

St. Luke's News

March 2021

Vol. 4 #3



ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

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Who would have thought that a year ago we would not be meeting in church at this time? March 8th, 2020, was the last time we were able to come together as a full congregation in our church building. It has been a very difficult year: the inability to meet together in church, to receive communion, to meet together at social events, to see our children or grandchildren in person, to come and go as we please as well as the constant concern about what the future will look like. It has been particularly difficult for many: loss of jobs or businesses, illness, death from any reason, with the added stress of not being able to gather together with friends and family to grieve. Difficult for those who live alone with only the ability to have two designated people visit them. It has been difficult at times to be thankful for anything. But there have been lots of reasons to give thanks. Thanks for the technology that has allowed us continue to meet as a parish community, including with those who under normal circumstance would be unable to join us, and with family. Thanks for those who can run the technology for us. Thankful for the frontline workers, of all sorts, who have put their health at risk by continuing to serve us. Thankful for governments that have been able to help support those in need and thanks for the scientists who have worked to get vaccines ready. And particularly thank you to God for being with us through it all. I have included in this Newsletter a devotional taken from an Advent/Christmas devotional booklet that Elizabeth and I have used. I hope it is helpful to you.

Submit items for the April Newsletter by March 26th
mthain@telusplanet.net

Incumbent Priest/Pastor:

The Ven. Noel Wygiera

Incumbent's Warden:

Eric Nyrose

People's Warden:

Deb Mann 403-350-4798

Pianists:

Dorothy Comfort

Judy Miller

Organist:

Jo Wygiera

Service Schedule

Sunday 10:00 am

**Check website for on line
Services and other meeting
opportunities**

www.oldchurchrd.com

WEBSITE
www.oldchurchrd.com

Visit it often to check for news and upcoming events. If anyone has an item they feel might be appropriate for inclusion on the website please send it to website@oldchurchrd.com.

PLEASE NOTE SOME OF THIS MAY CHANGE DEPENDING ON CIRCUMSTANCES WITH COVID-19. UPDATES WILL BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AND BY EMAIL

During this time when we are not meeting face to face it is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT if you change contact information, eg. address, phone number or email address, that you notify the office at: office@oldchurchrd.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 14TH: DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS
Set clocks ahead one hour

SCHEDULE:

Sunday Worship: 10:00 – Watch the Website and emails for further information
Ladies' Group Meetings: Watch the Website and emails for further dates
Men's Group Meetings: Watch the Website and emails for further dates
Bible Study: Wednesdays at 10:00 See Website regarding access

Lenten Resources: The Anglican Church of Canada have a number of Lenten resources. These can be found by going to www.anglican.ca/resources/lent2021/

Finances:

Heat the Church--updated:

Just as it is important to continue giving our regular donations to the church, those who wish to contribute to this fund can do so under the donate button on the website or by e-transfer as outlined below. To the end of January, we have had 3 days covered. Thank you to all who continue to support this. This programme will continue in 2021.

Financial Statement:

	Actual Jan 2021	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance
Income	11,816.58	11,816.58	14,176.67	2,360.09
Expenses	14,815.68	14,815.68	15,479.75	664.07
Net	2,999.10	2,999.10	1,303.08	1,696.02

Please note that this is just one month. Giving is often a bit lower in January. The expenses were a bit less than budgeted but this will probably change in February due to the colder weather. Again, we thank all those who are contributing to St. Luke’s in a time when things are still difficult for many people.

For information on giving go to www.oldchurchrd.com/news.

Flower Calendar and Memorial Dedications:

While flowers on the altar are on hold during this time of isolation, the opportunity still exists to remember loved ones and special dates as we do when sponsoring flowers. Please let us know of people and events that you might like remembered as a **Special Dedication** on a particular Sunday. If you so choose, you can make a donation to accompany your memorial and these can be designated to the Memorial Fund, General Fund, or any other Special Fund of your choosing. Special Dedications will appear in the announcements on the designated Sunday. **If you wish to make a donation**, please refer to the giving information noted above. If you are going to send a cheque, please email the office at office@oldchurchrd.com to let them know about your dedication and the Sunday you would like it to appear. If doing an e-transfer, put in the message section your dedication, the date you would like it to appear and the fund to which you would like the money designated.

Around the Parish:

Flood update:

The restoration is going well. It is definitely closer to completion. The only good thing about our situation in not being able to access the church is that we have not had disruption of our use of the church.

New Feature for Around the Parish

Devotional:

This month we are starting a series of devotionals written by members of Parish Council. This month it is written by Daniel Jerusalemiec.

Psalm 27:4 *



“One thing I asked of the LORD,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.”

