



# REVELATIONS

Ordinary People Learning to Follow Jesus

October 2025  
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## Clergy Team Message

*"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:3-6*



Thanksgiving is a beautiful time of year: the trees show off with radiant reds, oranges, and yellows; fall flowers are popping their colours out everywhere,

and bright pumpkins are ripe on the ground; birds and small animals are rushing around storing up food for the winter. The temperatures turn with the turning of the season, cooling down around us. We find warmth in our relationships with friends, family, and parish family and in the familiar places that call us to rest and home.

While it has been a challenging year for many of us, it has also been a year of renewed life and joyful growth - not only in the life and ministry we share together, but also in the beautiful places where we gather as community in worship.

Throughout this Thanksgiving *Revelations*, you will see that theme of thanksgiving and joy – in the many projects completed across our parish this spring and summer, in the fellowship that we share together in worship and food, and in all of the ways that we gather both in our church buildings and in our homes. Together we can rejoice at the good work that God is doing among us and through us.

As we continue in this fall season in the Parish of the Valley, may we keep looking for moments, big and small, to pause and give thanks to God for the joy in sharing in ministry together here in our beloved parish community.

Rev. Matthew, Rev. Gillian, Rev. Nick,  
& Rev. Christine

## Giving Thanks for Music - and Musicians!

*Submitted by Alice Fergusson*

At St. Paul's, Cobden, a search for an organist has been ongoing since the accomplished Marie Zettler retired several years ago due to a health condition.

There were many verbal inquiries made in the community, but no interest was shown. The position was then advertised for a period of two months. Again, no interest. We began to feel hopeless.



And----then---there she was sitting in a pew in our church, a young lady who joined our congregation, along with her husband, Ben, who is now serving as a deputy churchwarden, in May of this year.

Victoria Savage had studied piano as a youngster, and when asked if she would be interested in learning to play the organ, without hesitation, answered YES!

That response was incredible relief, joy, and the giving of thanks to our Blessed

Lord. Victoria, being very conscientious and grateful to have Marie as a mentor, started playing on August 31st.

We are thankful, happy and know that we have another organist who will, before long, become another accomplished player. Thank you, Victoria!



Parish of the Valley

Diocese of Ottawa  
Anglican Church of Canada

## Summer Students at Epiphany Fashions *with notes from Tish Whitfield*

For the third year in a row, Epiphany Fashions at the Church of the Epiphany, Barry's Bay has been pleased to welcome summer students to enable the used clothing bank to be open daily throughout the summer!



Our first summer student was Sommer Vipond-McFarlane and the second student was Alisha Dombroskie. They were both very good. Alisha and her mom are now volunteer at Epiphany Fashions.

Epiphany Fashions is doing well! It is supported by a good group of volunteers. With the money donated for used clothing, we have been able to help several individuals in our community.



This October, Epiphany Fashions will be participating in the FunDrive, a program offered by Value Village that supports local non-profit organizations. The Madawaska Valley Food Bank has been registered in the FunDrive program, and they will receive 15

cents a pound for clothing, 10 cents a pound for dishes and small appliances (smaller than a microwave), and 2 cents a pound for books, VHS, DVD, etc.

With clothing and other items that we cannot sell at Epiphany Fashions, we will be supporting the Madawaska Valley Food Bank through the FunDrive. If people want to donate items or clothing Tish will storing everything in her garage. Thank you to the parish and community for your support of Epiphany Fashions!

## Blessings from the Backyard *Written by Cari Rakai*

*Editor's Note: This devotion was written for and shared with the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Women in May. With Cari's blessing, the ACW leadership shared this reflection with us, that it might benefit our whole Parish Family.*

Today, I want to share a little story from my backyard. When we first moved into our house, I discovered a peony plant nestled under a large shade tree, split in two, growing on either side of a wooden garden frame. The next three springs, like clockwork, it would send up shoots and form a cheery, round bud - just one! But before it ever had the chance to bloom, the leaves of the tree would fill in, and that little peony would be left in the dark. The bud would wither away, year after year.

But it never stopped trying.



For 3 years, I watched it give its best, only to be blocked again and again. It wasn't until the fall before last that I finally decided to move it to the other side of the house, into a sunnier spot.

And last spring, for the first time, I was rewarded with our very first full peony blossom. It was beautiful. And it reminded me of something God does in all of us.

We all have seasons in life where we try and try, and still feel stuck under something that's holding us back - circumstances, grief, health, old wounds, responsibilities. Maybe you've lived through a season like that. Maybe you're in one now.

