



New Church Canadian

A Bi-Monthly Newsletter of General Church in Canada

Issue 206

THANKSGIVING AROUND THE WORLD

by the Rev. James P. Cooper

Canada takes the 2nd Monday in October to give thanks to God for the good harvest and for the good health and fortune of the people. In the United States, Thanksgiving is closely associated with the story of the Pilgrims. Certainly, those poor people who had fled from their homes and come to a dangerous and uncivilized new world had much to give thanks for – and we can learn a lot from their dedication to religious freedom and their courage.



But that story is such a good one that it may distract us from thinking about the fact not only do people in other countries celebrate Thanksgiving, but that it may be that more people have Thanksgiving in common than any other holiday.

No matter what country they live in, people of many religions throughout the world set aside a day at the end of the harvest season to think about the blessings they have received from their Creator. The Writings tell us that when the Lord was on earth as a teacher, He presented his ideas in a way that was specially suited to the European or western way of thinking. In His Divine Wisdom, the Lord knows that with so many different kinds of people in the world, there would have to be many different ways of teaching them. In His Divine Providence He formed other great religions through prophets like Mohammed and Buddha so that people of every kind in every land could find a path to heaven, even if they didn't know about or understand the miracle of the Lord's birth on earth. But if they don't know about the Lord, they don't have Christmas or Easter because those are holidays that celebrate great events in the Lord's life.

But the people in every nation throughout the world need to eat. People every-

(Continued on page 2)

In This Issue:

Thanksgiving Around the World.....	1
Veteran's Week.....	3
You Matter.....	7
Message from the Regional Pastor	9
Thanksgiving Feast in Chicago.....	9
Contacts.....	11
Colouring Page.....	12



(Continued from page 1)

where depend on the bounty that comes from the earth each year. People everywhere give thanks to God, no matter which of His names they use in their prayers, for they know that they could not live a moment if it were not for God's gifts to us. For example, people of the Jewish faith all over the World celebrate *Sukkoth*, or the feast of the Ingathering in October (the date varies according to the lunar calendar). It marks the end of the harvest season, specifically the vintage and fruit harvest of the Holy Land. Islamic people have a month of fasting each year



called *Ramadan*, and they celebrate the end of the fast with feasting and thanksgiving for the many blessings they enjoy.

Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to [all] the children of men! {9} For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness. (PSA 107:8-9)

Throughout the world, people are turning to God in thanksgiving for his gifts of food and life. And, as important as these are, they are just the beginnings, the foundation of the good gifts that He gives to us, and for which we should be thankful – not just today but everyday. In our Thanksgiving services, we bring forward our gifts of fruit because they particularly represent uses. These things grown from the good earth are representatives of all the various uses that we are called on to perform for ourselves and others. The Lord asks us to do these things for others in His name, because He asks us to, not just so that we will appear to be good people. When we are genuinely useful, when we take these gifts that the Lord provides, and use them to care for and protect others, it is a way of giving them back to the Lord, of giving thanks to Him, and recognizing that He is the source of all good things.



At this time of year that we set aside to give thanks to the Lord, we should look first at the wonderful bounty that the earth provides, the good food that we have in abundance – not just at how much food there is, but how many different kinds of food we have. All the different kinds of food can remind us that they represent all the different ways that people can find to be useful to other people, that from these things we begin to think about and be thankful for the people who are in our lives. All the different people we know and the way they relate to each other as friends or family, or through work or school, can remind us about the way that heaven itself works: millions and millions of people, gathered there since the beginning of time, finding delightful ways of working and playing together, and giving thanks to God for His blessings.

We have so much to be grateful for. But we do not give thanks because the Lord demands it of us. He has no need of our thanks. He knows we cannot ever pay Him back for what He has given us and does not expect us to try. But, because He made us, He knows that it is good for us to thank Him, to be reminded from time to time that all good is from the Lord, all blessings flow into our world from Him, and we can only truly receive Him into our hearts when we open our hearts to Him in Thanksgiving.

O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy is forever. (PSA 107:8)



VETERANS' WEEK

Service, Courage and Sacrifice –

At home, around the world and across generations.

