

The Anglican Parish of Holy Cross

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Happenings around Holy Cross ~ July/August 2019

From the Rector's Desk: Rev. Kyle Norman

Several people have commented over the past several weeks about how lovely the tulips just outside the front entrance look. (Having written this I notice that the tulip bulbs have mysteriously disappeared, no doubt picked by a neighbourhood admirer). The purple and yellow flowers were the first to sprout up at the turn of the season. You will also see a second plant with multiple bulbs just waiting to break open.

These flowers have a lovely story behind them. Our Sunday school, as a gift to Holy Cross, planted the tulips several years ago. The children of the parish wanted to add something to the church and so decided to plant these flowers as a lovely symbol of life and beauty – the promise that God is always at work in our midst. Interestingly, you may recall that the flowers did not pop up last year. It was thought (at least I thought) that the bulbs simply did not survive. Perhaps the harsh Calgary winter wrecked havoc upon the seeds? Perhaps the effort of the Sunday school would be left lifeless – with no growth in the future. Yet, despite all evidence to the contrary, life was preparing to spring forth!

I think these flowers provide a lovely lesson for us in the church. We often view the life of the church only through a small snapshot in time. Whether that snapshot is a day, a year, or a decade, we look at one moment of history and define the livelihood of the community accordingly. Like a flower hidden beneath the soil, we assume that if we fail to see the explosions of colour, or the miraculous display of life, that God must not be up to much in our midst. Like flowers that we assume will never bloom, if we don't see life now, we never will.

This is not the way flowers work and nor is it the way God works in our midst. Perhaps this is why Jesus often used agricultural imagery to explain how God works in people's lives. "The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed; consider the lilies of the field ..." God's purposes are often veiled, hidden beneath the surface, awaiting the appropriate time for the revelation of life to be revealed.

Next time you walk past the front door of the church, look to the flowers right at the corner. You will see two plants, with multiple stems awaiting bloom. Let these flowers be a lesson of hope for each one of us. Like seeds nourished below the surface, God is at work deep within our community; there will be a day where life will break forth. Let us not doubt this future, or assume that all life has passed us by. Let us in faith and hope hold on to the promise of God, and anticipate the Spirit bringing forth growth in our midst. Amen.

Parish Mission Drive for January through June 2019 - St. Edmund's Food Bank has now concluded. We are pleased that over 200 bags of groceries have been donated to this worthy cause, helping countless families. While our parish's focus will shift in the fall, the donation collection box will remain in the narthex, so you may continue to bring non-perishable food items for St. Edmund's food bank. To donate financially, please make your cheque payable to Holy Cross Church, and indicate **St. Edmund's Food Bank** in the memo section. If you have a suggestion for our next Parish Mission Drive, please speak to Rev. Kyle.

Lectio Divina: Will resume on Tuesday, September 10 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 Divino, 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 Rev. Kyle.

Nursery: the nursery is located upstairs next to the upper hall. Adult parishioners are welcome to volunteer in the nursery, from time to time, during 10:00 am Sunday Services. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer. For further information, please contact Janice Bauer at 403-288-0345.

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 September newsletter by August 15, 2019.

A note about parish finances (and how you can help):

Addressing parish finances is always a delicate matter. On one hand, we do not want to be always harping on the need for capital, or the costs associated with every ounce of ministry. When the intricacies of parish finances are talked about too often, it makes it seem like the church is only interested in what you have in your wallet. That is not the impression we want to make at Holy Cross.

On the other hand, you deserve to know where we are financially. Also, you have asked the corporation to keep you up to date on these matters. Ignoring the financial reality of the parish will do little good to our life and ministry together.

So here it is. At our last AMP (annual meeting of parishioners), we passed a deficit budget of roughly \$26,000. We are currently seeing this reality take place. On a month-to-month basis, we are receiving less than we need. With summer right upon us, when people often go on vacation and both attendance and giving go down, this deficit will only become a deeper reality for us. As with all deficit budgets, we pay for this deficit with reserved capital funds . . . until one day we are unable to. So how can you help? Here are three suggestions:

Maintain your attendance. The summer can get quite relaxed in terms of church attendance. Summer plans, and the summer heat, often keep people away on Sunday mornings. We encourage you to continue to make church a priority. If you fear that the 10:00 am service will eat up too much of the summer day, consider attending the 8:00 am service during the summer months. It is short. It is cool. It is perfect for those enjoying the summer.

Consider giving electronically. I know electronic giving frightens some people. The reality is, direct giving is the easiest way to ensure that you are up-to-date on your pledges. You set when your offering is given. Electronic giving ensures that no matter where the summer takes you, you will continue to support your parish. Speak to Ken Lipsett, our treasurer, for more information.

Consider planned giving. In recent years, some amazing ministry has occurred here because past parishioners have decided to bless the future of this place. Planned giving (which simply means naming the church as a beneficiary of your estate) is a way to ensure that a legacy will be left to the church, and ministry will continue. This can be particularly beneficial for people who feel that their monthly expenses do not leave room for extra giving. The diocese has people to speak with if this is of interest to you.

I want to end on a positive note here. It can be easy to assume that if our accounts are not as strong as they should be, or our numbers not as high as they once were, that, somehow, we are doing something wrong. I do not want to minimize the struggle we have when it comes to our finances, however, I want to remind us that God is able to work with us, and provide for us. Last year we put forward a \$37,000 deficit budget, and we ended \$18,000 stronger than we ever would have imagined. With God's help, and as we commit to working together, I am hopeful and confident in the future blessing of our church. - Rev. Kyle

Alpha is coming!

