

Contents

From the Rector's Desk.....	1
A Call to Abundance.....	2
Children's Stewardship 2011.....	2
From the Curate's Corner.....	3
Did You Know - PAR?.....	3
Growing in Faith Together.....	4
Did You Know – Your Governments.....	4
Don Newman to visit CCBC.....	4
Investing in Property & Membership.....	5
Supporting the Call.....	5
Sharing the Load.....	6
Yes We Can!.....	6
Bits and Pieces by Edith Hobbs.....	7
Walk the Walk.....	7
Why CCBC?.....	8
Coming Events.....	8
From the Parish Registers.....	8

Nurturing Faith and Serving the World

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK

Stewardship is a word you will read throughout this edition of *The Lychgate* and see and hear a great deal about at Christ Church Bells Corners (CCBC) this fall. As has been the case every two years since the 1970s, we will be running a financial stewardship program in which all parishioners are asked to make a pledge to the ministry of CCBC for the next two years. We are calling our biennial program *A Call to Abundance*. In addition, and this is exceptional, we are partnering with other parishes across our diocese in the *Growing in Faith Together (GIFT)* program. All members of our church will be asked to make a five-year pledge, over and above their regular offerings, to support important ministry initiatives in the diocese and the wider church as well as within each parish. That is important information for all members of CCBC to have at this point and I assure you there will be many more details in this edition and especially at the *A Call to Abundance* and *GIFT* launch on October 2nd.

Past editions of *The Lychgate* have been dedicated to particular aspects of our parish (e.g. youth, altar guild, pastoral care and facilities). For obvious reasons, this edition is dedicated to the ministry of stewardship. I would like to offer some of my personal reflections about the topic of stewardship; ones that I believe are central to our Christian tradition. First, we live in a creation of abundance and blessings. God has given us enough so that we may live our lives full of purpose, meaning and grace. Indeed, in Jesus we have been given more than enough. The distribution of the blessings of creation and the sense of scarcity that can creep into lives can get in the way of the fullness of this abundance. Yet still we are given a call to abundance. Second, I believe that everything we have God entrusts to us. These are gifts of time, skill, energy and money. How we manage these gifts is a matter of stewardship. Third, I believe that in scripture we are clearly called to make an offering to the church from our first fruits; that is, not from what is left over but instead off the top. The biblical standard is the ten-percent tithe. While I understand that not everyone, every year realizes the tithe, such proportional giving remains the biblical standard. It is one that I personally embrace.

While stewardship includes our time, skill and energy, we all know that for organizations to be dynamic and vibrant, money is required. Furthermore, you may have heard me say before that money is the currency of our core values and what we do with it reveals what we believe. This fall, as we have for generations in this parish, we will all be asked to prayerfully consider what proportion of our first fruits, our money, we will offer to the ministry of our church. I do not engage this work of stewardship lightly; indeed I take it very seriously and invite conversation, deep reflection and prayer. I do ask that all who consider CCBC their spiritual home make a pledge this fall to ensure the ongoing ministry of our vibrant parish.

Yours in Christ,
Peter John+

Children's Stewardship 2011

The children and youth of CCBC will once again have the opportunity to participate in the 2011 Stewardship campaign.

The children's campaign will follow the same theme "A Call to Abundance" and will focus on how we have each been blessed and how we can share our blessings of time, talent or treasure.

We hope to hold a children and youth stewardship lunch, where we will learn about stewardship and what it means to be a good steward. Children's stewardship packages will be available to take home with more information and a catalogue listing all the opportunities at CCBC where they can share their gifts and blessings. The key message throughout our campaign is: No pledge is too small, and everyone has something to contribute.

Children's Stewardship Goals:

- Help them see that God has given them many blessings
- Teach them to be grateful for their blessings
- Show them how stewardship built our church
- Explain that stewardship is something we do all the time, it's how we live our lives
- Help them recognize the joy that comes from giving.

Susan Whitton,
Church School Coordinator.



A CALL TO ABUNDANCE

As the stewardship team has prepared for the 2011 campaign, we have engaged in conversations about giving: why we give, why giving is sometimes challenging, and what enables us to give more generously. Some conversations occurred one-on-one, or in small groups, while others called for witness to the wider team or to parish council about our personal thoughts about giving. Some conversations were quiet exchanges while others were more passionate. All were reminders of the diversity in experience, and in where we are on our life and faith journeys.