Every year during the lead up to Remembrance Day on November 11, we honour those who have served Canada in times of war, military conflict and peace.

INDIGENOUS VETERANS



The First Nations, Métis and Inuit people of Canada have a long and proud tradition of military service to our country.

Introduction

While exact statistics are difficult to determine, the rate of Indigenous participation in Canada's military efforts over the years has been impressive. These determined volunteers were often forced to overcome many challenges to serve in uniform, from learning a new language and adapting to cultural differences, to having to travel great distances from their remote communities just to enlist.

Valuable Skills

Many Indigenous men brought valuable skills with them when they joined the military. Patience, stealth and marksmanship were well-honed traits for those who had come from communities where hunting was a cornerstone of daily life. These attributes helped many of these soldiers become successful snipers (military sharpshooters) and reconnaissance scouts (men who stealthily gathered information on enemy positions). Indigenous soldiers earned at least 50 decorations for bravery during the war. Henry Louis Norwest, a Métis from Alberta and one of the most famous snipers of the entire Canadian Corps, held divisional sniping record of 115 fatal shots and was awarded the Military Medal and bar for his courage under fire.

Code Talkers

While Indigenous soldiers again served as snipers and scouts, as they had during the First World War, they also took on interesting new roles during this conflict. One unique example was being a "code talker." Men like Charles Checker Tompkins of Alberta translated sensitive radio messages into Cree so they could not be understood if they were intercepted by the enemy. Another Cree-speaking "code talker" would then translate the received messages back into English so they could be understood by the intended recipients.

Indigenous people also contributed to the war effort on the home front. They donated large amounts of money, clothing and food to worthy



(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

causes and also granted the use of portions of their reserve lands to allow for the construction of new airports, rifle ranges and defense installations. The special efforts of First Nations communities in Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia were also recognized with the awarding of the British Empire Medal to acknowledge their great contributions.

Post-War Years: Life in the Military

Indigenous men and women have continued to proudly serve in uniform in the post-war years, as well. Like so many of those who have pursued a life in the military, they have been deployed wherever they have been needed—from NATO duties in Europe during the Cold War to service with United Nations and other multi-national peace support operations in dozens of countries around the world. In more recent years, many Indigenous Canadian Armed Forces members saw hazardous duty in Afghanistan during our country's 2001-2014 military efforts in that war-torn land.

Canadian Rangers



Closer to home, Indigenous military personnel have filled a wide variety of roles, including serving with the Canadian Rangers. This group of army reservists is active predominantly in the North, as well as on remote stretches of our east and west coasts. The Rangers use their intimate knowledge of the land there to help maintain a national military presence in these difficult-to-reach areas, monitoring the coastlines and assisting in local rescue operations.

Legacy

The story of Indigenous service in the First and Second World Wars, the Korean War and later Canadian Armed Forces efforts is a proud one. While exact numbers are elusive, it has been estimated that as many as 12,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit people served in the great conflicts of the 20th century, with at least 500 of them sadly losing their lives.

Honouring Contributions

This rich heritage has been recognized in many ways. The names given to several Royal Canadian Navy warships over the years, like HMCS *Iroquois*, *Cayuga* and *Huron*, are just one indication of our country's lasting respect for the contributions of Indigenous peoples. This long tradition of military service is also commemorated with the striking National Aboriginal Veterans Monument in Ottawa. This deeply symbolic memorial features a large bronze eagle at its top, with four men and women from different Indigenous groups from across Canada immediately below. A wolf, bear, bison and caribou—powerful animals that represent "spiritual guides" which have long been seen by Indigenous cultures as important to military success—look out from each corner. Remembrance ceremonies are held at this special monument, including on Indigenous Veterans Day which is observed each year on November 8.



(Veterans Affairs Canada acknowledges the assistance of Fred Gaffen, whose research was drawn upon in the creation of this publication. Date modified: 2020-11-12)

(Continued on page 5)

WOMEN ON THE HOME FRONT

In the Home



Women have not only made great contributions in uniform, they also played a vital role in our country's war efforts on the home front. Home life could be challenging during the war years. "Rationing" was in effect during both the First and Second World Wars, making it hard to obtain sugar, butter, eggs and other scarce food items that were needed to help feed the men fighting overseas.

