



REVELATIONS

Pentecost 2026
Volume 26 Issue 2

Ordinary People Learning to Follow Jesus

Clergy Team Message

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

John 20:19b-21

In this season of Easter turning to Pentecost, our readings take us on a journey. Accompanied by the disciples with all of their doubts, worries, excitement, disbelief, and joy, we are encouraged to see Jesus: to see Jesus in the wounds in his hands and his side, to see Jesus in the breaking of the bread, to see Jesus as Jesus comforts and walks alongside us like a shepherd, and to see Jesus' love and care and provision for us all of our days. And then, having seen, we are sent. Jesus gives us his spirit and asks us to take what we have and share the good news with the whole world.

As a parish, we have finished our annual meetings: a season of seeing where God is at work in and through us as we reviewed all of our work together through 2025 and looked ahead to 2026. Together we celebrated the joy of the resurrection on Easter Day, standing with Mary Magdalene as she proclaimed to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord!"

We now approach Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descends, and those who have received the spirit are called to go, to take what they have been given by God, and share it with the world.

In this issue, you will see photos from across the parish as we marked Holy Week, from Maundy Thursday through to the Day of Resurrection. You will read stories of how parts of our parish are engaging with community through loving service, through partnership, and through fellowship. And you will be inspired as we look ahead to ways of gathering together throughout the rest of the spring and summer.

May the peace of the Risen Christ be yours as together we go and serve God.

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



The Valley Macaroni King and Winner of the Holy Macaroni Crown!

Congratulations to Bernard Raglin, Rector's Warden from St. George's South Alice, for winning this year's Macaroni & Cheese Cook-Off held at St. John's Eganville! We are grateful to Bernie, and to his competitors Jim Fulcher and John Stecko, both from Church of the Ascension Killaloe, for entering their macaroni & cheese into the competition.



The annual event is a fundraiser for the Bonnechere Valley Public Library's Youth Program and the Eganville Rotary Mental Health Charity Fund. In total, \$245 was raised for the Library's Youth Program and \$734 for the Rotary's Mental Health Charity.

Thank you everyone for your support!

What? Me, Join the Choir?

Submitted by Sarah Coles

Part of the beauty of the Anglican service is the sung liturgy and the weekly hymns. If you agree, and this is part of what brings you back each week, then have you considered lending your voice to a choir? The choir leads in singing these important elements of the service, and also performs anthems in many services. Perhaps it is this last part that keeps you away. Many people are shy about singing in public.

You may think that your voice is not good enough, or your ear, or that only trained singers should be

choir members, but that isn't true. A love for singing and a willingness to keep learning are all you need. Singing is a skill that continues to improve as long as you use it. Your voice will grow richer and more melodic the more that you sing. So you don't have a bad singing voice, just an underused one!



Joining a choir is a wonderful way to serve your church and it's also a lot of fun and a great way to get to know some more people better. If your church provides a requiem choir to funerals, you can lend your services there too, adding beauty and meaning to the services. Singing in a choir is proven to be healthy for you in so many ways, including reducing stress and cortisol levels, lowering heart rate, and boosting immune function. Who doesn't need that these days?



For newcomers, entering a church and seeing a fullsome choir at the front shows that the congregation is dedicated to their church and to making the services beautiful and meaningful for everyone. If they are shy to sing at first, being led by a choir makes it much more comfortable. Seeing so many people involved in the service shows that the church family really works together, and will help to encourage newcomers to return.

So yes, you can join the choir! It's okay if you sing quietly until you feel more comfortable. Everyone is friendly and will help you out.

If your congregation does not have a choir, speak to our clergy team or your local organist about what it would look like to start one for special events! If your congregation does have a choir and you are interested in singing in it, speak to your organist or one of the clergy about when the choir rehearses and give it a try! We are waiting for you!

Soup & Sandwich Lunch at Epiphany Barry's Bay

Once again, the Epiphany Barry's Bay Soup & Sandwich (and Pie!) Luncheon drew a large crowd of hungry patrons!



Thanks to the work of dedicated volunteers, everyone enjoyed a delicious homemade sandwich, bowl of soup, and slice of pie for only \$12!

The Soup & Sandwich Lunch has become a highly anticipated event each spring and fall and draws people together from across the region.



Watch the calendar for the next Soup & Sandwich Lunch, coming this fall!

Stewardship in Action - Voices from Across the Diocese

On Monday, April 20th, the Parish of the Valley hosted Carole Breton, Diocesan Director of Communications and Development, Leigh Anne Williams, editor of *Perspective*, and Karl Chatel, videographer, to film interviews with Marie Cheesman and Rev. Gillian Hoyer about stewardship initiatives in the Parish of the Valley.

