee for the "Preservation of Historic Documents and Manuscripts" (1918-2018). The afternoon event was enjoyed by many!

Answers to the Ruth Ballah Memorial Bible Quiz # 2

1. Raven & Dove
2. Joshua
3. False - it is a mountain
4. Deborah and Barak (Book of Judges)
5. Joseph, Samson, Paul
6. Hezekiah
7. Passover
8. Pilate (Mark 15 vs 45)
9. The Church at Corinth
10. Creation, flood, parting of the sea, baptism, water into wine, feet washing,

Halifax Royal Canadian College of Organists (RCCO) Presents Phantom of the Pipes

An evening of Frightening and Fantastic Music featuring the MONSTER ORGAN

Saturday October 27, 2018;
7:00pm at Fort Massey Church
5303 Tobin Street, Halifax



Welcome to Canada Alsadi & Mando Families!

On Sunday, September 30th, we had the opportunity and privilege to formally welcome, and meet with, the Mando and Alsadi families, new Canadians sponsored through our Cathedral community. It was a marvelous evening of food and conversation which was equally as heartwarming and inspiring for them as for all those who attended. A special word of thanks for the coordinating efforts of our Outreach Committee team and for all those who volunteered to prepare a wide variety of delicious foods, to decorate, to do set up and cleanup, and for everyone who supported the event through their presence and/or donations. A wonderful evening of blessings. *"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you."* John 15:12-13 (Photos courtesy of Paul Sherwood)



The Alsadi Family, and Deacon Ray Carter



The Mando Family



From the Register

Burials

Norma Goodwin



CHILDREN'S PAGE



Trick-or-Treat



E W J H O F Y D I N W N N T F R U
S G R A M L G T Z S I R X K A E E
U Y L L M W K J U K E G K K K B B
O W K L C H J P P T W A H R X O K
H I N O O M E M N D O D I T T T C
D T V W O R U A S E M U T S O C A
E C X E H P L V A M P I R E J O L
T H A E X O S S P P M O K H M I B
N S R N K T R I C K O R T R E A T
U O S C D A P U Y B Y G T T L M W
A F A E K Y P N P E H O A R A B P
H J J B C T C P A A Y B C S U I T
B F R R P N L O L U B L K J R S S
R E D I P S I K R E E I S A O W P
M U M M Y S O R Y N S N T H W V T
F U A O P G V R P B C E G G A H N
S L X K G X Q C U P U F Y W B E S

APPLES

BAT

BLACK CAT

BOO

CANDY CORN

COSTUMES

GHOST

GOBLIN

HALLOWEEN

HAUNTED HOUSE

JACKOLANTERN

MASK

MOON

MUMMY

NIGHT

OCTOBER

PIRATE

PRINCESS

PUMPKIN

SPIDER

SPOOKY

SUPERHERO

TRICK OR TREAT

VAMPIRE

WITCH