



# Message from Fr. Stephen



## Spiritual Erosion

In the past couple months, the people of Canada have been through two significant events. We have come to the end of another income tax season and we voted in a federal election. As I watched both of these unfold, I could not help but notice how much grumbling and complaining was evident via the news media and television advertising. It got so bad that, at one point, I wondered if Canada was becoming a nation of complainers.

Complaining is nothing new in the human experience. The Hebrew Scriptures record the almost incessant complaints against God and His chosen leaders uttered by the people of Israel during their forty-year pilgrimage. This time in history is reflected in Anglican liturgy. Do you remember these words used at Matins? "Forty years long was I grieved with that generation and said, It is a people that do err in their hearts for they have not known my ways. Unto whom I sware in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest".

According to this passage from the Bible, to grumble and complain unduly indicates an ignorance of God's ways. In other words, it shows that we do not really know God. Why is this so? I think the answer boils down to gratitude. When we spend our time grumbling and complaining we demonstrate a lack of gratitude in our lives. Such a mindset erodes both our spiritual health and the life and witness of the Church. Am I suggesting that we lie down like doormats and take anything without ever questioning or uttering a complaint? Not at all. But I am suggesting that our complaints need to spring from a grateful heart if they are going to be edifying to the church collectively or ourselves personally. So, before you or I open our mouths to complain to someone about what is or isn't happening in the church or in our lives, let's make sure that we first think about what is going well and what fills us with gratitude toward God. Only then will our concerns serve to build up the community, which is our common vocation.

Fr. Stephen

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### Sign of the Times

**PrayerFx**

When you absolutely-  
positively need an  
answer by 10:00 a.m.  
tomorrow!

**1-800-PRAYERS**

# Spiritual Development Committee

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Our library is growing! Check out the two newest additions, "Plan B" and "Unblind Faith". Reports on these two books from Steve White and Fr. Stanley can be found later in this edition of The Eagle. Thank you to those who have donated books.

A link to our parish library catalogue can be found on the Spiritual Development page of our website ([www.stjohnschurchph.ca](http://www.stjohnschurchph.ca)).

Upcoming Events:

## More to the Movies

Join us the lower parish hall on Friday, June 17 at 7 p.m. as we show "Faith Like Potatoes". Based on the inspiring true story of Angus Buchan, the story weaves together the moving journey of a man who, like his potatoes, grows his faith, unseen until the harvest. Visit [www.faithlikepotatoes.com](http://www.faithlikepotatoes.com) to view the movie trailer.

## Walk with Us

Our first summer series of faith based walks and talks was very popular. We will run the series again this summer on July 14, July 28, August 11 and August 25 beginning at 7 p.m. Each session will explore a different theme and a different walking route.

Watch the bulletin and the events page of the website for more details.

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## Problems with the Steeple

On Palm Sunday weekend, several pieces of the copper capping that cover a roofing seam on the steeple became loose during strong winds and some of the pieces eventually fell to the ground. The Palm Sunday service was cancelled because of the danger posed by the remaining loose pieces. The pieces of capping were recovered and reinstalled later in the week that followed by a company that used a mobile lift platform to reach the heights.

However, when an inspection of the interior of the steeple was done that same week to try to determine why the capping came loose, it was discovered that the lower end of four of the eight steeple rafters, and the segmental sill beam to which they are connected, have deteriorated due to rot. Temporary barricades remained in place at the front of the Church until an assessment by a structural engineer determined that each steeple rafter is in fact also attached to a perimeter post that is secured farther down in the tower and that there was no immediate danger of the steeple falling over. It was recommended, though, that repair of the structure be undertaken promptly.

Discussions have since been held with an architectural firm and an engineering firm about repair to the steeple. Both companies indicated that the presence of the rot was due to the infiltration of water from a leaking roof and thus reconstruction or replacement of the roof would be necessary. Work on the structure would include removal and replacement of the rotten wood with possible strengthening using steel sections. Some of the interior brickwork at the base of the steeple may need to be upgraded. A large portion of the cost of the job would be for the extensive scaffolding that would be required to reach the various parts of the steeple; due to the height of the scaffolding, its construction must be approved by an engineer. Other components of the job would be the design of the repair and project management. Total cost of repair is expected to be in the range of \$250,000 to \$300,000.

Another option to be considered is complete removal of the steeple followed by the capping of the remaining tower with a roof. The cost of this approach is estimated to be about one third of the cost of the repair.

