

THE GRRAPEVINE

"I am the Vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5)

Number 71

28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 12, 2008

HOW WILL YOU GET TO CHURCH NEXT SUNDAY??

Next Sunday, the 3rd Sunday of the month is Carbon-Free Sunday! We encourage you to walk, bike, carpool or take the bus to church. Reducing our consumption of fossil fuels is a concrete way in which we can practice stewardship of the earth & its resources.

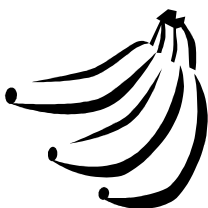
And remember, we are happy to offer FREE bike and stroller parking at the weekend Masses in the gym!



HELP END FOOD WASTE

There is a poster on the bulletin board with some suggestions on how we can reduce the amount of fresh produce that we throw away (once it's not so fresh). We've also made some black and white copies (double-sided) for you to take home if you wish. They are pinned to the bulletin board (lilac coloured paper). Some very good information!

How do you care for God's gift of fresh produce?



IMAGES OF ABUNDANCE

We live in a land of plenty, a land flowing with rivers of clean water, a land carpeted with forests of conifers, a land of rich earth producing crops abundantly, a land underlain by oil and minerals. We live in a land where we really lack for nothing. And this is a good thing! We have much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving weekend.

At the same time... we have an awesome responsibility. For the gifts that we have been granted are not solely for our use... they are for all of God's creatures... both human and animal. We are caretakers of creation, not masters of it. Our responsibility is to use wisely the gifts of creation: the water, the forests, the earth, the minerals. There is an old proverb: waste not, want not. The wisdom of that proverb is even more appropriate during this month of October: Waste Reduction Month.

We've heard of the three R's: reduce, reuse and recycle. There is something inherently out of balance when we take the gifts of creation, make something and then throw half of it away. Whatever it might be... food, paper, plastic, packaging. As Christians, we should be leaders in caring for the earth, and all that it provides, for we know who the gift-giver of creation is!

So... look at your life... look at the ways in which you use the gifts of God's creation. And try the 5 R's!

Reverence—for God's gift of creation

Reduce—the amount that we buy/waste

Reuse—things in other ways, or give them away

Recycle—things that can be re-made anew

Rebuy—recycled products (e.g. paper)

We can make a difference... We have a voice... to speak for the voiceless...

Most of us look at our ideals, see how far we are from them, and get depressed. But it is heroic simply to say, "Here are my ideals," state them before the world, and then spend your life trying to live up to them.

Keshavan Nair

PG WASTE REDUCTION DIRECTORY

Enclosed in this edition of the Grrapevine is a directory of items that you can deliver for recycling or reuse in PG. We've modified the original Fraser-Fort George one to include things that we know of...

ALUMINIUM PULL TABS

Question: Can beverage can pull tabs be traded in for kidney dialysis or wheelchairs or something else?

Answer: No. This is a widespread rumour, but the aluminium beverage can pull tabs have no tradeable value. They only have scrap metal value. 1,000,000 pull tabs would net \$300-400 for scrap metal. The extra work involved in pulling the tabs, saving and storing them, taking them to a scrap metal dealer or sending them to a charity, is not worth the small value they carry on their own. Some collection programs have suggested mailing tabs in but the postage alone costs more than the tabs inside are worth. In addition, aluminum processors have difficulty dealing with loose tabs; aluminum cans are baled for easy handling and shipment whereas tabs need to be packed in cartons and shipped separately. Separating the tabs from the cans makes the whole recycling process more complex and expensive.

PASTORAL TEAM

Richard: Leaves are falling, and it is time to put the gardens to bed - except that there hasn't been time! It has been a busy month, with more travel in the offing for the Appeal. With Roger here, I am getting to McBride a bit more often, which they appreciate immensely. It has been many years since they have had Mass more than once or twice a month. We all need to reflect on our blessings, especially those we take for granted. I will be in Victoria for a week for meetings near the end of October.

Giselle: I'm in town for the whole month of October! And more or less moved into my new apartment. I am looking forward to some time here at the parish and working on Greening the Parish, the parish website, maybe a bible study and Theo-Tidibits of course! I'll be away at Returning to Spirit workshops the first week of November and the first week of December.

Jude: Jude is away until Oct 15/16. She is in Michigan attending Dominican meetings.

Roger: One month has gone by since my arrival. The welcome and hospitality is wonderful. My responsibilities imply meeting a lot of people and that is great, except for remembering names. I'm enjoying the Mackenzie parish with its enthusiasm. The feeling of team work in this parish is great also. And it is even nice to get my hands dirty in Fr. Richard's garden, mud and all.

STEWARDSHIP AND THE GIFT OF HUMAN LIFE

Various groups and activities in our community call our attention to the Church's re-affirmation and recommitment to protect human life from conception to natural death.

