

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF HOLY CROSS

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HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CROSS

April 2018

NEWSLETTER: Please have all your articles in before the **15 of April** for the **May, 2018** newsletter.

ADMINISTRATION

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK:

I want to thank this community for the continuous support that I receive in regards to my doctoral degree. I am finishing up my 2nd year, and will be beginning my 3rd and final year next month (although I am already getting to the readings!). For those who were not able to be present during the presentation on March 18th, I thought I would give you a small synopsis of my work.

My studies focus on the Spiritual Formation of the Christian Community. I wanted to look at how a Christian community (such as ours) grows in faith, and becomes more Christlike in both identity and action. Much of spiritual formation literature is written from the perspective of the individual. It is then hoped the individual will join a Christian community. But is community just something an individual can chose? What if our growth as a Christian person is dependent upon our growth as a Christian people? After all, scripture is concerned with the formation of the people of God – and not merely a group of lone rangers.

So how does a community engage in spiritual formation? Well, I'm glad you asked. Here are some important elements in my paper.

COMMUNITY: Community is not simply the gathering of an array of individuals. The community of faith is a united body, a body that participates in each-others' lives, and in God's activity in this world. What is more, we 'act in concert as the people of God.' Not only is there a sense of shared life, we share actions as well.

IMMERSION: My 2nd year thesis draws much from the image of baptism. Baptism is a communal expression of our identity in Christ. In baptism, we declare that we are people who are immersed in a particular life, living out a particular identity. We renounce all that is contrary to God's way in this world (and in us), and we affirm Christ's lordship over us.

EMBODIMENT: Formation of community entails how we live out our faith. It is not something we theologially think about. That is, we cannot claim a communal reality and then not act like it. William Law once said "Outward actions are necessary to support inward tempers." A faith that is not lived out is missing a key component. There is a similar reality in the community. The community of faith acts a certain way. We can point to Acts 2:41-47 as a passage that identifies the activity that defined the early church community. These activities are primarily "The apostles teaching, the fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and the prayers." These activities defined the life of the community. Yet before we say 'Hey, we do all of these!' an important question to ask is *how do we, as a community, engage in these activities outside of Sunday?*

TRANSFORMATION: The purpose of formation is to grow in Christlikeness – which is a fancy way of saying that we become more like Jesus. We aren't concerned with garnering a list of holy actions. Rather, we want our inward life, and our outward life to reflect Jesus presence, purpose, and power. In my paper, I highlight four realities for the community. The community embraces Brokenness (our own imperfections), Forgiveness, Justice, and Evangelism.

There you have it, a crash course of my doctoral work. It is my hope that you heard echoes of past sermons as you read through these brief descriptions. Again, thank you for your support for my studies. Being a part of such a lovely, Christ-centred, community has made this process thoroughly enjoyable.

CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE: Just go to www.holycrosscalgary.org and view the changes.

GOING TO THE HOSPITAL: Please identify your religion listing as “Anglican”, this places your name on the Anglican list @ Spiritual Care Services! **Please let the church office know you’re in hospital.** If you do not inform the office or the clergy we will not know that either you or your loved one is in the hospital.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES: Monday March 26 – **Stations of the Cross** 7:30 pm
Tuesday March 27 – Mary & Martha Meditation 6:30 pm
Wednesday March 28 – Holy Communion 9:30 am
Thursday March 29 – Maundy Thursday – 6 pm Agape Feast and Solemn Eucharist
Good Friday March 30 – 10:00 am Service of Meditative Bible Readings and Choral Music
Sunday April 1 – EASTER DAY 8 am and 10 am services.

STEWARDSHIP

LECTIO DIVINA: Learning to Listen: **Tuesday April 10 at 6:30pm** in the St. Cyprian Room. Lectio Divina (literally: Divine reading) is a practice deeply rooted in Christian history. In Lectio Divina, we sit with a biblical text, for the purpose of discerning the voice of Jesus as He speaks into our lives. For more information please speak to Reverend Kyle.

A.C.W.: The next ACW meeting is Sunday April 8.

