

St. Luke's News

May 2021

Vol. 4 #5



Photo credit: Gordon Armitage

ANGLICAN CHURCH

of

ST. LUKE

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I am sure many of you watched Prince Philip's funeral. I thought it was very well done, with appropriate, if somewhat unusual, music and readings, chosen by Philip himself. They certainly reflected the Prince's concern regarding the natural world.

I was struck by the images in the chapel, and it made me think of all those who have had the death of loved ones, whether from COVID or some other cause, in the last year. The image of the Queen, by herself, and other family groups separated by two meters, with a maximum of thirty attendees, in keeping with the United Kingdom's COVID restrictions, really brought home the difficulties faced by so many families. Alberta's guidelines only allow twenty people at a funeral, whether it is indoors or outside, and the family groups must be masked and two meters apart. Even at the time of death, only household members can hug each other. Very difficult if you live alone. Families are not able to get together in someone's home after a funeral as all indoor gatherings are restricted to only the immediate household and if there is an outdoor gathering, it is limited to ten people with family groups two meters apart. **This is not a criticism of the rules.** They are necessary in the face of the seriousness of the pandemic. How awful it would be if the rules were broken at a funeral, for instance, and it led to another death and another funeral. We can only hope that if we follow the rules, and get vaccinated when our turn comes, that some semblance of normal can return.

Submit items for the June Newsletter by May 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.

**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

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

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

ST. VINCENT VOLCANO RELIEF

This is an update, provided by Noel, on the situation on St. Vincent, part of our Companion Diocese of the Windward Islands:

On Monday, April 19, I was part of an online meeting with Bishop Friday of our Companion Diocese, The Diocese of the Windward Islands. Bishop Friday resides on St. Vincent and is leading the Church in the wake of the devastation caused by the volcanic eruptions. The meeting was coordinated by The Anglican Communion Alliance and included Communion Partners from Canada, USA, The Caribbean, The UK, and even one representative who joined in from Sri Lanka.

Churches at the south end of St. Vincent have become emergency shelters for people evacuated from the red zones near the volcano in the north. Bishop Friday talked about immediate need and long-term recovery. One of the most immediate concerns is that of fresh water. Much of the island's supply has been contaminated by volcanic ash. This is the dry season in the southern Caribbean, so replenishing rains are not expected in the

immediate future. The Bishop also identified other practical needs related to living in shelters and with relatives who have limited resources.

Bishop Friday speculated about the future and the very real prospect of a humanitarian crisis on the island nation. Much of the island's income comes from export agriculture in the regions most affected by the volcano's eruptions. When this is coupled with the pandemic's devastation of St. Vincent's tourism industry, the future looks bleak.

This news clip offers a fair analysis of much of what Bishop Friday shared with us: <https://youtu.be/2eSgWiRmhbo>

If you feel called to help, please consider donating through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) using the link which has been circulated: <https://pwrdf.org/pwrdf-accepting-donations-for-people-displaced-by-st-vincent-volcano-eruption/>

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 March, we have had 22 days covered. Thank you to all who continue to support this.

Financial Statement:

	Actual March 2021	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance
Income	11,934.03	34,830.64	42,530.00	7,,699.36
Expenses	11,545.30	42,154.38	46,439.25	4,284.87
Net	388.73	7,323.74	3,909.25	3,414.49

We continue to be helped by below budget expenses. At this point our expenses are running at 91% of our budgeted figure. Our income is about the same in terms of the budget as it has been. At this point we are at 82% of budget, and in the last report we were at 81%. 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 complete.

Devotional:

This is the next in our series of devotionals written by members of Parish Council. This month it is written by Mike Carley.



Matthew 14: 22 to 32

Would I have the courage, and the faith, to jump over the side of the boat?

The storm is making the disciples' boat passage hazardous, when Jesus approaches them by walking on the water. Peter calls out to confirm if it really is the Lord approaching, asking Jesus to command him to come to Jesus by also walking on the

water. Peter does so, until his faith wavers and he finds himself sinking below the waves until Jesus reaches out to pull him up – thus saving him from his wavering faith.

Reflecting on this, would I have had the faith to do any better? I can commit myself to a seemingly fragile piece of rope and rappel down mountains – I have faith in something I can see, touch, and test. I have faith in others that are belaying me when climbing up a steep wall of rock. But to have the faith that something beyond the “human realities” of this world can and is occurring is yet another level of faith.

But we see the workings of this faith all the time – just in ways that may not appear to be miracles. Someone shows up just at the right moment when we need a hand or an ear and heart to confide in. I need to let these events sink in and become the base of having the faith that Jesus is with us and continues to make the impossible happen according to his will.

Parish Council - the departure of the Blizzards has left us with a vacancy on Parish Council, and although we do not believe Shanna can be replaced, we would like to have someone take her place at the Council table. We would be interested in hearing from anyone who might feel called to this role in the life of our parish. The appointment would be in effect until our annual meeting in 2023. Please contact Noel at vicar@oldchurchrd.com for more information.

Around the Church:

Stone restoration:

It has been confirmed that the company we selected to do the work on the church stone work will start on about June 22nd and will proceed for about 8 weeks. If, during that time, we are able to gather together in the church for worship, we will need to enter through the hall doors. We have been told we will receive \$43,000 from Alberta Heritage to go toward the cost of this project.

We are in the process of finding out what we need to get appropriate permits for the work, as it will require a partial closure of the sidewalk and the blocking of at least one parking meter.

Further information will be made available once we have it.

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

