

The Anglican Parish of Holy Cross

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Happenings around Holy Cross ~ March 2019

From the Rector's Desk:

By the time that you read this, the beginning of Lent will be just over one week away. Deciding what our Lenten observance will be can be taxing. Do we simply do what we have always done? Will we try something new? How creative do I need to be? On top of this, there are the questions as to whether we will choose to give something up or take something on. How do we know what observance will prove to be the most beneficial for us during the Lenten season?

I want to challenge us to move beyond these questions. Instead of thinking about the manner in which you individually enter into the season of Lent, a question to consider is how we may corporately observe the season of Lent. What might it mean for our Lenten discipline to be something that we observe together?

The discipline of taking a spiritual retreat is longstanding within Christian history. A retreat is an intentional time away for the sole purpose of connecting on a deeper level with God. You may have noticed that I take a retreat every year.

In fact, the diocese requires all clergy to take a retreat yearly. The rationale behind this is that clergy need a yearly time away from the demands of ministry in order to pray, listen, learn, and rest. Life can be hard and demanding at times, and the diocese wants to ensure that the clergy are spiritually healthy, and are enjoying an active and vital relationship with Christ.

Importantly, this is not a personal retreat. When I go on retreat, I do not just sit by myself for some well-deserved 'me' time. A retreat is a time wherein I am called to attend to the Spirit of God, and open myself to the on-going work of the Spirit in my life. What is more, this is something the clergy do together. Clergy take retreat together, in order to support, and to be supported by, one another.

For the upcoming season of Lent, I want to invite you to a RETREAT IN REGULAR LIFE. At 9:30 on Wednesday mornings, we will gather in the church for a short half-hour Eucharist service, followed by a time of fellowship in the St. Cyprian room. The point in this retreat is to intentionally step away from 'regular life' to observe a time of prayer, scripture reflection, and communion with God. Of course, what we are after in retreat is our own transformation. In engaging with this retreat, the aim is to give ourselves the space to recognise the voice and presence of God in our lives in a fuller manner.

But why come to the church for Eucharist? Couldn't you take a 'retreat' by going for 30 minute walk up Nosehill each week? Remember, the corporate element of retreat is important, for it reminds us that we journey toward the risen Jesus not as lone individuals, but as members of the Church.

In retreat, we both support, and are supported by, each other, therefore, if you have Wednesday mornings available, I want to encourage you to attend this weekly RETREAT IN REGULAR LIFE. There is no need to 'sign up'; simply arrive at the church on Wednesday mornings and engage in this quiet time of prayer and communion.

A RETREAT IN REGULAR LIFE begins on March 6th and will continue through to April 17th.

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 April 2019 newsletter by March 15, 2019.

My Resurrection Story: Dianne Grainger

Many years ago, I believe the Lord gave me a picture of me teaching young women to sew. I recorded this in my prayer journal and filed it on the shelf. Over the years there was no situation that I felt was the realization of this special message to me. It just didn't happen. Then a couple of years ago, I watched a short TV programme that talked about a Canadian group of missionaries in Israel, who financially supported several outreach groups in and around Jerusalem. One such group was a women's shelter. This shelter had a sewing room where women were taught to make simple fabric bags, later to be sold in the market. I was excited upon hearing how learning a new skill and a small income was a boost for women in the shelter and a boost for their self-esteem. This is so true.

Wow – this couldn't be better. The Lord knows my two passions outside of my family are prayer ministry and sewing. A friend offered to pray for direction. As I tossed this around in prayer, I could see this was a great idea - to go work in Israel- and its so lovely and warm there too! However, there were some practical issues to address such as finances and family who are all in Canada. So I recorded this all in my prayer journal and put that on the shelf.

Then, last Fall, Andy Tse came to Holy Cross to tell us a little about the Brenda Strafford Centre. This shelter offers women and children refuge from abusive situations with long-term residence up to 21/2 years plus counselling and other services. I listened carefully and later spoke to Andy. I went down to the centre to meet the supervisor of volunteers and explained my picture to her. I could be available on a certain day for 1 1/2 hours, so ladies could come to bring clothing that needed repairs /alterations or a project they wanted to learn about. She agreed and I went through all the necessary paperwork to be able to work in the shelter.

So I pushed the boat out – feeling a little anxious and a great deal of peace. On the first day at the Centre I arrived and placed my sewing machine and tools down in a lovely room. I didn't stop for all the time I was there. In all, 6 ladies came for help. This is amazing! The volunteer Coordinator couldn't believe there had been such a response!

When Jesus invites us to push the boat out – do we doubt what will happen? Not in our timeframe – in His.

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.