We talked about the challenges of giving when all around us we're being bombarded by messages to conform to the ways of the world ("consume", "money is scarce", "economy is fragile", etc.). Family dynamics or stage of life may make it difficult to give. Competing priorities and overwhelming needs make it difficult for us to decide where to direct our money.

Yet we always returned to the call for generosity of our Christian faith and history. We talked about the need for sacrificial giving, our baptismal covenant, our parents' example, and our accountability. We also talked about our abundant blessings, and the call to give of our first fruits. We remembered that we are blessed by the church we support: we benefit from the many programs and ministries at CCBC, and we feel good knowing that our gifts are life-changing for others in the parish and beyond.

The theme "A Call to Abundance" reminds us not only that we are abundantly blessed, but that we are called to share our blessings abundantly, with our parish church and beyond.

Ed Daley,
Stewardship Chair

THE MANY FACES OF STEWARDSHIP

During our fall stewardship campaigns, we focus on collecting pledges to ensure that our church continues to operate on good financial footing. It is also a good opportunity to stop and acknowledge the many other gifts of time, talent, and treasure which enable us to do God's work in the world, and which make CCBC a vibrant parish. Some examples include:

- volunteer time: worship support, parish governance, committees, fundraising, building maintenance, gardening, IT support, pastoral care
- gifts / contributions in kind: collections for Cornerstone, the Well and other ministry partners, bales for the North; contributions of materials (including foodstuffs) for the Holly Days bazaar, Sunday school, activity days, hospitality, garage sales.

Thank you all for your many contributions!

FROM THE CURATE'S CORNER

At my ordination, our daughter, Katherine, read this beautiful and meaningful passage from Isaiah: "I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' and I said, 'Here I am; send me!'" This passage touched me profoundly, for it goes to the essence of what it means to accept God's call to the priesthood.

And so, after working closely with you for nearly two years in this marvellous part of God's vineyard, I am, yet again, called to serve elsewhere.

As the Bard wrote, "Parting is such sweet sorrow".

The sorrow is self-explanatory, at least from my perspective. There will be a sense of loss and a time of grief, for in parting, pastoral relationships must and do change.

So what is so sweet? Sweet is the wealth of experiences we have shared – the laughter and the tears, the profoundly spiritual and the simply mundane, the reflections in silence and the outbursts in song, the probing discussions and the light chatter in the kitchen or in the garden, the many cups of tea and the occasional gourmet dinners, to name but a few! We have worshipped, prayed, and lived and deepened our Christian faith together. What we have shared will remain part of us always, nourishing and refreshing us as we continue on our pilgrim's way.

But there is more. If I were a management consultant, I would applaud this parish for its incredible capacity to plan, organize and deliver "excellence" – in worship, education, pastoral care, and mission and outreach. What I have learned from a finely honed parish and its leadership will serve me well.

But there is something more fundamental that emerges from this community – its signature feature is exactly that – it IS community. It is a generous, caring, supportive, and loving community. It is a community that lives its faith. It is a community that has heard God's call and has responded, "Here I am; send me!"

Welcome, my friends, to the priesthood of all believers!

With a grateful heart,
Laurette Glasgow+



Did you know...

Pre-authorized remittance (PAR) makes giving easier and helps you get to church on time?

Has this ever happened to you? It's Sunday morning, raining (or snowing), children are finally buckled in, and you are backing out the driveway when you remember that you've forgotten your offertory envelope. Or perhaps, you've been away for a few weeks on vacation, and are struggling to catch up on your pledged offering.

If so, pre-authorized remittance, or PAR, may be just what you need. PAR enables you to make your pledged donation to CCBC automatically on a monthly basis. Your pledge amount is transferred from your personal bank account to CCBC. No more cheques! No more catch-up!

PAR benefits CCBC additionally by providing a more regular cash flow, especially during quieter times of the church year. As you consider your pledge during the upcoming stewardship campaign, give thought to making your donation using PAR.





Don Newman to visit CCBC on October 2nd

During recent stewardship campaigns we have heard witness talks from parishioners who have shared stories about their life of faith and the importance of CCBC in their spiritual journey. On October 2nd, when we launch A Call to Abundance and GIFT, we will welcome Don Newman, celebrated journalist and broadcaster as a guest who will offer witness during both the 8 and 10 o'clock services. Don is a life-long Anglican and a parishioner at Christ Church Cathedral. Most of us know him best for his many years on CBC television. Don is the Honorary Chairperson of the GIFT campaign and we are delighted that he will be with us on October 2nd.



GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

This year CCBC is joining with other parishes and partnering with our diocese in the Growing in Faith Together (GIFT) program which seeks to raise \$12 million over five years to support the ministries of parishes, the diocese, and the wider church. Each parish is invited to raise a proportional share of the overall \$12 million goal. Parish Council has approved our suggested share of \$445,000 to be given over and above our regular offerings and to be pledged over the five-year period. Fifty percent of your GIFT pledge will support the diocese and the wider church.

1. Strengthening congregations (revitalizing parishes, and programming for children and youth) \$1.2 million;
2. Focusing ministry outward (diocesan community ministries, parish-based outreach initiative, and the Bishop's child poverty initiative) \$1.4 million;
3. Educating leaders (lay leader development, supporting curacies, and clergy formation) \$1.1 million;
4. Connecting with the wider church (ministry in the North, PWRDF, endowment of the bishop ordinary); \$1.1 million
5. Campaign expenses: \$1.2 million

Ed Daley,
Stewardship Chair

DID YOU KNOW – YOUR GOVERNMENTS SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH?

What? Governments supporting churches?

Ok, perhaps governments in general do not directly support CCBC and the church. However, by virtue of federal and provincial tax credits, your contribution to registered charities, including your church, can result in a refund of up to 40% of your total donation.

For example, for residents of Ontario, a donation of \$500 results in a tax credit amount of \$160 (or 32%). For a donation of \$2000, the tax credit amount is \$763 (or 38%).

Another way of thinking about it... to contribute \$2000, the cost to you is just \$1237.

For more information, you can see:

<http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/chrts-gvng/menu-eng.html> (follow "Donors" link).

INVESTING IN CHURCH PROPERTY & MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

A successful GIFT campaign will make \$222,500 available to CCBC. In consultation with parish council, it is recommended to use these funds for the following.

Enabling new ministries (30%)

New member development and hospitality were identified as priorities. The new member development ministry will focus on increasing CCBC membership, and supporting new members as they are identified. Church school was identified as an enabler of new membership (especially for parents and grandparents of young children). Hospitality ministry focuses on establishment and support of activities to enable us to be more deeply community (e.g. CCBC Café). GIFT funds will be used to add 10 staff hours per week, and to purchase resources to develop and sustain new member development and hospitality ministries.

Replenishing the Church Property Improvement Fund (70%)

Our building facilities are a great tool for ministry. However, over the past number of annual vestry meetings, investment in property improvement via the Church Property Improvement Fund has been deferred in order to support ministry programs. As a result, some needed improvements and maintenance have been delayed. With a successful GIFT campaign, we have the opportunity to address major maintenance items and to make the spaces more welcoming, usable and accessible.

Roofs were identified as a visible priority item for funding. The kitchen was acknowledged as a centre of outreach and fellowship (e.g. preparation of Cornerstone dinners, Cooking with Erin, Holly Days Bazaar, galas, pancake suppers, funeral ministry), yet suffers challenges in workflow and utility. "Hospitality of space" was discussed. We have many examples (and supporting remarks from visitors and parishioners alike) of beautiful and welcoming spaces at CCBC: the garden, upstairs meeting rooms, and the atrium. GIFT funds can be used to make other building spaces more welcoming or easy to use. Finally, building accessibility can be improved by adding automatic door openers on the main entrance and lower level washrooms. This will enable elderly and disabled parishioners and visitors to more easily navigate the building.

Investment in our facilities will ensure that they serve us and future generations, and continue to enable God's work.

Ed Daley,
Stewardship Chair

Supporting the Call

I will support A Call to Abundance and the GIFT Campaigns. As a Christian, an Anglican and a member of this Parish and Diocese, how could I not?

There will be much soul-searching. I must consider family situations. Many worthy charities, some dear to my heart, ask for help. However, I will give what I can to both campaigns. I will increase my pledge to CCBC because it is my church home where I come to pray, to worship, to listen and learn. Here I find leadership, fellowship and support in all that I do. I want the gift of this parish and this faith always to be available to others.

I am excited by what success can do for CCBC:

- Enhanced school programs
- Outreach for new families
- Kitchen upgrades for improved hospitality
- A secure and leak-proof roof!
- and more!

I want to contribute to GIFT's success because:

- I believe that a strong, active Diocese is essential to the maintenance of all parishes.
- I believe in its outreach goals.
- CCBC will benefit.

Janet Martin



SHARING THE LOAD

In preparation for the stewardship campaign, pledges and contributions from the previous year are examined in order to establish campaign goals. This graph displays information on household donations and generated some interesting discussion.