Goods such as rubber, gas, metal and nylon were also difficult to come by because they were needed for the war effort. Women did their part by donating old cookware and other household items to recycling scrap metal drives and encouraging others to **"Use it Up, Wear it Out, Make it Do, or Do Without."** This spirit could even be seen in advertisements. "I'm patriotic!" says one woman on a Second World War-era poster as she rolls her hair in tissue rolls instead of curlers, thus saving metal and rubber that could be used to make guns and tires for military vehicles.

(The relative scarcity of foods and consumer goods vital for the war effort led to rationing. The Montreal Gazette, Library and Archives Canada, PA 108300.)

Tireless Efforts

It was not easy for women to fill the new roles that arose due to the demands of wartime, while maintaining the traditional female roles of the time. Many women worked tirelessly in the home, often combining their domestic labours with war-related volunteer work with women's organizations or in military canteens. Women also contributed to the war effort by giving blood and buying war bonds.

Many also tended their own gardens (known as Victory Gardens during the Second World War) or volunteered in community gardens so more vegetables and fruits could be grown to feed the local population.



On the Farm



Canadian farms felt their own pressures to meet the growing need for food for the war effort, while also losing many of their young male workers to military service. Many farm women were faced with the reality that they had to maintain the family farm themselves, as well as raise the children, while the husbands, sons and hired labourers were off at war.

Mothers and children worked side-by-side on the farm to ensure it survived and prospered, with responsibilities like planting, harvesting, caring for livestock, milking cows and managing the finances being added to women's normal farm chores. Women adjusted well to this shift in roles and, when the men returned after the war, many women continued helping on the farm in these new ways.

(Get Out on the Farm war poster. Photo : Allan and Sharon Kerr Collection)

(Continued on page 6)

Women's Organizations

The Women's Institutes (WIs) and other women's groups did their part, as well. Helping neighbours was a part of their members' daily lives and, during wartime, their "neighbourhood" expanded to include those in the military. Making quilts, bandages and clothing for the men overseas were just a few of their war-time projects. These groups sent books, newspapers and special treats to military hospitals overseas. They also held "send-off" and "welcome home" parties for servicemen from their area and, after the war, were in the forefront of efforts to create local war memorials. The WIs also had a "Central War Charities Fund" that raised millions of dollars during the Second World War.



The WIs used their agricultural connections to cooperate with the government to establish farm labour bureaus to encourage city women to volunteer to help harvest crops. They also held "canning clubs" to keep up with the high demand for preserved fruits and vegetables. Their members' experiences in adapting recipes to wartime shortages also led them to publish special cookbooks. The average homemaker, struggling to prepare meals within the restrictions of food rationing, found these books to be a great resource.

In Industry



Many men left their civilian jobs to fight for their country during the First and Second World Wars. These jobs needed to be filled and, in the Second World War in particular, women quickly stepped forward to meet the surging demand for workers in a greatly expanding Canadian wartime economy. At the beginning of the war, approximately 570,000 women worked in Canadian industry, mostly at clerical jobs. Five years later, almost a million women would be employed, with many working in traditionally male factory jobs.

(Unidentified Lumberjill using pike pole to handle spruce logs, Queen Charlotte Islands, B.C.
Photo : Richard Wright / National Film Board of Canada.)

Initially, there was a reluctance to allow women into new fields of employment. As the war proceeded, however, it became evident that if the country was to make the most of its resources, women's contributions would be vital. Many new factories were established to manufacture guns, ammunition, aircraft, ships and more, and women soon could be seen in almost every factory working alongside their male counterparts. After the Second World War ended, incentives for women workers—such as company day care centres—ended and they were encouraged to leave the workforce. Many did stay on to work in the growing service industry, however. The war years had changed the face of Canada's workplaces forever.

An Impressive Contribution

Canada's contributions during the war years would have been very different if it were not for the vital roles women played on the home front. The war effort encompassed all Canadians, and women did their fair share and more, achieving and sacrificing a great deal in the cause of peace and freedom. The impressive achievements of these trailblazing women still echo today.



YOU MATTER!

