

## Aha Moments

By Max Veilleux

The theme of the today is aha moments. These are the times in our lives that Rev Allen would describe as awesome. To most, awesome may initially sound like an elementary word. But we here at South Church know the connotation of the word awesome. We know that this is the perfect adjective to describe a situation in which the Holy Spirit is present. A Moment in which we are simply awed by God's influence.

So, in thinking about how God influences the "ah ha" moments in our lives, I found it easier to relate the Holy Spirit to the meaning of these aha moments rather than any one specific moment that we've lived through. In order to do this, we have to realize what an aha moment is. To accomplish this, I personally like to image the path of our lives as a railroad. We go forth in routine, chugging along from day to day. However, it is inevitable that we will eventually, whether sparsely or frequently, reach a fork in the tracks. This forces us to slow down, as a train would have to when making a turn, and recollect our thoughts. This provides us with an opportunity to choose what we do from that point forward. These quintessential moments of choice, when everything in life seems to have to slow down because your next step is your first priority, these are what I think we should call aha moments. These can be bad scenarios or these can be great situations, yet each of these aha moments has the potential to better our lives based off the choices we make. And after all, it is the decisions we make throughout the course of our lives determine who we are as individuals.

As members of this Church, each one of us has had the opportunity to capitalize on an aha moment. When I was confirmed last spring, I faced a turning point in my life. I realized that train was approaching a fork in the road in which I had two options. I could continue in being a part of the church, or I could be the Church. What I mean by this is that I could continue to show up and enjoys all the aspects of this community, or I contribute to build our community both with and without the congregation. In this aha moment, I realized that being confirmed is about a responsibility, not a new title for yourself. So, from that point forward I have tried to follow the better path of being the church by volunteering and helping others rather than just attending services. Each of us has gone through an experience like this, where we can learn and better ourselves from an aha moment like mine simply by appreciating it.

But like I said, we can't always learn from the best situation. The youth at this Church have needed to experience a few aha moments in these last few months. It has been a hard time, as we have had to mourn two of our peers lost due to insecurities.

At some point, each one of us has to realize the severity of both these losses. We, as a community, needed to slow down and really think

What am I doing to help

Carrying forward with our lives, it is essential that we had experienced an aha moment this year when we learned to truly love one another by giving them support, whether

they're their or not. The kids in this town have had to make the choice whether to continue the normal routine, or start to be proactive in the fight against bullying. When a student might have minded their business before an aha moment, they might say something to a bully after having experienced their aha moment, even if the victim is not present. It is crucial that everyone continues to learn from aha moments like this throughout life to help one another.

So, my challenge to you is to recognize and appreciate the aha moments that you face each and everyday. Maybe this service will be an aha moment, maybe you'll experience an aha moment on your way home, or maybe you won't face one until weeks from now. Either way, it is crucial to us as Christians to utilize these aha moments to make the world a better place. Now Colin Rosadino will share what aha moments mean to him.