

CONTACT

Pentecost 2013



CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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Don Mills, Ontario
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Rector

The Rev. Philip
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Honorary Assistant Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Derek Davidson
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Colin West
Lay Ministry Assistant

Lawrence Green
Organist & Choir Director

Andrew Gledhill
Ian Paul
Church Wardens

Peter Cranston
Barbara Rochard
Deputy Church Wardens

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Treasurer

Boa Burns
Envelope Secretary

William Hullah
Community Share Food Bank

Carol Hamilton
Parish Administrative Assistant

Audrey Leadbitter
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Editors

PASTORAL MESSAGE

The Old Testament tells us that God led the people of Israel through the desert with a cloud: when it was time for the people to rest, the cloud hung over the tabernacle; when it was time to move, the cloud lifted, and the people would resume on their journey.

*At the command of the Lord they would camp,
and at the command of the Lord they would set out.* (Numbers 9:23)

Life in the Parish can feel this way: sometimes it feels as if we are resting at camp, sometimes it feels as if we are on the move; and sometimes it feels as if both things are happening at the same time.

The summer months of June, July and August are a peculiar time in the life of the church in Toronto. After the May Victoria weekend it seems as if the whole city alters its *modus operandi* and prepares to take a collective rest – at least from its regular routine. People begin to desert the city – cottages are opened, people go on holidays - after all the kids are out of school – summer camp, numerous music, theatre and arts festivals attract –many neighbourhoods go silent. Even the church seems to hibernate. But that is not the case at the *Ascension*, because simmering beneath this quiet façade of *rest* is a beehive of activity. The Community Share Food Bank does not cease; Footprints Day Camp is over proscribed and running; the work of pastoral care and Sunday Services continues; preliminary planning for fall and Christmas Season is underway, as is the work of responding to the needs of young families and young people who have joined the church.

Less usual is:

- The work of *Deep Water Fishing* and making “family connections” in our neighbourhood outreach *Who Is Your Family*. Early in September I will be looking to volunteers who are willing to do a door-to-door *visitation* from the feedback we have received from parishioners. Please help us identify families in your neighbourhood who we could plan to visit.
- At the beginning of June we took the step, at the advice of the Diocese and our Lawyer, to relinquish our control of Better Living/Thompson House. This does not mean that our pastoral obligation and care for the residents of Thompson House ends. I will still preside at the monthly Eucharist; we will continue to bring folk over for Sunday services; and our Christian Companions and our other volunteers will continue to provide support during the week as some have done for many years. Soon we will work to put in place more formal agreements on things such as parking, snow clearing and lawn cutting among others.
- In June, after a long investigative study giving us a detailed scope of work, we approved at a Special Vestry the funds needed to install a new boiler. The new boiler will provide constant and more efficient heat to the Ascension Hall and the Seneca class rooms below. Work of installing our new boiler has begun, along with the ensuing upheaval for Seneca School & the Community Share Food Bank who now share the Ascension Hall. Completion of the work is expected by the middle of September. Thank you for your continued support.

The Ascension has always known that the Lord commands us to set out from camp to accomplish our mission. We are trying to be attentive to God to know when to rest at camp and when to set out, and when we have to do both at the same time. And so far God has not led us astray, nor will He ever.

The heat wave that we have been experiencing encourages us to slow down the pace of life, even a little, and do a little less rushing around. Our escape from the heat to the cool of indoors also allows us the opportunity to take a breath and reflect on what God has before us.

I look forward to changing my *modus operandi* during August and pause to enjoy the silence of my neighbourhood and the slower pace of life with Catherine.

May God bless and keep you safe. Fr. Nick

COMING EVENTS

Sides Persons Lunch

Saturday, September 7th

10 am Meeting, 11 am Eucharist, 12 pm Lunch

Inter-Faith Dinner

Saturday, September 28th, 5 pm – 8 pm

Welcome Back Sunday

Sunday, September 29th at 8 am & 10:30 am

Reception after both services

Parish Work Day

Saturday, October 5th at 9 am – 1 pm

Thanksgiving Gala Dinner

Saturday, October 19th at 5:30 pm

Fund Raising Event

Friends of the Caribbean

Saturday, October 26th

Eucharist at 5 pm, Dinner at 6:30 pm

Requiem for All Souls

Saturday, November 2 at 4:00 pm

Wine & Cheese reception to follow

Toronto Mass Choir

Saturday, November 16th, 7 pm

Fund Raising Concert

Advent Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 1 at 10:30 am

Featuring Bach Cantata #140

Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 8 at 10:30 am

Followed by a pot luck lunch

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 pm

Followed by a festive Yuletide reception

Who Is Your Family?

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are needed to perform a door-to-door visitation based on the feedback collected from our parishioners who have identified families in their neighbourhoods.

Please sign up to help with this outreach at the information table at the back of the church.

Your Change to Make Change Jars

As part of our New Boiler fund raising effort, every household in the parish is encouraged to sign out as many mason jars as they feel they can fill before the end of summer. ***Please return your filled jars by Sunday, September 29th (Welcome Back Sunday).***

A tax receipt will be issued for all amounts of \$10 or more.

Thank you for your support.

Confirmation Preparation Classes

Preparation for confirmation will be offered beginning in the fall if there is enough interest.

Classes will be offered only to children 13 years or older and to adults.

Please speak with Fr. Nick.

Choir Rehearsals to Begin in September

The Ascension and Contemporary Choirs will begin rehearsing for the season starting in September. The Ascension Choir will start their rehearsals on Tuesday evening, Sept. 3 at 7:30 pm, while the Contemporary Choir will begin their rehearsals starting on Monday, Sept. 16 at 7:30 pm.

If there is anyone who is interested in singing with either group, or knows of someone who is interested, please contact Larry Green through the main office number or email. The Ascension Choir rehearses on Tuesday and Thursday evenings while the Contemporary Choir rehearses on Monday evenings.

Supper at 6

Please join us every 3rd Thursday of the month for a pot-luck supper at the Ascension beginning Thursday Sept. 19th. Bring a dish to share if you can – there's always a pot of soup on the stove.

So, if you can't bring anything, be sure to come anyway. There's no agenda except for good conversation, companionship, and a varied and healthy dinner.

In Memoriam

**Judson Jessup
Ted Rogers**

May their Souls & the Souls of All the Faithfully Departed through the Mercy of God Rest in Peace and Rise in Christ's Glory.