A special vestry meeting will be held in the Parish Hall on Sunday June 5 after the 10:30 service to decide on an approach that should be taken to address the problems with the steeple and to approve of the necessary expenditures. After ratification by vestry, the approach would have to go before the Diocesan Council for further approval. It is hoped that the work on the steeple could be done during the summer or early fall and that disruption of the Sunday services would be minimal.



## New Additions to Our Library



Unblind Faith – a new approach for the twenty-first century, by Michael J. Langford

Have you ever wondered just what you have to believe to be a Christian? Perhaps you learned an answer at the time of Confirmation but things have changed since then, you think differently. Here is a book which could help you work through this and other basic questions you haven't asked for a while such as "What do we mean by 'original sin'?" or "the resurrection of the body?" The author doesn't give dogmatic answers but rather suggests helpful new ways to look at old questions.

-Fr. Stanley

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### Plan B: What To Do When God Doesn't Show Up the Way You Thought He Would?

Many of us have dreams. Some dream of finding the love of their life, while others dream of starting a family, or maybe climbing the corporate ladder. Dreams, like prayers, come in many different forms and often, dreams, like prayers, do not work out the way that we had hoped. Some become reality, some just don't happen, and unfortunately some become nightmares. Many of us plan our lives in such a way that we can make our dreams come true. What seems to hurt the most is that just when we are doing everything right, the rug gets pulled right from under our feet. We are left feeling empty, alone, sad, angry and many of these emotions are directed towards God.

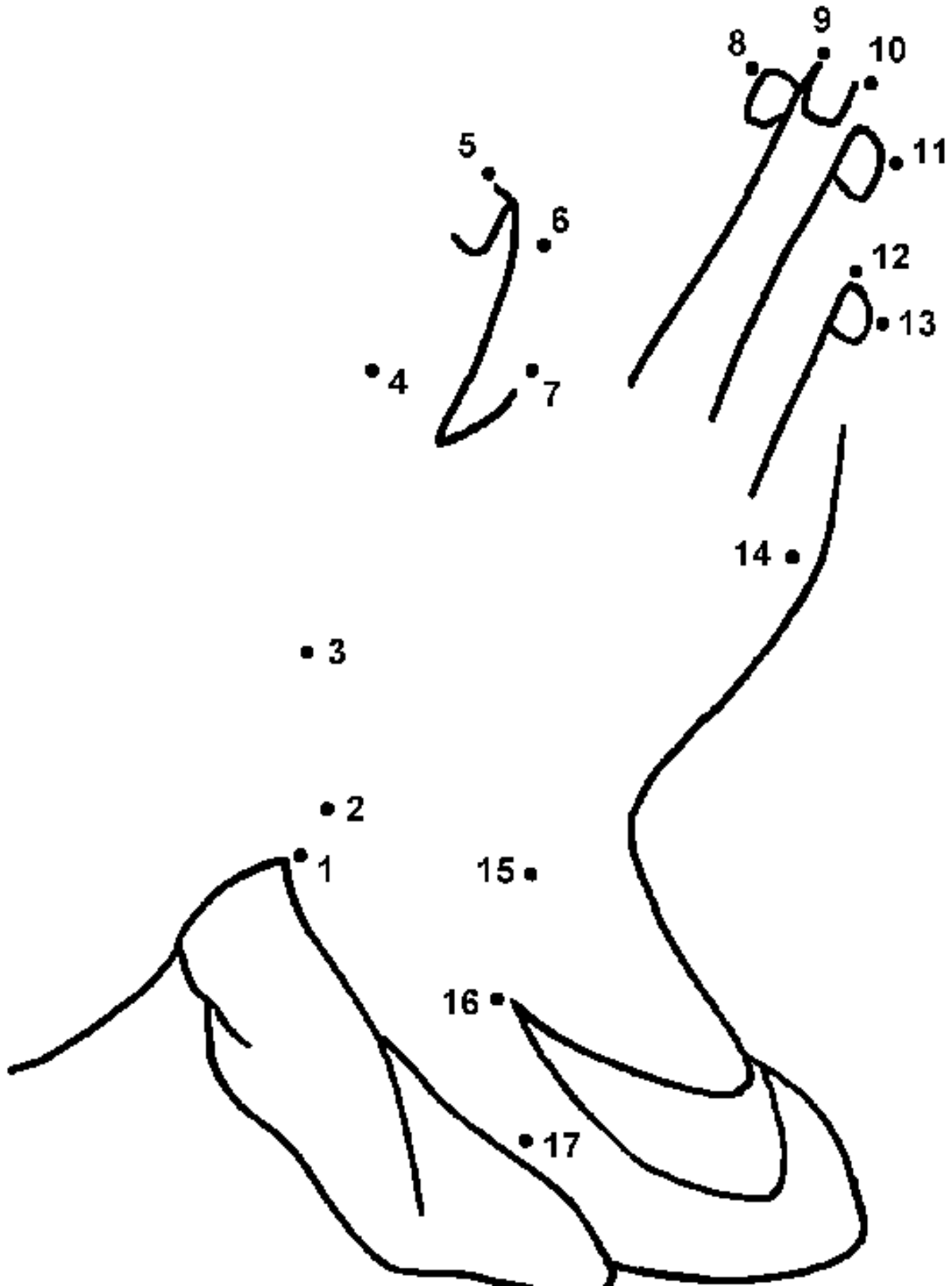
"Plan B: What Do You Do When God Doesn't Show Up the Way You Thought He Would?", is a book written by a pastor by the name of Pete Wilson, who discusses how our lives often follow different paths than we expect. Wilson uses disappointing situations that he has experienced as a pastor, along with Biblical stories of people who faced disappointment to bridge a common theme of how to deal with hardship and loss. Wilson's use of common language appeals to both young and old and with each case discussed he links stories such as Joseph, Abraham, and others to make his point. That point ultimately being that our plans and God's plans for us often do not parallel each other. It is this change of plans that causes the negative emotions that arise from a sense of loss, but through the understanding that God's plan for us is mightier than our own and that God is indeed with us that our own healing can begin.

