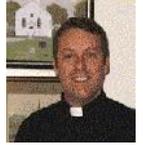


# Message from Fr. Stephen



## I'm Too Shy

My chemistry degree comes from a small, Anglican university in Nova Scotia. Because of its religious affiliation, it was not uncommon for theological discussions to take place around the dinner table. Sometimes I enjoyed them, sometimes I didn't. When it was one that I didn't and I was asked a question, I often gave a ridiculous answer to let the group know I was not participating. I recall one such event when the question was asked, "What do you think hell is like?" When the self-appointed chair asked me the question I replied, "It is either a wallpaper store or a cocktail party." That, for me at least, was that.

Wallpaper stores frustrate me to the max. There are so many choices, many of which are nearly identical except for some small difference, that I avoid them and stick with painted walls. Cocktail parties don't frustrate me, but they scare me a little. I often feel inadequate to the social task and find small-talk fairly difficult. What I want to say at those kinds of events is, "I'm too shy."

Sometimes Christians are shy when it comes to sharing their faith. Like many, if not most, Anglican parishes, we scored lowest in our first Natural Church Development survey on the quality characteristic *Passionate Spirituality*. In a nutshell, *Passionate Spirituality* attempts to measure the centrality of God and awareness of God's activity in our lives. Does our low score mean that we don't think God is central to our lives? I don't know. What do you think the answer is?

Whatever our replies, this survey indicates that, if we want to grow as a parish, we need to open up and be less shy about our faith in Jesus and how that faith fits into our lives. But, you might say, "I'm too shy". Join the club! But it is no excuse. They say practice makes perfect, so why not start somewhere where you are comfortable and work from there? When is the last time you had a conversation with a fellow Christian about Jesus or your spiritual life? It is a great place to start. Only once we give up the excuse "I'm too shy" will things really take off. When we begin to share our faith story, we will find a new confidence and joy growing in us individually and as a parish

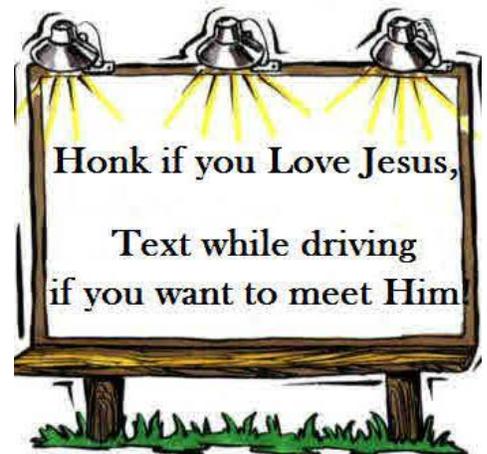
One of the pitfalls of post-modern Christianity is the idea that religion is a purely personal matter. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sure there are personal elements to religion, but the Christian faith is meant to be shared – it is meant to be passed along to others. Too often we shy away from those conversations for various reasons - perhaps some of us are even embarrassed to admit we are Christians let alone talk about it. If so, it is a sad state of affairs. If we truly believe that God has saved us in Jesus, forgives and loves us unconditionally, and offers us hope beyond the grave, why would we not want to tell that great news to others?

Fr. Stephen

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### Sign of the Times



# Spiritual Development Committee

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## Spiritual Development Committee

### Parish Library:

Check out our library online. A link to the catalogue can be found on the home page of the website.

### Upcoming Events:

“Have a Little Faith”

What do a Jewish rabbi from a thriving synagogue in suburban New Jersey, a former drug addict turned Christian pastor of a crumbling inner-city Detroit church, and an award winning sportswriter have in common? They are all real-life characters portrayed by actors Martin Landau, Laurence Fishburne and Bradley Whitford in the movie Have a Little Faith. The movie tells the true story of Mitch Albom’s (author of Tuesdays with Morrie) encounters as he moves between very different worlds—Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and privileged; and how, with a little faith, these men make a big difference in the lives of others.

The Spiritual Development Committee has begun to show this Hallmark Hall of Fame movie in home-based discussion group format. Feedback from participants has been enthusiastic –both about the movie and about discussion in a more intimate setting. Say “yes” when the opportunity to view this excellent film presents itself!

### Walk with Us

Back by popular demand, are our series of faith based walks and talks to be held on 4 Wednesday evenings in July and August. Led by Shane Watson and Lyn Bradshaw, each of the sessions will explore a different theme and a different walking route. Watch the bulletin and the events page of the website for more details including dates and locations.

