

The Anglican Regional Ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I sat in our Bible study this week, listening to the conversation around the table, and looking at the driftwood cross pictured here, I couldn't help but think about the abundance of gifts that are all around us. Last year, at this time, we were camping out in the hall, as the church was under renovation. Everything that would normally take place in the church was now being held in the hall, including our midweek Morning Prayer Service followed by a Bible Study. I wanted a cross to put on the table, but the highly polished, beautiful brass one from the church was packed away, so I wandered around looking for another cross to use. What I found downstairs was a large box of drift wood, left over from our children's activities at the Marine Heritage Festival. Rummaging around for a minute or two, I found three pieces of drift wood that were perfect for creating this beautiful little cross.

The work of my hands was possible because of creativity, the beauty of the wood, the efforts of Doug who collected all that drift wood the summer before, and the inspiration of a God who is constantly reaching out to us, and gently saying "take notice". "Look up and seek God, Look back and thank God, Look around and serve God, Look forward and trust God." These are the words that began my Vestry letter to you this year, and end each Sunday service. God and God's gifts are all around us, calling us to engagement, calling us into relationship.



During this season of Lent, we are called to "take notice", to look for and to listen for God's activity in our lives. Lent is a time to open the doors of our hearts a little wider and understand our Lord a little deeper, so that when Good Friday and eventually Easter comes, it is not just another day at church but an opportunity to receive the overflowing of grace that God has to offer.

Lent is an opportunity to contemplate what our Lord really did for us on the Cross - not stopping at sadness and despair, but pointing to the hope of the Resurrection and the day when every tear will be dried.

The Cross is where our faith stands when all other faiths fail. Christ's sacrifice and his subsequent resurrection are the true "cruxes" of the Christian faith. Without one there would be no salvation; without the other, no hope. In many ways, that is why Good Friday and the following Easter Sunday are the most important dates for me on the Christian calendar.

When your soul whispers of its deepest longings, may you quiet yourself to listen. May you follow the path of yearning to the One alone who blends the uneven edges into a life of meaning. May you meet and be united with God and give thanks for the whispers that led you there.

God bless,
Carrie+

The Ordination and Consecration of The Reverend Canon Robert Todd Townshend, Th.D. and Seating as the 14th Bishop of Huron

An historic day for the Diocese of Huron took place on Saturday, January 25, at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul's, London, when the Reverend Canon Doctor Todd Townshend became the 14th Bishop of Huron. He had been elected to the position in October at a special electoral Synod. Present for the occasion were the clergy of the Diocese, bishops from across Canada, and many laity. It was a spirit-filled event! Following the presentation and examination of the Bishop-elect, the Metropolitan of Ontario called the people to prayer, preceding his investiture and seating at the cathedra, the chair appointed to his office. This was followed by the celebration of the Eucharist. At the conclusion of the service, the Bishop stood at the open door of the cathedral, where he blessed the city and the world.



Clergy and laity at the cathedral service



The youth of St. Aidan's parish assist with the cope.



The Investiture



The Bishop receives his staff



Past and Present Bishops of Huron



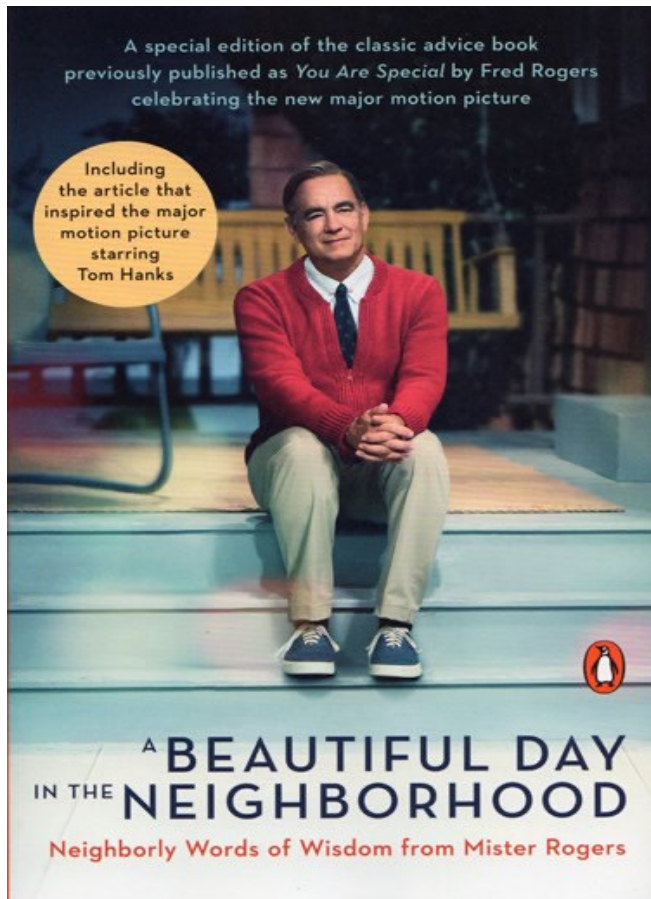
Bishop Todd with his family

Book Talk:

New Additions to our St. Paul's Resource Library:

A Beautiful Day in the Neighborhood: Neighborly Words of Wisdom from Mister Rogers

by Fred Rogers, 1994.

