



MY
HOPE AT
PENTECOST

Supporting Church of the Transfiguration

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Transfiguration

My Hope at Pentecost

Pentecost will be a little different for me and my family this year. Rather than leading the triumphant liturgy on the fiftieth day of Easter, I will participate differently in worship, as Heather and I will bring our son Rory to the baptismal font, where Archbishop Colin will welcome him into the household of God.

“When I look at my son every morning, and when I hold him in my arms at night, I dream about the person he will become. My first and last prayer for him is always a prayer that he will come to know Jesus. I pray that he will come to know the Saviour that I know and the love that he offers. I pray he will come to know the Gospel that has changed my life, and the Gospel that will change his.

Yes, I want him to know Jesus, so that he can know that he has been redeemed; I want him to know the God who loved him before his mother and I did. But most of all, I want him to know God made known to us in Christ, so that through Jesus, he too can learn of his call to participate in the building of God’s Kingdom now.”

– Father David Giffen, 2014 Charge to Vestry



It seems to me that the Day of Pentecost has become an underappreciated feast day in the life of our Church. In the post-Christian world that we live in, Christmas and Easter still draw a crowd, but the significance of Pentecost is often forgotten. In the days after Jesus’ ascension and physical departure from his disciples, God endowed Jesus’ followers with the gift of his Spirit, so that they could begin the work of building God’s Kingdom in the now.

When Heather and I prayed about when to have Rory baptized, we considered all the baptismal feast days in the life of our Church – The Baptism of the Lord, Easter Sunday, Transfiguration of the Lord, Holy Cross Day, as well as All Saints – but the more we reflected on it, the more we realized that Pentecost was the day Rory should pass through the waters of the font.

Raising a Christian in today’s world means intentionally equipping them with the tools they need, so that they will come to know Jesus, and to follow him as Lord. Heather and I can provide many of these tools. We can provide him with the stories found in Holy Scripture, where he will see his story, and its place in the larger arc of God’s story. We can provide him with a pattern of prayer, as we gather each night to offer petitions, and around each meal to offer thanks. We can provide him with a Christian community who will support him, and love him, and call him to account. But God’s Spirit – the bestowing of God’s presence in his heart and in his soul – that is for God to provide.

Pentecost will be a little different for me and my family this year. Although I pray and hope for God to bestow his Spirit upon the heart of his Church every single year, this year, I will add a more personal intention to that prayer. This year, I offer prayers and live in hope that God will bestow the Spirit that has transformed me, in the heart and soul of my beloved son. ✝

– David +



A visit from the Archbishop

If you would like to receive a visit from Archbishop Terry Finlay this summer, he would be delighted to come! Please be in touch with Susan in the church office to arrange a date and time.



Thinking ahead to the summer

The more people who give through Pre-Authorized Debit, the easier it is for us to plan financially.

A big **thank you** to all of you who already give through Pre-Authorized Debit, and we encourage everyone to think about setting up PAD before the summer.

You're invited to our Pentecost BBQ

Join us for 10:30am worship on **Sunday June 8th**, and then stick around for an afternoon of fun, food and celebration outside on the Transfiguration Hill. Family-friendly activities include a bouncy castle, face painting, a BBQ, and the opportunity to drench members of our Ministry Team in the dunk tank!

From Noon until 2pm, Jack Connolly and the critically acclaimed band **the Gas Station Cowboys** will be performing a free outdoor concert!

Invite your family, friends and neighbours to what is sure to be another unforgettable afternoon!



Photo: Michael Hudson

Hello to everyone at Transfiguration,

I am very much looking forward to our time together over the next four months. It is always a joy for me to be part of parish life and I am delighted to be asked to share in the renewed energy and faith journey of Transfiguration. Let’s hope that our work together will hold the parish together while Father David is away on leave and keep this great momentum going!

The plans are that I will be here most Sundays and one or two days a week as time permits. My calendar is full with other responsibilities which include serving as the Primate’s Special Envoy to the Residential Schools and the Truth and Reconciliation healing journey, as well as Chaplain to the Canadian House of Bishops, and several other commitments. But my time at Transfiguration will be a priority so never hesitate to call me at the parish office.

These are interesting and challenging days for the institutional church and I welcome all the questioning and discussion that surrounds us. I look forward to exploring ways in which the church can evolve and speak to our secular culture during these exciting times.

There is an exceptional leadership team in place in this parish and I look forward to working with them and learning from them. Please pray for us and for the vision that is unfolding as the Spirit works at the Church of the Transfiguration. ✝

Cheers,
+ Terry Finlay



by Jeff Potter,
Pastor of Outreach & Evangelism



It has been a great personal pleasure for me to witness the many ways that Transfiguration has grown in size and depth over the past couple of years, as we walk alongside one another as a community learning what it means to follow Jesus.

I think that my friends and colleagues are starting to get tired of hearing about all of the wonderful things going on in our midst – God is indeed working in us and through us! But as our numbers grow and our faith deepens, we are called to remember how important it is to avoid the temptation to feel self-satisfied or complacent. Especially in light of the transformation that has taken place in the community over the past few years, it is a perfectly natural response to want to rest on our laurels – but Jesus calls us to follow him ever deeper as we learn, grow, serve, and offer ourselves in sacrificial love.

For me, Father David’s charge to vestry this year was a reminder of this. As pleased as we should be at how we are functioning as a community inside our walls, we are called to be increasingly mindful of the needs that exist outside of them. Even Peter, who would become known as the foundation of the church, is three times implored by Jesus – “feed my lambs... tend my sheep... feed my sheep.”

It is perhaps too easy to look around our community and believe that there are few in need. One of the most profound gifts that we have received as a community through our partnership with the Yorkminster Park Meals on Wheels program, is that we have begun to see our community with fresh eyes, as if for the first time. In the midst of affluence, we have seen isolation and loneliness. In this way, we are learning to see and to serve Christ in our midst.

Over the past year or so, Father David and the ministry team have become increasingly aware of a great number of at-home parents and caregivers with young children who struggle to find community during the day, and who find themselves alone and isolated as a result. Whether it’s a stay-at-home mother whose mortgage payments limit her ability to find daytime programming, or a caregiver who travels into this neighborhood for work, we see many who might benefit from a caring community.

In service to these people, Transfiguration will offer the Little Lambs Drop-In Centre on Friday afternoons beginning in mid-October. We will offer quality, wholesome programming for young children, café-style snacks and coffee for parents and caregivers, and a warm and friendly environment for everyone to find community – open to all and without charge. As children play together, adults can have a mid-day reprieve and engage in elusive ‘grown-up’ conversation together. We have already obtained funding from the Diocese of Toronto to begin this program as a pilot, and we will take steps to secure additional funding once we have a better sense of the needs of the community that emerge. Our goal is simple: to serve our community together, responding to the need that we see in our midst. As we continue to learn what it means to follow Jesus, this is one more way in which we seek to feed His lambs. ✚

“FEED

MY

LAMBS”

Little Lambs Drop-In Centre



YOU ARE WELCOME TOO!

At the Church of the Transfiguration we look forward to welcoming new people every Sunday and every day throughout the week. If you have been longing to connect – or reconnect – to God, or have been seeking the comfort and care of a loving community, you are most welcome to join us here. Sunday worship takes place at 10:30am every week and Children’s Ministry is always available for children aged two-twelve. Make sure you stay for coffee afterwards, as we look forward to getting to know you better. Welcome!



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