

'The Ambassador'

st. paul's
anglican
church

**As Ambassadors for Christ, we are called to
bring our Lord's grace, love, and peace to everyone.**

~ **Friday September 10, 2021** ~



Perks of In-Person Worship!

Sean & Dawn Kim and kids
Dominique, Sebastien, Joshua, and
Sheila pause for one of our Rector's
infamous 'photo ops' with Scott
Meredith, Lesley Walters, Jouni
Kraft, Linda Veinot, Marty Sauer,
and Ann Camber under the big
maple by the Labyrinth.

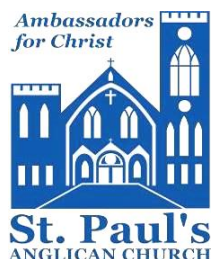
What a blessing to be able to gather
together in God's outdoor cathedral
after the service to enjoy food and
fellowship once more!

[Tree climbing optional. ☺]

A "GRACE NOTE" from thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com

*"Knowing Jesus is: acknowledging your need, believing what he did,
and accepting his amazing gift."*

visit our website @ stpaulsanglicanchurch.ca and find us on facebook



1. Rector's Grace Notes ~

ZOOM / Phone-In 9:00 am Morning Prayer Service

***CANCELLED* next Friday September 17**

due to commitment for our upcoming *Diocesan Synod*

RESUMES NEXT Friday September 24 and ALL FALL

Please keep our Clergy and Synod Delegates in your prayers (see below).

God Bless The Reverend Dr. Patti Brace

Rev. Patti has been the Interim Priest at *St. Mary's* in Nipigon for the past 2 years. She has accepted an appointment at *St. James* in Mahone Bay, along with two other Anglican congregations in the parish. Her last service at *St. Mary's* will be **Sunday October 17, 2021**. I will be heading to Nipigon this Sunday afternoon (September 12) to elect their 'Concurrence Committee.' I will miss Rev. Patti very much! She has wonderful ideas for ministry and she puts them into action. Rev. Patti will be a blessing to her new parish.

I Am Thankful:

- ♥ That the church is open for in-person worship. You do not need to pre-register to attend as *St. Paul's* is large and we are safely within the limits for social distancing. About 15 people are coming at 8:30 am and 60 people at 10:00 am.
- ♥ To our Music Director, **Dr. Sean Kim**. His music, especially the Prelude (before the service) and the Postlude (after the service) are stunning. If you haven't done so, please watch the service on *YouTube/St. Paul's Media* and be filled with immense joy at the wonder of his playing.

I Ask For Your Prayers . . .

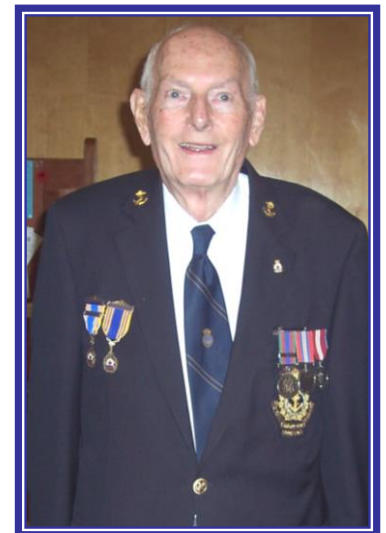
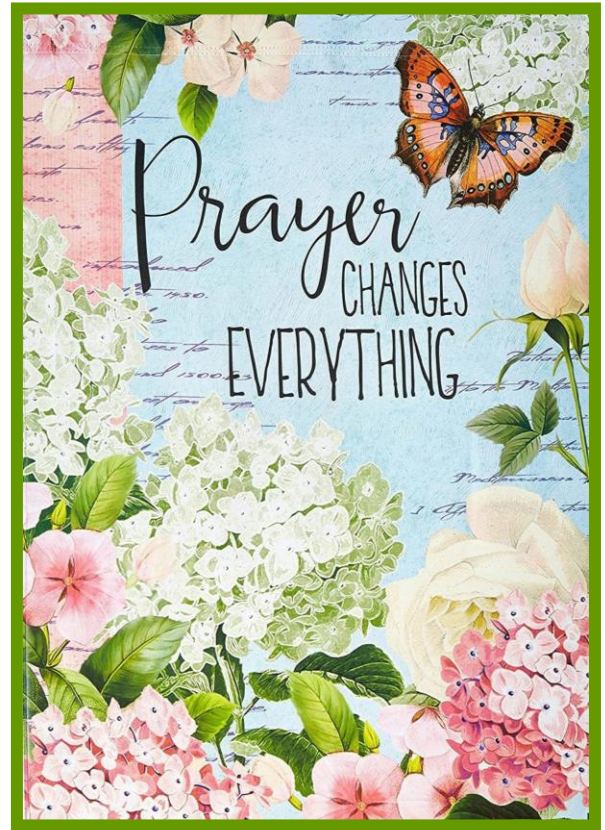
My dear Dad, **MO Nelson**, has now moved from the hospital into hospice at *St. Joe's* due to his congestive heart failure at the age of 100. I am doing my best to spend time with him every day and manage my parish and diocesan responsibilities. While he was at the *Regional*, I was the only person allowed to visit him due to the COVID restrictions. I am thankful that our daughter **Laura** has come from Ottawa this weekend to see her grandfather. I find that I am making mistakes on emails, especially with regard to dates, and for that I apologize. Please keep both my Dad and me and the whole Nelson and Kraft family in your prayers. Thank you.