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## New Key Policy

New locks are being installed on the Church tower door and the Church back door. The locks will be keyed the same so that there will be just one key for entry into the Church. A new lock has also been installed on the Church office, but it has a separate key.

The front door on the Parish Hall had a new lock installed when the door was re-done in 2009. The lower door on the Parish Hall has had a different lock, but it will now be keyed the same as the front door. The lock has been removed from the storage closet next to the washroom on the main floor of the Parish Hall.

In order to keep track of the keys for the doors, a policy has been instituted whereby people are requested to fill out an application for the keys that they need to carry out their duties with the Church. Forms are available from Laurie at the Church office. Keys will be assigned and key numbers recorded. When the keys are no longer required, the keys are to be returned to the office so that the form can be closed out.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that keys are restricted to those who have a defined need and to ensure that keys are not lost or forgotten when people finish their assignments. The policy conforms to the recommendations of the property insurer.

Thank you for your cooperation

Doug Burgess

## Do You Need Washing ?

A little girl had been shopping with her Mom in Wal-Mart. She must have been 6 years old, this beautiful red haired, freckle faced image of innocence.

It was pouring outside. The kind of rain that gushes over the top of rain gutters, so much in a hurry to hit the earth it has no time to flow down the spout. We all stood there, under the awning, just inside the door of the Wal-Mart. We waited, some patiently, others irritated because nature messed up their hurried day.

I am always mesmerized by rainfall. I got lost in the sound and sight of the heavens washing away the dirt and dust of the world. Memories of running, splashing so carefree as a child came pouring in as a welcome reprieve from the worries of my day. Her little voice was so sweet as it broke the hypnotic trance we were all caught in, 'Mom let's run through the rain,' She said. 'What?' Mom asked.

'Let's run through the rain!' She repeated. 'No, honey. We'll wait until it slows down a bit,' Mom replied.

This young child waited a minute and repeated: 'Mom, let's run through the rain..' 'We'll get soaked if we do,' Mom said. 'No, we won't, Mom. That's not what you said this morning,' the young girl said as she tugged at her Mom's arm.

'This morning? When did I say we could run through the rain and not get wet?'

'Don't you remember? When you were talking to Daddy about his cancer, you said, ' If God can get us through this, He can get us through anything! ' ' '

The entire crowd stopped dead silent.. I swear you couldn't hear anything but the rain.. We all stood silently. No one left. Mom paused and thought for a moment about what she would say. Now some would laugh it off and scold her for being silly. Some might even ignore what was said. But this was a moment of affirmation in a young child's life. A time when innocent trust can be nurtured so that it will bloom into faith.

'Honey, you are absolutely right. Let's run through the rain. If GOD let's us get wet, well maybe we just need washing,' Mom said. Then off they ran. We all stood watching, smiling and laughing as they darted past the cars and yes, through the puddles. They got soaked. They were followed by a few who screamed and laughed like children all the way to their cars. And yes, I did.

I ran. I got wet. I needed washing.

Circumstances or people can take away your material possessions, they can take away your money, and they can take away your health.. But no one can ever take away your precious memories...So, don't forget to make time and take the opportunities to make memories everyday.

To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven.  
**I HOPE YOU STILL TAKE THE TIME TO RUN THROUGH THE RAIN.**

## JAM (Jesus and Me) Youth Group

During the month of January when JAM is faced with exams at school we had a “Do not use your brain night” and watched “Mr. Bean” – lots of laughs.

In February we baked, bagged, tagged and delivered cookies and muffins to those Fr. Stephen thought needed a special delivery to brighten their evening and to add to their dessert! YUMMY! Once again JAM was blessed with cards and donations showing appreciation for the cookies and muffins – a BIG THANK YOU!

March was movie night – “Soul Surfer” – a true story about the Surfer Bethany Hamilton and her struggle with the loss of her arm in a surfing accident, a struggle that made a difference in so many peoples lives. March was also our Lenten Study, “Masking our Inner Selves.” Lent is a time to look inward to seek how we might more fully accept God's love and peace and grace in our lives. People often wear masks during Mardi Gras activities that come just before Lent. Masks symbolize the way we often try to hide our sinfulness or our true nature. Lent is a time of taking off our masks, of examining our true selves, of being real before God so that we can come to understand that God knows us fully, forgives us, loves us, and encourages us to grow and become all we were created to be. With that being said, JAM were give an unfinished papier mâché mask and asked to decorate them. The outside of the masks were decorated with words, images, and colors that represent how others see them—their "outside" self. On the inside of the mask is their "inside" self—their fears, their doubts, their shortcomings. These masks are displayed on the JAM Bulletin board at the back of the Church.