The **Annual ACW Conference on April 20 & 21** will be held at St. Andrews, Gleichen. All ladies are encouraged to attend, see the ACW information on the Notice Board lower hall way or speak to Anne Davidson for further information.

Heads up for the **Strawberry Tea, on Saturday May 12 from 2 pm to 4 pm**, all are welcome. Price \$6.00 per person for a scrumptious delight.

MEDITATIONS ON “WOMEN OF THE BIBLE” – ‘IN QUIETNESS AND REST

We will hear a summary of the woman being studied and questions will be posed. After practicing breathing and relaxation techniques, we will listen for inspiration from God when we enter intervals of stillness and silence. There will be opportunities to share inspirations received, pray, or continue in silence. Newcomers welcome; please join us. Questions? Please call Joan Kendrick: 403-874-5334

March 27 Mary and Martha

April 24 Mary Magdalene

May 22 Lydia

FLOWER ARRANGERS: Our ministry has had a few members step down after many years of dedication to arrange flowers on Saturday morning for the Sunday Services. Is this a ministry that you may be interesting in getting involved with? Please talk to Anne Gover.

THEOLOGY GROUP: The Theology Group has been meeting mostly monthly but sometimes irregularly over the past year. In the winter and spring of 2017, we completed our look at the phenomenon of Benedictine (and other kinds) of monasticism through the lens of the Brother Cadfael murder mysteries, set in the 1140s. Not surprisingly, the more we learned the more we had new questions! After a summer break, we started the 2017-2018 year by asking the question “what is distinct about Anglicanism.” Not to get too much like a course, we are framing this around two hymns, still in our hymn book today, for each of the important formational time periods of the church in England and Canada. Just like last year, the more we learn the more we have new questions. All in all, over both topics, we have gained a lot of new insights and perhaps got some new ideas that will help us to deepen our commitment to Christ through the Spirit, and perhaps even to heal some old wounds.

The group usually meets over a light lunch after coffee on the third Sunday of the month, with a background information sheet provided by email a few days before. The discussion starts on topic but is pretty free-flowing to wherever participants concentrate their interest. No readings required and no tests! Anyone is welcome to come to any or all sessions. In the Holy Cross Library there is a binder containing all the background reports for the theology group since 2014, anyone is welcome to take a look. To get on the email list, either contact mhallbey@ucalgary.ca or sign up on the sheet in the narthex. Thanks to everyone who has given time, lunch, and thoughts to the process this year. Any suggestions for topics for next year are welcome.

UPCOMING STUDENT INTERN: Anyone who has been attending the Wednesday morning Eucharists may have noticed a new face on occasion. My name is Matthew Perreault, and I am a postulant for Holy Orders, meaning someone who is preparing for the priesthood. After a conversation with Kyle almost a year ago in which he indicated an interest in having me spend some time as a theological student at Holy Cross, I am excited to be starting a summer placement at Holy Cross, which will begin Sunday, May 13th. My internship will last through the summer until August. I have already had the pleasure of getting to know several parishioners from connections around the Diocese, and from attending the Wednesday morning Eucharists. They have also had a chance to get to know me a bit. For the rest of you, though, you might like some answers to the question, “Who is this new theological student we’ll be having this summer?”

I was born and raised in Calgary, and my Christian life began in Pentecostal churches. I fell away from God for a time due to the loss of my father at a young age. As an adult, I chose to begin attending St James Anglican Church, after being invited to Christmas and Easter services by my grandmother. In late 2013, I began to get the first sense of God calling me to ministry. This began a year and a half of private discernment. In Lent 2015, the official process of discernment for ordination began. Looking back, I have seen the ways in which God had been using the challenges and circumstances of my life to form me, and prepare me for ministry. From the challenges of faith I had undergone as a pre-teen through the illness and loss of many family members, God had been present and active in my life, sustaining and supporting me, and I thank him for that daily.