At the root of "Plan B" is the ultimate truth that God sent his only Son Jesus Christ to our world to save us, to let us know that he loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us, and that through Him we can do His will...even if that plan is not the plan that we had hoped or envisioned. It can help people face their losses and turn negative emotions into positive light. It helps the reader realize that God is indeed with us and that faith in Him can help us heal and be better people.

In my own personal life, after reading this book, I took my personal illness and reflected upon my faith and my path that I have taken since my diagnosis with multiple sclerosis. I have no doubt that this illness has made me a better person and that ultimately there is a much larger goal for all of us as Christians. We must do His work, spread the Good News, and look forward to the day that we will be with the One who loves us.

-Steve White

Kid's Page



## JAM (Jesus and Me) Youth Group

**Gift Cards** –Our shop and support gift card sales is ongoing, we are continuing to sell gift cards each month for those special gifts you need or just for your regular everyday needs, like groceries and gas. Orders and money must be in to the Church office by the third Friday of each month (we will not be ordering in the months of July, August or December) by 9:00am. Order forms and retailers list may be found at the back of the Church on the Youth Bulletin Board as well as on our Church website, <http://www.stjohnschurchph.ca/> . Since January gift card sales have raised about \$30 for the Rector’s Discretionary Fund.

**Bottle Drive** – We are having another bottle drive on Saturday May 28<sup>th</sup>. If anyone has empty alcohol bottles that you would like to donate to JAM’s fund raising efforts please contact Karen Watson at 905-885-8622 or [watson.k@me.com](mailto:watson.k@me.com) and arrange a pick up date and time.

**Cookie and Muffin Delivery** – Thanks to JAM for cheering up 32 members of our Parish with the delivery of bags of cookies and muffins in February. We received many cards of thanks as well as, to our surprise, donations. The money will be used to fund our June BBQ & Games Night.

**JAM Talent Night** – What a talented JAM group we have! In March JAM members shared a talent. Tyler Elliot is an excellent juggler as well as a drummer. Steve White is great on the guitar. Peter Kyle plays a mean Baritone and Alex Foley is quite a talented Tuba player. We all shared our talents individually and then Peter and Alex teamed up for an awesome duet.

**29.5 hr FAST** – Paige Kreps and Alex Foley participated with other youth in the area in a 29.5 hr FAST on Good Friday at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Brooklin. Funds raised went towards Tsunami Relief in Japan.

