

The Beehive



The Parish Newsletter of St. Paul's L'Amoreaux

December 2010

Advent 2010

Contents

"Truth", by Aretha Huntley	p. 1
Conversation with Parish Nurse	p. 2
Letter to Sunday School Parents	p. 2
Tributes to Carlynn Reed	p. 3
"Put on Jesus", by Fr. Dean	p. 5
Notices	p. 7

Truth

by Aretha Huntley (*Sermon, Youth Sunday, Nov. 14*)

Good Morning Church! Today, as we celebrate Youth Sunday, our young people would like to take a few moments to address the topic of Truth.

Over the past few weeks, our Friday night sessions have focused on this topic and there are three areas I will concentrate on today. First the question; what is truth? There are a variety of definitions of the term, many of which propose that Truth is a Fact, something that is real or actual. But in Ephesians 1:13 we learn that the Gospel is the Truth. And in 1 Timothy 3:15 we get the sense that the church is meant to protect and uphold the truth while in John 14:6 Jesus himself states, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Therefore, as Christians, we do not view the subject of Truth as some abstract reality, but rather as it is summed up in the word and person of Jesus Christ, the revealed truth of God. It is important that we keep this definition of truth in the forefront of our minds, so our actions are in accordance with our faith, and we do not let the teachings of others lead us off the path of our true beliefs.

As followers of Christ in a world that is filled with so many dissenting views and opinions about Christianity, it is critical that we strive to remain true to our faith in all that we say and do. In Verse 8 of the Gospel today, we are warned about the importance of being True to our Faith. In "...beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say I

am he, and The Time is near. Do not go after them," Jesus urges us to be wary of deceivers who will try to lead us away from the truth with false teachings and proclamations. This message is especially important for our young people because our society is filled with so many distractions and critiques of the Christian faith that it can become quite overwhelming for anyone to stay true to their beliefs, especially a young Christian. I can only imagine how difficult it must be for our youth, who are still trying to grow and develop in their relationship with God, to navigate through all of the different opinions and views that society spews out every day about Christianity.

I remember the difficulties I faced during my first year at University where I was often challenged by other students and even some Professors to defend my faith. And I often wonder what impact those years might have had on my beliefs had I not had a strong support system at home. This is why

I believe that our Friday night sessions are so important, because they give us an opportunity to support each other as we get to know the truth about our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ by reflecting on his word.

As Christians we need to remember whom we serve and never allow ourselves to become so naïve that we could be led to think and act in a manner that contradicts our faith. It is important that we stay focused on our true beliefs; on the word and on Jesus Christ; forever building a closer and stronger bond with him day by day. It is only by knowing the truth about whom we serve that we can protect ourselves



against the elements in society that seek to lead us astray.

Jesus stressed the importance of faithfulness, as it reflects the truth of who we are as Christian believers. In Christ we are all called to worship and serve God. In fact, scripture tells us that even when we are faced with trials and tribulations, we should seize the opportunity to testify and bear witness to the goodness of Christ. This message is clear in Luke 21:12-13 "...they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake. And it shall turn to you for a testimony."

As we stand up and bear witness, we should rely on the Holy Spirit to direct our lives so that we become beacons of light for Christ, shining in the dark corners of the world and our lives. I believe this is the wisdom to which the passage refers. For when we become open to the leading of God's Holy Spirit, we experience a change in every aspect of our relationships with one another that reflect the love of God in Christ in every Christian believer.

Many will say these concepts are not easily understood or even practical, but we are called to strive constantly towards this goal. And Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, has promised to be with us throughout our lives even to the end of the age. It is never going to be easy for us as Christians to live up to the high ideals of Truth, simply because we are human and prone to sin through which we fall short of the glory of God. But I believe the passage is instructive in its appeal to the high moral and spiritual code that Christ has taught us.

We have looked at the Topic of Truth from the point of view of scripture, and have come to recognize that God's word is Truth, and was made flesh through Jesus Christ his incarnate Son to lead us through life. We must be true to the Faith we profess, and not be distracted or become misguided by the wiles of our fellow humankind. And finally we must remain open to the truth, which is part of our true calling as Christians.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

A Conversation with our Parish Nurse

by Sylvia Gordon

I've been diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes. What does that mean?

Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas which helps in regulating sugar in the blood, and in the body in general. Type 2 Diabetes occurs when your body cannot produce enough insulin, or cannot properly use the insulin it makes.

How does having Type 2 Diabetes affect my health?

If your blood glucose level is not properly controlled, you are at risk of developing serious long-term problems including heart disease and stroke; kidney failure; adult blindness; impotence and amputation.

