

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF HOLY CROSS

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HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CROSS

JUNE 2018

NEWSLETTER: Please have all your articles in before the **15 of June** for the **July-August Summer 2018** newsletter.

ADMINISTRATION

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK:

"If I could sum up Holy Cross' situation, I would say this: You are not experiencing enough 'No's'."

So said Michael Harvey as he gathered with parish leadership last month. To what was Michael referring? Evangelism. As you know, we have been talking a lot about what it means to share our faith with others, and how we might go about inviting others to join us at church. We had invited Michael to speak to us about becoming more of an 'invitational' church. How can we step out in faith and grow our community? Instead of a defined program, set strategy, or some complex evangelistic endeavor, Michael simply challenged to the church to be bold in inviting others. God calls us to take the risk, to go out into our community and invite people to experience God's presence here at Holy Cross.

Yes, when we invite people, they may refuse our invitation. This does not take away from our faithfulness to God's call. Michael Harvey urged us to remember that the purpose of evangelism is not to 'get the yes'. To think this way puts an undue pressure on us. It is to assume that unless we have someone accept our invitation, we have failed in our evangelistic endeavor. When we think this way, we often refuse to invite people to church because we are afraid of hearing that "No." Yet if we never ask the question, no one will ever have the opportunity to accept. An invitation refused is always better than an invitation not made. Ultimately, we have to trust that God will be in charge of whatever response is given to our invitation.

We need to experience more "No's", because receiving a "No" means we are actually inviting people to church. Our call is not to force people to come to church, but to simply witness to God's presence in our lives, and to invite others to experience God's presence themselves. If someone turns down our invitations, that is ok. We are still being faithful witnesses. When we recognise that a response of "No" is not a negative thing, but actually positively points to our engagement in evangelism, this gives us the courage to be bold in our invitations. Furthermore, the more we get out there, the more we are open about the blessings of God in this place, the more we invite others to experience this community for themselves, the more opportunities we create for people to take up our invitations and join us here at Holy Cross. The No sometimes does become a Yes.

Therefore, the way forward is simple. . .let us experience more 'No's. Let us be bold in stepping out and making an invitation. An easy way you could do this is to invite someone to join your for 'ICE-CREAM SUNDAY' on June 24th. We sometimes find it easier to invite people to something involving food. So why not go to your next-door neighbour, your work colleague, or your family member and invite them to join you for a time at church, followed by a decadent Ice cream Sundae. However, when you do this, remember to rejoice in whatever response is given, even if it is a "No". When we step out of our comfort zones to and invite someone to join us at church, whatever the response, God says to us "Well done, good and faithful servant."

May we all be faithful in the call to witness to God's blessings in our midst.

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.

STEWARDSHIP

MAINTAINING YOUR PLEDGE OVER THE SUMMER: At our last Annual General Meeting, the parish passed an annual budget projecting a fairly large deficit. While we are happy to report that we are currently ahead of projections, we are also aware that we are entering into the summer months (June, July, August) wherein offerings at the church typically go down as people engage in their well deserved summer vacations. For this reason, we are asking you to help us minimize the 'summer dip' by making sure you are caught up in your pledges. Also, if you have a summer adventure planned, one that will see you absent from the church for numerous weeks, we would ask that you think about how you can maintain your pledged offerings while you are away. This will also have the added benefit of helping you avoid the stress of having to 'catch up' on your pledge when summer draws to a close.

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 or refer to the April 2018 newsletter.

LECTIO DIVINA: Learning to Listen: **Tuesday June 12 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 the Potluck Supper Monday June 4th at 5:30 pm in the lower hall.

BOOK CLUB REVIEW:

The Book Club's title for this month, "**The Book Thief**" by **Markus Zusak**.

The summary on the inside cover of this book reads: *"Trying to make sense of the horrors of WWII... a young German girl whose book-stealing and story-telling talents help sustain her family...as well as her neighbors"*. This is the whole story shrunk to the briefest sentence, but this book is so much more. First of all it isn't your typical WWII story. The different perspective comes from that the narration is in the third person. It is also a book aimed at young adults - although our members agreed we probably would only recommend it to adult readers, as the description of war time was very detailed, almost poetic, but it was very explicit and realistic of the realities for civilians in war. All our members struggled at the beginning of the book, making it a very slow read at first, but we all agreed we were glad we persevered, as it was well worth reading to the end. It also produced an excellent discussion between members. Because this novel was such a hit when it was published in 2005, there was a movie made of it in 2013. Both the book and movie are available at the Calgary Public Library, as well as a copy of the book in our church library. Submitted by Glynis

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.

“BEING CHRISTIAN”: As part of his internship, Matthew will be leading a four week study on Rowan William’s book “Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer”. This will start on Sunday July 8 at 11:45 am to 12:30 pm in the St. Cyprian Room, and ending July 29. Speak to Matthew about signing up and to receive your book.