

The Fish Net

www.bostonpresbyterianchurch.ca

Rev. Shawn Croll

905-875-2804 / scroll@sympatico.ca

Lent 2017

Dear Friends,

It is a fascinating story. Lady Anne Grimston lived in England during the late 1600's and came from a very wealthy family. She lacked for nothing and since her life was so good, she became convinced that this life on earth is the only existence we will ever have. She loudly proclaimed this, even going so far as to say, "It is as unlikely that I shall continue to live as that a tree will grow out of my body. If indeed there is a life hereafter, trees will rend asunder my tomb".

Upon her death in 1713 a heavy marble slab was placed over her grave, the thought being that that would take care of any resurrection. As the years passed however, a crack formed in the slab and a small tree appeared. It was uprooted and the slab repaired. With the passage of time, another crack and tree appeared. Now some three hundred years later there are four massive trees growing from one root out of Lady Grimston's grave while the trees are surrounded by bits of broken marble. This sight is to be found in St. Peter's Churchyard in Tewin, England and is in fact a minor tourist destination. Indeed this story is sometimes used by some as "proof" that there is in fact a life yet-to-come.

Is this old story true? Some people insist that it is the gospel truth while others just as insistently dismiss it as being nothing more than a fable, arguing that Lady Anne was in fact a very pious Christian who never said the things attributed to her. No one of course can really know whether the story of Lady Grimston is factually true but the sight of those massive trees growing out of a grave certainly is symbolic.

There are many things that make Easter our most triumphant holy day but the greatest of these is its core message and promise. The great promise of Easter is to be found in the words Jesus said to one of the thieves crucified alongside of him that first Good Friday: "I tell you truly, this very day you will be with me in Paradise". Death did not have the final say for Jesus and it won't for us either. In the words of the great Easter hymn:

"Made like Him, like Him we rise.
Ours the cross, the grave, the skies."

This is the wonderful promise of Easter, a promise symbolized by the sight of four massive trees growing out of a grave in St. Peter's Churchyard.

Calendar of Events

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, March the 5th. As is usual at the March communion, a special offering will be taken that morning in support of Presbyterian World Service and Development, our denomination's Third World relief agency.

The Ladies Fellowship Group will meet on Monday, March 6th at 9:00 a.m. At 10:15 there will be a guest speaker; Sarah Jenson from Townsend Smith Foundation speaking about a hospice for Milton. Everyone interested in hearing the speaker is welcome to attend.

The last of the winter Pot-Luck Dinner and Euchre Nights will be held on Friday, March 17th beginning at 6:30 p.m. You are encouraged to wear green! All are welcome.

Good Friday falls on April the 14th this year. A Good Friday service will be held at Omagh at 10:30 a.m. This will be preceded by a continental breakfast from 9:00 to 10:00. There is no charge for the breakfast but donations would be appreciated.

We will be celebrating the Resurrection, our most holy and triumphant day, on Sunday, April 16th. The Easter service will be followed by an "Easter Tea".

In celebration of Canada's sesquicentennial, Josh and the Choir are in the process of planning an evening of music to be held on Friday, May the 26th. Along with some musical selections by Josh, our choir, Sarah Bradley, and Boston's jazz ensemble, there will be a special guest: Zach Peddie. Zach is best known for his winning performances of Elvis Presley's music and is the grandson of Bob and Carole Peddie. More details will be announced closer to the date.

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, June the 4th.

Boston's 197th Anniversary will be celebrated on Sunday, June the 18th. Our guest preacher this year will be the Rev. Rod Lewis.

From the Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held at the church on Wednesday, February 1st.

The financial reports for 2016 and the proposed budget for 2017 were approved.

As usual, one of the main tasks of the annual meeting is to elect people to serve various positions in the congregation. The following were elected:

Trustees: Audrey Peddie, Tom McDonald and Doug Wilson

Auditors: Bob Merry and Don Mincoff

Board of Managers:

Andrea Thomson and Dave Chilwell were re-elected for a three-year term, Tom McDonald, Mary Merry and Doug Wilson have one year left in their terms, while John Fisher and Ted Colgan have two years left in theirs.

Congregational Representative for the Family Aid Plan: Don Mincoff

With regard to Presbyterian Sharing, we committed ourselves to giving at least \$8500 in 2017.

Next year's Annual Meeting will be held at the church on Wednesday, February 7th at 7:00 p.m.

Food for Thought

Whispers

The man whispered, "God, speak to me", and a meadowlark sang.

But, the man did not hear.

So the man yelled, "God, speak to me", and the thunder rolled across the sky.

But, the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said, "God let me see you", and a star shined brightly.

But, the man did not see.

And the man shouted, "God show me a miracle", and a life was born.

But, the man did not notice.

So, the man cried out in despair, "Touch me God, and let me know you are here",

whereupon God reached down and touched the man.

But, the man brushed the butterfly away, and walked on.

This is a great reminder that God is always around us
in the little and simple things that we take for granted ... even in our electronic age.

So, adding one more:

The man cried, "God, I need your help!",

and an email arrived reaching out with good news and encouragement.

But, the man deleted it, and continued crying.

Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the way that you expect.

~ submitted by Donna Parsons