



Dear Friends:

I cannot believe it's almost six months since I arrived here. My family and I have been enjoying this parish very much and have met warm and loving people.

Several things are happening in the parish that make me give thanks to the Lord. In the Parish of Parham-Sharbot Lake I am grateful for those men and women who lead the morning prayers on Sundays when I cannot be there. I realize how much time it takes to prepare a homily and get ready for the service. The recent appointment of Anne Graham as Communications Officer has changed the dynamics in the parish and I truly believe will give birth to great initiatives. Anne has been doing a wonderful job by connecting us; even sending us notices if we miss church. The wardens have been there to guide and have been patient with me because everyone realises that it takes time for any new priest to learn the culture of a parish and for them to learn from their Rector. The Pastoral Care Team of Marg Whan, Cheryl Parks, Corrine Perkins, Joan Fleming and Judy McLaren have been with me to visit the sick, shut-ins and those in retirement homes. If you know someone who would like a pastoral visit please let me know or ask them to get in touch with me.

I am excited about new initiatives that are in the works now. We have had some Sunday School classes at St. James' Parham, led by Janet Selwood, and there has been the talk of starting Sunday School at St. Andrew's, Sharbot Lake. I will be launching a Prayer Tithe Ministry on December 1, 2013, the first week of Advent, and this will run until the last week of Lent. I will soon be writing to everyone in the parish asking you to volunteer for this ministry because I need a tenth of the total congregations to pray for the rest. The volunteers will receive prayer resources and names of individuals they will be praying for. The names will be chosen randomly. You may find yourself praying for people in Maberly-Lanark when you are a parishioner of Sharbot Lake. You do not have to be at church every Sunday or in the parish to participate in this initiative. You can do it from anywhere and our prayers will reach God. So if you want to be a volunteer please send me a note. The Alpha Course is in its fourth week meeting every Tuesday, at Providence Point, in Lanark.

The wardens at St Stephen's were busy this summer as they oversaw the exterior re-pointing of the southern part of the church. The contractor was superb and we hope that the remaining part will be done as funds become available in the next coming year. Still on the topic of buildings I am glad to report that St. Paul's parish hall roof has been replaced. I want to thank Tom Somerville and Allan Windermere for overseeing this project. They are hoping to have the entire roof replaced at St. Paul's in the coming year.

I think by now you have all received copies of the schedule for October to the end of January 2014. There were a few mistakes in the first one that was send out and I am sorry for any inconvenience this might have caused. These errors have since been corrected. Please take note of the following celebrations in the revised schedule: All Saints and Souls Day celebrations

November 3, Remembrance Sunday, November 10; Prayer Tithe Launch December 1, St. John's Balderson, 9am and St. Andrew's, Sharbot Lake; Advent Potluck Supper on December 6, at 6 p.m. in Maberly Hall; a Festival of Christmas Carols and Nine Lessons at St. Andrew's on December 15 at 7 p.m. and the Midnight Mass at St. Andrew's on Christmas Eve.

Something to look forward to:

- Synod in Ottawa---October 17-20
- Thanksgiving service (transferred) ---St. Andrew's, Sharbot Lake, October 20,2013 at 11 a.m.
- Workshop on Annual Vestry Meeting November 2, 2013 at 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Speaker Bishop Michael Outon. Venue: St. Mary Magdalene, Napanee.
- Alpha Course Retreat –November 1-2, 2013
- Clergy Conference in Kingston– “Prioritised to Mission” –November 5-6.
- Parham-Sharbot Lake–Pre-budget meeting. Venue and time to be advised.
- The 32nd Annual Friends of the Bishop Dinner (Ottawa) –Tuesday November 12, 2013 at 7pm.
- November 7, 2013, 12.p.m –Euchre and Lunch Maberly Hall
- November 8, 2013– Clergy Fresh Start –Ottawa
- November 18-20–Conflict Seminar in Ottawa
- Maberly–Lanark; Pre-budget meeting– November 24, 2013 Maberly Hall.
- November 26:Clericus, St Paul's Almont.
- Christmas Communion–Country View Retirement Home,Godfrey, December 15, 2013
- Baptism Festival January 12, 2014 St Andrews' Sharbot Lake.

If you wish to have your children baptised please feel free to talk to Father George.

A few weeks ago you received minutes of the Parish Growth Renewal Meeting that was held early August. Many good points were raised and as of now we will be focusing on working on a vision for the two parishes, finding ways to bring the two parishes together and training lay pastoral visitors. I will be writing Natalie who is responsible for the training in the Diocese to see when she can come. Before I do that I need to talk to my fellow ministers in Sharbot Lake and Lanark and see if they can join us in this worthwhile endeavour. A minimum of 35 people are needed before she can commit and we should draw from other denominations. As soon as we have the numbers and dates we will then choose a central venue. If you feel God is calling you to be a pastoral care worker please speak to me. Pastoral care team members take communion to the sick and shut-ins. The priest would like to visit and will endeavour to visit the sick, shut-ins and those in retirement homes but to have that group is a plus for us as we will make sure that all the corners of this widespread parish are covered.

May the soul of Marion McVeigh, Rita Cota, Leonora Perkins, Hellen Strong, Reta Miller, Kenneth Greer, Donna Moore rest in peace and rise in glory.

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving.

Serving with you in Christ

Father George Kwari
Rector