

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF HOLY CROSS

2828 – 19 Street N.W. T2M 3V8 289-8497

E-Mail: holycross@telusplanet.net

Web Site: www.holycrosscalgary.org

www.facebook.com/holycrosscalgary

www.twitter.com/holycrosschrch

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE CROSS

October 2018

NEWSLETTER: Please have all your articles in before the **15 of October** for the **November 2018** newsletter.

ADMINISTRATION

FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK:

Into my email came an invitation to a conference entitled “Vital Signs of a Healthy Church.” The event is being billed to equip leaders to think and act in ways that promote and inspire healthy relationships and ministry. There are many of these events around. There are studies done, books written, courses designed to help people today ‘figure out’ what goes into healthy churches. Do not get me wrong, there are some valuable insights in these resources. As my doctoral degree focused on the spiritual formation of the Christian community, I find some of these things fascinating. However, I have found that these resources never contain the whole picture. For all the study and insight, most of these resources try to systematize and codify what is essentially a human endeavor and a spiritual reality. They try to describe what the community *is* (worshipful, friendly, relevant . . .) without elucidating how the community acts. And this is a big mis-step.

Think of it like this; Community is not a noun. It is a verb. It is an activity not a place or thing. Furthermore, the activity of Christian community is not one-sided. That is to say that it is not simply about how *we* act towards each other. Christian community is also about how God acts to us, and how God acts *through us* toward each other. The strength of Christian community is not in how well we fit into various boxes. The strength of Christian community is found in the connections we have with each other, and how the spirit of Jesus unites us to one another. Christian community is only held, and expressed, in the presence of Jesus Christ.

So, what does this mean for us at Holy Cross? What does it mean for you? Well . . .one question you can ask yourself is this; ‘How do I participate in the activity of community?’ You might refer to Sunday worship, or some ministry you are involved with; a simple cup of coffee during the week with someone from Church fits into this category quite nicely. A deeper question might be; “How do I express God’s presence to the people in my Christian community?” In answer to this question, you may refer to your prayers for people in the community, or your care for someone going through a hard time. A third question might be, “How is Jesus calling me to further my activity in community?”

When we recognise that Christian community – the Church – is not a thing, but a participatory reality into which we are immersed, we are better positioned to see how God nurtures our life together.

Furthermore we see that the community needs us; it needs our prayers, it needs our presence, it needs our participation. May God continue to bless all the activities at Holy Cross, as together we live out the reality of Christian community in this place. Amen.

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

AGENCY FOR SPECIAL OFFERING FOR October/November/December 2018: Hope International:

To donate to this monthly outreach offering please make your cheque payable to Holy Cross Church, and indicate **Hope International Development Agency** 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.

LECTIO DIVINA: Learning to Listen: **Tuesday October 9 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.

REPURPOSING USED STAMPS : The Canadian Bible Society uses stamps collected from donations across Canada to create charity boxes that are sold to stamp collectors and vendors. The revenue generated from the stamps is used to purchase Bibles for Canadian prison ministry. Ten pounds of stamps equals approximately six Bibles for distribution. Here's how you can help. Keep the stamp on the envelope. Cut out the stamp leaving a quarter-inch border around the entire stamp. Bring your stamps to church and place them in the collection box in the narthex. When the box is full, the stamps are given to the local Canadian Bible Society representative and abracadabra, (but not quite by magic) wonderfully, prisoners get Bibles. Questions? Please contact Donna Uncles

ACW:

All women are welcome to come to our monthly meetings, we are always looking for new people to join. We normally meet the first Sunday of each month, after Sunday Service and Coffee Time. Our October meeting will be October 14, 2018 due to the Thanksgiving weekend. If you have any questions please contact Lisa Boulet 403-399-2315 or email holycrossacw@gmail.com.

We will have 2019 Calendars for Sale again this year.