By Rev. Daniel Fitzpatrick

**"...What is man that You are mindful of him, or the son of man, that you care for him?
For You have made him a little lower than the angels,
and You have crowned him with glory and honor."**

If I were to tell you that you were the center of the universe - that all creation was designed to ensure your happiness, you would probably think that I had gone mad. We know from experience that we personally are only a miniscule part of creation, and in human society as a whole very few of us are regarded as truly important. Yet here we are. So we may ask, "If my life is not very significant to society or creation, then just what am I doing here?"

The paradox of creation is that while we may not be the center of this physical universe, we are - from God's perspective - the very center of His creation. No matter where we are in the hierarchy of human society, we are at the very top of the list in our Heavenly Father's eyes.

You Matter.



Your birth was not a random action. It was a deliberate act on God's part to add to the perfection of His heavenly kingdom. Your unique form of mind and spirit are designed to grow to all eternity and to complement the ongoing perfection of His kingdom; and if you choose to follow the path your Heavenly Father has laid out for you, your life after the death of your body will be a life of everlasting joy and useful activity. How you respond to what happens to you here on earth - both good and bad - will determine the character you will own to eternity. Your choices and actions matter - they are even now forming the life you will inherit after death.

You Matter.

Since you don't live alone on an island, you matter to the society you inhabit. Your greatest contribution to society's welfare will come through your occupation, provided you act honorably in carrying out your responsibilities. For it is through your occupation - the work you do daily - that you have the opportunity to be useful to the greatest number of people in society. (See TCF 422ff) In addition, in living among other people, you will have numerous opportunities to practice shunning the evil actions, thoughts and intentions that arise in dealing daily with others whose moods and actions are not always thoughtful or kind. And they - in return - have the chance to modify their own thoughts and lives in response to your words and actions. The irritating friction that we often feel in dealing with others who disagree with us is designed to show us what must change within ourselves in order to progress both naturally and spiritually.



You Matter.

As a member of the human race, your mind serves both you and also acts as a foundation for the lives of the angels. Though we are not conscious in that realm as long as we live here on earth, we share a common mental life with those in the spiritual world. The thoughts we believe are unique to ourselves are actually shared with spirits in that world, who in turn receive influx from either heaven or hell. Our thoughts serve as a fixed container for spirit's thoughts. Without our unconscious participation in this living connection, spirits would be unable to

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

think clearly, and we would lose the ability to think and will as of ourselves. And as to our spirit, it is already present in that world, waiting to take on its final character based on the quality of the conscious choices we make while living here on earth. (See DP 307:2; 278:6)



You Matter.

Since our minds serve as the foundation for spirits' thinking, they are also the foundation of the Lord's church here on earth. Our minds are the means of understanding and sharing with others the truths our Lord has revealed in His Word. And our reading and understanding of the truths revealed there also serves as a foundation for spirits' ability to see and understand the spiritual truths concealed within the literal stories of the Old and New Testaments. (AC 10604:4) Your ability to respond freely and rationally to His teachings and to communicate these to others allows the influence of the heavens to increase among people on earth. For the Lord's church on earth will grow in no other way than in the increasing spread of the truths of the Word together will an ever-deepening understanding of the truths contained in the Word, and how we are to make use of them in our daily lives. (See SS 76ff) In a very real sense our minds are the living link between heaven and earth, and are the means by which what is done in His kingdom may also be done on earth.

You Matter.

If you choose to follow the pathway of regeneration during your life here on earth, you will have the opportunity to invite the Lord's presence in this world, develop a character that will be welcome in heaven, and free yourself from the self-centered focus of your inherited nature. In any situation your first

thought will no longer be, "what is in this for me?", or, "how will this impact me?" Instead it will be, "what use is involved here, and how can I support it?" And in this way you are helping to establish His Kingdom here on earth, where others may find it and in so doing also find the pathway that leads them to see the Lord as their own Heavenly Father.

You Matter.