What should I do to properly manage my diabetes?

"Ask your family doctor for his or her advice about proper treatment.

"Is there any good news in this?"

"Yes, there is. You can live a longer and healthier life by taking steps to control your blood glucose levels. These include healthy eating, regular physical activity and maintaining a healthy weight. I'll be discussing these issues in the next Beehive."

Letter to the Sunday School Parents

As the holiday season approaches, and we prepare for the coming year, we wanted to take this opportunity to share some of the things planned for the Sunday school. Sunday school is a place where our children learn the basic tenets of the faith; it is a place where some of their moral and Christian development take place, but it not the primary place. We are only an aid to the development that takes place in the home. In the New Year, the Sunday school will be introducing homework for the kids. They will be given Bible verses, prayers, and appropriate parts of the liturgy (i.e. the Nicene Creed) to study. Sometimes they will be asked to read a Bible story in advance of Sunday school, but we know that the children can't do all this alone; they have to be gently "prodded" by you, the parents.

In the New Year we recommit ourselves to teaching your children to love the LORD God with all their heart, with all their soul, with all their strength and with all their mind; and to love their neighbours as they love themselves (Luke 10:27). We look forward to working with all of you -- the parents, the teachers and the clergy of St. Paul's -- in building on the strong foundation that has been laid in the past several years, to ensure that your children grow into wise adults, filled with the knowledge and love of God and of His son, Jesus Christ.

You will be hearing more about this in the New Year, so until then, may the blessing of God be with you this Christmas season and always.

Yours in Christ, Donethia Hunt, SS Coordinator
(2011)

The Rev. Annette Brownlee, SS Chaplain

God Bless Carlynn Reed!

On Sunday, November 28, after Evensong we had a huge "Thank You!" for Carlynn Reed as she leaves her staff position at St. Paul's. Among the accolades were these edited comments.

From babies to teenagers, Carlynn has been a source of love and leadership - not to forget "nutritious snacks" - and we will all take something of her with us into our lives as we develop into adults. She has taught us about God and about Christian values - especially love - and has always made learning fun. She has taught us how to be actors, even if that meant having to learn lines. She has been a great example of how to be a good human being, to know the difference between right and wrong, and how to make the right moral choices when we face life's challenges and difficulties. Thank you, Carlynn...from the children in your Sunday School. We'll miss you!

-Amber Rodgers

‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡

For the past seven years, the parents of St Paul's have watched our children grow from being shy and reserved (and sometimes quite the opposite!) but you have handled each of them with patience, care and unbiased love. Every Sunday morning we heard them ask "Can we go with Miss Carlynn?" and to many of the adults' delight we hear you reply "Sure, follow me..." Off you went with the children in tow, keenly listening to your kind words of spiritual wisdom and encouragement. You have, throughout these years, carried them in your heart and, at times, on your back as well. To which many of the children would say "Me, Miss Carlynn. Do me, I'm next..." Just where do you get your patience and strength?

We would like to thank you, Carlynn, for bringing the children's pageant to St. Paul's. It became an eye opener and a growing stage for our children. They were so eager and excited to try something new. It was fun and they loved it. Those who were not

involved in the initial production were now eager to become a part of it. So in came the shy, the reserved, even those with learning disabilities and emotional problems and children who never before felt like interacting with other kids. It was then that they began to expand and finally unite as one family.

The adults from SPA would also like to thank you for an experience that has impacted our lives. The opportunity to be spiritual yet funny, visionary but not intimidating allowed us to express ourselves and find an inner part of us we never knew existed.

So from the children, SPA and members of St. Paul's Church we would like to say we love you very much, Carlynn, and appreciate your tremendous work and dedication throughout the past seven years. We will miss you, your laughter, your advice and the encouragement you brought to us all. We understand that it is time for you to move on, that there will be another church waiting for your contribution to make that well needed change they long for, to become a united family.



We thank you, gracious Father for bringing Carlynn to our church. And Carlynn, we wish you all the best and thank you once again from the bottom of our hearts for allowing the Heavenly Father to direct your path into our lives. By doing His will among us we now have a stronger foundation for our children to spiritually build on."

-Charmaine Williams

‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡

It is difficult to describe a woman that everyone already knows and admires but I'm going to try my best, first by telling you how charming she is. Carlynn Reed just radiates charm, a very useful quality when you want to inspire volunteers and she uses it with great effectiveness. "Oh Ian, could I speak to you for a moment?" (Oh, oh, here it comes.) "I wonder if

you'd be willing to..." and she's got you! I mean how can you resist? She does this...thing...with her personality, her eyes and her smile.

