NEWS FROM THE PEWS

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Rev. Andrew Wilson:

Happy New Year!

One of the "traditions" for many is to make a new year's

resolution. Sometimes they are light hearted, others are serious and meant to be life changing. A few may get fulfilled, but many don't – which makes for much humour in the first weeks of the season.

We Anglicans have our own version of the "new year's resolution" – we call it *Annual Vestry*. It is a moment

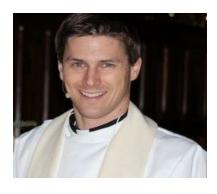
when we reflect upon the year gone by, and look forward to the next 12 months, and even beyond. At Vestry we make resolutions, and *promises* to each other, about how we will live out Jesus' mission in our communities, and how we will support it financially and through our volunteer work (of which there is a great deal!). It can be a critical moment in our life together and with God.

Will you participate in Vestry this year? I certainly hope so. This is a special time when you get your say – to comment, recommend, and to vote. Throughout his ministry, our Lord called people together into a community; and then he sent them out into the world, as a community of disciples. The church, from its earliest beginnings (eg. Acts, chapter 15) has held councils to discuss her mission and works, and to appoint leaders. We are all called and, I believe, expected by God, to enter into these meetings, and to do SO prayerfully.

I look forward to seeing you all over the next month as we discuss the timely issues and needs of our parishes.

Blessings to you and all whom you love,

Andrew+



Father Robert Porter:

Receive the Holy Spirit

The explosive growth of the early church

recorded in the book of Acts tells of the apostles hearing;

Samaria had accepted the word of God
Acts 8:14.

The church responds to this fantastic surprising news that those outside of Israel are accepting God's word by sending in their best, Peter and John to investigate and specifically to pray. What do Peter and John pray for if the Samaritans have already accepted God's word and have already been baptized?

Sanctification: the inner working of the Holy Spirit in a believer to bring their lives more and more into alignment with God's will and purpose. Peter and John went to the new believers in Samaria to "pray[ed] for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit." What happened?

Acts continues,

...and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:15-17.

The Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity, the One who is at work in the believer's life constantly drawing us

closer to Jesus came upon those believers through prayer.

On Epiphany we participated in a similar practice to the early church in the service of confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation of thirteen believers from across our region. We prayed for the Holy Spirit to strengthen, empower, and sustain.

The bishop prayed "Strength, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit; empower them for your service; and sustain them in all the days of their life. Amen."

May we all be blessed by the Holy Spirit with a deepening relationship with our Lord Jesus. May we be empowered for ministry and sustained all the days of our life.

Amen.

Fr. Robert.



Vestry Dates:

Oxford (At Garretton):

Jan 27th.

Christ Church (Burritts Rapids):

February 3rd.

St. James (Kemptville):

February 24th.

Holy Trinity (Merrickville):

March 3rd.

I'd like to ask the council's advice on how to get the congregation to sit closer to the front of the church.

Getting the Vestry's Advice (Cartoon by Dan Reynolds)

CURSILLO CORNER



Ultreya Dates:

- Sunday Feb. 17th 7pm Holy Trinity Merrickville
- Sunday March 17th 7pm at pm St. James, Kemptville.
- Sunday May 19th 7pm Holy Trinity Merrickville

If you have questions or are interested in attending a Cursillo weekend please speak to David Piercey or Dan Callaghan or one of the Priests.

Please send submissions for the newsletter to:

thenewsfromthepews@gmail.com

Outreach

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds can such faith save them?

James 2:14





On Dec 6th a group from the region along with community volunteers provided a hot meal for the House of Lazarus.

HOL has numerous programs covering a wide variety of needs.

Some programs are seasonal or temporary, while others are permanent, running all year long.