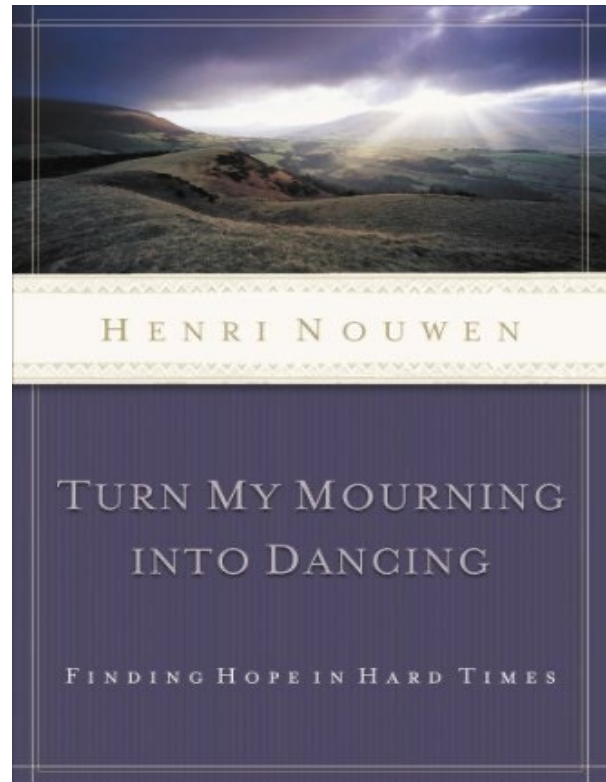


This special edition of the classic advice book previously published as *You Are Special* includes the article *Can You Say...Hero?* by Tom Junod, that inspired the recent motion picture starring Tom Hanks. And if you haven't seen this movie you must, in my opinion!

Fred Rogers (1928-2003) created the PBS program *Mister Rogers' Neighborhood*. He was a producer, writer, musician, minister, husband and father who initiated children's television programming that spoke with respect to the concerns and feelings of early childhood. This book is a collection of his warm encouragement and insightful sayings, offered to everyone and especially to those who are in relationship with young children. His wisdom is timeless: *When we love a person, we accept him or her exactly as is: the lovely with the unlovely, the strong along with the fearful, the true mixed in with the facade, and of course, the only way we can do it is by accepting ourselves that way; and I like you just the way you are!* and *Children have a wonderful way of discerning the truth...even when*

we think it's being hidden. Mr. Rogers fans will read and remember with nostalgic gratitude his simple profundity.

Turning my Mourning into Dancing: Finding Hope in Hard Times by Henri Nouwen, 2001 (from the estate of Henri Nouwen).



This collection of previously unpublished writings of Henri Nouwen provides comfort and guidance for people who are going through difficulty, or who are accompanying others in their dark nights of the soul. He inspires hope and love, joy and surrender in the midst of suffering. He gently points us toward a way of life that is grounded in God's constancy and love.

Note from the Librarian: We now have a printed catalogue of all the books on our shelves, sorted according to topics and listed alphabetically under those headings. Thank you to Barb Willner for her hard work in getting this into electronic form. You will find a copy inside the front pocket of the black binder on the sign-out shelf in the library.

Also, watch occasionally for bins of *Free Books!* which are duplicates and discards from the library. Help yourself and enjoy!

Becky Peters

From the Priest Assistant's Pew

As I write I reflect on some of the happenings in our world and how they are challenging us. A commonality is arising for me, and that is the theme of relationship. The recent super snow storm and road closures meant we were "storm stayed" and had to trouble shoot how we would keep ourselves safe if we tried to venture out. Events were cancelled, travel shut down and questions of "when will it stop" swirled as much as the snow did. We all hunkered down and watched curling, or read a book or snoozed. When the snow stopped falling and the cars were dug out, we immediately found ourselves finding others to talk to, see, and share snow shoveling stories. Neighbours helped each other if they had a snow blower. Others checked on those that might not be able to get out. Living in this area, I find this latter event just so heartwarming. We care. We care about each other and how we're fairing.

I believe our church on the larger scale is doing the same thing. As I read articles in the Anglican Journal, the Huron Church News and the Toronto Diocesan Anglican, I see stories of communities of people really caring for each other. This, to me, is what we are meant to do as people of God. We are identified by our relationships, and the stronger those relationships, the stronger our identity. Do we have a true sense of what God wants us to do at this time of political unrest, a challenging virus that has no bound-

aries and declining church attendance? I don't know that we do specifically.

What I do know is that we, as a worshipping and celebrating community, have each other in relationship and that makes us stronger. We need to spend just that little longer each day in prayer for those that may be losing a relationship due to distance, health, fear or change of circumstance. We need to offer caring, compassionate spiritual companionship to those on the journey with us. We need to welcome those that may be seeking out a new church home as theirs has, sadly, closed its doors.

This Lenten season, I encourage you to reflect on your own church relationships and your own relationship with Jesus by spending some time in prayer, reading a Lenten reflection, attending our offered Lenten Study on Monday evenings or Thursday afternoons, meeting others at the Lenten Lunches Wednesdays at South Port Pentecostal or Garafraxa Hill in Chatsworth or on Thursdays at Cornerstone Presbyterian in Tara. There is a way and a place to realize, recognize and celebrate and grow your relationship with Our Lord and Saviour this Lent!

Shalom,

Rev. Annie+



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Christ Church, 56 Bruce Road 17, Tara, ON, N0H 2N0

St. Paul's Anglican Church, 57 Toronto Street (Hwy 10), Chatsworth, ON, N0H 1G0

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