Synod Begins!

I ask for your prayers for our 3 Synod Delegates that were elected at our Annual Vestry Meeting last February. I lift up to God **Laurie Sandham, Carol Knox, and Daniel Klein**. We have "educational sessions" this Thursday and Friday and Synod convenes next week. The entire synod will be done in a virtual way (live-streaming and via ZOOM).

Taking Requests! Baptisms, Home Communions, Candles, Prayers

Please let me know if you desire baptism; wish to receive communion **your in home**; would like a **candle lit on the altar** Sunday for someone who has died or a significant celebration; or would like us to **pray for someone Sunday morning**. You may call/text me (807-624-7161) or email me (stpauls.rector@shaw.ca) to request any of the above.



Healing Prayer AVAILABLE VIA OUR 'PARISH PRAYER CHAIN'

The power of prayer to heal and to comfort is truly a blessing! We encourage you to request a **Healing Prayer** through our **CONFIDENTIAL Prayer Chain ministry**. The dedicated parishioners who undertake this special ministry offer up the names they receive in prayer continually throughout the day. Call/Text **Sandra Rejall at 629-3431** to leave a name; give as little or as much info as you wish. *"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them."* (James 5: 14)



Good News! We're On TV!

Watch our weekly Sunday 10:00 am service on local TV, every Tuesday at 7:00 pm on **Channel 10, "Shaw Spotlight."** This Sunday's Service will be broadcast **Tuesday August 10 at 7:00 pm**. This free service from Shaw Spotlight is a blessing. Let me know if you have been able to enjoy it!



watch live or **ANYTIME**



Our Sunday Service LIVESTREAMS ARE HERE FOR YOU!

We will continue to live-stream both our **10:00 am Eucharist Service** every Sunday. Worship with us on **YouTube / St. Paul's Media** or watch the Sunday service on **Shaw TV Channel 10, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 pm**.

FINALLY! Our Office Is OPEN 10 am – 4 pm Weekdays ☺

We're open to the public! You'll find either your Rector or Parish Administrator here to assist you weekdays 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

[Editor's Note: Barring the occasional lunch break, dental appointment or pastoral emergency. ☺ Great to be 'open' again!]

The Office door will now be **OPEN** during regular hours, though I am **often on the phone or attending 'ZOOM' meetings**. You are also most welcome to email me (stpauls.rector@shaw.ca) or call me at 622-4945 (office messages) or 624-7161 (Rector's cell).

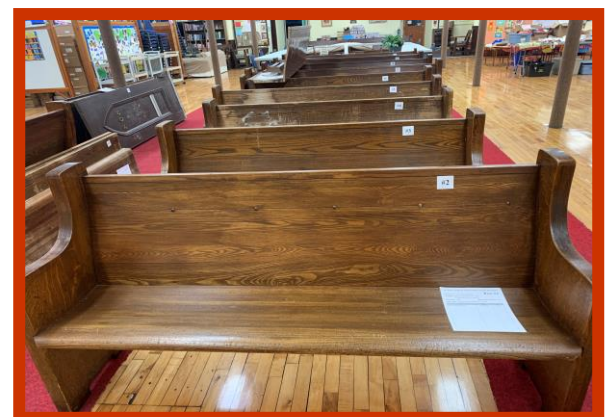


Archdeacon Deborah+

3. **"Silent Auction" of EXTRA Church Pews RETURNS!**

Now that we are able to gather for in-person worship, our **"Silent Auction" of EXTRA Church Pews is back on**. PLEASE COME DOWNSTAIRS after church to view the pews and place a bid or check to see if your bid has been topped! There are 12 pews set up in our church hall, several pews have multiple bids and some are still unspoken for, so you still have a good chance to own a piece of history . . .

