

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Last November, our parish, along with those of St. Luke's, St. John's, St. Barnabas', and Christ Lutheran, voted on a motion to amalgamate into one parish. St. John's and St. Barnabas voted "Yes" to that motion and have come together as one parish as of January 2018. We pray that they will be blessed by God in their new life together!

At our Special Vestry, which had a voting attendance of 129 parishioners, our parish voted 'No', by a very large majority, to the motion to amalgamate with the other Peterborough parishes at this time.

I was not surprised by this result, as many parish members had spoken with me prior to the Special Vestry, indicating their strong desire to carry on as a distinct parish, based in our existing location.

Now that we have entered the new year, having experienced the joy and the wonder of Christmas, it is time to both look back at the last year in our parish and to look ahead to the future of All Saints.

The 'looking back' process will be accomplished at **our Annual Vestry**, which will take place on **Sunday, February 18, 2018**, following our morning worship. It is the hope of the Wardens and myself that our attendance will match or surpass the attendance at the Special Vestry last November!

The 'looking ahead' process will begin close on the heels of our annual Vestry. The process is called **Mission Quest**, which will seek **new ways for us to minister to our neighbourhood and new ways to invite our neighbours to join us in our life together**. The need for this process became evident through many conversations I had with parishioners both before and after the Special Vestry in November.

Our **Mission Quest** event will happen on **Sunday, March 4, 2018**, following our morning worship.

The Mission Quest Process

The Mission Quest process does involve some effort! There is a *Mission Quest Proposal Form* that will need to be thought through, filled out, and prepared for distribution so that when it is presented to the parish on Sunday, March 4, 2018, parishioners will have had time to formulate questions and make constructive suggestions as to how the proposal might work better!

If you have a Mission Quest idea in mind and wish to make a proposal, please make an appointment with me so that I can provide you with a Mission Quest Proposal Form, and so that I can answer any questions you might have.

I have mentioned a number of times over the past months that we are at a time in the history of All Saints Parish when there can be “*no more sitting on the sidelines.*” What I mean by this is that if we wish to be a viable, thriving parish in the long term, we need more involvement, by more of our parishioners in a consistent and ongoing way ... through a renewed commitment to participate: in worship, in service, in outreach, and in financial support ... and not simply when there is a crisis.

My usual office hours are Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am. to 4pm. My cell number is: 1-306 -341-0165. Text me and I will call you back as I have free calling in Canada; my email is: jim.halmarson@gmail.com

I would like to thank the Wardens for their work on behalf of this parish. As well, I would like to thank the members of our ministry team: Alan, Suzanne, Syd, and Hermione for their dedication and support.

Yours, in Christ

Pastor Jim

“Soli Deo Gloria” ... to God alone be the glory!”