A New Bulletin Design for Holy Cross: Early this year, a member of parish council proposed that we redesign our Sunday service bulletins. A task force was formed, consisting of Reverend Carmen Maier, parish administrator Gloria McCracken, Mrs. Julie Johnston, Mr. Herb Poile, and Mr. Jim Tubman.

The task force has five aims for the redesign: to recognise the needs of visitors and newcomers; to make the bulletin easier for those from non-Anglican and non-liturgical backgrounds; to make it easier to use for people with vision problems; to make it easier to use for long-time parishioners; and to refresh the appearance of the bulletin. These aims will be addressed by looking at the content of the bulletin (what information is being added, changed, or removed), the layout of the bulletin (where information is placed), and the format of the bulletin (choice of typeface, italics, bolding, and so forth).

Some of the proposed changes include: changing the front page to welcome newcomers and invite them to coffee hour after the service; reducing the amount of "Anglicanese" in the text; moving the collect from the front to the place it is read in the service; marking congregational parts in bold text, like the BAS does; and encouraging readers to use the church web site for information about office hours, meetings and events, and such.

More changes will be coming, based on your input and ideas. We will be gathering feedback after services starting in March. The new design will be in place before Easter.

Bulletin Redesign Task Force: Rev. Carmen Maier, Gloria McCracken, Julie Johnston, Herb Poile, & Jim Tubman

Curate's Corner: Lately I have been thinking about the term "mission." What is a mission? I came across a couple of dictionary definitions: "an important assignment"; a "flight into space"; and finally, "a mission is a special quest, one that involves more effort than, say, a trip to the corner store."

But what is our "mission" as Christians? Looking to scripture, I was surprised to find no real equivalent to this English term. (Though some translations will render the common Greek term *diakonia*, which means service or ministry, as "mission"). Ah, but we have not yet uncovered the exciting Latin origins for this term. *Missio*: "a sending". Are we getting closer? Jesus said to his disciples, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you" (John 20:21).

We may be familiar with the "Great Commission" of Matthew 28:19-20. But how can we break this down into daily little sendings—daily sendings into our workplaces, our family relationships, our neighbourhoods? Unless our faith is expressed as a daily sending, the Great Commission can seem overwhelming. So, just for today, and then for tomorrow, and then for the next day: Let us go forth to love and serve others in the name of our Lord! - The Rev. Carmen Maier

Lectio Divina: Tuesday, March 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.

ACW: Our yummy Shrove Tuesday pancake and sausage dinner is on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. 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.

The Morning Prayer Study – Presentation: At the end of 2018, Rev. Kyle called for parishioners to be a part of his doctoral research regarding the practice of Morning Prayer. That research has been fully completed and analyzed. On March 17th, Reverend Kyle will present the findings of the research after the 10:00 am service. Why is a practice of prayer important for our spiritual lives? What changes happen to our spiritual lives when we engage an ongoing discipline of prayer? If I get frustrated along the way, does this mean that something is wrong with my prayer routine? Reverend Kyle will present the answers to these questions based on the experiences of those within the Morning Prayer Study. Please mark your calendars so that you can learn about Reverend Kyle's ongoing doctoral journey, and about a simple way you can grow your own prayer-life.

Book Club: "When the English Fall" a novel by David Williams

The Monday night book club met on February 11 with full attendance to discuss "When the English Fall".

This book made the top 100 list for the year on Amazon 2017/2018. David Williams is a pastor in the Presbyterian Church and lives in Northern Virginia. He has had many articles published but this was his first novel. One of the many reviews written on this book said "A standout among post-apocalyptic novels, as simply and perfectly crafted as an Amish quilt or table. Lyrical and weirdly believable." – Kirkus reviews, starred review.

When a catastrophic solar storm brings about the collapse of modern civilization, an Amish community is caught up in the devastating aftermath. Every day brings new threats as modern life crumbles. "The English" (is the name Amish people use for all non-Amish) as they become more desperate, they begin to invade nearby farms and the peaceable community of the Amish. The story is told through the diary of an Amish farmer named Jacob as he tries to protect his family. **QUESTION** – Should members of a nonviolent society defy their beliefs and take up arms to defend themselves? And if they don't can they survive? What would we do as a caring Christian Community?

All members of book club agreed that this was a very good read, well written and very thought provoking. We also all admitted that at times it made us a little fearful of the possibility that this could happen. Our discussion never lacked for content from the book and thoughts of the world and society as we see it now. The story was intriguing and we all would recommend this book. It will be in our library shortly. Submitted by Sandi

March 2019

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Feb 24	25	26	27	28	Mar 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	Apr 1	2	3	4	5	6

Gloria McCracken