Christopher Willie, Property Co-Chair



4. **My Sermon from Sunday September 5, 2021, 'Pentecost 15' ~ "Don't Play Favourites"**

O Lord uphold me that I may uplift you and may the words of my mouth and the meditation of our hearts be always acceptable in your sight O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.

I have always known that how I dress and how I look has an impact on the level of service I receive in a retail clothing store for either men or women. If I dress nicely, I receive better service and am taken

seriously. In the pre-Covid days, if I went into a store wearing my comfy running clothing, I would often be ignored.

We all know the old saying: *'Don't judge a book by its cover,'* but that is exactly what we do. When I was in graduate school in business, I was told to read a book called *Dressing For Success*. I remember a few key points: Don't wear green. Wear a beige raincoat and not a black raincoat. The author was trying to be helpful and to help women break through the glass ceiling. Fortunately, those 'key points' are no longer relevant.

In our journey of discipleship, we must break away from our judgements. We must not show favouritism. We must not show preferences for people based on how they look. Isn't this easier said than done?

The book of Proverbs in the Old Testament contains wisdom sayings that teach us how to practice a godly and faith-filled life. The proverbs that we heard this morning from the 22nd chapter contain important sayings:

*"The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all."*

There is no difference between rich people and poor people. We are each made in the image of God.

Here is another proverb that reminds us that we are called to be generous. Verse 9:

"Those who are generous are blessed."

In order to lead a righteous life, we must treat everyone the same. I am moved by how well people in this faith community respect and treat others. Every week I see example of people being generous and they are truly blessed.

In his letter near the end of the New Testament, written hundreds of years after Proverbs, James writes about the dangers of acts of favouritism based on appearances. He writes about how we might treat a very well-dressed person coming into the church and a person in dirty clothing coming in. James says we are more likely to fuss over the affluent person and take them to a preferred church pews (now in the Anglican church, that often means a spot at the back!!) and take the person in dirty clothing to the worst possible seat.

Favouritism is spiritually dangerous. Have you experienced favouritism in your family? In your workplace? In the condo building where you live? Among your friends or neighbours? Do you feel like a sibling is loved more than you? Do you feel like you don't measure up or have to earn your parents' love? My heart aches for families where a family member is not treated fairly, where there is favouritism. The pain never goes away and carries into adulthood.

I know of families where one of the children is viewed as the scapegoat for everything going wrong in the family.

God does not play favourites. **God never plays favourites.** And as we imitate Christ, we aren't supposed to either. But this is a spiritual discipline



Who shows no partiality to
princes, nor regards the rich
more than the poor, for
they are all the work of his
hands.

Job 34:19

and it requires daily work on our part.

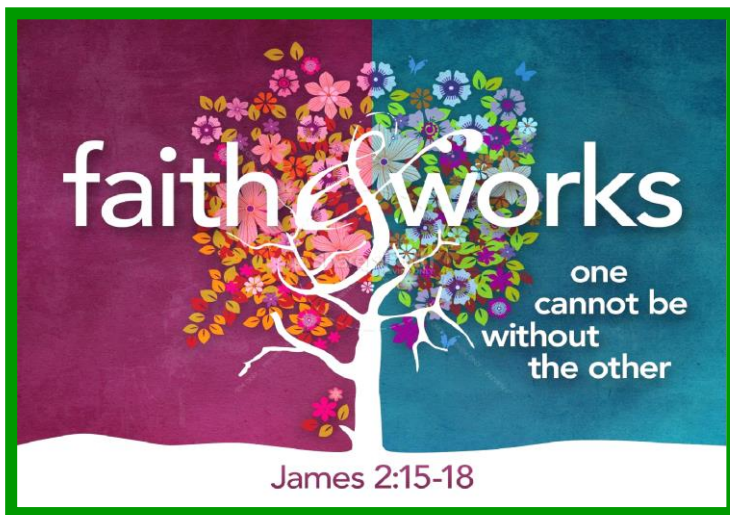
James is very clear. If we show favouritism, we are turning away from God and committing a sin.

There are several examples of favouritism in the Bible. There was a couple in the Bible named Isaac and Rebekah. Rebekah gave birth to twins, Jakob and Esau. Dad's favorite was Esau, Mom's favorite was Isaac, and both boys knew it. Their Dad Isaac was the favoured son of Abraham, born to Sarah. He was the child of "the promise." Isaac had an older brother named Ishmael. Abraham chose Isaac as his heir and sent Ishmael and his slave mother Hagar away. Isaac benefited greatly from favouritism.

