



LIVING WATERS ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP

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Friday, September 30, 2016

**"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good!
His faithful love endures forever."
Psalm 106:1**



Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The above words from the Book of Psalms remind us that thanksgiving lies at the heart of the Christian life and witness. It is a way of living that recognizes that everything we are and everything we have comes from God. In order to share in the Psalmist's words of praise and thanksgiving, we need to intentionally reflect on God's faithfulness and love to us—and to "count our blessings," as the expression goes, each and every day. God has blessed us and our faith community in many ways, and we have much to be thankful for at *Living Waters* in our first year together! Being thankful, however, involves far more than just recognizing God's faithfulness—it requires our response. We do this by seeking to be like Him, and by sharing our time, talents, and treasures with those around us. As followers of Jesus, we are called to share in His ministry by sharing with others all that we have received. This is not done out of duty, but rather out of love. Like the early Church described in the Book of Acts, Christ compels us to look outside of ourselves and our own needs and desires, to the needs and desires of others. Having experienced God's love and compassion in tangible ways, we have no choice but to share it with others in equally tangible ways.

I would like to invite you to share in God's graciousness by once again making an **intentional** commitment to support the work and ministry of God through *Living Waters*. In making this commitment, we live out our baptismal promises to: "proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ; to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbour as our self; and to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being." This is what Jesus' ministry was all about, and this is what we are all about, as individuals and as a faith community.

God has a unique purpose for each of us and we have all been given gifts and talents to use in our ministry to the world. Included with this letter is a Commitment Card—I encourage you to prayerfully reflect on those areas of ministry, outreach, and programme that you are interested in supporting in the coming year, through the offering of your time and talents. If you would like help discerning where your gifts lie or how you might be called to minister in and through *Living Waters*, I would be more than happy to meet with you for discussion and prayer. **We are a new and growing church and so, in addition to the ministries that you are currently doing, I encourage you to prayerfully consider committing yourself to at least one new ministry in 2017, as able.**

All ministry information will be given to Kathleen Young, our Vestry Clerk, who will ensure that you are contacted by the appropriate person for any new ministries that you are interested in undertaking. The financial information that you provide will be kept in strict confidence, and will help guide Parish Council as they prepare the 2017 Operating Budget. Please place your completed Commitment Card in the envelope provided. I invite you to offer your commitment to God on **Commitment Sunday–Sunday, October 30th**. If you are unable to be present on the 30th, please return your Commitment Card as soon as possible.

I also want to thank you at this time for your dedication and commitment to *Living Waters* through the Pre-authorized Giving Program. Your regularly received offering has provided a critical base of financial support that has enabled us to plan and provide ministries and programs that are vital not only to members of *Living Waters*, but also to the wider community. If you would like to increase your PAG amount or make any other changes, please contact our Treasurer, John Telgmann (613-531-5156).

Fall is traditionally a time to give thanks. I give thanks for all of you, and for your thoughtful generosity and active support of the life and ministry of *Living Waters* over the past year. We have all been richly blessed and I am confident that God has great things in store for us in the coming year! I look forward to ministering with you with a renewed sense of compassion, commitment, and purpose.

May the love and peace of Jesus rule in our hearts.

Faithfully,

The Rev. Canon Christopher R. Doering
Lead Pastor & Rector

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“You must each decide in your heart how much to give. And don’t give reluctantly or in response to pressure. For God loves a cheerful giver.”

The Apostle Paul (2 Corinthians 9:7), 1st century



“No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks.”

St. Ambrose, 4th century



“Thou has given so much to me. . . Give me one thing more—a grateful heart.”

George Herbert, 17th century