

The Anglican Parish of Holy Cross

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Happenings around Holy Cross ~ February 2019

From the Rector's Desk:

The last book I read was called *Reclaiming the Great Commission*. Those on Diocesan council were asked to read this book so that we could speak to the diocesan commitment to “move from maintenance to mission.” Holy Cross is uniquely poised to take up this diocesan vision, as for the last year we have talked a lot about what it means to reach out to others beyond our church walls. While we have not used the phrase “maintenance to mission” previously, the language of evangelism has found a home in our community as of late. We have talked about welcoming people, about inviting people. We are now on our second Alpha course as a means to facilitate this activity. Parish council has talked about how to use our signs more effectively and different ways to engage our community. Additionally, we want tangible expressions of our reaching out - so we are doing a mission drive for St. Edmund's food bank, and last Sunday saw us pray for our local schools. All of these things are about our continual attempt to join the mission of God and reach others with the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ.

All of this activity can seem daunting. Believe me, sometimes I feel overwhelmed by all of this. Maybe you have found yourself feeling overwhelmed about the call to reach out to a neighbour or a family member. Maybe all this “evangelism” and “growth” talk makes you feel a little uneasy.

The other day I opened one of Charles Spurgeon's devotional books called *Chequebook of the Bank of Faith*. As you know, I am a big fan of Charles Spurgeon. In fact, for Christmas this past year Alicia was able to procure me a Charles Spurgeon Bobble Head! I turned to the specific day and found inspiring words regarding God's aid in those times where we are called to stretch ourselves in the risk of faith. Commenting on God's promise to be with Moses in his journey to Egypt, Spurgeon writes this:

“Of course, if the Lord sent Moses on an errand, He would not let him go alone. The tremendous risk which it would involve, and the great power it would require, would render it ridiculous for God to send a poor lone Hebrew to confront the mightiest king in all the world, and then leave him to himself. It could not be imagined that a wise God would match poor Moses with Pharaoh and the enormous forces of Egypt. Hence, He says, “Certainly I will be with thee,” as if it were out of the question that He would send him alone.

In my case, also, the same rule will hold good. If I go upon the Lord's errand, with a simple reliance upon His power, and a single eye to His glory, it is certain that He will be with me. His sending me binds Him to back me up. Is not this enough?”

We must never forget that we are not alone. All of the activities that we do as the church are done with the help of our Lord. What is more, the Lord is with us in the call to step outside of the zones of our own comfort. This does not mean that it is always going to be easy, or that we will see miraculous results right away. But what it does mean is that we can go forward into the mission God calls us to trusting the one who called us is with us.

Check out our website: 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 articles for the March 2019 newsletter by February 15, 2019.

Parish Mission Drive for January through June 2019 - St. Edmund's Food Bank. We encourage you to bring a non-perishable food item with you each Sunday when you attend services if you are able – there is a collection box in the narthex. To donate financially, please make your cheque payable to Holy Cross Church, and indicate **St. Edmund's Food Bank** in the memo section. Your donation will be included in the Holy Cross tax receipt at the end of the year. If you have any questions, please speak to a warden or a parish council member.

Lectio Divina: Tuesday, February 12 at 6:30 pm in the St. Michael 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: February 10, 2019 at 12:15 pm.

ACW: The February meeting has been moved to February 17 after the 10:00 am service. The meeting is late this month due to a baptism on February 3 and the AMP on February 10. We will have EMS (Emergency Medical Services) to discuss the role they play. This should be an exciting presentation, so all women please come and join us.

Shrove Tuesday: Mark your calendars as we will be having our yummy pancake and sausage dinner on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Watch Sunday's bulletin for more information. For more information, please call President Lisa Boulet at 403-399-2315 or email: holycrossacw.com.

World Day of Prayer: on Friday, March 1 at 1:00 pm at St. Barnabas, 1407 - 7 Ave NW. This year the service has been compiled by women in Slovenia. All are warmly welcome at this interdenominational event which is always an interesting service, and a great way to meet people from neighbouring churches.

My Resurrection Story - By Lisa Boulet

When I walked into Holy Cross 8 years ago, I was a mess to say the least. I wasn't sure what it would be like, or if I should be at church. I wasn't sure I even belonged there.

Due to many abuses growing up, and an abusive relationship for 13 ½ years, I turned to alcohol and smoking at a young age. I never thought that spending times with friends, having a few beers and a few cigarettes, would lead to a lifetime of slavery. Down deep inside I hated myself but certainly wouldn't have admitted it back then.

Eventually I came to Holy Cross. I really liked the church but still could not give up the drinking and the crummy lifestyle. But knowing Rev Kyle and Holy Cross was always there for me, I decided enough was enough and I wanted to change my lifestyle. I had wanted this for many years, but could never go through with it.

I decided three years ago to quit smoking and quit drinking alcohol. Something inside me told me I could do it with God's help. I didn't really realize what a big role the church, Rev. Kyle, or God, would play in this new lifestyle I was set out to achieve; I just tried to believe.

After about a year of quitting, I was getting really scared from some panic attacks - trouble breathing, a fear I was dying. I thought quitting all alcohol and smoking was supposed to make me healthier, happier and a better person.

I made appointments with Rev. Kyle, who taught me how to deal with my stress in life and how to read my Bible. I was even lucky the church bought me a Bible I could read and understand. I was gradually able to get used to the panic attacks which was what was scaring me the most. With Rev. Kyle's help in teaching me God's ways, I was able to see how God can help me with stress and relieve the pressure of the panic attacks.