We spoke about our Advent Appeal, the Holy Trinity Pembroke Pentecost Appeal *Digging Deep, Reaching High*, and the St. John's Eganville "I Can Do That!" time and talents inventory.



The resulting 10 minute video will be the first of a series of videos and articles for *Perspective* on stewardship across our diocese. We are honoured to have been selected as the first parish interviewed and will look forward to seeing the finished product!

Spring Rummage Sales in the Parish of the Valley!

In April and May, the All Saints Ladies Group held the annual spring rummage sale at All Saints Petawawa and the Holy Trinity ACW held the Spring Rummage Sale at Holy Trinity Pembroke.



These annual events are a wonderful opportunity to invite people together in our church spaces, both for fellowship and

camaraderie, to offer gently used items a second life, and, of course, as a fundraiser.

Unsold items from both Rummage Sales were donated to *Got You in Mind*

second-hand store in Pembroke, The Grind Pembroke, and set aside for The Big Give in Cobden - giving yet another chance for these previously loved items to benefit others in our communities.

As always, these events are only made possible by the dedicated work of so many volunteers. We offer hearty thanks to all who helped at both events!



How Do We Attract More Young Families?

Adapted from an article by Sarah Bentley Allred in the April Newsletter from Roots & Wings Intergenerational Formation Collective

In conversations about intergenerationality, it is common to hear, "How do we get more young families to join our church?" Honestly, I don't know. I have no clear answer. But I do have a few thoughts:

FIRST: I want to celebrate the desire to be a more age-diverse community and acknowledge the longing to have more children and youth in the pew. Younger folks bring so many gifts to a worshipping community. Of course many aging

churches would like to attract them!



SECOND: I would remind us that intergenerational environments do not require all ages to be present. An intergenerational environment **intentionally** brings **two or more generations** together in order

to live out being the body of Christ to each other and the greater community. So if your goal is intergenerationality, you might already have it and you do not need children or youth to be present to get there.

THIRD: I would get curious. Even if we agreed that “How do we get more young families to join our church?” is the right question to be asking (and I’m not sure it always is), it is a question with no easy answer. If there were a “silver bullet” for attracting young families to churches, someone would have figured it out already and written a best-selling book, and we wouldn’t still be asking this question.

I wonder what would happen if we asked a different question. For example, rather than asking, ‘How do we get more young families in?’ we might ask, ‘What would it look like to meet children, youth, and caregivers where they are?’

In her book, *How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going*, Susan Beaumont writes “I have never seen a church grow simply because members wished for growth . . . I have only seen churches actually grow in response to the pursuit of authentic ministry that served a contextual need.” What if we worked to discern what authentic gift(s) our specific congregations might be called to offer our communities? What if we concentrated on being the best loving community we can be, meeting the needs of those in our pews but also those in the community around us, whatever those age demographics look like, authentically loving and caring for people where they are at.

I honestly do not know how we get more young families to join our churches. But I by no means think church is obsolete. I not only believe the church has something unique to offer young families, but I experience it on a weekly basis!



Intergenerational Ministry in the Parish of the Valley

Connecting intergenerationally with children in the Parish of the Valley takes many different shapes and forms!

In addition to our regular Sunday worship, which is nearly always intergenerational, we also have:

Messy Church! This is an intentionally intergenerational space where individuals and families of all shapes and sizes are invited to come and share in stories, activities, worship, and food in an informal setting. We offer it 3-4 times per year. The next one will be held Friday, June 5th at 4pm in Micksburg. If you would like to know more, please speak with Rev. Christine.

Sunday School. Sunday School at Holy Trinity Pembroke is also intergenerational! We begin in worship with our families, have a short time of conversation with one of our clergy, and then move to the church hall for some stories and activities before rejoining our families for communion.

****We are currently in need for Sunday School teachers at Holy Trinity, Pembroke for the 2026-2027 Sunday School Year. The commitment is approximately once per month. For more information, please speak with Rev. Gillian.**

Activity Bags. A number of churches in the parish have bags or boxes with activities for different ages of children available at the back of the church. It is a great way to be welcoming to children without needing a full Sunday School program. If you need ideas about what could go in an activity bag at your church, please feel free to speak to the clergy team!

Other Activities in the Church Year. Throughout the year, a number of other activities are intentionally intergenerational. For example, the annual Christmas Pageants at All Saints Petawawa and Holy Trinity Pembroke have a part for everyone!