In 2010, 11 households (5% of total) contributed almost 25% of all donations.

Loss of one or two givers in the highest range would seriously impact our ability to sustain ministry activities. We need givers in lower ranges to contribute more to offset this risk.

Imagine...

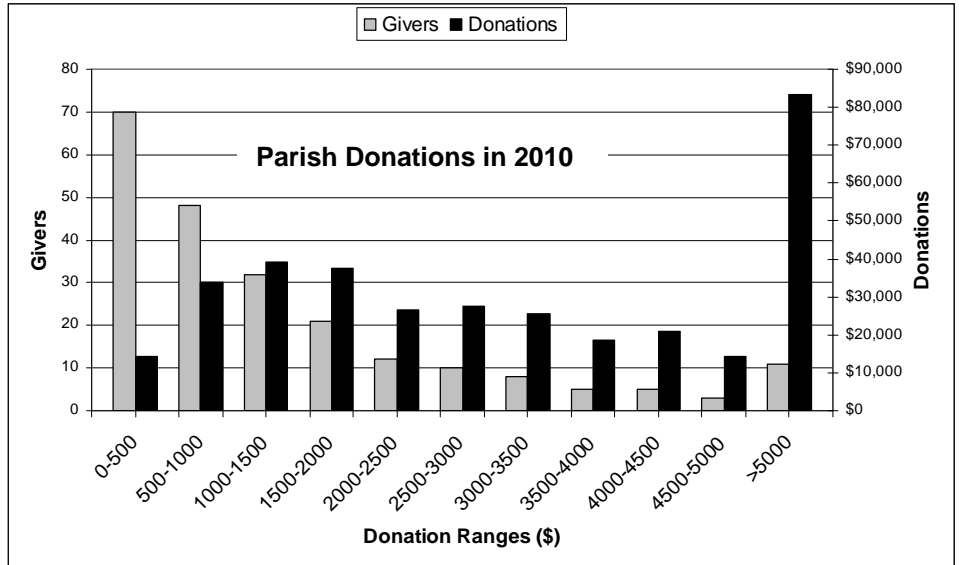
- If all givers in the 0-500 range gave at least \$500, there would be a \$20,000 increase in overall donations.
- If all givers in all ranges move to the next \$500 range, there would be a \$60,000 increase in overall donations.

Imagine the abundance of ministry at CCBC if this happened!

This fall, each household is being asked to consider giving from its God-given abundance and move up to the next \$500 range.



"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." John 10:10



Yes We Can!

This fall we will conduct our biennial financial stewardship campaign and, simultaneously, will participate in the diocese-wide GIFT campaign. CCBC's fair share of the GIFT campaign goal is \$445,000 over 5 years. Half of what we raise toward the goal and all excess will be returned to CCBC, exempt from fair share levies.

Can we achieve our GIFT goal? A few grey hairs like me will remember the last time our parish participated in a financial campaign at the level of the larger church. It was called "Anglicans In Mission" and took place in the early 1980's. Our parish was challenged to meet a five-year goal that was similar in proportion to our annual budget at the time, as our current goal is to our budget now. Heavily under mortgage from building our new church (1980) and having just taken on the sponsorship of a refugee "boat family", many thought we would struggle to meet our AIM goal. Guess what? We exceeded our AIM goal by more than 70%!

I believe we did so well in the AIM campaign, and will do so in the GIFT campaign, because **we are a people of faith**. We appreciate that our abundant blessings are a gift from God and that we are called to share these proportionately for the building of God's kingdom "on earth as it is in heaven". I am excited about the ministries the GIFT campaign will enable in our parish and the larger church, and intend to respond generously. **Yes we can!**

Victor Wehrle



Walk the Walk

Don't just talk the talk but walk the walk. Isn't that a phrase that is often overused? But it's one that has been going through my mind since I learned of the GIFT Campaign.

GIFT is one of those exceptional opportunities to give of my abundance to advance the work of the Diocese and of our parish. Yes, there are always on-going ways to give to individual organizations like PWRDF and Community Ministries. But GIFT presents us all with a unique way to come together to make all of our pledges add up to one enormous and powerful financial force that will support our church's ministry and the ministry of our Diocese well into the future.

I have been a member of CCBC since 1991 and this is the first financial campaign of this size that I have had the pleasure to contribute to. And so I am thrilled to be able to talk the talk, walk the walk, and make my pledge!