But like that peony, God sees our efforts. He sees the quiet resilience, the faith that keeps growing even when it doesn't bloom right away.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 says, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under

heaven.” And I believe that includes our seasons of blooming.

Sometimes it’s not about trying harder - but about waiting patiently, trusting that God will move us into the light when it’s time. And when He does, we may find that all those quiet years of perseverance were not wasted. They were preparing us. Strengthening our roots.

Spring is a reminder that new life can come from what looks dead. And motherhood - whether by birth, by heart, or by spirit - isn’t limited to one time in our lives. We continue to nurture others, to offer love and wisdom, to blossom in new ways, no matter our age.

So don’t lose heart if you feel like you’re in the shade. Keep reaching. Keep trusting. The God who planted you knows just when - and where - you’ll bloom.

## Tales from the Organ Bench

*Submitted by Sharon Cybulski*

One bright, summer Sunday morning, when I was very much younger than I am today, I was asked to fill in for the regular organist at one of our small local churches. I thought I was prepared well enough to pinch hit, and though I had not played this particular pump organ before, I was fairly confident that it would behave like any other pump organ I had played.



So, there I sat, quietly getting my hymn numbers together and my hands and feet limbered up for the first hymn. As the hymn was announced, I began to pump the bellows and press the keys as usual. No sound proceeded from the old instrument. How strange!

I pumped harder and faster. Still no sound, except for the huffing and puffing from the great effort I was exerting to make a joyful – or, at this point, any kind of noise. I began to panic as I checked out the stops, and though all seemed to

be well, I still couldn’t coax any music from the old organ.

I looked up at the minister who smiled patiently as he waited for some melodious response to my furious activity. I looked out at the congregation, some of whom were trying to stifle their laughter.

Just as I was about to admit defeat and try to escape with some small shred of dignity, I ceased my furious pumping just as the beautifully carved wooden front of the old instrument fell most ungraciously into my lap. By now, nothing could stifle the laughter from the pews as someone jumped into action and freed me from my misery.

As I tried unsuccessfully to relinquish my post, I kept hearing a familiar ring of truth echoing in my head: “Blessed are those who weep and mourn for someday they will laugh.” How true! Now, looking back, I really do have to laugh!

## Summer Projects Throughout the Parish of the Valley

Over the course of the spring, summer, and into the fall, a number of significant projects have been completed across the parish as we seek to steward and care for the places and spaces where we gather for worship.



### **Roof Painting at St. Paul's Cobden**

From Rector’s Warden, Alice Ferguson: The St. Paul's church roof was painted by Vezina Painting & Finishing from Renfrew in September. It was last painted in 2017. It was time.

### **St. Patrick's Lower Stafford Belfry**



This spring, St. Patrick's Lower Stafford completed part one of the restoration of the belfry. Reiche Masonry re-pointed the exterior of the belfry, and the louvres and doors were given a new coat of white paint.

The next stage will be to re-point the interior of the tower.

### **All Saints, Petawawa Hallway and Office Refresh**

A fresh coat of paint, new carpeting, and a new cabinet mean a refreshed and welcoming entrance to the church and hall at All Saints Petawawa. The work was completed this spring with the help of both paid and volunteer labour.



### **New Banners Quilted and Dedicated**

Quilters at Holy Trinity Pembroke have been hard at work creating two new banners to hang above the pulpit in the sanctuary.

The red banner was dedicated just prior to Pentecost and was created by the Holy Trinity ACW quilters, led by Jean Ostrom.



The green banner was dedicated on Holy Cross Day and was created to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Holy Trinity's current building by Vera Hoyland and Naomi de Repentigny.

### **New Outdoor Lighting for St. Thomas, Rankin**



The outdoor lights were replaced at St. Thomas, Rankin, shining brightly for all who pass by along Hwy 41. Passersby have been commenting on the bright, warm welcome to Rankin!

### **New Accessibility Ramp into Holy Trinity, Pembroke**



Thanks to a federal grant, Holy Trinity Pembroke was able to replace its exterior accessibility ramp this fall. Jp2g Consulting

and Wade Contracting oversaw the project, which meets all required building codes. The ramp connects to the elevator, meaning that the church and church hall are again fully accessible from the outside.

The current wooden railings are temporary: wrought iron railings will be completed and installed, along with lighting, later this fall.