So in one sense you are the center of the universe - from God's perspective. And an additional paradox here is that everyone else is also the center of His universe. Since He is not bound by time, space or person, He is able to keep every single individual He has ever created as the apple of His eye. So while we may despair of ever having a significant impact on the natural world in which we currently live, we should remember that we matter. The choices we make, the thoughts and intentions we entertain, and the actions we take - matter greatly to those around us here on earth, to those in the spiritual world who depend on us, and to the Lord Himself who has given us the opportunity participate in the growth of His church on earth, and to have an everlasting impact on His creation.

It is important for us to know that we hold a vital place in creation so that we don't spend our lives here on earth chasing only temporal goals and material comforts that can never truly satisfy the needs of our spirit. We were all created to serve much greater uses. Through the gifts of freedom and reason we are the crown of the created natural world, the living bridge between heaven and earth. We are all but a little lower than the angels.

You Matter.

And you have the opportunity to serve both those in heaven and on earth, and to live forever as a vital player in the unending perfection of heaven.

No matter what others may think of you - or you may think of yourself - to your Heavenly Father,

You Matter.



FROM THE REGIONAL PASTOR FOR CANADA

There are signs that we're getting to the point of resuming visits to the various church centres in Canada. I made a trial trip to Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie in September, and it seemed to go pretty smoothly. Based on that experience I will get to work on a calendar for visits and then meet with the other ministers who make the trips and get things moving again.



My wife and I will be in Dawson Creek on for church services on Sunday October 17th. Also, the Dawson Creek Society will hold their annual meeting at the church after the service. The membership should have received formal notice of the meeting by the usual means.

Also, on October 17th we will travel to DeBolt for a service there at 4:30 pm.

After that service Karen and I will be travelling to Vancouver and I will conduct a service at the Roundhouse in Vancouver on Sunday, October 24th at 11:00 am.

The Rev. Michael Cowley will be travelling to Dawson Creek and Grande Prairie on Sunday, October 31st. He will be conducting worship services in both centres, and a memorial service for Alan Dyck.

I'm working on the schedule for visits beyond October now and will keep you informed.

Rev. James P. Cooper
Regional Pastor to Canada

THANKSGIVING FEAST IN CHICAGO NEW CHURCH

1883

"Chicago, Ill., West Side – Though it is a little late, perhaps it will be interesting to your readers to know how we celebrated Thanksgiving Day here. The Pastor thinking that it would be useful to have a fall festival, concluded that we could not do better than adopt Thanksgiving Day. So it was decided to have a general Thanksgiving dinner at the church, to which all were invited.

Accordingly when Thanksgiving Day arrived, about sixty members of the congregation assembled at the church, and set down to a dinner of cold turkey, hot vegetables, coffee, pie, etc., which was provided by



(Continued on page 10)

the ladies. The tables were arranged so that they formed three sides of a square, and we were assigned our seats by slips of paper on which our names were written. When all were seated the Pastor asked the blessing of the Lord upon our feast, and then we began the discussion of the good things. After the first ardor had a little worn off, our Pastor, the Rev. Mr. [W.F.] Pendleton, made a few remarks about the day and the use of being thankful, i.e., of acknowledging that all that we have comes from the Lord. . . .

When dinner was concluded, and the dishes, etc., removed, the children played some Kindergarten games, under the direction of Miss Susie Junge, who has charge of the infant class, and teaches them the letter of the Word by the Kindergarten system. The games were enjoyed very much both by old and young. In the evening we all adjourned to the house of Mr. Blackman to witness a little drama given under the auspices of the young folks club. It was entitled ‘Sweethearts,’ and was well acted and much applauded. Thus ended our celebration of Thanksgiving Day, and we all voted it a profitable and entertaining way to pass the day” (*New Church Life* 1883, 4).



The ways in which New Church congregations have chosen to celebrate Thanksgiving have evolved gradually over time. Accounts in early issues of *New Church Life* indicate that society suppers were often chosen as a fitting way to celebrate the holiday. Society suppers, which marked various occasions, most often included speeches addressing a variety of theological topics. Sometimes the term “**feast of charity**” (see photo, left) was used to describe them. In the book *True Christianity*, Emanuel Swedenborg mentions the “feasts of charity” celebrated by the early Christians: “The spiritual sphere that prevailed at those feasts was a sphere of love to the Lord and love towards the neighbor, which cheered the mind of everyone, softened the tone of every voice, and from the heart communicated festivity to all the senses” (TCR 433). Today many New Church congregations have a festival church service on Thanksgiving followed by individual family meals.