To be good stewards of the gift of life obliges us to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed when it comes to pre-serving the sanctity of life. We have complex issues facing us today such as the shortage of health care, as-sisted suicide, care for the aging, the destruction of human embryos or har-vesting stem cells, abortion and post-abortion concerns and reconciliation. To address these complexities, the message should be compassionate, yet compelling.

In his pastoral letter, *Ecclesia in America (The Church in America)*, our late Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, wrote:

"Nowadays, in America as elsewhere in the world, a model of society appears to be emerging in which the powerful predominate, setting aside and even eliminating the powerless: I am thinking here of unborn children, helpless victims of abortion; the elderly and incurably ill, subjected at times to euthanasia; and the many other people relegated to the margins of society by consumerism and materialism ...This model of society bears the stamp of the culture of death, and is therefore in opposi-tion to the Gospel message. Faced with this distressing reality, the Church commu-nity intends to commit itself all the more to the defense of the culture of life."

What is most important for good stewards is to remain faithful to prayer and to re-new a firm resolve to proclaim a culture of life and an end to the killing and degradation of human beings, especially those who are vulnerable due to their age, health or dependency, and to work to rid our culture of the notion that humans are simply part of a disposable society.

If our relationship with God is based solely on our asking and God giving, we are like the neighborhood children com-ing to our door for candy. There is no relationship. God is always at the door waiting for us to knock. He wants to give us love, joy, faith, and blessings. God is like the neighbor who does not give just one candy bar per child but who dumps a whole handful of candy into each bag. However, unlike candy on Hal-loween, God's gifts come with a purpose and responsibility. God does not give us His gifts just to keep to ourselves. He gives them to us to be shared, and shared abundantly, with others. With love and generosity the gifts are given so with love and generosity they are to be shared.

Our time, our talents, and our treasure, everything that we are and do, are gifts from God to be shared. As recipients of God's gifts, we are not to use them solely for our own benefit, but use them for the benefit of others, as Jesus instructed us. As we stand at the doorstep of God to receive His gifts, we must receive them gra-ciously, cultivate them responsibly, share them with others in love and jus-tice, and return a fitting portion back to God in gratitude. If we do this, we are no longer just neighborhood children knocking on God's door, but truly His sons and daughters.

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT

The prophet, Isaiah, offers us an image of the feast the Lord has prepared for us: rich food and refreshment. Jesus tells us that many are called to the Father's "heavenly banquet table," invited to this celebration as if it were a "wedding feast." But because of the manner in which this invitation is treated or avoided, few are chosen to participate.

How have we treated the Lord's invitation to participate in the banquet? What have we done this week to prepare ourselves for this rich feast?

PUTTING OUR TALENTS TO GOOD USE

In our last issue (Sept 14), we looked at some of the ways in which we can share our gifts with the wider community. In this issue, we continue the reflection on our gifts.

FAITH that our lives have meaning, that we can do for others, that the Gospel is our guide and that God's love for us is meant to be shared and God will always be with us allows us to express our gift of faith.

Some ministries that use the gift of faith:

- *Parish prayer groups*
- *Contributing money to church or community*
- *Working in the St. VdeP or Shepherds Corner.*
- *Offering to do some job that always interested you but you're not sure how.*

HEALING is the gift that lifts a depressed spirit, that makes a sad face smile, that touches a hurting heart with caring presence.

Some ministries that use the gift of healing:

- *Visiting Simon Fraser Lodge or someone ill in their home*
- *Transporting the elderly to Liturgy or appointments*
- *Taking Communion to the sick*

MIGHTY DEEDS are those, that have a powerful effect on those who experience them. Not the big spectacular show but the humble, thoughtful service that no one else will do.

Some ministries that use the gift of mighty deeds:

- *Working at the St. Mary's Art Show or Plant Sale*
- *Serving refreshments at parish functions*
- *Repairing homes of the poor or elderly or Habitat for Humanity*

OCT 16—WORLD FOOD DAY

World Food Day provides an occasion to once again highlight the plight of 923 million undernourished people in the world. Most of them live in rural areas where their main source of income is the agricultural sector. Global warming and the biofuel boom are now threatening to push the number of hungry even higher in the decades to come.

It is a day to give thanks for the food that graces our tables, and to step forward in action and demand change from our governments, both national and local. We can make a difference.



OCT 12-18—HOMELESS AWARENESS WEEK

Homelessness affects every person in Prince George!

Whether you are concerned about social justice issues or you just want to see the city parks cleaned up, there are things that all of us can do to help end homelessness. It is easier than you think, share these ideas with your family and friends!

