

**To the members of the All Saints' parish family:**

My dear friends,

By now you have all seen or heard about the terrible fire damage to our beautiful and historic worship space. We are all shocked and deeply hurt by this loss and by thoughts about how such a thing could happen to us. With us are hundreds and perhaps thousands of our neighbours and friends who ache for us and for their own sense of loss. Calls and messages have poured in from across Canada - especially from our brothers and sisters in Christ in congregations who have known this kind of loss themselves. A multitude of prayers are going up for us every day and we are being upheld by these prayers through the Holy Spirit to stand together in faith and steadfast love for each other and God's world. It impossible for me to share with you even a fraction of the expressions of love that have been sent our way.

Our Christmas Hamper ministry by the grace of God and the outpouring of support from many different quarter is being ably coordinated by Diane Townsen and Eleanor Stevenson and faithful army of helpers. All the families we had been prepared to support by your gifts will receive as much and more only one week later than our original plan. And we will likely be sharing what has come to us with other agencies. Very soon we hope to restore the ministry of our Deacon's Cupboard at another location, before moving back into the office wing in early January.

Our wardens and staff are working with diligence and care to deal with this crisis and all the additional ministry that we are now called to do. Leaders and members of other parish ministries continue to serve Christ as we were doing last Sunday and every other day.

Every ministry commitment we have made for 2009 and into 2010 will be fulfilled with your help. The wardens and I ask you to fulfill your support of the parish financially through 2009 and renew and redouble your commitment to Christ and your parish in 2010. While your regular gifts may be sent or mailed to our temporary office at St. Mark's the best way to support us is to come to Sunday and Christmastide worship at our services planned at St. Andrews Church and bring your gifts to be offered to God then. This is not a time to step back to wait and see what things might look like in the future. This is a time to rally together, to pray for and comfort one another and to witness to the power & love of God that pour from the hearts and lives of those who believe in Jesus Christ.

If after fulfilling the substantial and uninterrupted needs of our parish's several ministries through your regular giving you would like to join the friends of the parish in an extraordinary gift for the future:

A trust fund has been set up at the CIBC branch in Oshawa. Donations to this account can be made at any CIBC branch. The information is as follows:  
Transit: 142 Bank: 010 Account: 2302039 Or 142-010-2302039

As I read the psalms Monday night I read the words: We have heard with our ears O God; our fathers have told us what you did in days long ago...It was your right hand and your arm and the light of your face, for you loved them....Rise up and help us because of your unfailing love (Psalm 44). We are the heirs of believers and a very blessed congregation of believers in our own time and place. We will draw together in faith and shine in front of the world with the light and presence of the One who loves us and gives everything for us in Jesus Christ.

I love you all and I firmly believe God is more than worthy of our absolute trust. More than ever before, let us trust in Him, receive His love through others and be confident that our God is the One who brings life out of death and joy out of sorrow.

with love in Christ

Ken+