Is this Psalm just a poetic expression or is it relevant to my life? The words express a longing, but how can I live in God’s temple? Jesus said to his disciples, “You are in me, and I am in you.” The New Testament further teaches that we are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The Lord’s house is not a building, but an awareness of God’s presence. To live in God’s presence is to acknowledge I am not alone or self-sufficient but I can delight in His company. I can live and work in collaboration with Christ. There is also an inner joy and tranquility as I behold the beauty and the greatness of the Lord in whom I move and live.

How can I be aware that I live in God, the temple, God’s presence? Spiritual practices such as prayers, scripture reading, meditation, alms, fasting help us. Climbing mountains or walking on the trails by the river, basking in the beauty of the natural world, also increase my awareness that I am surrounded by and filled with God. On my desk I have a prayer *For Remembrance of God’s Presence* (BCP 731) which I often glance at: “May we never forget thee, but remember that we are ever walking in thy sight”.

I often do forget I live in God’s presence. I find joy and strength when I return to being aware of God in me and in the world around me. It turns out that I already have what I have asked for. I am living in God’s house!

*If you are looking at this psalm in the BAS, the verse numberings are different. Vs. 3 of this psalm was split in two so in the BAS, this verse is numbered vs. 5.

Around the Church:

The Interior Walls:



It may seem a bit odd to feature the interior walls of the church, but in a time when we have not been able to gather together in the church, I have been thinking more about them. In the study that was done of the structure of St. Luke's Church four years ago, while it was primarily looking at the outer envelope of the church, the assessors, who were came from a timber framing company, had this to say:

"The intact interior arrangement of St. Luke's is exceptional as an example of the very high standard of joinery that was executed in local material in western Canada at the time. It is all the more significant for having been designed and possibly even cut by Hinchliffe. Subsequent introductions to the original arrangement have generally been sympathetically done, and the interior environment is very pleasant". (Macdonald & Lawrence Timber Framing Ltd. Condition Assessment Report, St. Luke's Anglican Church

Sometimes it is said "If only these walls could talk." Obviously, they do not. They don't 'see' either, but I have started thinking about what they have witnessed over the years. I initially was thinking about them witnessing what went on in the church during the Flu Epidemic of 1918/19, and how that might compare to now. That led me to think about all the services that have occurred in the church. All the Eucharists, services of Morning Prayer, Evensong and Compline. The Baptisms, Confirmations, Weddings, Funerals and all the people that have made up, and continue to make up, the woven tapestry of this parish. As Daniel has so eloquently said in his devotional, the Lord's house is not a building, but we use a building set apart to meet together as God's "Church". "In standard Greek usage, the older word 'ecclesia' (Greek: ἐκκλησία, ekklesia, literally 'assembly', 'congregation', or the place where such a gathering occurs) was retained to signify both a specific edifice of Christian worship (a 'church'), and the overall community of the faithful (the 'Church')." (quizlet.com) It is in our church building that we can, hopefully soon, come together to remember the challenges, joys, sorrows and triumphs of God's Church in this place. So, think about what those walls have seen and give thanks for those who are here now and for those who have gone before us in this place.

Devotional on Giving Thanks:

"He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. -Psalm 72:5-7

One spring evening, as a day of rain came to an end, I went out to the porch....I looked up and saw both ends of a rainbow....A few moments later....Arching across the evening sky were double rainbows. God gives and gives and gives. This vivid demonstration of the majestic beauty in creation, the collision of rain and sun that produces a rainbow, reminded me that time doesn't belong to me, but to God. 'In his time,' the psalm says; 'in God's time', the rainbow said. As long as the sun and moon endure, God will be faithful, giving us what we need in due season, light when

everything gets dark, friends when we are lonely, guidance when we are lost. Beyond what we even know how to ask for, God gives.

I take so much for granted: the opportunity to learn how to read and write, never going hungry, having more clothes to wear than I need, legs and arms and all five senses, a place to call home at day's end, friends and family to share life with. And that is just the beginning. A thankful person is thankful in all circumstances. A complaining soul will complain even in paradise. We have the power to decide which one we will be.

Thank you, God, for everything; for in everything, you are there.

Amen."

(This excerpt is from *The Stillness We Seek*, written by Cathy George and published by Forward Movement, a ministry of the Episcopal Church. It is used with permission. If you'd like to support the ministry of Forward Movement, the book is available at www.forwardmovement.org. Copyright 2011.)

Prayer during a Pandemic

This is from St. Paul's Church in Lexington, Kentucky and was provided by the Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, to PWRDF, who posted it on their website.

May we who are merely inconvenienced

Remember those whose lives are at stake.

May we who have no risk factors,

Remember those most vulnerable.

May we who have the luxury of working from home

Remember those who must choose between preserving their own health or making their rent.

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close

Remember those who have no options.

May we who have to cancel our trips

Remember those who have no safe place to go.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market

Remember those who have no margin at all.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home

Remember those who have no home.

As fear grips our country

Let us choose love.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other,

Let us find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbour.

Amen

