

# The Anglican Parish of Holy Cross

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## Happenings around Holy Cross ~ January 2019

### From the Rector's Desk:

Over the course of my doctoral degree, I have spent a lot of time thinking about what baptism means for the church, and what would it might look like for a community to take baptisms seriously. Please understand, I'm not suggesting that we haven't taken baptism seriously at Holy Cross, or that other communities don't take the sacrament of baptism seriously. Still, I think we always have to ask ourselves, "Is there more we can do?" After all, part of the baptismal service involves the church itself making the commitment to "support the candidate in his/her life in Christ." While I am sure we mean these affirmations when we say them, do we ever act on them in the days or weeks following a child's baptism? I can honestly say that this is something that I have failed to do. So again, what would it look like if we were to live out that promise to support those in the baptismal journey? As I thought about this, I think there are three, easy, practical steps we can take:

Firstly, let us pray for those coming to be baptised. Historically, candidates were presented to the church prior to baptism, thus providing the church an opportunity to prepare prayerfully to receive the newly baptised into the community of the faith. Baptism was something that the church celebrated and prepared for as they welcomed someone new. Could we not do the same? Let us take up the call to pray fore each baptismal family prior to the celebration of baptism. You may have already noticed that we have been praying for Hannah Candace Simard and her parents. Hannah's baptism is on January 6th. Let us approach this day with celebration, for on that day, we get to receive a new member into our church family.

Secondly, I will be asking people to be a Parish Host (or as I like to think of it, a "baptismal buddy"). This probably sounds more serious than it ought to be. A Baptismal Host is not an extra Godparent, but merely a contact person within the parish for the baptismal family. It is always the hope that families who come for baptism begin some sort of on-going relationship with the church, and it has been proven that having a personal connection with someone in the church (besides the rector), increases the likelihood of sustained involvement.

The Parish Host has three main functions. Firstly, they are to contact the family prior to the baptism. Let them know that you are excited for their child's baptism and encourage them to join you at church. Secondly, be in contact with them the day of the baptism. Make a point of welcoming the family and guests; talk with them during the coffee time. Lastly, contact the family a few weeks after the baptism. Re-connect and let them know how pleased we were to see them in church. Invite them to come again. Depending on one's connection with the family, it is hoped that conversations and a relationship can build from there.

Thirdly, I wish to find an easy way for the church to stay in touch with baptismal families. In this endeavour, I would like to hear your suggestions. What is the best way to stay connected? Yearly baptismal cards? Special prayers on baptismal anniversaries? How can Holy Cross sustain an ongoing prayer for those in whose baptism we participate?

Please let me know if you would be open to being a Parish Host, or if you have thoughts about how we might live out a sustained support for those newly baptised. Please continue to pray for Hannah and her family, and make a point of coming on January 6th to join with her in the celebration of her baptism.

**Cemetery Plots for Sale:** Through various parishioners' kind gifts in the 1980s, Holy Cross owns six cemetery plots in Mountain View Cemetery (1515 – 100 St SE, Calgary). They have been determined as an asset for sale by our parish and approved by the diocese for this "property" item. Before advertising in the diocese and wider community starting in late January, we are providing earlier courtesy information to any interested Holy Cross parishioner. Similar open plots in the mature part of the cemetery vary in price from \$3,885 to \$7,245 each. Later in January, we will extend the sale communication to others outside the parish. John Uncles is administrating the sale for Holy Cross Corporation's final approval – if you are interested, please call him at 403-288-7636.

**Alpha Course:** will commence Tuesday, February 12, 2019 for 12 weeks. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith, and God in a friendly, open and informal environment, an honest space to think about and discuss life's big questions together. To learn more, please contact the Rev. Tony Grainger or the Rev. Carmen Maier.

Holy Cross's theology group has not been meeting this past fall, but will start up again in January 2019. We will meet on the fourth Sunday of each month after coffee time; soup and bread will start us off.

Last year, theology group looked at the uniqueness of Anglicanism through two (very different) hymns from each historical period. We found out what their words told us about the issues of each era. A lot of people became most involved and interested when we got to the parts where the words derived from the psalms dominated the hymns of that era. So, what better topic to continue on than the psalms - how they are used in liturgy, how they are translated, turned into verse, and adapted to poetry and music. How does this relate to our life as a worshipping and praying community?

For this winter, we will simply look at the psalm appointed for the Eucharist on the day of the meeting. If there is interest, perhaps we could get more systematic next year: "favourite psalms" or "unfavourite psalms" or "how many different kinds of psalms are there and how do we use them". This is not be a "devotional" look at psalms, but rather a "learning" look. But of course the two are related to one another!

As always, theology group is open to anyone who wants to come to any meeting. Background and start-off questions will be sent out via email, and a printed copy will be available at the meetings, but anyone can come and participate, even if they haven't prepared the material. No sign-up or long-term commitment is necessary. If you are not on the current list and would like to be, please sign up in the narthex on the bulletin board, or email Mryka Hall-Beyer at mhallbey@ucalgary.ca. We hope you can join us starting January 27, 2019, when we will begin with the psalm for that day, Psalm 19.

**Lectio Divina:** Tuesday, January 8 at 6:30 pm in the St. Cyprian room. Lectio Divina, i.e. 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.

**Annual Meeting of Parishioners:** is on February 10, 2019. Ministry leaders are asked to provide a report to the church office or to Donna Uncles by January 7, 2019. Email your report to office@holycrosscalgary.org or to Donna at uncles@telusplanet.net. If you are unable to email your report, it can be dropped off at the office.

