

## **Harvest Thanksgiving Newsletter, Autumn, 2023**

### **Anglican Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River**

#### **Message from Archdeacon Bill, priest among us.**

The season of Harvest is upon us and local farming families including those from our parish family are ramping up their efforts to undertake this year's autumn ritual. We wish such families favourable weather and abundant harvests that rewards their efforts and ensures our food supply. At the heart of the harvest is the seasonal theme and call to be thankful, which begs the question, thankful for what and thankful to whom?

We give thanks perhaps first and foremost for the gift of family and more generally for the gift of friends and relationships. Therefore, thanksgiving weekend is one of the premier times of the year for family gatherings and reunions.

We naturally also give thanks for food. Therefore, the iconic thanksgiving dinner is often the centre of the family gathering. What would thanksgiving dinner be without reference to the thanksgiving turkey. My mother was an excellent cook and among her best culinary achievements was her thanksgiving turkey. Her stuffing was especially delicious. While we don't know all her secret ingredients that made her turkey stuffing remarkable, I believe part of her success was her use of fresh seasoned bread including a special spice of Newfoundland savoury rather than the more usually used Ontario sage. Mom was originally from Newfoundland and imported her savory from family in Newfoundland rather than purchase it locally. It sure beat the stove top pre-made instant stuffing that is common today. (My apologies to any who use stove top or pre-made stuffing which I am sure is also delicious; to each their own) For those of you who have similar memories of your favourite food or meal which invokes memories of a loved one who created it we share a common experience. For me, there was something

of my mother in that thanksgiving dinner so that we are not only sharing a meal but experiencing the person.

Another thing we are thankful for is our faith. In the same way that my mother is present when I share my favourite thanksgiving dinner with my own family and friends, Jesus is present in the gathering of the family of the church when we share the blessed bread and wine that represents His body and blood. The sharing of the Lord's supper invokes memories of who He is and what He did for us. The Eucharist we celebrate at divine service means the Great Thanksgiving. In Harvest Thanksgiving we acknowledge that God is present and identifiable in creation in the same way my mother is present at a Thanksgiving meal or that Jesus is present in Communion. In giving thanks to the Creator, we acknowledge the source of all our being and all the blessings which sustain us. Creator is a term we share with the spirituality represented by our indigenous brothers and sisters. It is a powerful term and often misunderstood. It is not anti-scientific. Faith in a creator does not contradict for example, the science of evolution. Rather thanksgiving to the Creator is recognition that the science of natural law indicates that we came from something such as an agent of intelligent design rather than from nothing or from a series of random events. For this we are thankful to God.

**Harvest Thanksgiving Sunday:**

Our Harvest Thanksgiving public services of worship will occur as follows:

St. Luke's, Burnt River, **Sunday, Oct. 1, 9 am.**

Thanksgiving Weekend, **Sunday, Oct. 8:**

St. John's, Dunsford, 9:15 am; Christ Church Bobcaygeon. 11 am.

**Please use the enclosed Harvest Thanksgiving envelope to express your gratitude for our many blessings. Parish finances currently indicate that we are in deficit, and we ask for your assistance to offer relief.** If possible, please return your thank offering either in person at public service or by mail, using the following mailing addresses with our thanks.

Christ Anglican Church;  
PO Box 133  
Bobcaygeon, Ontario  
K0M 1A0

St. John's Anglican Church  
1948 Sturgeon Rd  
Dunsford, Ontario  
K0M 1L0

St. Luke's Anglican Church  
178 Burnt River Rd.  
Burnt River, Ontario  
K0M 1C0