After almost a year of working with Rev. Kyle, really becoming a part of the church and having to take over ACW, I have taken control of my life again. Without all these things happening exactly when they did, I don't think I would be where I am today. I am so very happy to say that I have been clean for just over three years. I read my Bible regularly. I joined Rev. Kyle's Morning Prayer Study, and now Morning Prayer is habit I really enjoy. I know I can count on Rev. Kyle and the Holy Cross Church when things get bad. I have never felt so welcome in my life as I do with my Holy Cross Family. I truly believe that Holy Cross saved my life and I couldn't be more grateful.

Curate's Corner:

If I spend this much time in church, how is it possible for me to “miss” God? I mean, not miss him as though I’m missing the mark, though I am sure that is also the case, and equally sure that God is gracious to bring me back to where I need to be through his Spirit in me, his people surrounding me, and his Word guiding me. But what I mean is how is it possible that I have this yearning to connect with God when it seems there is ample time for me to have this need met through all the time I am spending in church now that I am in ministry? Is it because, as I adjust to life in ministry, my personal prayer times have been compromised? I hesitate to confess, but yes. It’s natural for us in times of transition to need some time to make necessary adjustments. But the feeling of missing God caught me entirely by surprise. In fact, I’m realizing it’s a healthy sign: because not only is our worship corporate, it is individual. And both feed into each other; they are equally important and complementary. If we are absent from church for several weeks at a time, I suspect, we might feel like something is missing. If our times in private practices of worship are lagging, I suspect, like me, you, too, might feel like something is missing.

We are both individual, and corporate as persons. Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote in his book *Life Together* that when we cannot be alone well, we cannot be together well. And if we have not learned to be with one another well, we are not truly well alone, either. Most of us may be naturally stronger in one aspect than the other. Yet both are necessary. And so it is with worship.

In our relationship with God, we sometimes lose sight of the importance of being with one another in worship. This is because we live in a culture that emphasizes personal autonomy in just about every aspect of life. Coming to church helps us to remember that we are part of God’s people; that we, together, form the body of Christ; and that each part needs the other. We need each other for encouragement in our Christian lives! But sometimes we may also lose sight of the importance of being alone in God’s presence. Here we can be addressed by God as unique, take time to listen and linger over scripture beyond the liturgical structures of corporate worship, take time to just ‘be’.

So I hope that you will ask me how my “time alone” with God is going. As I might ask you, as well.

Book Club: Holy Cross Book Club usually chooses a lighter read for Christmas/Advent (and the January meeting) as all members find this a very busy time of year. This year we chose a book by leading romance writer, Debbie Macomber. *Choir of Angels* has three short stories, all featuring three irrepressible angels - Shirley, Goodness, and Mercy. The author calls these characters her most enduring of all her continuing characters. All members present at the meeting agreed this was a fluffy, easy read, that they enjoyed in that context. Surprisingly, some deeper meanings came forth from the members, that were hidden in the three stories, leading us to wonder if the author hid these interesting musings so that the stories were not just a light read as first thought.

All book club members seem to agree that one of the best things about being in a book club is the different points of view each member brings to the discussion of our books! If you're a fan of Harlequins or Christmas novellas, this might be the book for you! A copy will soon be in the church library & of course the public library has copies of many of the author's numerous novels. Submitted by Glynis.

Alpha is a series of 12 interactive sessions exploring the basics of the Christian faith. Each session looks at a different question and is designed to create a conversation. There is no pressure, no follow-ups, and no charges; it is an open, informal and honest space in which to explore and discuss life's questions together.

Probably the most significant part of the *Alpha* course is the chance to share thoughts and ideas about the talk without being corrected or judged. There is no obligation to say anything - it is an opportunity to hear from others, to explore your own thoughts and feelings, and to contribute from your own perspective.

You and your friends are invited to *Alpha* for supper and the introductory talk *Is There More to Life Than This?* on Tuesday, February 12 at 7:00 pm. RSVP to Rev. Carmen, to Rev. Tony, or to the office at 403-289-8497 or email office@holycrosscalgary.org.

February 2019

February 2019							March 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28			24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jan 27	28	29	30	31	Feb 1	2
8:00am BCP 10:00am BAS, Baptism	9:30am MP 1:30pm Quilting 7:00pm Book Study	9:30am MP 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	9:30am HE	9:30am MP 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	9:30am MP	9:30am Craft Day
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:00am BCP 10:00am BCP, AMP	9:30am MP 1:30pm Quilting 7:00pm Book Study	9:30am MP 6:30pm Lectio Divina 7:00pm Alpha 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	9:30am HE	9:30am MP 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	9:30am MP	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:00am BCP 10:00am BCP, AMP	9:30am MP 1:30pm Quilting 7:00pm Book Study 7:00pm Book Club	9:30am MP 7:00pm Alpha 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	9:30am HE	9:30am MP 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	9:30am MP	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
8:00am BCP 10:00am BAS, Baptism, ACW	Family Day 6:30pm Deerly 7:00pm Book Study	9:30am MP 7:00pm Alpha 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	9:30am HE	9:30am MP 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA 7:30pm Scouts (library)	9:30am MP	4:00pm Scout BP dinner
24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2
8:00am BCP 10:00am BCP 12:00pm Theology	9:30am MP 1:30pm Quilting 2:00pm H of Newport 7:00pm Book Study	9:30am MP 10:15am Fanning Centre 6:30pm Prayer Shawl 7:00pm Alpha 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	9:15am Statesman 9:30am HE	9:30am MP 10:00am Boardwalk 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA		