

The Anglican Parish of Holy Cross

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Happenings around Holy Cross ~ April 2019

From the Rector's Desk:

As you may remember, and may be sick of hearing, my doctoral studies focused on the Spiritual formation of the faith community. The question I asked was "How does a communal body (a church) grow in Christlikeness?" As a part of my work in this regard, I created a model of spiritual formation wherein I addressed this question. In this model, I posited what the outward witness of a spiritually vital community would look like. My answer was that a community immersed in the reality of God's presence would naturally live out a witness of evangelism and mission. These two elements formed the last chapter of my thesis.

What has been amazing to watch is how this has worked out in our midst. Over a year ago, we decided that we needed to turn our emphasis toward the area of evangelism, hospitality, and sharing our faith. There were many sermons preached about the importance of Jesus in our lives, the call to stretch ourselves in witness, and the call to invite others to join us at church. We ran programs like "Share your Faith" and "Alpha" to aid in this endeavour. It has been wonderful to see various people in the church take steps to be invitational.

Even though I wrote about it in my thesis, I did not foresee the degree to which this emphasis on evangelism would naturally move us toward mission. Emerging from within the parish itself was a call to change the way we focus on mission. Instead of merely inviting people to cut a cheque several times a year, we decided to do something tangible – to embody our outward witness. Therefore, we placed a box in the narthex for the Brenda Stratford Centre . . . and the congregation responded gloriously! Following that, Parish Council chose St. Edmunds for the first months of 2019 as our Mission Drive. Again, the congregation has responded. Every time I come to the church, I find more items in the St. Edmund's box. In January and February alone, we have given over 60 bags of groceries to St. Edmund's food bank, and we are on the way to break 100 by the month's end.

Several people have commented to me over the past several weeks how there is 'a buzz' at Holy Cross. There seems to be a spirit of vitality and excitement within which we gather. Part of the buzz is the new people who have joined the church; part of it is the excitement over the mission drive – and seeing the groceries pile up week after week. More than anything, however, this buzz is a product of our responsiveness to God's Spirit. The Holy Spirit works powerfully in our community, not as a hovering haze above us, but as a power working within us that can do infinitely more than we can ask, imagine, or dream.

So let us continue to be a community immersed in the Spirit of God, continuing to grow in our inward Christlikeness and outward witness. Let us continue to gather in the presence of our Lord, week by week, to sing together, to pray with and for each other, and to experience the joy and the blessing of this community. However, more than anything, let us continue to search out new ways for the blessing and enrichment of this community to spill over into others' lives. After all, the power of God, working in this place, is far too magnificent for us too keep it concealed.

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 May newsletter by April 15, 2019.

My Resurrection Story – Anne Davidson

Earlier this year, our Rector, The Reverend Kyle Norman, mentioned miracles in his sermon, and for some reason this got me thinking. Then, within a few weeks, I experienced my own miracle, a miracle of modern medicine.

Both the Old and New Testaments tell many stories of God's healing powers in times and places which did not have the knowledge and opportunities of today – but through time, He has gifted men and women with insight and skills to produce today's wonders of technology – Chemotherapy, Radiation and others too many to mention.

In his healings, Jesus often told those who healed to go home and say nothing, but how could they not? I certainly couldn't, and why would I? For my Holy Cross family are a part of the miracle of answered prayers, thoughts, and love.

Week by week, we are asked to pray for members of the parish, family and friends, in need of prayer. We seldom know the "Why" but our Father does, and He will give his answer in His own way and time because he loves and cares for each and every one of us. That is the biggest and longest lasting miracle of all.

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, April 9 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 April Meeting: On April 7th we welcome Donna and John Uncles to speak to us about their visit to Croatia, and to give us highlights from their Danube River Cruise from Budapest to Nuremberg.

ACW Strawberry Tea: Our Annual Strawberry Tea is coming up on Saturday May 11, 2019 from 2:00 PM to 4:00 pm. The cost will be \$7.00 and all are welcome, so bring your friends or your family or both. Hope to see you there. If you have any questions, contact Lisa at 403-399-2315 or email holycrossacw@gmail.com

The Crafters and Quilters Group: On April 7th at coffee time after the 10:00 am service, come and meet the ladies from the Crafters and Quilters Group. Many of us will be there to meet any and all who want to know more about us. Over the years we have morphed from a quilting group into a Craft and Quilt group. We would be happy to meet you and discuss how joining our group might be of interest to you.

Calculating the Date of Easter - Gloria McCracken

Have you wondered why the date of Easter changes from year to year, unlike Christmas which is on a fixed date?

We know from scripture that Jesus rose from the dead on the first Sunday following the feast of Passover. (The word "Paschal" is derived from "Pascha", a transliteration of the Aramaic word meaning Passover.) Easter is the first Sunday after the Paschal full moon, i.e. the full moon that occurs on or after the vernal equinox. If the full moon happens to fall on a Sunday, then Easter is the following Sunday.

The western church follows the Gregorian calendar which does not use the actual or astronomically correct date for the vernal equinox, but a fixed date (March 21). This was established by the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D. Easter, therefore, will always occur somewhere between March 22 and April 25. Because the dates of Palm Sunday, Good Friday, Ascension, and Pentecost are determined by the date of Easter, their dates vary as well.

(adapted from TimeAndDate.com and EarthSky.org)

Curate's Corner – The Rev. Carmen Maier

Is my giving up chips for Lent really making me closer to God??? How do we keep our Lenten practices linked to our goal? Do we even know what our goal is?

In the early church, the first Christian monks put some practices to the test: fasting, praying, silence, simplicity of life... And they had one goal: to become more like Christ.

Do you remember John the Baptist's words? "He must become greater, I must become less." Christian practices are not intended to diminish our true selfhood. Rather, they are to diminish those parts in us that do not naturally cooperate with the Holy Spirit. By simple little practices, like letting go of something I desire, I can *potentially* create the environment for God to have a little more control of my life and for my own ego to have a little less.

I'm not really sure that giving up chips is really making me closer to God. Because I've just started to eat more French fries. Perhaps this is a question to help us keep focus in our Lenten practices: By giving this up, what am I making space *for*?

Holy Week and Easter Service Schedule

Palm Sunday, April 14	Holy Communion @ 8:00 am
Palm Sunday, April 14	Holy Communion @ 10:00 am
Monday, April 15	Stations of the Cross @ 7:00 pm
Tuesday, April 16	Blessing of the Oils @ 10:00 am at the Cathedral
Wednesday, April 17	Holy Eucharist @ 9:30 am
Maundy Thursday, April 18	Agape Feast and Solemn Eucharist @ 6:00 pm
Good Friday, April 19	Meditation, Readings, and Music @ 10:00 am
Easter Sunday, April 21	Holy Communion @ 8:00 am
Easter Sunday, April 21	Holy Eucharist @ 10:00 am

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body.

While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them.

The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again."

Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles.

But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened. Luke 24:1-12

April 2019

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Mar 31 8:00am BCP 10:00am BAS, ACW	Apr 1 9:30am MP 1:30pm Quilting	2 9:30am MP 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	3 9:30am HE	4 9:30am MP 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	5 9:30am MP	6 8:00am Women's Cursillo
7 8:00am BCP 10:00am BAS, ACW	8 9:30am MP 1:30pm Quilting 7:00pm Book Club	9 9:30am MP 6:30pm Lectio Divina 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	10 9:30am HE	11 9:30am MP 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	12 9:30am MP	13 8:00am Women's Cursillo
14 Palm Sunday 8:00am BCP 10:00am BCP	15 9:30am MP 1:30pm Quilting 2:00pm H of Newport 6:30pm Craft & Stitch 7:00pm Stations of the Cross	16 9:30am MP 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	17 9:30am HE	18 Maundy Thursday 9:30am MP 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:00pm Agape Feast 7:30pm AA, Scouts	19 Good Friday 9:30am MP 10:00am Meditation, Readings, & Music	20
21 Easter Sunday 8:00am BCP 10:00am BAS	22 9:30am MP 1:30pm Quilting	23 9:30am MP 10:15am Fanning Centre 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	24 9:15am Statesman 9:30am HE	25 9:30am MP 10:00am Boardwalk 7:00pm Choir Practice 7:30pm AA	26 9:30am MP	27
28 8:00am BCP 10:00am BCP 12:00pm Theology	29 9:30am MP 1:30pm Quilting	30 9:30am MP 10:00am BARDS 7:00pm Tone Chimes 7:30pm GTAA	May 1	2	3	4