### Upcoming Events

Dates	Activity
Friday June 10 <sup>th</sup> 7:30-9:30pm	Laser Tag in Peterborough
Friday June 24 <sup>th</sup> 5:30-7:30pm	BBQ and Games @ 22 Spicer St.
July & August	Break for the Summer
Friday September 9 <sup>th</sup> 7:30-9:30pm	Planning and Development Meeting

**Come JAM with US!**  
Check us out on Facebook too!

## *“Dime a Day”*

When we started “Dime a Day” about three years ago the concept was that if we could get 100 people to contribute a dime every day that would amount to \$36.50 a year for each person contributing, or \$3,850 in total, to send to fight AIDS in Africa. Through Bishop Colin Johnson’s daughter, Rachel, we determined that an organization called Keiskamma Trust was an appropriate recipient due to the work they were involved with in the South East part of South Africa.

This generally worked out for about two years with us being able to send varying amounts around \$200 to \$300 each month. However, recently the contributions seem to have dropped off significantly and, to date, we have only been able to send \$300 for the whole year.

The need is just as great as ever it was, so if you have a Dime a Day can at home and just need to get the dimes to the bank or to church, please do it now. If you do not have a can or would like more information please contact Keith Pickett at 905-885-2803

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## **Treasure Trove**

Thanks to Kevin Cowan for installing our new tile floor in the Treasure Trove this past winter and to our team of painters, namely, Paul Fraser, Cathy Lees, Shirley Robinson, Nancy Lynch, Betty and Garry Curtis, John Le Cain, and Bob Mc Phee.

Thank you to Keith Pickett for building and installing shelves. We were able to open for the new season on March 16. Many positive comments have come from our shoppers about the updates and sales are going well.

We are pleased to welcome Shirley Stark and Kelly Holmes to our roster of sorters and we continue to be grateful for your donations of good used clothing and books.

Why not drop by and check us out? It's hard to beat our prices and you might just discover that unique item you have been looking for but haven't as yet been able to find.

Submitted by John Le Cain

## Good Sports All!

At last report well over \$1500 was raised and a good time had by all. Of course, not every team could be champion but every team could contribute and the St. John's team contributed very well, thank you.

It was Saturday, May 7, the Second Annual 4 On 4 For Food Floor Hockey Tournament in support of NeighbourLink Northumberland. St. John's is a member of NeighbourLink and we sent enough players for a team and a half, helping to make up the tenth team as well as our own. Both teams won one of their three games, but the competition was tough, including teams from the Anglican Parish of Perrytown and St. Peter's, Cobourg. St John's team included a number of 14 year olds as well as at least one retiree. The final was a very close game, won 12-11 by a team from Cobourg Alliance Church defeating the Church on the Hill, also from Cobourg.

Congratulations to all participants, and thanks so much to their sponsors. NeighbourLink is an inter-church organization sponsored by 15 area churches of eleven different denominations. It coordinates the provision of assistance to people in need. One major aspect of NeighbourLink work is to help provide assistance for people facing severe food shortage. That is where the proceeds of it's tournament will be directed.

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Greeting to all,

Just a reminder that the upcoming St. John's Pasta Dinner is approaching fast and tickets are now selling briskly. Held on Saturday June 4th, starting a 6 pm. in the parish hall, we'll be offering an all you can eat buffet ,complete with an assortment of mouth watering sauces, caesar salad and garlic toast, desserts, tea and coffee. You can even enjoy a glass of red or white wine with you Italian feast.

Tickets are 15 dollars each , 6 dollars for children under 12 . Family of two adults and two children are 40 dollars. Tickets are available at the Parish Office or at Holton Flowers , 62 Walton Street, Port Hope.

Don't be disappointed, get your tickets today.

**ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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We're on the Web at  
[www.stjohnschurchph.ca](http://www.stjohnschurchph.ca)

# Parish Calendar

<b>Event</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Time &amp; Place</b>
<b>Pasta Dinner</b>	June 4, 2011	6:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall
<b>Special Vestry Meeting about the Steeple</b>	June 5, 2011	Noon in the Parish Hall
<b>Archbishop Johnson's Town Hall Meeting for Trent-Durham</b>	June 12, 2011	6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall
<b>More to the Movies: Faith Like Potatoes</b>	June 17, 2011	7 p.m. in the Parish Hall
<b>Outdoor Eucharist and Parish Picnic</b>	June 19, 2011	10:30 a.m. on the Church lawns
<b>Vacation Bible Camp! "Shake It Up Café"</b>	Monday, July 4th to Friday, July 8th	9 a.m. until Noon in the Church and the Parish Hall
<b>Walk With Us</b>	July 14 & 28 August 11 & 25	7 p.m. start Watch bulletin for details