1. Respect the people experiencing homelessness as individuals
2. Understand who people experiencing homelessness are
3. Respond to people experiencing homelessness with kindness
4. Volunteer at a Shelter
5. Volunteer at a Soup Kitchen
6. Volunteer at a Food Bank
7. Volunteer your professional talents or offer job training or employment
8. Volunteer for a committee or organization that work with people experiencing homelessness
9. Tutor/read to children experiencing homelessness
10. Host a holiday party for children at a shelter
11. Help build or fix up houses or shelters
12. Charge rent for a home or apartment at below market value
13. Volunteer at your local, provincial or national housing or homeless advocacy coalition
14. Collect toys and games for donations
15. Give clothing, food, or recyclables
16. Bring extra food - if you make a sandwich for lunch, make two - share
17. Instead of gifts for anniversaries and birthdays suggest donations of money, clothing or food
18. Give your recyclable bottles to people experiencing homelessness or donate the proceeds of your recycling
19. Donate 3% of your party, wedding or celebration costs
20. Hold a fund raiser or food and supply drives
21. Donate money or admission fees from events to organizations that serve people experiencing homelessness
22. Organize your church or community association to respond to the need for services
23. Buy newspapers sold by vendors experiencing homelessness
24. Create a library for a shelter or other service provider
25. Support a person or family (when they get housed contribute household goods, babysitting, moral support etc.)
26. Educate your colleagues, classmates, friends, family and children about homelessness
27. Write to your newspaper
28. Lobby your City Councilor, MLA and MP to address the real issues of homelessness - encourage others to do the same
29. Attend neighborhood and public meetings
30. Sign up your company or school to assist people experiencing homelessness

THEO-TIDBITS



Our new season of Theo-Tidbits has started!

Our current series is entitled: **Stewardship of the Earth** and takes place on **Thursdays (Oct 9/16/30 & Nov 6/20)**. Fr. Richard will be leading this series.

In November, Sr. Tarianne DeYonker op will come and offer two Wednesday evening sessions on **Social Justice (Nov 17/19)**.

All sessions held in the Parish Office Meeting Room (1088 Gillett Street) at 7 pm.

KIDS BUILD THINGS

We are planning another session for the kids to build Christmas crafts. It will take place on Saturday November 15. Mark your calendars now! More info later!

REJOICING & REMEMBERING

We welcomed new members into our community through the sacrament of Baptism:



Bailey Theresa Sarrazin
Nevaeh Veronica West
Emma Kieley Breen

In peace and sure hope of the Resurrection, we bid farewell to:



Carol Linda Nelson
Rita Simone Sims

UNSUNG HEROINES: ABIGAIL

Our first foray into women of the bible is a snapshot encounter with Abigail (1 Sam 25:1-43). Abigail was a contemporary of David and we encounter her during that period when David and his band of merry men were roaming the hills, avoiding King Saul. Abigail was married to Nabal (in Hebrew sounds very much like "fool"). Abigail is described as beautiful and clever, while Nabal, a rich shepherd, is described as mean and surly. We already have a sense of how the story will play out!



David sends men to request hospitality of Nabal, who owes David a debt of honour. Nabal mocks and insults David and sends the messengers away empty handed. David decides to teach Nabal a lesson and sets out with 400 soldiers. Luckily for Nabal's household, one of his servants comes to Abigail and explains what has happened. Abigail, clever woman that she is, gathers a huge picnic for David and his men and heads them off at the pass, unbeknownst to her husband Nabal. For those of us who have been taught that wives are to "obey" their husbands, this presents an interesting biblical precedent. Abigail has: 1) Considered the problem, 2) determined a course of action directly opposed to her husband's wishes, 3) implemented that plan, 4) failed to seek her husband's permission. When she meets David, Abigail labels her own husband a fool and acknowledges that had she encountered David's men first, she would have honoured the request. She almost suggests that she is the one in charge of such matters and has the authority to act in that regard. Abigail also reminds David that his actions are a little excessive (400 soldiers against one sheep farmer) and that there would be spiritual consequences for the murder of Nabal.

David applauds Abigail's good sense and her spiritual knowledge and says that he will heed her wishes. Abigail returns home, and the next morning tells Nabal what she had done. Nabal doesn't take the news well (burst blood vessel? stroke?) and dies 10 days later, a death that is seen as God's punishment for his insult to David.

Abigail is now a rather wealthy widow, and David woos her and makes her one of his wives (he had several).

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Below is the synopsis of the September financial statement.

| | INCOME | EXPENSES | |
|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Bank Balance: | 123.13 | Donations | 18814.07 |
| DDF Balance: | 147308.11 | Fees | 500.00 |
| <u>Accts Receivable:</u> | <u>345.07</u> | Programs | 0.00 |
| Total Assets | 147776.31 | Other | 752.00 |
| | | Rentals | 3845.00 |
| | | Total Inc. | 23911.07 |
| | | Total Expense | 18099.83 |
| | | Net Income | 5811.24 |

We are managing quite well financially this month - while we show a large surplus at month end, we did have a payroll bill that had not been received, so most of that surplus was for payroll. While we have extra staff now in our parish, our payroll costs are remaining basically the same. The time for Giselle's work with Returning to Spirit is paid to the parish to offset her payroll, and Richard's time at the chancery is rebated back to the parish on our invoice. We did a roof replacement over the conference room and foyer, but that will be paid out of our DDF account.

Once again, thank you to all the parishioners for your generous response in providing for our financial needs.