

The Fish Net

www.bostonpresbyterianchurch.ca

Rev. Shawn Croll

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Fall 2017

Dear Friends,

While up at Sauble Beach this past summer, Susan and I had a rather unique experience of going on a boat ride. One of our niece's significant other was there and he had brought up his powerboat. Justin asked Susan and I if we would like to go for a ride on it one afternoon and we jumped at the chance.

First of all we went up the Sauble River and, because of the high water levels, we got up as far as the falls. For us passengers it was a relaxing ride taking in all the sights, but for Justin? Standing at the wheel, his eyes were constantly flicking between the surface of the water and the sonar equipment which showed what was below the surface and how deep the water was. On our return to the marina Justin asked if we would like to go out on the open water and we quickly responded "yes". There was a bit of a swell out on the lake but the trip was wonderful; indeed, after vacationing at Sauble for 26 years, it was the first time that we had seen Sauble Beach from out on the water rather than just standing on the beach looking out. On our return trip to the river Justin decided to "open her up" and off we went. It was a fun exciting ride even if, because of where I was seated, I got absolutely soaked! It was a wonderful afternoon and a day we'll long remember.

When I look back at that afternoon, I realize that while we experienced a number of feelings and emotions the one emotion that I never experienced was fear, and I know why. Whether it was on the river or out on the lake Justin was constantly on the lookout, checking and re-checking our surroundings and his equipment, and with him at the wheel we knew that we had nothing to fear. To put it another way, we put our faith and trust in him, and in a sense that afternoon is an analogy for life itself.

As many people have said, we can think of our earthly journey as being like a boat trip. Sometimes it is like our ride up the Sauble River; cruising along, taking it all in without a care in the world. And sometimes life can be a bit more exciting, bouncing along and getting soaked. But sometimes life can be downright frightening too as we, so-to-speak, crash through the waves with all of its ups and downs, wondering if we will ever return to the safety and tranquility of the sheltered harbour. But just as Susan and I had no fear with Justin at the helm, so we need not fear life's journey either. We know who is at the helm and we can put our faith, trust and hope in Him. In the words of an old gospel hymn, "We have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure while the billows roll". And in the words of the Breton Fisherman's prayer, "O God be good to me, for Thy ocean is so wide and my boat is so small".

The goodness of God of course is what this Thanksgiving season is all about and there is so much to be thankful for.

Wishing you a most blessed Thanksgiving!

Calendar of Events

As usual, we will be supporting the local food bank on Thanksgiving Sunday (October 8th). Everyone is encouraged to bring non-perishable food items, or if you prefer, money designated for the food bank in your regular offering envelope; the money will be used by the Salvation Army to buy the food that they need the most.

Shawn will be away on holidays from Monday, October 9th to Tuesday, October 17th. In his absence the worship service on October 15th will be led by the Rev. Walter Read. In the event of a pastoral emergency, the Rev. Howard Sullivan of Knox Milton will be available (905-878-6066).

The Ladies Fellowship Group will be holding their annual Country Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 18th from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 in the afternoon. This is the group's biggest fundraising event of the year and it is because of events such as this that the group is able to support so many charities both locally and abroad.

Looking ahead, the Ladies Fellowship Group will be doing something a little different with a "Nativity Tea" on Saturday, December 2nd from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. Jane Parker of St. David's Presbyterian Church will be displaying her large collection of nativity sets downstairs at Boston. For the cost of \$7.00 per person, you are invited to view the nativity displays while enjoying an array of Christmas "sweets".

We will be celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday, December 3rd. A reminder that communion is available to those who are unable to attend the Sunday service. If you are interested in receiving communion outside of the church, please speak to Shawn or one of the elders.

The annual Christmas pageant, "On the Way to Bethlehem" presented by the Milton Area Christian Churches Working Together, will be held at Country Heritage Park from Friday, December 1st to Sunday December 3rd, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Admission is \$5 for those 13 years of age and older, \$2 for children 6 to 12 years old, and is free for children 5 and under.

Stewardship

So far this year, we have raised \$5279 of the \$8500 we have committed ourselves to raising for Presbyterians Sharing. At this time last year we had raised \$7350.

Food for Thought