I can also tell you how charismatic she is. That's a rare quality, but she just radiates charisma. Pierre Trudeau didn't even come close.

Attractive too. Carlynn is a truly beautiful woman. I first noticed that when I came to St. Paul's until I struck up a conversation with the man sitting beside me in the back row with long, shoulder-length silver hair. "What do you do here?" I asked. "I'm a priest!" he smiled. Ahhh! I told him I was interested in using drama in worship and he said, "Well, then, you'll have to speak to my wife, Carlynn," and pointed her out. It shouldn't have surprised me that one of the most fascinating women - and one of the most fascinating men in the parish (other than the very fascinating Father Dean, of course) were married. To each other.

Loving. Here is a person who radiates the love of Christ to everyone from the tiniest baby to the octogenarian. And Creative. You only have to have been part of the dance or drama at St. Paul's to realize how creative she is. In fact, several plays you have seen here were also written or adapted by Carlynn.

Maternal. Carlynn has been another mother, another big sister, another auntie and an important older friend to hundreds of children at St. Paul's. They latch onto her like flies on a jam sandwich. I have seen her literally festooned with children during the Summer Bible Music Camp where the tried and true metaphor - trying to herd a room full of cats - applied in spades. Amazingly she could control a high octane roomful of kids and get them to learn a play in one week without a scowl, a threat or an intimidation.



Teacher - In the Sunday School she has been the guiding light for the teachers, exemplar to the older children and another big kid with the little ones, sitting down and playing with them at their own level. Floor

level. Surrounded by a happy chaos of toys and children's voices.

She also expresses kindness, gentleness and faith. I have watched her touch alone dry a tear or calm a burst of out of control energy. When I had a terrible bout of back pain she immediately agreed to pray for me, put her hand on the vertebra involved (I mean right there in the Narthex with people watching!) and prayed for me. The pain was gone in a day and never returned. I can only refer to the Biblical adage: "The prayer of a righteous person availeth much."

But the most important word that describes Carlynn is radiant. She has a charming, charismatic, loving, creative, maternal, kind and gentle quality that just radiates from her. And I am sure that everyone who knows her would agree with that assessment.

I have the honour to commend to you all, my friend, Carlynn Reed. You have hundreds of other friends here, Carlynn and they will miss you. The children will also miss you. We just hope you'll find a reason to drop by once in awhile and bring some of your special light back to St. Paul's.

-Ian Stuart

Thank You and Farewell

by Carlynn Reed

I am still swooning in the memories of the kind and generous tribute & farewell celebration you gave me on November 28 - on my birthday! The speeches by Amber Rodgers, Charmaine Williams, and Ian Stuart are still ringing in my head. And what a beautiful sound!

Happily, leaving St. Paul's is a tearful process for me. For I shall miss you. The tears I have shed are tears of friendship and kinship. They are tears of bonded love and common journey. They are tears of shared memories and cherished rejoicing. For we have been in ministry together for seven years, co-labourers in a vision that inspires and drives us.

I do have to make a confession. Goodbyes are very difficult for me. The words choke in my throat and give me pain. The morning I announced my leaving to the Sunday School teachers I could hardly speak. It was tearful and quiet. Then slowly out of the ashes of shock and sadness, we began to share stories about the kids who have crawled into our hearts in the past 7 years through Sunday School and Christmas Pageants and Summer Musical Theatre. We laughed and we cried. Then Charmaine asked me about telling the children. I told her that I don't know how to do

that, and that I would need help. So gradually the children were told in a gentle fashion and now we are together in moving on, planning our last Christmas Pageant together.

And then of course I had to tell SPA. This is a team which has spent hours together laughing and struggling and supporting and yes sharing tears together. Drama ministry by its very nature demands that we are transparent with one another, that we voluntarily become vulnerable with one another. We cannot hide behind pretension. We expose our fears and our weaknesses, our strengths and our faith. We encourage and support one another on stage and off. We know each other and we love one another. And our faith in God grows. The ministry of SPA will continue at St. Paul's!



When I came to St. Paul's I had to say goodbye to another set of children and young people with whom I had been working for about seven years in theatre. It was a painful decision and a sad one, but I felt God was calling me to St. Paul's. And now I am in the same situation again. When I lived down in Connecticut, before we moved to Toronto, I had to say goodbye to a group of adults and young people who had been an active part of drama ministry with me in another St. Paul's - again for about seven years. The pain was almost unbearable.

But it is not unbearable forever, and even now we are all moving into our new places where God is calling us. It is remarkable to me how gently God is settling us into the new situation.

