

## Thanksgiving & Anniversary Greetings 2016

*You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it. You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth. You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness. (Psalm 65::9-11)*

The summertime has now come to an end. The beauty of autumn colour, cool nights, and the fall season are upon us.

The reading above from Psalm 65, has the psalmist offering all praise and thanks to God for providing bounty of food to people. We all know of course that it is with human hands, hard work, diligence, balanced weather, machinery and some good luck, that the fruits of creation come to our tables. And it is for those fruits, that we are thankful.

I believe also there is a sense of mystery and awe about all of creation and that is where God comes into the picture. Many of us lose sight of the divine mystery. The thought that there is something bigger than us that holds all things together in balance. That which we would call Creator, Spirit, or God. As St Anselm of Canterbury wrote of God, "*That of which no greater can be perceived.*". Think of anything that you can perceive, and God is greater than that.

We come to this time of year filled with our thanksgivings. For family, for life, for health, for harvest and for our church. Thanksgiving for the holy mystery of growth, abundance, goodness and love. Thanksgiving for the times of memory and celebration at the churches anniversaries. Thanksgiving for our faith-filled lives, and the sense of the divine within us and around us. A God whose divine touch never leaves us... never forsakes us.

I encourage you to come to your church, where you have to opportunity to more wholly engage the divine within, through the worship of the God of abundance, mystery, and love, in prayer, word and song.

May the blessings of this time of year, and prayers be with you all.



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### The Life and Work of the Churches and Community

Sunday October 9 Thanksgiving Worship Services (Hastings 9:15, Roseneath 11:00)  
Sunday October 16 135<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service @ Roseneath (1 service only @ 11:00)  
Saturday October 22 Fall Supper @ Roseneath Alnwick Community Centre  
Sunday October 23 153<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary Service @ Hastings (1 service only @ 9:15)