



Thanksgiving Letter

2017

Message from Interim Rector

Dear Parishioners and Friends of St. John's;

It is strange to me that only one day in the year is set aside to stop and give thanks to God for all the blessings of our lives. There is little in the Gospels about being thankful. Could it be that people of faith have moments of gratitude every day? When we hear beautiful music, or see a perfect flower or hear children laugh – these moments may elicit a quick prayer of thanksgiving. This gratitude comes from the recognition that all good things come from God as gifts, and we are only stewards. We are especially fortunate in living in the Grand River watershed to have enough water, bountiful crops and diverse people. This seems obvious, and yet God warns in Deuteronomy that these blessings can lead to forgetting God.

We can remain thankful to God by applying Albert Schweitzer's philosophy: "In gratitude for your own good fortune you must render in return some sacrifice of your life for other life." Many of you are engaged in the art of "Thanksgiving". Look for yourself in the list below that was put together by Wilfred A Peterson.

It is thanking God:

- for your talents and abilities by accepting them as obligations to be invested for the common good.
- for all that men and women have done for you by doing things for others.
- for happiness by striving to make others happy.

- for beauty by helping to make the world more beautiful.
 - for inspiration by trying to be an inspiration to others
 - for health and strength by the care and reverence you show your body.
 - for the creative ideas that enrich life by adding your own creative contributions to human progress.
 - for each new day by living it to the fullest.
 - by giving hands, arms, legs, and voice to your thankful spirit.
 - by adding your to prayers of thanksgiving, acts of thanksgiving.
- Have a Happy Thanksgiving,
Barbara+

Message from Rector Emeritus

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate Thanksgiving 2017, we have much for which to be grateful. In spite of the heavy rains and cool winds of the past summer, the harvest is plentiful – "the valleys also stand so thick with corn that they laugh and sing" Ps 65.

Besides the renewed theme of harvest thanksgiving we must be generally thankful for the loving kindness almighty God showers upon us. As the Prayer of Thanksgiving puts it so eloquently: We bless Thee for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; But above all for thine inestimable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace and for the hope of glory."

May we this Thanksgiving show forth that Divine love, not only in our words, but in our deeds, my reaching out to others and providing hospitality to all and sundry – and especially to those we might otherwise shun.

Thus will our barren hearts be made fruitful with God's goodly grace and we shall hallow his holy name and at the last rest in his eternal love and providence.

Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Robert



Parish Finances

The Treasurer is concerned that our givings are significantly lower than our budget requires! Let us all with joyful hearts, and in gratitude for God's glorious bounty and goodness to us, make a generous offering this Thanksgiving.

Parish Retreat

Please mark your calendars for our **annual parish retreat** October 28, 10:30 am to 2:30 pm at the Parish Centre. This year's retreat will be led by the Very Rev'd William McKeachie, Dean Emeritus of South Carolina.

SCHEDULE OF UPCOMING SERVICES AT ST. JOHN'S			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Day</i>	
Oct 8	9 and 11 am	Sunday	Harvest Thanksgiving
<i>Oct 8</i>	<i>9:30 am</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Harvest Home – Christ Church, Drayton</i>
Oct 28	10:30 am–2:30 pm	Saturday	Parish Retreat at Parish Centre
Nov 12	11 am	Sunday	Remembrance service
Dec 3	5:00 pm	Sunday	Advent Lessons and Carols (parish choir)