Currently, The programs include:

Advocacy Centre

Back-to-Work

Birthday Club

Christmas Programming

Community Garden

CRA Tax Return

Dinner On the House

Food with Friends

Green Food Box

Handyman Heroes

Healing Pathway

Heat for the Holidays

Information and Referrals

Linking Hands

Medical Supplies

Neighbours Helping Neighbours

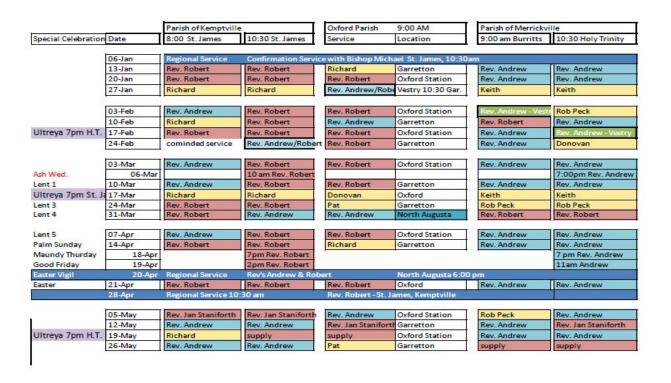
Project Warmth

School Supplies

Starting Over

Vouchers Program

Worship Schedule:



		Parish of Kemptville		Oxford Parish 9:00 AM		Parish of Merrickville	
Special Celebration Date		8:00 St. James	10:30 St. James	Service	Location	9:00 am Burritts	10:30 Holy Trinity
	02-Jun	Richard	Rev. Jan Staniforth	Rev. Jan Staniforth	Outord Station	Rev. Andrew	Rev. Andrew
Pentecost	09-Jun	Rev Andrew	Rev Andrew	Rev. Jan Staniforth		Keith Stanton	Rev. Jan Staniforth
Trinity Sunday	16-Jun	Richard	Rev. Anne Moore	Rev. Anne Moore	Oxford Station	Rev Andrew	Rev. Andrew
	23-Jun	Rev. Andrew	Rev Andrew	Pat	Garretton	Rev Dr Barbara	Rev. Dr. Barbara
	30-Jun	Rev.Dr. Barbara	Rev. Dr. Barbara	Rev. Andrew	North Augusta	Rob Peck	Rev. Andrew
C			le July & August	Oxford Parish	9:00 AM	+	O comuico
Summer S	chedule		am service	Service	Location	One 10:3	
Summer S	or-Jul					+	
Summer S			am service	Service	Location	One 10:3	
Summer S	07-Jul		am service	Service Rev. Andrew	Location Oxford Station Garretton	One 10:3	
Summer S	07-Jul 14-Jul	One 9:00	Rev. Anne Moore Rev. Dr. Barbara	Service Rev. Andrew Pat	Location Oxford Station Garretton	One 10:3	
Summer S	07-Jul 14-Jul 21-Jul	One 9:00	Rev. Anne Moore Rev. Dr. Barbara Rev. Andrew	Service Rev. Andrew Pat Burritts Rapids Lo	Oxford Station Garretton	One 10:3	
Summer S	07-Jul 14-Jul 21-Jul 28-Jul	One 9:00	Rev. Anne Moore Rev. Dr. Barbara Rev. Andrew Rev. Dr. Barbara	Rev. Andrew Pat Burritts Rapids Lo Rev. Andrew	Location Oxford Station Garretton cks Garretton	One 10:3	0 service
Summer S	07-Jul 14-Jul 21-Jul 28-Jul 04-Aug	One 9:00	Rev. Anne Moore Rev. Dr. Barbara Rev. Andrew Rev. Dr. Barbara Rev. Dr. Barbara	Service Rev. Andrew Pat Burritts Rapids Lo Rev. Andrew Rev. Anne Moore	Oxford Station Garretton Garretton Oxford Station	One 10:3	O service

OUR FALL IN PICTURES:

2018 was a busy Fall and Winter for the region.

A group brought some early Christmas joy singing carols in KDH and local care homes

Holy Trinity Merrickville was involved in the Jazz festival.





St James took part in the literacy project book giveaway in association with the Salvation Army.



The start of January brought a regional service with the

Bishop with 13 members of the region receiving: confirmation, reception and renewal of baptismal vows.