## Greetings from St. George's South Alice!

*Submitted by Bernie Raglin and Kim Silkie*

As the autumn equinox rolls around, so too, does the routine of back to school and work begin. The changing colours of the trees turn our countryside into a kaleidoscope. Summer holidays and lazy days fade away, but some special moments and memories remain.

A "Messy Church" gathering at Holy Trinity Pembroke at the end of June, was very well received with a number of families from the parish and beyond participating. Once again, St. George's provided the meal: a spaghetti dinner which was enjoyed by all and certainly messy, to match the theme of the evening. Many thanks to Bernie for preparing and serving the meal.

In July, we welcomed Sony Jabouin to our church family for the summer, as well as visits from Matthew Squires, Francois Trottier, Rick Durrett and Susan Clifford. Two coffee hours were held; one to welcome Sony and one to bid farewell to Matthew Squires as he begins a new chapter with the Armed Forces in Alberta. Many thanks to all of our guests for filling in while members of the clergy team were on holidays.

St. George's was saddened and shocked to hear of Sandra Sharp's passing. Since the Parish of the Valley was formed, Sandra never missed an event hosted by St. George's. Her smile and laughter lit up a room wherever she went, and we'll always remember her trademark long braid. She will be sorely missed in the Valley.

As most of you know, Wanda Hilts suffered a medical mishap over the summer. We are very happy to report she is recovering very well, and we look forward to welcoming her back into the fold very soon. She is so missed and loved here at St. George's, especially her beautiful smile, not to mention her culinary skills, as well as the many ways she helps to keep us running smoothly. Please continue to keep her in your prayers.

Special thanks to Jim Dunn and Phil Cottrell for their coverage of music, during Kim Silkie's absence. Your willingness to share your time and talent at St. George's was very appreciated. We would also like to acknowledge the folks from Micksburg, Rankin and Lower Stafford who continue to support our little church on a regular

basis. It is always a good Sunday when our friends from across the parish join us in worship!



One more special moment to mention—visitors from Switzerland, who performed an impromptu free concert featuring alpine horns, in September on the church grounds. We

are so thankful Bernie just happened to be at the church and captured the performance on his cell phone. If you haven't had a chance to view the video on the All Saints/St. George's Facebook page, please take the time to do so...you won't be disappointed!

In closing, we would like to thank Holy Trinity Pembroke for gifting us the pleasure of preparing the meal for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. "Congratulations" on 100 years of ministry in the current church building and cheers to many more!

## Christmas Is on Its Way!

*Submitted by the ACW Holly Bazaar Committee*

As of this writing, Christmas is only three months away, which means that planning for the ACW Holly Bazaar at Holy Trinity Pembroke is in full swing. This yuletide tradition is a favourite of parishioners and guests alike.

Our ever-popular bake table always offers a terrific selection of fresh baking and goodies to either enjoy immediately, or perhaps slip into the freezer to be shared with family and friends during the holidays. The craft table is a great place to find those special hand-crafted gifts and stocking stuffers on your list. Crafters are busy



knitting, crocheting, sewing and quilting now to ensure that there is a good variety to choose from.

The re-gifting table is like a

treasure hunt where you can claim gently loved Christmas decorations for a steal. The selection never disappoints. And nearby, Fifth Avenue Jewelry will join us again to tempt you with a beautiful selection of bling.

New this year, we will be selling the hot-off-the-presses 2025 Holy Trinity ACW cookbook, compiled by our members and filled with many of their favourite recipes. And you can buy tickets for a raffle of a beautiful handmade quilt called Falling Leaves. The rich autumn palette generates lots of 'ooohs' and 'aaahs' from anyone who has seen it and would be a lovely addition to any bedroom. You can also pick up your 2026 Anglican Church of Canada calendar.

And after all that shopping, take a seat, catch up with friends, and enjoy a delicious lunch. Select your choice of soup to enjoy with a variety of sandwiches and finish it off with a yummy mini gingerbread cake drizzled with warm rum sauce. It doesn't get more Christmassy than that!

So, mark your calendar for **Thursday, November 20**. All the fun, including lunch, begins at 11 am and tickets are \$15. Come and enjoy a wonderful start to the holiday season, and invite your friends to join us as well.

### **Brunch Fellowship**

*Submitted by Jean Ostrom*

At Holy Trinity's Holly Bazaar last year, Louise Doran was the successful bidder on a gourmet breakfast for four. It took a bit of time, but on June 17, Louise and Jeff, along with their guests, Phil and Pierrette Cottrell, enjoyed breakfast with their hosts, Byron and Jean Ostrom. Good food, good friends, good times!