In another story in the Bible, Joseph went from the favorite child to a slave. He was the favourite son of his father Jakob and his brothers were very jealous of this fact. Joseph ends up as a slave in Egypt and yet eventually is re-united with his brothers where he saves all of them from starvation. Joseph could easily have punished his brothers but he ends up blessing them. Joseph's heart remained open and kind and he led in reconciliation and in healing.

In the letter of James, James goes on to write that we are not the judges and that when we make judgements based on appearances, we are turning away from God. We are truly called to love our neighbours as ourselves. We must show mercy. James states it very clearly:

"Faith by itself if it has no works is dead."



Faith without actions does not fill the 'Blessing Box,' or help a person with needs, or speak to someone sitting in our church garden and invite them to come to church.

Sometimes it is our understanding of our purpose that impacts our actions. Near the beginning of Jesus' ministry, he was committed to saving the lost sheep of Israel, the Jewish people. When a Gentile woman asks him to do an exorcism on her daughter, his initial reaction is 'no.' The woman continues to ask Jesus to

heal her daughter and he does that. Jesus tells the woman that he only has a certain amount of healing time and energy: *"Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."* The woman answers Jesus and makes this strong statement of faith to him: *"Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."* Jesus is stirred by the woman's faith and commitment and the little girl is immediately healed. Jesus expands his ministry from Jewish people to everyone.

Jesus then heals a deaf man *"He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."* This is why we follow Jesus.

A person phoned me this week upset that they might not have received their salvation. I said to this person, *"Do you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ?"* The person replied 'YES!' I asked them, *"Have you invited him into your heart?"* Another 'YES!' Then you have received your eternal life.

We trust in the Lord and it is the Lord who opens our eyes, our ears, and our hearts. So we can stop judging. So we can treat everyone with respect. So we can fight against the deadly sin of favouritism.

The ultimate truth is that we all need grace. A woman recently spoke with me, and asked me why others

have been unkind to her and not generous with her even though she has spent her life doing kind and compassionate acts to others. I encouraged her to continue to be true to her God and true to herself.

“Those who are generous are blessed.”

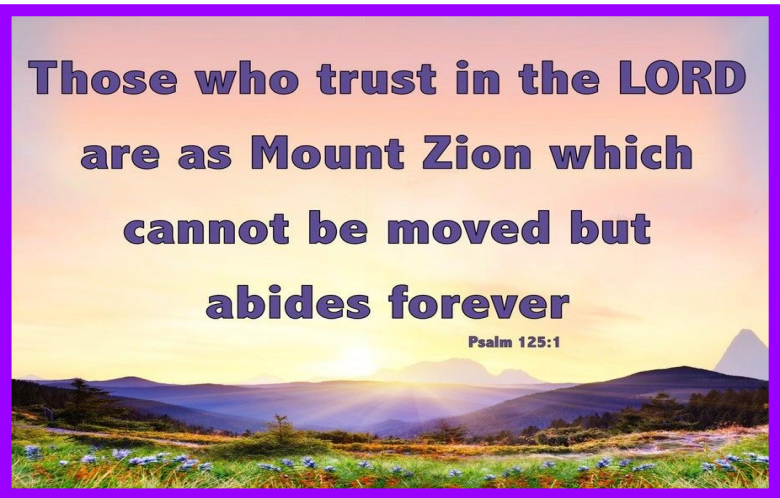
I will let the psalmist of Psalm 125 have the last word . . .

“Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.”

(Psalm 125:1)

Amen.

Archdeacon Deborah+



5. Scriptures for this Sunday September 12, 2021 ~ “16th Sunday after Pentecost”

Rectors' Note: I encourage you to read these passages. If you don't have a Bible they're all accessible online. The church uses the *NRSV* (New Revised Standard Version) of the Bible.

- **Proverbs 1:20–33** ~ Wisdom is personified as a woman who is trying to get our attention in the busyness of our lives.
- **Psalm 19** ~ This is a creation psalm which C.S. Lewis said was the “*greatest poem in the psalter.*” Through the wonders of creation such as a sunset or a rainbow, we see the glory of God.
- **James 3:1–12** ~ James continues with his instructions on how to live, and this week encourages us to use our tongues to bless God and not to curse or speak ill of each other.
- **Mark 8:27–38** ~ This passage begins with the disciple Peter declaring that Jesus is the Messiah.

6. The Last Laugh ~

“A cheerful heart is good medicine.”

[Proverbs 7:22]



Heard In Church . . .

“Who do you say that Jesus is?”

Archdeacon Deborah+

“The Happy Rector & Archdeacon”