



## LIVING WATERS ANGLICAN FELLOWSHIP

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**“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” (Colossians 2:6-7)**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe that September is here—the summer seemed to fly by so quickly! I hope this letter finds you well and rested. Kathy and I are very thankful for the varied experiences we have had over the past few months, and for the opportunities for rest, renewal, and spiritual growth. Our time in Israel was an incredibly rich experience—one that we will never forget. We look forward to sharing it with those of you who can join us for a tour that we are hosting in May 2019. Attending the GAFCON Conference in Jerusalem broadened our view of global Anglicanism and encouraged us in our commitment to stand for Biblical truth and to faithfully proclaim Christ to the nations. The time we spent with family in July and August, camping, cottaging, and relaxing at home was also a blessing.

As we begin a new season in the life of the church, I want to hold the above passage from Paul's letter to the Colossians as a focus for our shared ministry together. Often I have looked in wonder at the large trees at Lemoine's Point. The amazing thing is, underneath one of those massive trees is an equally impressive root system, extending the same distance as the height of the tree underground. These roots serve two functions. They provide nourishment for the tree by drawing water and nutrients from the soil and delivering them to the fruit-bearing parts of the tree above ground. Even during a drought, like we experienced this summer, a tree's roots will burrow deep into the earth—into hard-to-reach places—to seek out moisture so that the tree can continue to thrive and bear fruit. Roots also provide stability and strength, keeping the tree firmly planted in the soil, so that it can grow to its full potential. This steadfast footing also prevents the tree from being uprooted when buffeted by storms and high winds.

In the same way, Paul tells us that our lives are to be deeply rooted in Christ and His love—the only true source of nourishment for our souls—so that we too can build strength of character and steadfastness of faith. When we grow deep in Christ, we can live tall and large—we can stand firm amidst the storms of life and bear much fruit in our lives. How do our roots grow firmly and deeply in Christ? It happens when we spend time with Him—reading the Word of God; spending time with Him in prayer and listening to His voice. It happens through worship, thanksgiving, and living in community with God's people. The more time we spend with God, the stronger we'll be and the more fruit we'll see—it's that simple! As we read in Jeremiah 17:7-8: “Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.”

Are you rooted and grounded in Christ? Are your spiritual roots expanding deeper and broader? I thank God for the inexhaustible supply of spiritual nutrition and stability available to the believer who is rooted and grounded in His Son. However, this kind of growth doesn't happen over night; nor does it happen without God. It only happens by God's amazing grace, as we are rooted and grounded in Christ. So, humble yourself. Be deeply rooted in Christ and built up in Him. Become even more established in your faith. Grow deep. And live tall and beautiful. Be all that God created you to be and bear fruit in His name.

Fall is traditionally a time of new beginnings, as students return to school and work resumes in full force. This is no different for the church. Over the next few months, *Living Waters* is offering a variety of programmes, activities, and worship—outlined on the attached sheet—and I encourage you to mark these dates on your calendar and participate as fully as possible.

I hope and pray that the next few months will be a time for us to let our roots grow down deeper in Christ—as individuals and as a fellowship—a time to grow in our faith and to recommit ourselves to God and each other.

I look forward to seeing you at worship on Sunday mornings and at our Welcome Back Dinner on Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Every Blessing,

The Rev. Christopher R. Doering  
Lead Pastor & Rector  
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**“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. As the scripture has said, ‘Out of the believer’s heart shall flow rivers of living water.’”  
(John 7:37-38)**