In April we had a games night. It was very enthusiastic bunch and we played charades, BINGO and Spoons (our favourite).

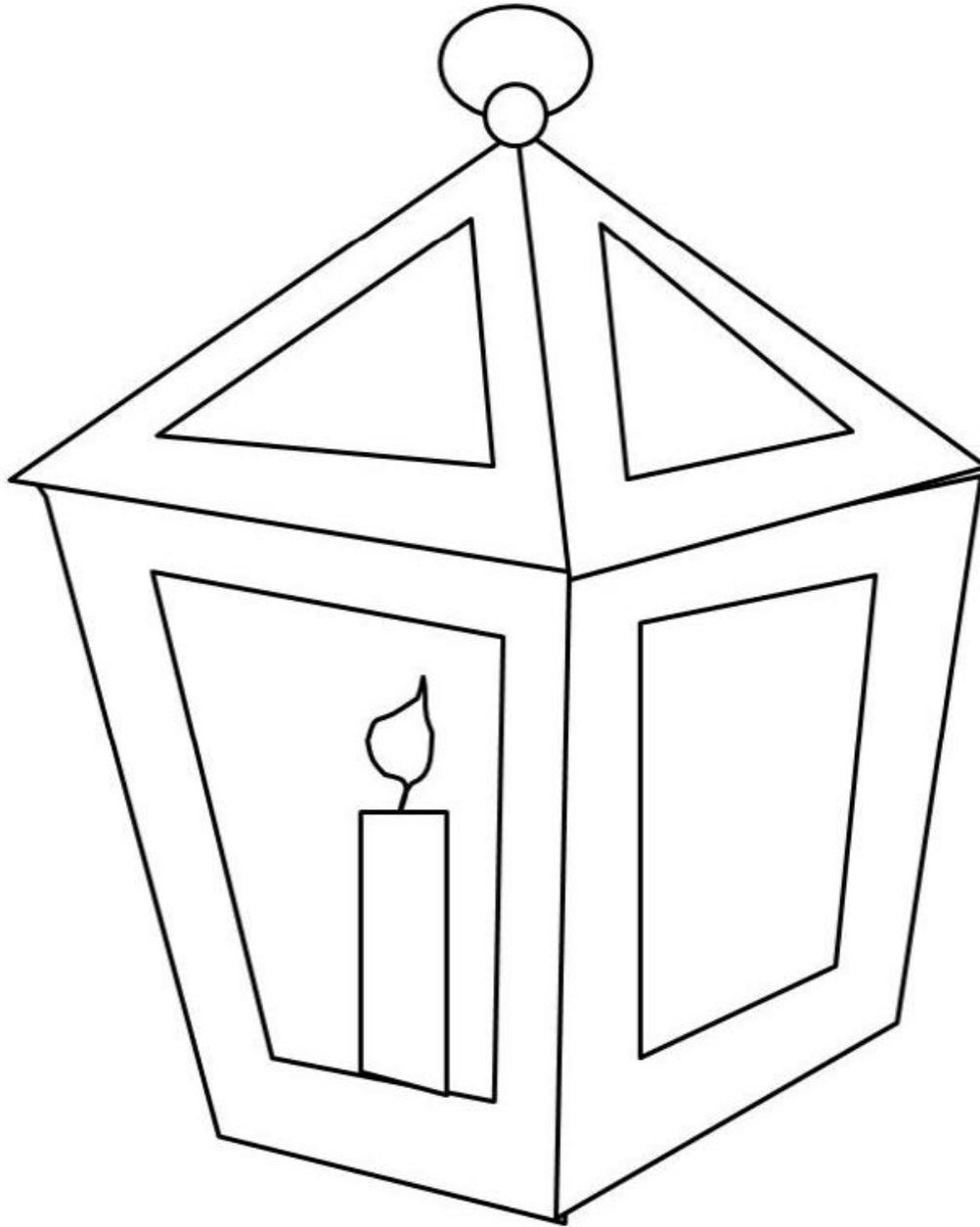
May was a month of outings. First JAM and others participated in the 4 on 4 for Food Floor Hockey Tournament, which raises money for food for those less fortunate in our community. St. John's Church donated \$200 (our entry fee) to this cause. St. John's Church came in 5<sup>th</sup> winning \$50 (which we donated back to Neighbourlink for Food) and a \$25 gift card to Swiss Chalet/Harvey's/Kelsey's etc. (which we gave to Fr. Stephen to give to a family who might enjoy an evening out as a family). Our team played very well. Missing from the team picture is Alexandra Foley-Eby, Harrison and Robert Tinney.



