

Greetings!

As we move into November, the days get shorter and colder and while we may begin to desire hibernation, we continue journeying together as followers of Jesus.

As we begin November with All Saints Day (November 1<sup>st</sup>) and finish the month with Reign of Christ Sunday (November 26<sup>th</sup>), I am reminded of how important it is that our faith is lived out in community. In community with those surrounding us, as well as following the example and hope of the faithful disciples who have gone before us. In doing so, we live into the challenging command of loving God with all our hearts, minds and souls, and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

One of the ways of living into this command is by coming together and engaging in deep learning about who we are as God's church. Our first session of *Divine Renovation* took place on October 28 where we began to unpack our understanding of church, look at challenges of being church in this place and time, and recognize areas where we struggle in living as God's church. Participation and discussion was rich and the three hours flew by. Our next session in November 18 from 9am-noon and all are encouraged to attend, whether you were able to make the first session or not.

Another way of living into the command to love God with all our hearts, minds and souls is through fostering a deep life of prayer. *Contemplative prayer and practices* are a faithful way of doing this. On Wednesday Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30pm at Emmaus we will gather with those interested in learning more about what it is to engage in contemplative practices. Prior to this gathering those interested are welcomed to join me and a few others from Emmaus at St. Jerome Roman Catholic Church at 7pm for a Taize Service. Taize is one form of contemplative practice, so experiencing this will help as we form this new group, who will come together about every six weeks or so to support one another as we grow in contemplative practices.

Last month, I petitioned for people to prayerfully consider serving on a *Liturgy Formation Group* who will commit to engaging in the important work of seeking ways to creatively live into the liturgy and fostering engaging worship at Emmaus. I am grateful for those who have offered to serve in this capacity and the group has met once already, beginning to pray into this essential work.

As we look ahead, we know that December is always a rich and full month, the weeks of Advent quickly giving way to the celebration of the birth of Christ, and then into a new calendar year – 2018! – which also means our second Annual Vestry Meeting is not too far off. At that time, we will be seeking those who may be

## Worship @ Emmaus

**Sundays @ 8:30 a.m.**

Traditional Holy Communion (BCP)

**Sundays @ 10:30 a.m.**

Communion Celebration (BAS)

**Wednesdays @ 9:00 a.m.**

Holy Communion (BCP)

feeling a call to serve on the Advisory Board, and/or as a Church Warden. Do keep this in mind and in prayer and speak to me if you have questions.

Another piece of business that is important to communicate has to do with the financial situation as Emmaus. Given the change in leadership and other happenings, the Wardens, Advisory Board and I wanted to provide you with a brief update of *finances* at this time.

The major changes to our expenses have been in the areas of stipend & salaries and diocesan apportionment. Currently our average monthly stipend & salaries (clergy, music ministry associate, janitorial) is apx. \$8,000/mth – a difference of \$2,660 (previous monthly stipend & salary was apx. \$10,660/mth). This change is the result of going from one full-time and one part-time clergy to one full-time clergy.

When it comes to apportionment, we have been issued a credit from the Diocese because our apportionment for our first year as Emmaus was estimated higher than actual. What this means is that our identifiable income was lower in our first year than projected, resulting in a current monthly Diocesan Apportionment cost of \$1,419.25 – a difference of \$2,303.83 (previous monthly Diocesan Apportionment was \$3,723.08).

Taking into consideration these two significant changes, our *average monthly expenses for Emmaus are apx. \$12,380.00/mth* (down from apx. \$17,342/mth). This is based on the budget passed at Vestry in February and does not take into account any major unforeseen expenses that may arise. In other words, this is still a bare bones budget.

When looking at our parochial income only (envelopes and electronic offering) we are *averaging a monthly income of apx. \$11,260.00/mth*. While we do receive income from other areas (hall use, ACW & Mens Group, memorial donations, etc.) the majority of our income is parochial and the desire would be that parochial income would cover our expenses. At this point in time we are close, *but still falling slightly behind by apx. \$1,120/mth*. Even a nominal increase in your monthly offering will help with this shortfall.

It is important to point out that we have been able to keep up with expenses this year, even when they were higher, using funds in reserve and funds realized through the formation of Emmaus – something that was approved by Vestry in Feb. 2017. I am hopeful that we will be able to finish off the year in good financial standing, however we are, as mentioned, operating with a bare bones budget and will have to take into consideration anticipated future expenses as we begin to think through our proposed 2018 budget.

### Stay Connected

If you would like to register to receive email updates from our website, add your email address to the list in the narthex, sign up from the website directly or email us and let us know you'd like us to sign you up. Once entered into the system, you will receive an email to confirm your subscription. This is a great way to stay informed as we continue to utilize our website more and more. Also, if you're on Facebook, be sure to follow our page, Emmaus Anglican Church.

### @ Emmaus

Rev. Pamela Rayment – Rector  
Alison Weir – Rectors Warden  
Barbara Sherwood – Peoples Warden  
Micheline Lablance – Deputy Warden  
Music Ministry Associate – Tasha Filice  
Parish Administrator – Mary McDonald  
Sylvia Sherwood – Treasurer

#### Advisory Board Members

Nancy Cardiff  
Dan Fritz  
Joy Kaldma  
Deborah Kalinowski  
Mary McDonald  
Judy Pratt  
David Taylor  
Phyllis Walls  
Bruce Yendell

Nonetheless, ministry is happening at Emmaus!

We are committed to growing in faith and listening to what God is calling us to. I see this lived out in different ways. In the renewed hope that is expressed to me from many of you. In the readiness of many to step out in faith and start having conversations together about our shared and lived life of faith. In the willingness to engage our energy of 'doing' in endeavors that serve others as opposed to simply meeting the needs of Emmaus. In the continued determination of remaining part of Emmaus even as we work through ongoing growing pains, recognizing that the hope of what God has called us to is greater than our temporary discomfort. So to you all, thank you.

I trust that as we continue on the path of discipleship, keeping the greatest commandment; to love God with all our hearts, mind and soul, and our neighbors as ourselves, as our guide, that we will grow in faith, to love and to serve the gospel here in Sault Ste. Marie.

Blessings in Christ,



Office hours: M-F 9:00am-12:00pm

We make every effort to keep scheduled office hours, however due to the nature of the work of the church, there are times when this is not possible. Thank you for understanding.



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