Leaving a Legacy with Lasting Impact

Submitted by Marie Cheesman

Holy Trinity established its Ministry and Money Working Group (MMWG) in 2020 to begin intentional discussions around our fundraising efforts and how we might best steward our resources of time, talent and treasure for the long-term future of our beloved church family. Money can be difficult, and sometimes awkward, to talk about but everyone in the congregation has a vested interest in our financial health, so we pressed forward. Slowly but surely, we have seen the members of our congregation engage more in this discussion and find ways to support our efforts.

One aspect of stewardship that we recently began exploring and are beginning to encourage folks to consider more is legacy giving. What is it? A legacy is a planned gift. It may be a bequest in a will, an outright gift of cash or property, or even a gift of securities.

Over the past few years, Holy Trinity Pembroke has received a number of very generous bequests from past parishioners:

- \$25,000, of which \$5,000 was directed to St. John's Tramore at the request of the surviving next of kin. The remaining \$20,000 was directed by Congregational Council, with the support of our Anglican Diocese of Ottawa, to assist with the installation of our new accessibility ramp
- \$25,772, which was directed by our Congregational Council, with the support of our Diocese of Ottawa, to fund the immediate costs of ministry at Holy Trinity in 2025 including, but not limited to, pastoral care visits; fulsome liturgies, including the ability to broadcast them; operations and property maintenance
- \$135,000, which was deposited by the Church Corporation into Holy Trinity's holdings in the Consolidated Trust Fund in 2021. Since then, nearly \$100,000 of this gift has been used for many capital projects, including new steps, a new stove and the ramp, and
- \$25,000, received in late 2025, which has now been deposited into the Consolidated Trust Fund as a legacy fund.

Legacy gifts such as these, given in gratitude, discipleship and hope, are gratefully received and a cornerstone of our financial health and ministries. It is up to the individual to determine how your bequest or gift is to be used in supporting the Lord's work.

It is important to note that, before you decide what to give, or write or change your will, you should always seek financial and legal advice as to how your wishes can best be achieved. If a legacy gift is something that you are considering you can chat with any member of our clergy team or your local churchwardens so that they too are aware of your desire.

The Quilts for Survivors 8,000 Orphan Block Challenge

Submitted by Marie Cheesman

For the fourth year in a row now, the sewing machines of Holy Trinity's quilters and our friends continue to hum as we sew quilt blocks and quilt tops to send to Quilts for Survivors for shipping to residential school survivors. Several of the quilt tops we make are also hand quilted throughout the year to be delivered to South Porcupine with our fall shipment (last year we shipped 41 quilts and quilt tops and 34 16-inch quilt blocks). These quilts are a symbol of support, respect and love for those who have undergone the trauma of attending a residential school.

This year, we're also joining in on a fun new challenge. Quilts for Survivors are asking for donations of orphan blocks – you know, those blocks or projects that somehow never made it to the finish line and are now tucked into bags and boxes around the house – 8,000 in total! They will be transformed into quilts of comfort, healing and love.



Any and all size of blocks are welcome as long as they are made of 100% cotton. Please avoid fabric with religious symbols, school-related imagery, travel motifs or graphic content as they may be triggering or inappropriate for survivors.

The bulk of the blocks will be accepted in June when Quilts for Survivors attends Quilt Canada in Winnipeg but they have also started accepting them by mail and have already received over 2,000, a terrific start.



Our current orphan block count at Holy Trinity is 64 and we would love to see it grow. So, if you are, or were, a quilter and think that you may have a few hidden treasures to contribute,

please do. They can be dropped off at Aborn House in Pembroke any time before the end of August and we will include them in our fall shipment.

Also, if you are a quilter and would like to join us for some stitching and fellowship around a quilt, please do. We're usually downstairs in the Holy Trinity Pembroke committee room on Wednesday and Friday mornings.

For more information about Quilts for Survivors you can visit their website, www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca.



ST. PATRICK'S CHURCH PLANT SALE

Serve-yourself wagon with 1000+ perennials located on the corner of Mountain Road and Snake River Line

**MAY LONG WEEKEND:
MAY 14TH UNTIL THE
WAGON IS EMPTY!**



Cemetery Services in the Parish of the Valley

Each year, a number of our cemeteries hold Cemetery Services, where we gather to pray and give thanks for those who have gone before us, those we love and see no longer, and to tend the graves of those laid to rest in our cemeteries.



Tending a grave and caring for a cemetery is a very real way of saying that we take seriously the values and responsibilities that we inherit from those who have gone before us. The cemetery is one of the glues that holds a society together. It reminds us of what we have been given from the past, and what we will have to pass on one day.

Across the Parish of the Valley, we hold Cemetery Services beginning in June and continuing throughout the summer.

Cemetery Services for the Parish of the Valley are listed below and will also be published in the Valley Bulletin and shared in our Parish E-Newsletter as we get closer to the dates.