Also in May JAM and the Servers rounded up a group of 21 people to go Treetop Trekking in the Ganaraska Forest. The participants ages ranged from 9 to 58 years old – great job everyone!

JAM is looking forward to the end of year BBQ and games on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> as well as the Parish Picnic on Sunday June 17<sup>th</sup>. JAM also wants to wish all the best to Alex Foley-Eby and Paige Kreps as they attend post secondary schools in the fall. Alex will be attending Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia and Paige will be attending University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC.

## Kid's Colouring Page



You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:14

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### **Memorial Cross Dedicated**

On Sunday, May 13 at 10:30 the cross which adorns our newly restored steeple was dedicated. Dubbed *St. John's Memorial Cross*, it was made possible through the generous donations of our members. On display at the service were two photos of the new cross as well as the cross that was removed when the steeple was restored. That cross, which had deteriorated beyond repair, was dedicated in the 1960's to the memory of Adelaide Briden.

The steeple project began in September of last year and took nearly four months to complete. We are grateful to all who financially supported this large undertaking and to the Wardens for their leadership. Outside the parish, we also received a grant from the Port Hope Branch of the Architectural Conservancy of Ontario, for which we are very thankful. Our steeple project fell outside the normal parameters of their funding policy, but they recognized the significance of this project in our historic town. In a recent ACO newsletter, Branch President Philip Carter remarked: "We admire the people at St. John's for embarking on this ambitious project. The restoration will cost a lot of money, but we are heartened to see how much this architectural landmark means to the congregation."

It is wonderful to see the copper Celtic cross gracing our fine steeple. The purpose of a steeple is to encourage people to look up. As they do, may they see not only this emblem of the cross surrounded by the circle of the sun (as is the design of a Celtic cross). May they also see and know the Son of God, the true Light of the World who calls us to salvation through his sacrifice and gives us eternal light and life.

### **St. John's Memorial Cross is Given to the Glory of God & in Loving Memory of**

*David Frederick Austin  
 Mary & Fred Bailey  
 Catherine M. Battersby  
 James Paul Battersby  
 Kenneth W. Battersby  
 Larry Edward Battersby  
 S.J. Gordon Battersby  
 Ronald James Battersby  
 Stanley J. Battersby  
 Bonnie Bisset  
 Keith Bisset  
 William Bisset  
 Mary Endicott Blackstock  
 David John Bradshaw  
 Albert C. Brook  
 Mary Lou Buksa  
 William & Marion Burgess  
 David R. Butler*

*( continued on next page)*

**St. John's Memorial Cross is Given to the Glory of God & in Loving Memory of**

*Cora Carr  
Edmund Cohu  
Jim Collins  
Edith M. Davies  
Gordon S. Davies  
Cecil Dennis  
Robert C. Donnelly  
Brenda K. Fenton  
Cecil & Georgina Fenton  
Mr. & Mrs. Garwood Fenton Sr.  
Kara Jane Fenton  
Frank & Ada Ferguson  
Frank McQuigge (Mac) Fisher  
Pamela Forward  
Samual C. Foster  
Herbert & Hilda Freeman  
John Dennis Hancock  
Boyd & Grace Heaven  
Christopher Hedley  
John Gordon Highfield  
Madeline Elizabeth Highfield  
W.H.P. & Grace Jarvis  
Cristy Johnson-Solarski  
David Kelly  
A. Marie Kyle  
Bill & Mary Lawrence  
Ken Lees & Family  
The Ling Family  
Clara Looye (nee Toet)  
Joan & Ewart Marston  
Charles & Evelyn McCaw  
Carol Anne McNamara  
Bev & Bob McVeen  
William & Mary Meldrum  
Winifred Meldrum  
Isobel Murdoch  
Arthur E. Noseworthy  
John Henry Pope  
The Rt. Rev. Allan A. Read  
Beverly Read  
Alma E. Richards  
Dr. Ross Freeman Richardson  
Alvina Jane Rowe  
Robert (Bob) Sculthorpe  
Francis C. Sexsmith  
Ted & Roxy Sheard  
Edna & Bill Silver  
Eva & Vivan Silver  
Dorothy Strong  
Norman Strong  
Iva Tinney  
William E. Tranmer  
Jean Vincent  
Margaret Walker  
Charles Devear Wallace*