In 2016 I began my seminary studies at Ambrose University here in Calgary, a Nazarene and Alliance institution. I took a few supplementary Anglican classes from Regent College over the summer of 2017. It is a three-year programme of study, of which I will have completed the first two at the end of this semester. Since August 2016 I have also been serving as a theological student at All Saints, Cochrane. That placement is scheduled to end at the end of April, 2018. I also have a connection with the parish of St. Aldhelm’s, Vulcan (and Holy Cross’s own Gordon Cranch!) and will take the first Sunday in May to visit and preach there.

With the encouragement and support of Archbishop Greg, I will be attending an Anglican seminary for my final year of study. Nashotah House, located in Nashotah, Wisconsin, is the Archbishop’s *alma mater* and, along with Wycliffe College, one of the premiere Anglican seminaries in North America. I will be leaving to drive down to Wisconsin towards the end of August 2018 and will return to Calgary in June 2019 once my studies have been completed.

I am an active member of the Prayer Book Society of Canada, a supporter of the Alpha and Cursillo programmes, and a firm proponent of traditional Anglican devotional practices, such as the praying of the Daily Offices and the use of a Rule of Life.

When I’m not serving in Church or studying, I enjoy cooking, reading, and playing board games and other social activities with friends. Before I was a student, I quite enjoyed relaxing with a pot of tea and a good book.

While my time at Holy Cross will be a relatively short four-month period, I am very much looking forward to getting to know you all and to serve, support and learn from you as I continue in my journey of formation and preparation for serving as a priest in Christ’s Church.

POTLUCK DINNER WITH MICHAEL HARVEY: Michael Harvey is a renowned speaker and evangelist, and co-creator of the ‘Back to Church’ movement. He made a presentation at Holy Cross several years ago about the challenge to be an ‘inviting community.’ He is back in Calgary to make a

follow-up presentation. Michael will be with us for a potluck dinner on **Friday, April 27th**, after which he will present his findings on how churches can reach out to their communities with simple invitations. The potluck begins at 6:00pm, with Michael's presentation occurring from 7:00-9:00. This is an important event for us to attend if we truly desire to grow in ministry. Please mark your calendars and support Michael's work, and the growth of Holy Cross church.

BOOK CLUB REVIEW: - The Thief by Stephanie Landsem

This is the second book in the "Living Water" series, each book stands alone. It is set in ancient Jerusalem at the time just prior to Jesus being tried and crucified. A compelling story and vivid characters immediately thrust the reader into the need to read on. "This story of a Roman centurion and a Jewish girl explores familiar New Testament passages and brings forth a powerful message of faith and hope intersecting at the foot of the cross." Quote.

All of the book club members agreed it was a very good read and would recommend it to all. We are also looking forward to reading the other books in this series. Book will be in the Church Library shortly. Submitted by Marlene.

AGENCY FOR SPECIAL OFFERING FOR April/May/June 2018: Salvation Army: To donate to this monthly outreach offering please make your cheque payable to Holy Cross Church, and indicate **Salvation Army** in the memo section. Your donation will be included in the Holy Cross tax receipt at the end of the current year. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to speak to a Warden or a Parish Council member. See insert.



Giving
Hope
Today

The Salvation Army is a Christian organization that gives hope and support to vulnerable people in 400 communities across Canada and in 128 countries. The Salvation Army exists to share the love of Jesus Christ, meet human needs and be a transforming influence in the communities of our world.

The Salvation Army offers a variety of services and programs throughout Alberta and the Northern Territories for members of the communities that they serve. These activities are motivated by a belief that each individual possesses an inherent worth and dignity. It is the goal of The Salvation Army to restore dignity and hope in the lives of those served through these programs, as they experience times of need.

Social Services

The Salvation Army is at work in 128 countries. In Canada, The Salvation Army began its operations in 1882 and has grown to become one of the largest direct providers of social services in the country.

Social service programs include:

- hunger relief for individuals and families through food banks and feeding programs;
- shelter for people experiencing homelessness and support for those needing housing;
- rehabilitation for those struggling with addiction;
- long-term and palliative care;
- Christmas assistance such as food hampers and toys;
- after-school programs;
- camps;
- school nutrition programs for children and youth;
- life-skills classes such as budgeting, cooking on a tight budget and anger management.