I will forever hold the people of St. Paul's in my heart. Marie Tatlot whispered in my ear after her beautiful dance in the farewell celebration, "Don't forget about me." That of course is impossible. I will never forget. I will always hold you dear in my heart. And I hope by God's grace that He continues to find ways for our ministries to touch and blend in the coming years.

"Put On Jesus Christ"

by Fr. Dean

Many of you know that the American Civil War of 1861 to 1865 between the northern and southern states did not begin with the intention of eliminating slavery. But over the first year, President Abraham Lincoln came to the conclusion that it was no longer possible to say that a man is free in Washington, DC, but is not free 100 miles south in Richmond, Virginia. That conviction would crystallize in the Proclamation of Emancipation signed on January 1, 1863.

But before it could be announced, the President faced a strategic and military obstacle. His northern armies had suffered a string of losses. Foreign powers like England and France were withdrawing their support. And Lincoln could not afford to make the declaration from a position of weakness. He needed a win. That is what made the Battle of Antietam on September 17, 1862 so important. It was a desperate fight, the single bloodiest battle in the Civil War, but the victory gave President Lincoln the chance he was looking for, and five days later he announced the Proclamation of Emancipation. England and France withdrew their support of the Confederacy and the moral tide of the war changed, an advantage the northern forces would never lose.

The Civil War would last three more terrible years and the struggle for freedom from slavery an additional hundred until the Civil Rights Act of 1964. And, not insignificantly, the election of a bright and competent African-American to the Oval Office in 2008 marked another landmark in the ongoing struggle.



There are three lessons in our passage from Romans today that lead us into our observance of Advent. First, and because of the victory of Jesus Christ, raised from the dead and vindicated by the Father, history has changed forever. We live in the light of a new day. And because of that new day, everything else has changed.

God's purposes will not be established through the force of brute force, but through the radiance of holiness, beginning in the simplest, willing life and

spreading to every corner of the world. That slow, persistent spread continues. The final day is not known but the final result is certain. As we have it in 2 Peter: "...do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance," (2 Peter 3:8-9) and "... in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home." (2 Peter 3.13)

The King will come again, but the King has already come. History has been changed for good. In the light of Christ's triumph, our own hearts and lives stand exposed. And that which cannot bear to be seen in the light can no longer be accepted. There are compromises we have made which are no longer acceptable.

David and Tricia Puttock told me about a beautiful pet dog they had, with a glistening white, fur coat. But in the picture they showed me, the white coat was marred by an unsightly yellow stain. He had tangled with a skunk, and not only did the skunk's spray make him stink, it stained his coat. Alone and offensive to all who came near, the poor thing pawed at himself, desperately trying to scratch away the terrible smell and stain.

Is the light of Jesus Christ meant to judge us without hope? Are the commands of our Lord meant to weigh us down with no hope of relief? No. "...God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him . . . all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light." (John 3:17-21)

The commands of our Lord, playing their melody in lives of holiness and service, are what we're made for. Not drunkenness, debauchery, quarreling and jealousy as St. Paul lists in Romans 13:13, and not for misery, degradation, harm and offense to others. That is the behaviour of those who have forgotten history, lost all hope and been engulfed by darkness. The light and life of Jesus Christ is not for this. He is the One in whose image we have been created and the brightness of his life is the glory for which we have been created.

Sin is odious. Sin hurts and harms us. Sin hurts and harms others, and drives them away. I love the lesson the pet dog teaches, covered in filth and stench. In the clear morning air and the light of a new day, it is all unbearable. But just as his owners took him in their

arms and scrubbed him clean - with tomato juice, by the way - our Lord does not leave us hopeless, abandoned and miserable, trying to claw ourselves clean. Come to me, he says, and put me on. Our freedom remains intact, but if we let him and accept him, he surrounds us, cloaks us and by his grace makes us whole.



How do we put on Jesus, as St. Paul exhorts? First, through repentance. Make no mistake - there are hard decisions and choices to be made, and serious effort involved - but we are not left clawing and scratching in the corner alone. Rather, we make those decisions and choices with Jesus Christ himself cloaked around us, in the company of Christian friends, with the body and blood of Jesus Christ strengthening us, sustaining us and salving our wounds. Decisions made possible with the brightness of Jesus Christ, more and more, day by day, enlighten our lives and sweep the darkness away. "... put away your former way of life, your old self, corrupt and deluded by its lusts, and . . . be renewed in the spirit of your minds . . . clothe yourselves with the new self, created according to the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness." (Ephesians 4:22-24)