### **How to Clean Cemetery Headstones**

*Submitted by Rob Hanson*

#### **Materials**

- Bucket
- Water spray bottle
- Spray bottle of D/2 biological solution
- A wooden or plastic scraper
- A plastic or natural bristle brush
- An old toothbrush or other small brush
- A big jug of water
- Knee pads or a small stool

**\*Note: Never use a metal scraper, high pressure washer, or any chemicals.**



#### **Process:**

1. Assemble most of these ingredients in your bucket.
2. Choose the stone you are going to work on and spray it all over with water
3. Then spray D/2 all over the headstone and wait 10 to 15 minutes.
4. With your scraper (never metal!), start to scrape off any biological material such as moss or lichen. Use your spray bottle as you go to clear away any of the debris. You can do a small area, rise with water, then go on to the next area on the headstone.
5. Now take your brush and, again, taking one small area at a time, spray with water and then use your brush to get more of the dirt off of the stone. Spray and brush, spray and brush until you have gone over all of the head stone
6. Use a smaller brush to get into some of the engraved areas on the stone. Wherever carving on the stone has occurred, there will often be lots of dirt in the carved areas. A small brush will help to get into these areas best.
7. Lastly, pour or spray lots of water over the headstone and admire your work!

## Quilts for Survivors: The Biggest Quilt Shipment Yet

At our Parish-Wide Celebration of Confirmation and Reception on the last Sunday in September, another 40 quilts and quilt tops and 35 quilt blocks were blessed to send to Quilts for Survivors (QFS) for distribution to survivors of residential schools. There may be a few additions before the shipment is sent to Timmins in late October, but we are delighted that this is our largest annual contribution over the last three years.

Additionally, \$800 has been raised to help offset the cost of Canada Post shipping boxes thanks to the generosity of the Holy Trinity congregation via a freewill offering during our Coffee Time. The goal is to raise enough to meet our 2024 total of \$1,000 to cover the cost of 36 pre-paid shipping boxes.



These quilts are a symbol of support, respect and love for those who have undergone the trauma of attending a residential school, and the

need is vast; additional items are always welcome. And, the cost of shipping quilts to survivors continues to be a significant financial pressure for QFS so if you or your congregation are interested in supporting their efforts, you can find more information on their website, [www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca](http://www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca).



## Celebrating Confirmations & Receptions and Cheers to 100 Years!

The weekend of September 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> was a weekend of celebrations in the Parish of the Valley!



On Saturday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 100 people gathered for a dinner celebrating

100 years of the current church building for Holy Trinity, Pembroke.

Catered by members from St. George's South Alice and Stafford-Whitewater, the delicious meal was enjoyed by members of Holy Trinity Pembroke, members of the wider Parish of the Valley, members of our community, as well as former Incumbents of Holy Trinity, our retired Diocesan Bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Chapman, and the Parish of the Valley's former Incumbent and current Diocesan Administrator the Rt. Rev. Michael Bird.



On Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, we gathered from every point across the Parish of the Valley to celebrate the confirmation of five adult members of our Parish: Maria McBride, Sarah Coles, Samantha Ann Hass, Morgan Marie Hass, and Isabella Dumouchel.

We also celebrated the reception into the Anglican Communion of Julie McMillan and the Rev. Dr. Beverley Nitschke.



It has been a weekend of much rejoicing, good fellowship and - as with every Valley event - delicious food! Thanks be to God!

## Upcoming Events for the Parish of the Valley

### October

Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> - **Food Bank Sunday**

Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>:  
**Diocesan Synod** in Ottawa for all Members of Synod from the Parish of the Valley.

Friday, October 24<sup>th</sup> - 11:30am - 1:30pm:  
**Soup & Sandwich Lunch** at Epiphany, Barry's Bay. Homemade soups, sandwiches, and pie for \$10!

Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup> - 8:30-11am:  
**Holy Trinity Pembroke Fall Rummage Sale**



### November

Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> - 11am - 1pm:  
**Holy Trinity Pembroke Holly Bazaar & Luncheon**

Saturday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> - 11am - 2pm:  
**All Saints Petawawa Christmas Tea & Bazaar**

Saturday, November 29<sup>th</sup> - 2-5pm:  
**Annual Wine & Cheese** Hosted by Epiphany, Barry's Bay

Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup> - 3pm:  
**Celebration of Light Evensong** at St. John the Evangelist, Eganville.



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