Cathy Séguin

BITS AND PIECES By Edith Hobbs

In reading the parable of the Good Samaritan, one phrase stood out for me – “passed by on the other side”. We all know this parable so very well – a lawyer wanted to test Jesus by asking Him what should he do to inherit eternal life.

Jesus asked him what is written in the law. He answered correctly, then he asked Jesus “and who is my neighbour?” Jesus replied by telling him the story of the man who fell into the hands of robbers. He was robbed, beaten, and left half dead. By chance a priest came down that road and, when he saw him, he “passed by on the other side.” So, too, a Levite came to the place where the man was lying and “passed by on the other side.”

But the Samaritan was moved with pity as he saw this man. He bandaged his wounds. He took him to an inn and cared for him, but that wasn't enough. He gave some money to the innkeeper, asking him to care for the man who had been left on the side of the road. The Samaritan assured the innkeeper that if needed upon his return he would pay even more.

Jesus asked who was the neighbour to this man – the reply – “the one who had mercy on him.” How many times have we “passed by on the other side?”

We are having a financial stewardship campaign in our parish this autumn. Like the Priest, and Levite, who “passed by on the other side” we need to be careful not to do the same. The good Samaritan not only gave of his time to care for the man, but of his skill by bandaging his wounds, and of his money but giving some to the innkeeper to care for the man who was once left for dead. The Good Samaritan was a good steward of his time, skill, and money. God loves a cheerful giver so let us be very careful, not to “pass by on the other side” during our financial stewardship program this fall.



Coming Events

- Sunday, September 18
Church School Commissioning and Teacher Training Lunch
- Wednesday, September 21 from 1-3 pm
ACW Meeting
- Friday, September 23
Cooking with Erin
- Sunday, September 25 at 8 am and 10 am
Invite a Friend to Church
- Wednesday, September 28 at 2 pm
Seniors Service
- Sunday, October 2 at 8 am and 10 am
CCBC Café
- Saturday, October 15 from 10 am to 12 pm
CCBC Café
- Wednesday, October 19 from 1-3 pm
ACW Meeting
- Wednesday, October 19 at 7 pm
Parish Council
- Wednesday, October 26 at 2 pm
Seniors Service
- Wednesday, October 26 at 7 pm
Healing Service (featuring VOCATA)
- Friday, October 28
Cooking with Erin
- Saturday, November 12 from 10 am to 12 pm
CCBC Café
- Saturday, November 19
Holly Days Bazaar
- Saturday, November 20 from 12 to 3 pm
Parish Council
- Friday, November 25
Cooking with Erin
- Saturday, November 26
Children's Advent Activity Day
- Wednesday, November 30 at 2 pm
Seniors Service

Why CCBC?

Somehow I have found myself on the Stewardship Committee this year. I have come a long way from only two years ago when we made our first Pledge to CCBC. Using PAR no less! We had been sporadically attending another Church, but it became clear we were ready to look seriously for a Church home that would meet our growing family's needs. I remember sitting down (with a large cup of coffee) to go through the package of information that was included in the previous biennial campaign. I can't say I remember any specifics, but I do remember feeling wowed. It seemed like I had found a place that walked the talk and had a strong commitment to so many of the things I value. Children's Ministry, tithing outreach donations, involvement in social justice issues and nurturing the parishioners within the walls of CCBC were evident in the Church narrative. Our family made a decision to put our money where our mouth is (I have been known to have a rant or two about Church issues) and I have felt so blessed to be welcomed into the CCBC family.

Two years ago when I looked at the information tables that outlined the average rates for giving I sort of glanced at them, found the range that a lot of people were giving and signed up. I wouldn't say it was a prayerful decision or a particularly well thought out decision. This year, my family is having a conversation about where our money goes and what that says about us as a family. I know that if I look at where CCBC's money goes I feel proud to be a part of it. We are making a conscious decision to make CCBC's Biannual Campaign and the Diocesan GIFT campaign a priority in our in-kind giving. I am so excited about CCBC's plans for its portion of GIFT. If a strong Children's Ministry got us in the door, just imagine what doubling the commitment to that position will do for the parish!

Jennifer Hubbard

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

Baptisms:

*Rachel Jane Lewis, daughter of Krista and Jeff Lewis
Samuel Nicholas Vallée, son of Julianna Tomlinson and Dominic Vallée*

Funerals:

*Thurlow Ernest Shirley (Buck) Arbuckle
Kathleen Mary Flatters
Neil Edwin Pieroway*