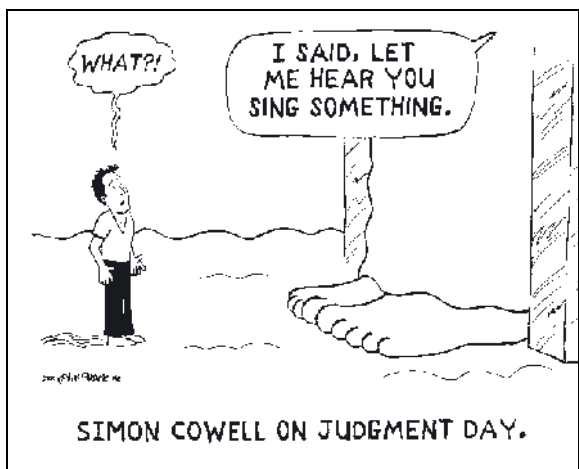
How do we put on Jesus? Through conversation with him in prayer and contemplation of him through the Scriptures. "I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Eph 3:16-19)

How do we put on Jesus? We put him on through his gift of himself to us in the sacrament. His very self given to us. His grace offered to us which reveals and redeems and restores.

May this be a blessed Advent for us all - an Advent to contemplate a world whose history has been changed. An Advent to let the light of Christ shine on our secrets in the shadows so that we may be rid of all which drags us down. An Advent cloaked in the embrace of our Savior, who seeks us, who reaches out to us and who gives himself to us for lives of holiness and beauty for which we are created.

To close with a prayer by Theodore Ferris: "We thank thee, O God, for the life and death of Jesus, his presence with us now; help us to see him more clearly, to love him more dearly, and to follow him more nearly, that his risen life may be in us; and as we die to the little things of the world, may we live with him in light and love and life." Amen.

The Beehive is the parish newsletter of St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Anglican Church, Scarborough, Ontario, and is published four times a year - Lent, Pentecost, Michaelmas, and Advent. It is available in printed form or on the church website - www.stpl.ca. The Beehive is sent to members who are ill or confined to their homes or to any who so request. (Please contact the office to make this arrangement.) The next Beehive will be available March 13. Deadline for entries is March 6.
Editor: Ian Stuart



©2010, Kevinfrank.net, reprinted by permission from *Christianity Today*

YOU'RE INVITED TO WASHINGTON, DC!

Join friends, members & the Junior and Adult Choirs of St. Paul's L'Amoreaux for a trip to Washington, DC, March Break 2011 - Saturday, March 12 to Tuesday, March 15: *Singing at Holy Comforter

Episcopal Church (www.holycomforterdc.org); *Sight-seeing: Washington, DC.

BUS FEES: Adults - \$150 (travel, tip); Junior Choir: \$80 (travel & accommodations)

ACCOMODATIONS: Clarion Inn and Fun Dome, 8601 Baltimore Avenue, College Park, MD 20740 (www.collegeparkinn.com)

ROOM FEES: The total cost for a room for 1-4 people for the three nights is \$270 (US). The cost is to be shared by occupants as they choose (i.e., equally divided by two people is \$135 each, by three people is \$90 each, by 4 people is \$68.50 each). This total includes taxes and continental breakfast.

DEADLINE: To Register, or for more information, call the church office - 416-499-1545, or e-mail - stpl@stpl.ca. \$50.00 non-refundable deposit required upon registration. Registration and payment deadline is Sunday, February 13. Fees are non-refundable.

‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡

Advent and Christmas Schedule

Candlelight Memorial Service

Friday, December 17, 7:30 p.m.

You are invited to light a candle for a loved one.

Steel, String Brass & Keys Concert

Saturday, December 18, 6.00 p.m.

Christmas Eve

6:00 pm - Family service and Christmas Pageant

11:00 pm - Choral and Candlelight Mass

Christmas Day - 10:00 am

First Sunday of Christmas - Christmas Lessons & Carols

Followed by Christmas Dinner

New Year's Eve Watchnight Service

December 31, 11:00 pm

‡ ‡ ‡ ‡ ‡

Called to Serve with All Our Gifts

by Leonard Leader

Serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received (1 Peter 4:10).

The stewardship committee would like to thank you for your continued support and for indicating your intended offering for the 2011 fiscal year. This allows our leadership to budget according to our anticipated revenues. But during this season of giving, we are asking you to consider a special Christmas offering, if you are able, to help us finish this year in a strong financial position. As givers of true gifts, and channels of God's love, your generosity will help us invest in the ministries offered here at St. Paul's. Thank you for being a considerate steward.



St. Paul's L'Amoreaux Anglican Church

3333 Finch Avenue, East,

Scarborough, Ontario M1W 2R9

Phone: 416-499-1545

Facsimile: 416-499-5007

E-mail: stpl@stpl.ca

Website: www.stpl.ca