Photos: The painting by Jean Leon Gerome Ferris (1863-1930) is from Wikipedia and the image is in the public domain. The photograph of a Friday supper gathering in Chicago is dated 1893. It is attached to a card that lists the names of those in attendance. It is in the collection of the Academy of the New Church Archives, Swedenborg Library, Bryn Athyn, PA.

Questions and comments may be addressed to the editors at info@newchurchhistory.org.

November 26, 2008 | Posted by: Ed and Kirsten Gyllenhaal in **New Church History Fun Fact**





Administrative Office

Olivet Church, 279 Burnhamthorpe Rd.
Etobicoke, ON M9B 1Z6

Phone: 416-239-3054, Fax: 416-239-4935

Rev. James P. Cooper
Executive V.P.
rev.james.cooper@gmail.com

Lee Horigan Administrator
Horigan@outlook.com

newchurch.ca

Carmel New Church and School
40 Chapel Hill Drive, Kitchener, ON N2R 1N2 Phone: 519-748-5802

Rev. Mark B. Allais, Pastor
pastor@carmelnewchurch.org

Rev. Justin Schorran, Assistant to the Pastor
asstpastor@carmelnewchurch.org

Stephanie Kuhl, Principal
Grades K - 9
stephkuhl@live.ca

Dawson Creek New Church
9013 - 8th Street, Dawson Creek, B.C. V1G 3N3 Telephone: 250-782-8035
www.facebook.com/DawsonCreekNewChurch

and
Grande Prairie & DeBolt Circle

Pastoral Contact: Rev. James Cooper
rev.james.cooper@gmail.com

Olivet New Church and School
279 Burnhamthorpe Road, Etobicoke, ON M9B 1Z6
Phone: 416-239-3054 Fax: 416-239-4935

Rev. Michael Cowley, Pastor
pastor@olivetnewchurch.org

Rev. Dr. Jong-Ui Lee, Assistant to the Pastor
assistant@olivetnewchurch.org

Laura Braam, Principal
Preschool - 5
principal@olivetnewchurch.org

General Church in Canada Worship Services

Carmel New Church
Kitchener, ON



11:00am
In Person
(Phone
Ahead)
and
Online

Dawson Creek New Church
Dawson Creek, BC



See
Regional
Pastor's
Notes
Page 9

Olivet New Church
Etobicoke, ON

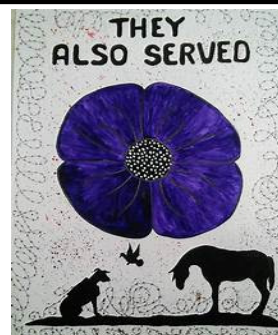
10:30am Online Only until further notice



Editorial Deadline for the Christmas 2021 Issue:
November 15, 2021

We always welcome your comments, letters and articles!

Please send submissions to Sandy Kuhl, Editor NCC
8 Marshall Avenue, RR #1, Ayr, ON N0B 1E0
Phone: 519-696-2070 Email: sandy.c.kuhl@gmail.com



National Aboriginal Veterans Monument Activities

'Aboriginal-Canadians' are the people (First Nations, Inuit and Métis) whose ancestors lived here for thousands of years before the first explorers arrived from Europe. 'Veterans' are the brave people who have served in the military.

There are many Aboriginal-Canadian Veterans who have helped protect peace and freedom over the years. To honour them, the National Aboriginal Veterans Monument was unveiled in Ottawa in 2001. It has a large eagle on top, four men and women from different Aboriginal groups in the middle and sculptures of a grizzly bear, a caribou, a wolf and a bison around the outside. These animals have special symbolism in many Aboriginal-Canadian cultures.

What colours do you think this monument should be?
Colour the picture and see how your ideas look!



What would a monument to brave Aboriginal Veterans look like if you were the one who designed it? What kind of animals and symbols would you use? Here is your big chance! Why don't you take a sheet of paper and design, draw and colour your own monument to these Canadian heroes!