## “Dime a Day”

There are now a number of people in our congregation who may have heard “Dime a Day “ mentioned, or seen the cans in church and may have wondered what it was all about. Here is an explanation.

Dime a Day was initiated in 2008 with the idea that if we could get 100 people to contribute a dime each day that would amount to \$3,650 a year in total. The money would be sent to Africa to assist in the fight against AIDS

Through Bishop Colin Johnson’s daughter, Rachel, we determined that an organization called Keiskamma Trust would be an appropriate recipient due to the work they are involved with in the South Eastern part of Africa.

We never did reach the objective of 100 contributors but for the first two years we were sending between \$200 or \$300 each month, about \$3,000 in each of those years, a huge help to the people on the ground.

We still have a good number of our congregation contributing, and to them my thanks on behalf of Keiskamma, however we have lost about half of the original contributors, some of them believing we had stopped the program. We **are** still operating although contributions dropped to \$1,200 in 2011.

A dime a day, **about the cost of a cup of coffee a month**, if anyone is thinking about getting back into the game, or any of our newcomers want to join us, it’s a very worthwhile cause and relatively painless.

For information talk to Keith Pickett who has all the details.

Again thanks to all who keep those dimes coming.

## Outreach Committee

Some of you may not be aware what the role of each committee at St. John’s is. I would like to explain the role of the outreach committee. The main function is to assist those in our own church family as well as those of our community who need a little help along the way. We do some fundraising, but most of our money is a portion raised by the Treasure Trove. The Treasure Trove itself is all about outreach and provides a much needed service to the community. We have a budget of about \$8500.00 for this year.

Here is a list of the programs and organizations we assist : The Rector’s Discretionary Fund, The Benevolent Society, Youth for Christ, The Christmas Hamper Program, The Fairshare Food Bank, Greenwood Tower Dinners, The Northumberland Soccer League, Community Care and Neighbour Link. We also give money for prayer shawls and Christmas flowers. The only thing we support that isn’t local is a donation to the Sister’s of St. John the Divine. They have a large outreach program and we have been donating to them for many years. In the next few Eagles, I will be explaining in more detail what these programs and organizations do and why we support them.

P. Burgess

## Josephine Freeman, Liberia

By Pauline Carrick

You may have heard the name *Josephine Freeman* among the list of people whose names were read in the prayer list recently. Who, you might have wondered, is Josephine Freeman? I will tell you.

I met Josephine and her husband John at a refugee camp in Sierra Leone, West Africa, in 1993. Along with 7,000 other people in the camp, they had fled from a bloody civil war in their homeland of Liberia, which borders Sierra Leone. (The war was started as an attempt to take over the government by Charles Taylor, who is only now being tried in The Hague for crimes to humanity.)

As a volunteer with CAUSE Canada, a non-governmental organization in charge of the camp under the auspices of the United Nations, my job was to set up an adult literacy program. At the office, John Freeman (a part-time secretary) and other refugees were anxious to share their harrowing stories of escape.

With soldiers coming down the street and with no time to say good-bye, John had to run for his life. He would have been shot if he had been caught, as he was an employee of the Liberian government. Running through the jungle at night he finally reached Sierra Leone. Josephine followed a few days later with the four children. But, tragically, the baby was torn from his mother's arms and wantonly killed. In the pictures of Josephine that John has subsequently sent from Africa, the incredible horror of that day is etched on her face.

In the camp, the Freeman family lived in a row of small mud huts just big enough for beds and a few possessions. The days were spent outside cooking, washing and doing other household chores, just like all the other refugees filling in time until they could return to Liberia.