Alpha will start in the fall.

Stay tuned for more details!

Youth Bulletin

Children getting restless during summer services because Sunday school is not in session? Check out the Youth Bulletin on the table in the narthex. It is prepared by an Anglican priest in England and follows the lectionary with timely puzzles and activities. Previous editions are in the rack in the narthex.

Book Club: "Everybody Always" by Bob Goff

Bob Goff is the founder of Love Does, a non profit organization that operates schools and safe houses and pursues justice for women and children in conflict areas such as Uganda, Somalia and Iraq. Bob is a lawyer, adjunct professor at Pepperdine Law School and Point Loma Nazarene University. He lives in San Diego with his family. This is his follow up book to Love Does.

This book reveals lessons Bob learned – often the hard way - about what it means to love without inhibition, insecurity, or restrictions. There are 24 chapters each telling us how he has supported or loved difficult people and been in difficult situations.

Book club members had a good discussion about the material in this book both agreeing and sometimes not agreeing with what he does. This book shows no preference to male or female readers and will be available in the church library. Submitted by Sandi

A New Bulletin Design - Final Report: The Holy Cross Bulletin Redesign Task Force has completed its work. The Task Force would like to thank everyone who assisted with this process: Mary Hardman, the choir, parishioners who provided written comments and verbal feedback, and especially our parish office administrator, Gloria McCracken, who accommodated many suggested changes on very short notice, without complaint.

The goals of the redesign were:

- To recognize 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 long-time parishioners.
- To make it easier to use for people with vision problems, or hand sensitivity.
- To refresh the appearance of the bulletin.

We soon learned that it was not possible to please everyone with every change. Some changes that were enthusiastically received by some were greeted with dismay by others. Eventually a consensus was reached. The committee feels that this new bulletin reflects the comments, concerns and wishes of the parish.

The features of the new bulletin design are:

- The front page has been redesigned to be more welcoming, and clearer for visitors who may not know what terms like “BAS” and “BCP” mean.
- An image has been added to the front page. The image will change from time to time.
- The collect of the day and the prayer list have been moved to the places where they are actually used in the order of service. This is to make following the service easier for people unfamiliar with our liturgy, and to avoid needless page-turning for those with hand-sensitivity.
- The list of worship and hospitality assistants has been moved to the back page.
- As in the *Book of Alternative Services*, the parts of the service that are said or sung by the whole congregation are in bold type.
- Translations have been added for terms like “Sanctus,” “Agnus Dei,” and “Gloria.”
- Dots are used as visual cues, and paragraphs are fully-justified.
- The typeface has been changed from Times New Roman to Adobe Myriad Pro. This typeface was chosen specifically for increased legibility.

It is the hope of Task Force members that these changes will enable Holy Cross as a community to welcome newcomers, while respecting the needs of long-time members. Thank you, Holy Cross, for your patience as we worked on this important aspect of our worship.

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

Curate's Corner: Rev. Dr. Carmen Maier

Packing for vacation, no matter if it is for a few days or a couple weeks, can sometimes be a challenge. Sometimes we take things along that we don't need, and leave things behind that we do need. The same can be true for our own spiritual and psychological well-being when we go on vacation. Let me offer a couple of thoughts in this regard:

When you go on vacation, do you accidentally leave God behind? How many of us have a theology of fun? It doesn't take a lot of strain to find in creation that fun is part of God's nature. For example, have you ever watched water cascading down playfully against rocks in a fast-running stream? Or think of two dogs at play. Or how about those swallows who seem to fly just 'because', -- presumably because it is so much fun! On our vacation, can we allow God to be part of our play?

When you go on vacation, do you accidentally take burdens along that maybe should be let go? Vacation can be a time of renewal and refreshing so that we can return to our daily lives with new perspective and energy. Carrying our stresses into vacation is like taking extra baggage. Some of these concerns are real and hard to lay aside even for a time. Perhaps this little practice of letting go might help: when you get to your vacation spot, collect a few small stones, each representing a particular care you wish either to leave behind on your vacation, or, if it is something you are called to carry in your present daily life, make it a practice of placing these cares into the infinite mercy of God. One by one, take each stone, name your concern, mindful of God's presence with you, and place it, or throw it, into a body of water -- a stream, or lake. As you do so, ask God to take your concern or to carry and surround it for you in his love so that you can enter a Sabbath rest on your vacation.

July 2019

July 2019							August 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jun 30	Jul 1 Canada Day	2 7:30pm GTAA	3 9:30am Holy Eucharist	4 7:30pm AA	5	6 10:00am Roy Skeet funereal
7 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	8	9 7:30pm GTAA	10 9:30am Holy Eucharist	11 7:30pm AA	12	13
14 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	15 2:00pm H of Newport 6:30pm Craft & Stitch	16 7:30pm GTAA	17 9:30am Holy Eucharist	18 7:30pm AA	19	20
21 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	22	23 7:30pm GTAA	24 9:15am Statesman 9:30am Holy Eucharist	25 10:00am Boardwalk 7:30pm AA	26	27
28 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	29	30 7:30pm GTAA	31 9:30am Holy Eucharist	Aug 1	2	3

August 2019

August 2019							September 2019						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Jul 28	29	30	31	Aug 1 7:30pm AA	2	3
4 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	5 Civic Holiday	6 7:30pm GTAA	7 9:30am Holy Eucharist	8 7:30pm AA	9	10
11 8:00am Holy Eucharist 10:00am Holy Eucharist	12	13 7:30pm GTAA	14 9:30am Holy Eucharist	15 7:30pm AA	16	17
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