**ACW:** At our next meeting on January 6, 2019 following the 10:00 am service, Jim and Carol Tubman will share reminiscences of their Scottish cycling adventures. For more information, please call President Lisa Boulet at 403-399-2315 or email: holycrossacw.com.

**Recycling:** If you are able to assist with the recycling of paper, cardboard, and other materials beginning in the new year, please call the office.

**Mission Drive:** we are supporting St. Edmund's food bank for the first six months of 2019 with the donation of non-perishable food items. We encourage parishioners to contribute a food item weekly, making this a part of your Sunday worship.

**Curate's Corner:** It is a joy and delight for me to be at your Parish, the Anglican Parish of Holy Cross, Calgary! So before I introduce myself, I would like to say two words that I have been saying a lot of late: THANK YOU. Thank you for inviting me to do my Curacy here. Thank you for allowing me to become part of your community. Thank you for the opportunity to learn from you and to be formed by you in our common call to love and to serve one another. I'm also really grateful to get to be working with your Rector, Reverend Kyle. Already we have been able to do some ministry together, and he has been teaching me a lot, from pastoral care, to learning the liturgy and the roles of liturgical leadership. It has been a very pleasant work experience for me already, and I anticipate continuing to learn, learn, learn, all I can!

I felt a call to ministry when I was sixteen. I never imagined it would take this long before ordination. But Moses was called and forty years later... In any case, my entire life trajectory has centred on ministry, first in my late teens and early twenties in the context in which I was raised, the Pentecostal church, where I was heavily involved with youth ministry. Then, I began a long graduate journey, which included studies in Roman Catholic systematic theology, early Eastern Christianity, and culminated in a PhD in church history. As I explored the vastness of our Christian heritage, the question of why all this matters for the church today grew deeper and deeper, such that I was uncertain whether or not academic life was the call. I have always sought to understand how knowledge about God and Christian tradition relates with concrete Christian life and practice. I have always desired to help others to find and know our God revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. So, here I am, having originally thought I would be a pastor in the Pentecostal church, to a long graduate career which led to some teaching in practical theology, and back to church ministry.

Why the Anglican Church, you might ask? Because it is a beautiful tradition in which the richness of Christian theology and practice throughout the centuries finds a mature, tested, and tried expression, as exemplified in our common prayer book; because it is like a river into which so many streams of Christian life can flow – including the liturgical, sacramental, evangelical and even charismatic aspects of worship and experience; and because God has ways of working through all the details of our lives that demonstrate daily his sovereign care.

I look forward to getting to know all of you!

Respectfully, yours in Christian service,

Carmen

**Book Club:** Christmas came early to the Monday evening book club as our December read, *An Endless Christmas* by Cynthia Ruchti, was a gift to all our members. This Christmas novella is now one of our members' favourite books of the season. All enjoyed the writing style of the author and remarked that they would like to read more of her writings. Cynthia Ruchti tells stories of "Hope-that-glows-in-the-dark" through her novels and nonfiction books and devotionals. Cynthia took our members on a jovial ride through the pages of *An Endless Christmas* with her wit and insight. The characters of Ruchti's novella walked right off the pages and into our hearts, bringing joy and peace from life lessons they had learned. Submitted by Wendy Dickin.

**Check out our website:** [www.holycrosscalgary.org](http://www.holycrosscalgary.org). We are also on Facebook and Twitter.

**Going to the hospital?** Please identify your religion as Anglican as this places your name on the Anglican list at Spiritual Care Services. Please let the church office know if you are 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.

Please submit all articles for the February newsletter by January 15, 2019.

# Holy Cross ~ January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6 The Epiphany of the Lord 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Holy Eucharist and Baptism	7 9:30 am Morning Prayer 1:30 pm Quilting	8 9:30 am Morning Prayer 6:30 pm Lectio Divina 7:00 pm Tone Chimes 7:30 pm GTAA (meeting room)	9 9:30 am Holy Eucharist	10 9:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm AA (meeting rm)	11 9:30 am Morning Prayer	12
13 The Baptism of the Lord 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Holy Communion	14 9:30 am Morning Prayer 1:30 pm Quilting 7:00 pm Book Club	15 9:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 Tone Chimes 7:30 pm GTAA (meeting room)	16 9:30 am Holy Eucharist	17 9:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm AA (meeting room) 7:30 pm Scouts (library)	18 9:30 am Morning Prayer	19 9:30 am Diocesan Council retreat
20 Second after Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Holy Eucharist	21 9:30 am Morning Prayer 10:00 am PDWA 1:30 pm Quilting 2:00 pm H of Newport 6:30 pm Deceyly Wrought	22 9:30 am Morning Prayer 10:15 am Fanning Centre 7:00 pm Tone Chimes 7:30 pm GTAA (meeting room)	23 9:30 am Holy Eucharist 9:315 am Statesman	24 9:30 am Morning Prayer 10:00 am Boardwalk 7:00 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm AA (meeting rm)	25 9:30 am Morning Prayer	26
27 Third after Epiphany 8:00 am Holy Communion 10:00 am Holy Communion	28 9:30 am Morning Prayer 1:30 pm Quilting 7:00 pm Book Study	29 9:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Tone Chimes 7:30 pm GTAA (meeting room)	30 9:30 am Holy Eucharist	31 9:30 am Morning Prayer 7:00 pm Choir practice 7:30 pm AA (meeting rm)	February 1 9:30 am Morning Prayer	February 2