

Parish of Richmond E-News

<http://www.parishofrichmond.ca>

17 November 2016

Six challenges for small churches

- **Traditionalism:** What the church did last year will be the way things are done next year. There's no change and no thought of change.
- **Niceness:** We are bound to one another so closely (either because of being related to one another or because we consider ourselves a family) that we fear hurting one another's feelings. We would never say anything to someone where they might be offended even if they needed to hear it.
- **The 'club' mentality:** Churches become so family-like that members cease to care about growing. Adding new people would threaten coziness.
- **Paralysis in the face of conflict:** Progress is frozen because the members have never learned to fight in a Christ-like manner; that is, they haven't learned to speak their truth with love, to strive for win-win outcomes, or to subordinate their positions to God's will.
- **Negative 'scripts':** The woe-is-us attitude; the feeling that any new person who begins to attend church will be lured away to a larger church; that we cannot compete with the larger churches, so why would we try?
- **The building**

from Anthony Pappas, Entering the World of the Small Church (2000)

RICHMOND THIS SUNDAY

- Morning Prayer at **St Mark's** (9:00), **Holy Trinity** (9:00) & **St John's** (11:00)
- **Sunday School** at the Parish Centre (11:00)

Prayers of the people list: Bobby, Boobo, Cathy, Cole, little Colin, Gladys, Louise, Robert, Ronald, Steven

This coming week's birthdays: **Pauline Jones, Charles Lutwick**

Anniversaries: **Jack & Carolyn Parkinson, Harry & Irene Parkinson**

Please remember the **Food Bank** when you shop. Next deliveries: **St John's** (21 November); **St Mark's** (28 November); **Holy Trinity** (12 December)

Please note that the Food Bank welcomes paper towels and toilet tissue in the donation bins.

Tomorrow (Friday) night there will be a **fundraising concert** & silent auction for the **Brookwood 2017** appeal, held at Second Wind Music Centre (Curtis Road, Bristol), 7pm. Sponsored by the tireless Wicklow, Wilmot, Peel & Aberdeen.

Next Friday the parish of Wicklow, Wilmot, Peel & Aberdeen holds its **annual luncheon and bake sale** at the Old Village Hall, Florenceville, 10am – 2 pm. Proceeds will go to roof repair for the Centreville church. Menu has chili, quiche and chowder options plus dessert buffet. All this for \$8.

Vestry has selected Sunday 11 December for the parish **Advent Lessons & Carols** at St Mark's.

One key to personal spiritual growth and a healthy parish life is small groups that meet for fellowship. Parishioners are invited to attend a Bible discussion:

1. at the **Parish Centre**, 7pm. Bring a Bible and the most recent issue of **Upper Room** (available at the back of all the churches).
2. at **the Clarkes** ((24 Hillcrest Ave, Hartland), 7 pm. The discussion guide is Bishop Hockin's **Gospel Therapy** *but you do not need a copy.*
3. at **St Mark's** following Sunday services, using the *Northern Witness* Bible study

Everyone – inside and outside the parish – always welcome.

To add a name (with permission) to the **parish prayer list**, speak to Pat Margison (328-8146) or Wendell Parkinson (325-9519).

Cheques to assist Carleton County's **support for Syrian refuges** should be made out to *St Gertrude's Parish – Refugee Fund*. They may be dropped off at the parish office (105 Union St, Woodstock E7M 2W4).

Find this week's **Diocesan e-News** at <http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/eneews/> Find Diocesan **forthcoming events** at <http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/eneews/upcoming-events/>

When writing a will, do not leave money to a specific congregation as individual congregations are not incorporated. The way to handle it is to leave money to the parish *for the purpose of* supporting a particular congregation or house of worship, if that is what you want. For Camp Brookwood, you would leave money to the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton *for the use of* Camp Brookwood.

Courtesy of **Ken Tompkins**, the parish of Richmond has one of the nicest websites in the diocese: <http://www.parishofrichmond.ca> Websites always need fresh content. Ken welcomes scanned, **well-captioned photos** and even short video clips directed to webadmin@parishofrichmond.ca

RICHMOND NEXT SUNDAY

- Morning Prayer at **St Mark's** (9:00), **Holy Trinity** (9:00) & **St John's** (11:00)