For any questions or concerns please feel free to call me or email at holycrossacw@gmail.com Your ACW President Lisa Boulet

BOOK CLUB: The book club read the last book in the series of "Sensible Shoes" which was titled "*An Extra Mile*" by **Sharon Garlough Brown**. All book club members totally enjoyed this book as well as the whole series. Meg, Mara, Hannah, Charissa and Becca (all the ladies in the series) were portrayed by the author in such a way that you felt like you knew them personally and now that the series is over we all felt a sense of grief. That being said, it was agreed that the author did a great job of tying up all the loose ends, yet leaving us wanting more. We got to walk that extra mile with them as they endured life and its trials. Their willingness to trust and the deep spiritual insights from the author was a perfect blend for a riveting story. We had engaging conversations regarding this story and managed to stay on topic for 2 hours. Sharon Garlough Brown is a spiritual director and cofounder of Abiding Way Ministries, providing spiritual formation retreats. She has an MDiv from Princeton Theological Seminary. This series of books is highly recommended by book club and will be available in our library shortly. Submitted by Sandi

On another note if you are interested in joining the book club please speak to one of our members: Wendy Dickin, Marlene Stevenson, Gloria Reid, Glynis McClary or Sandi Poile. We meet once a month on the 2nd Monday.



**CANDY CANE TEA AND BAZAAR Saturday, November 24 from 10 - 2.
HELP!! VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

The countdown is on! Only a few more weeks until the BIG DAY. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board by the kitchen now. Can you help out on the big day? Please sign up, say yes to volunteering and get ready to roll up your sleeves!

DONATIONS

Crafts, gently used treasures and books can now be dropped off at the church when you come to worship on Sundays and during the weekly office hours. Call ahead on the day you are coming to confirm someone is in the office to open the doors. We now have a dedicated space to store and sort donations prior to the event. Donations are already being sorted and you can help in this effort by bringing your donations soon. One-of-a-kind specially handcrafted items such as - crafts, Christmas tree ornaments, knitting, sewing, paintings, bookmarks, crochet, woodworking, quilting, etc.

Parishioners are invited to pick up the 4oz and 8oz Bernardin-type jelly/jam jars perched on the shelves in the library, ready to be filled with some of your preserves. These will be part of the bake and deli table. Summer cleaning? Downsizing?: The "Granny's Attic" treasures and books tables are the perfect destination for those rare and gently used household treasures: jewellery, china, tea cups, ornaments, crystal and books. Make sure your donations are clean. Please be mindful that this the Candy Cane Tea and Bazaar. It is not the Candy Cane Garage Sale. Yes, this is a good opportunity to recycle but we are sorry we are not able to accept certain items: clothing, hats, wigs, magazines, textbooks, encyclopaedias, furniture, baby items, computers, printers, TVs, small appliances and electronics, no sports equipment, no Tupperware and plastic containers, no thermal travel type mugs. Not sure? Check with Lynne Hubbard, our treasures convener.

Some donations do not lend themselves to early arrival, baking for example. Volunteers will be on hand at the church on Friday, November 23 from 1 pm to 7 pm to receive your donations. Donations of fresh baking for the tea room and baking and deli table can be delivered to the church on Friday, November 23 from 1 pm to 7 pm or early Saturday morning by arranging with the conveners.

Donations of items for the treasures table cannot be received on the day of the bazaar. **Questions?** Contact one of the conveners: Wendy, Margaret, Linda

PARISH COUNCIL: is hosting a community service project to assist the Brenda Strafford Society by collecting personal & household item for their residents. An insert listing items to donate is available in the bulletin & on the Narthex table. A donation box has been set up in the Narthex for this project which will run from September thru December. The Brenda Strafford Society for the Prevention of Domestic Violence serves women and children impacted by domestic violence.

<https://brendastraffordsociety.com/about-us/>

They do this by providing a safe environment & support services for women & their families.

THANK YOU: As I have been preparing this newsletter I realize that it is the (221) and last newsletter I will be printing. Likewise after preparing approximately 2,320 bulletins over the last 20 years with my last bulletin being September 23, 2018. So many things this month have come with mixed emotions as I prepare to pass the office on to Gloria. Last meetings with Kyle and the PDWA team members and with Mike regarding computer maintenance, and last visits from parishioners to the office and helping with questions or their requests. I will miss this job (or as I have thought of it as my vocation) but am also looking forward to lazy days at home, especially when the snow flies. Thank you again for being friends and Christian parishioners to work for. Blessings Sandi.