Food Services

Last year, 3.2 million free meals were served at Salvation Army shelters and feeding programs. Guests include families with children, employed people whose low wages don't cover basic living essentials, individuals on social assistance, and Canadians living on a fixed income, which includes seniors and people with disabilities.

Food Banks

- Last year, Salvation Army food banks assisted close to 1.1 million men, women and children. At many Salvation Army food banks clients select the food they want, similar to shopping at a grocery store. This restores self-esteem and reduces the stress and humiliation of asking for food.

Community Meals

- Last year The Salvation Army provided 1.8 million free community meals to vulnerable men, women and children—anyone who is hungry. Salvation Army community meal programs provide nutritious free meals in a caring manner that dignifies and respects the individual. Guests may be newcomers who don't know anyone, the unemployed or underemployed, the lonely, addicted, mentally ill, and/or physically disabled. Everybody is welcome to eat in a safe and friendly atmosphere.

School Meals

- Last year, The Salvation Army provided 184,000 school meals through breakfast, lunch and weekend backpack programs. By providing food for children, The Salvation Army's school nutrition programs not only help combat hunger, improve energy and focus in the classroom, they relieve families of the stress and guilt of not being able to provide for their kids.

Emergency Disaster Services

History

- In Canada, The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services program began back in December 1917 in response to the Halifax Disaster. The Salvation Army dispatched personnel from across the country to assist with relief efforts which lasted

for months. In addition to providing for the practical needs of those impacted, such as food and clothing, Salvation Army Officers provided emotional and spiritual support to responders.

Present Day

- Today, The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services (EDS) has grown into an international network involving thousands of trained personnel worldwide, including many volunteers. EDS personnel respond to incidents of various sizes and scopes. In following with its holistic ministry, the Army provides support that meet the immediate, as well as long-term, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of disaster survivors and responders.

Response and Recovery Services

- The Salvation Army provides numerous disaster relief services. Since each disaster is unique and devastating in the way it impacts the lives of individuals and communities, The Salvation Army's emergency & disaster response is community based, varying from place to place based upon the community's situation and the magnitude of the incident. As one of Canada's major emergency relief organizations, The Salvation Army is often assigned specific roles by emergency preparedness authorities. Even with the ability to be flexible and to respond based upon the community's situation, there are several basic services that The Salvation Army offers.

These services form the core of The Salvation Army's Emergency Disaster Services program:

- Food and hydration
- Emotional and spiritual care
- Emergency communication (SATERN)
- Donations management
- Disaster social services
- Long-term recovery
- Training and volunteers

Housing and Shelters

- In Canada, The Salvation Army opened rescue homes and shelters in 1886. Today they operate more than 50 emergency shelters across Canada & Bermuda and provide 5,650 emergency shelter, transitional and supportive housing beds each night for men, women, youth and families experiencing or at-risk of homelessness. The Salvation Army also provides additional extreme weather response beds during the winter months. The Salvation Army helps men, women, families and children experiencing or at risk of homelessness; and are especially concerned with supporting those experiencing long-term homelessness and facing housing exclusion.
- **Emergency Shelters**
- **Transitional Housing**
- **Safe Houses**
- **Youth/Senior Housing**

Thrift Stores

Churches

- An international Christian church, The Salvation Army worships and serves in 128 countries worldwide. In Canada, The Salvation Army's first worship services were held in 1882 in Toronto and today they have over 300 corps/churches across the country. Salvation Army churches not only focus on worship, Christian education and other congregational activities, but also provide practical assistance to their communities.
- Salvation Army churches embrace families and individuals of all ages, gender, race, beliefs, sexuality, abilities or wealth. They seek to be totally inclusive and remove all barriers to church life so that everyone has the chance to reach their full God-given potential.
- From toddler groups to children's clubs to youth choirs to adult activities and programs for seniors, The Salvation Army church is a place to connect, develop knowledge of God through solid Bible teaching, and find support when people need help.
- Salvation Army churches also recognize and reflect the cultural diversity of our nation and aim to make worship and activities relevant to the demographic of the local community and congregation.