Summer 2026 Cemetery Service Dates

Sunday, June 7 at 2pm - St. Thomas' Rankin Cemetery Service

Sunday, June 14 at 2pm - St. Patrick's Lower Stafford Cemetery Service

Sunday, June 21 at 11am - St. John's Eganville Cemetery Service. Held in the church with an optional walk to the cemetery following the service.

Sunday, June 28 at 2pm - St. Stephen's Micksburg Cemetery Service

Sunday, July 12 at 9am - Tramore Union Cemetery Service, held at St. John's Tramore

Sunday, July 19 at 9am - Holy Trinity Pembroke Cemetery Service, held in the cemetery

Sunday, August 23 at 2pm - St. Paul's Combermere Cemetery Service, held in the cemetery

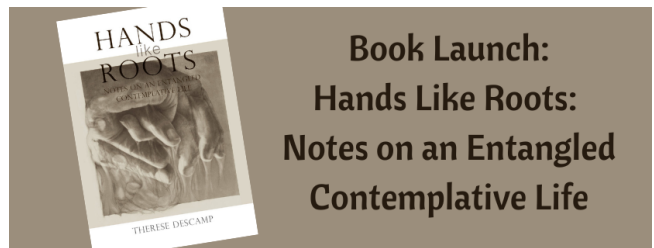
Sunday, August 30 at 2pm - St. Clement's Chapel Clontarf Annual Memorial Service



New to the Parish of the Valley?

We would love to keep in touch with you! If you have started attending church anywhere in the parish in the last few months, we would love to ensure you're included on our parish mailing list so that you can receive important email or mail communications from the parish and learn more about upcoming events and opportunities for fellowship.

Please be in touch with Gail at the office - office@valleyanglicans.ca or 613-732-4658 to make sure your name is on our parish list!



You are invited to a special book launch on Saturday, May 30th from 2-4pm at Holy Trinity Pembroke for *Hands Like Roots: Notes on an Entangled Contemplative Life* by Rev. Dr. Therese DesCamp.

In a luminous and open-hearted series of essays, Therese DesCamp explores the meeting point of daily life with science and contemplative practice. Therese is a writer, spiritual director, minister and contemplative; a 2023 CBC Nonfiction Prize long-lister, author of numerous scholarly and popular articles, and a columnist on spirituality for the Valley Voice newspaper. While she's been writing since she could hold a pencil, this collection of essays takes the reader deeply into the places where words falter.

Therese holds an M.Div. from Pacific School of Religion and a Ph.D. from the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley. She was ordained in the United Church of Christ, admitted to the United Church of Canada, and has worked with groups in these churches as well as the Anglican Church, the Episcopal Church, and the Presbyterian Church. She has taught graduate school courses in spirituality, biblical studies, feminist studies and cognitive linguistics. She has been a Benedictine oblate, co-taught retreats with a Zen Buddhist priest, co-ministered with a Jewish rabbi, and first learned meditation from a Sufi teacher.

Therese's current work includes an evolving form of community spiritual companionship outside the walls of church, rooted deeply in Christ, scripture, and community. She leads a monthly contemplative group, a bi-monthly prayer group, works as a spiritual director, and serves on the board of The Contemplative Society. Her past volunteer work includes ten years on the Slocan Lake Stewardship Society and a yearlong stint in Grade 4-5-6 at Lucerne Elementary in New Denver, B.C., where she lives with her husband George Meier.

At the event on May 30th books will be available for purchase for \$25.00, with cash or interact e-transfer.



Tuesday, May 12 at 1:30pm - Holy Trinity Pembroke ACW Meeting in the church committee room. All women of the parish are invited to join.

Thursday, May 14 - The St. Patrick's Lower Stafford Annual Plant Sale - Over 1000 perennials available, self-serve from the wagons. The wagons will be just down from the corner of Mountain Road and Snake River Line and will be out until the plants are gone!

Sunday, May 24 - Food Bank Sunday across the Parish! Please bring donations of non-perishable food items to church and we will bring them to our local food banks.

Saturday, May 30 from 2-4pm - Book Launch held at Holy Trinity Pembroke

Friday, June 5 from 4pm - Messy Church! An intergenerational gathering of families of all shapes and sizes as we share in activities, stories, music, and food together. Held at the Micksburg Community Hall beside St. Stephen's Micksburg.

Saturday, June 6 - The Big Give, Cobden - A partnership between Cobden Pentecostal Church, Whitewater Wesleyan Church, St. Paul's Anglican Church, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church and Grace United Church.

Thank You to our Revelations Sponsors!

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