



Digging Deep, Reaching High

Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (1 Corinthians 12: 4-7)

The Fourth Sunday of Easter
April 21, 2024

Dear Members of our Holy Trinity Church Family,

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord.

In my Easter letter to our Parish of the Valley family this year I wrote to you about teamwork. Teamwork, as I shared with you at Easter, takes work! It takes a concerted effort for God's people to intentionally communicate, coordinate and collaborate across a large rural area parish, so that we can best serve the world that God loves as members of the Anglican Church of Canada in this time and place. It takes open and faithful hearts that are prepared to pray, to try new things, and to build new relationships, so that we might live more fully into the supreme commandment to love God, and to love our neighbours as ourselves. It all takes work -- but friends, it is such very good work!

The same core principle is true for our beloved Holy Trinity Church Family in Pembroke. By the grace of God, each of us has been united with Christ in our baptism – we share this Eastertide in his glorious resurrection – and as part of his resurrected body each member of our congregation is called to prayerfully share the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that we have been blessed with, as we join in helping God's kingdom to come, and God's will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Digging Deep, Reaching High, our annual spring stewardship program is about this work of prayerful discernment and sharing. As has now become our custom, in the time preceding Pentecost we dedicate four weeks to thinking and praying intentionally as a congregation about the ministry of stewardship. We share our stories, hopes, reflections, challenges, and questions, and we listen for how God is calling all of us to participate in God's mission in the time that lies ahead.

This year, as a way to help you pray about how you are being called to share your gifts of time and talents among our Holy Trinity community, we are pleased to share with you a simple form that is aptly titled, "I Could Do That!" We are indebted to our Parish of the Valley neighbours at St. John's in Eganville for sharing this resource with us, which they developed for use in their context over a

decade ago. We pray that it will be a way for you to communicate where you are feeling called to serve, what ministries you would like to learn more about, and what efforts you hope to continue.

We are also all invited, as each of us is able, to contribute to Holy Trinity's third annual Pentecost Appeal. You can use the special offering envelope enclosed with this letter to make your contribution, or you can visit our parish's website, www.ValleyAnglicans.ca, to learn more about the many ways that you can support the ministries of our Holy Trinity Church Family. In its first two years the Pentecost Appeal has helped raise more than \$11,500 to support the life and ministries of our Holy Trinity congregation and has been a major contributing factor to the congregation's overall financial health, enabling us as a Christian community to continue offering our core ministries of worship, pastoral care, education and outreach with confidence and stability.

Dear friends in Christ, in the Reign of God each of us belongs, each of us is beloved, and each of us has something valuable to contribute. This is the very essence of what it means to be part of the Church: the resurrected body of Christ. May you be blessed in your discernment this Eastertide as you pray about how God is calling you to steward the gifts that you have been so graciously given in the service of God's mission this coming year. May you know the deep joy of the Spirit that always flows when we live with openness and generosity. May our Holy Trinity community know the unstoppable power of the risen Christ that always transforms this world whenever we love our neighbours as ourselves and work together as a team.

Yours faithfully in Christ's resurrected love,



The Rev. Matthew J. Brown
Incumbent



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