

Dear St. Paul's parishioners and friends.

Welcome to the first of a series of monthly reflections on my role in our wonderful faith community. This missive could be well titled (with apologies to the CBC show of the same name) *Madly Off in All Directions*. As I enter my seventh month in your midst, it has been a wonderful, exhilarating and delightful time as your Dean and Rector. I want to publicly thank staff, wardens, all councils, volunteers, clergy and lay leaders for your warm welcome and embrace of both my needs and enthusiasm.

So what do I see amidst my daily duties and delights?

1. I see a new roof on the cathedral which has been well supported financially and in other ways. We still have grant applications and requests for support pending, but given that individual contributions have well exceeded our target the eventual draw on reserves will, hopefully be much less than anticipated.
2. I see a wonderful group of volunteers who keep the Cathedral, its programmes and liturgies well supported and managed. I do note however that the supply of volunteers is not infinite and that we need to do some careful work around recruiting, training and succession planning.
3. Amongst volunteers and staff, I see tremendous passion displayed. That said, sometimes our passions, or personalities chafe. I want to remind myself and everyone that the Golden Rule "treat others as you wish to be treated and do not treat others as you wish not to be treated" is both essential and practical.
4. I notice both excitement and nervousness as those involved with the *Out of the Cold Ministry* prepare for another season of welcoming those in need. OOTC is a stand-alone programme housed in the Cathedral which draws on the skill and generosity of many volunteers including some cathedral parishioners. We will recognize these acts of kindness as part of our *All Saints* celebrations on Sunday, Nov 6 at the 10 a.m. service.
5. I notice the vital need to develop a congregational healing ministry team which will initially minister at the 10 a.m. service. Preparation is already underway.
6. We are all adjusting to the new office schedule. (Note to self) Please try to think of things, produce or request things, drop things off . . . one day earlier than usual and all shall be well.
7. With the Season of Creation now behind us I welcome your thoughts about what we should include in next year's seasonal focus. What worked well in your view? What made sense? What puzzled you, if anything?
8. During October and November, I will commence some travel, first to our sister Diocese of Montreal shortly after Thanksgiving. I will also share worship with our Anglican Friends at St. Georges, Kamloops later in October. Finally, I will be in Toronto for a variety of ecojustice related meetings and for national meetings of the CNIB in late November.

9. Finally, I look forward to *Anglicanism 101*, a series of monthly gatherings which will focus on our Anglican tradition and experience. Sessions will be offered both in the day and in the evening in each month. For October please come together in the chancel:

Thursday October 20 at 1 p.m. OR
Monday October 25 at 7 p.m.

Enough for now. Grace and compassion to you and all creation, Dean Ken+