After six months, I could go home, however the refugees had to wait another two years before the war ended. For my final day, I had arranged a ceremony for the graduates of the adult literacy program. At the end of this joyful event, John approached me with a letter which he asked me to mail in Canada. He was asking the Anglican Church of Canada to sponsor him at the Seminary in Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone. This penniless refugee wanted to become an Anglican priest!

It seemed impossible, but after many trials and tribulations, he finally got his wish. With financial support from the Anglican Church of Canada and our own St. John's, he was ordained in Monrovia, Liberia in 1999.\* Since then, supported by the love of Josephine, he has pastored several congregations in the city and country. During the nineteen years that I have known him, he has never stopped thanking us for allowing him to spread the word of God to his people.

Another child was born to Josephine in Liberia, but the education of their four children was a daunting proposition for a poorly paid priest. Again, our church, first through individuals and then through Trinity Group, has financed the children's education. The last child will graduate from Grade 12 this year and the others have gone on to higher education and self-supporting jobs.

Unfortunately, Josephine contracted cancer and was unable to be saved. She died at the end of April, 2012. Due to our close association through Trinity Group, her passing was announced in the church.

*\*I sent an article with pictures of this event to The Anglican. It was published in March 2000. The full story of John and Josephine and the rest of my African and Guatemalan experiences as a volunteer with CAUSE Canada can be read in my book AUNTIE PAULINE. Intertwined with the adventures, is my search for peace after the death of my husband. Available in the church library, or for purchase through me. Pauline Carrick 905-885-8554.*

## PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

On April 29, 2012 the PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE hosted our latest Parish Breakfast. There were 66 in attendance young, old, newcomers and regular parishioners. It is a pleasant time to bring the 8:30 and 10:30 worshippers together and to get to know each other better.

Newcomers in our midst on these occasions certainly appreciate hospitality and a warm welcome. Lets make sure this happens.

The menu is always different, so please keep June 3 at 9:15 available for the next Breakfast.



Friday April 27 saw St. John's host its' first ever Roast Beef Dinner. The dinner was held from 5-7 p.m. but by 5:10 all 100 tickets were sold. After a quick trip to the Independent we fed another 40 hungry people bringing our total to 140 served.

We raised \$1247. for the Steeple Restoration Fund with the help of 36 volunteers who worked very hard to bring this project to fruition. The question being asked? When is the next one?

## THOUGHTS FROM THE LENTEN QUIET DAY

This year I participated in the Lenten Quiet Day, held at Canton United Church on Sat. Feb. 25th. The theme was Living, Praying and Greening with St. Francis of Assisi. Our guest leader was The Reverend Canon Ann Smith. It was a thought inspiring day.

During the closing of the day, Rev. Ann asked us how we were affected by the day, and if it moved us in any particular way. It was suggested that writing was a way of expressing our feelings, and to try it with a prayer, poem or song, to express our own feelings and faith inside of us. So, I felt I wanted to write a prayer/poem, about how to know when to “Let Go, and Let God”. It is hard to know sometimes when to keep ‘helping’ in a situation, and when to allow life and God to be the Teacher.

“As instruments and channels of peace,  
How do we know when to go forth or cease?”

“Let go, and let God”, is how the prayer goes,  
For we cannot know where life’s current flows.

“We try as we might to help understand,  
But ears are deaf to this basic command.

“So be kind and gentle to your precious soul  
Let go of control so you might be whole.

“As humans we can be stubborn to learn  
When knowing God, is what we really yearn.

He is in control, we must believe that  
For there is balance in life, that is a fact”

“Be quiet and listen – the answer will come  
From Angels around us, or from within.  
All things work together for the good  
When we trust in God, like we know we should.

“For His Will be done, regardless of when;  
It’s patience we need for our life to transform  
And then we will know God’s plans and conform.”

Thank you – Monica Miller.

**ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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We're on the Web at  
[www.stjohnschurchph.ca](http://www.stjohnschurchph.ca)

## Parish Calendar

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time &amp; Place</b>
<b>Parish Breakfast</b>	June 3, 2012	9:30 AM in the Parish Hall
<b>Northumberland Deanery Service and Potluck</b>	June 10, 2012	4:00 PM
<b>Children's Service &amp; Parish Picnic</b>	June 17, 2012	10:30 AM
<b>Parish Pasta Dinner</b>	June 23, 2012	6:00 PM in the Parish Hall
<b>Operation Overboard Vacation Bible Camp</b>	July 9 to 15	9:00 AM in the Parish Hall