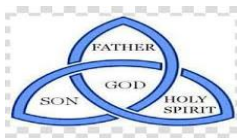
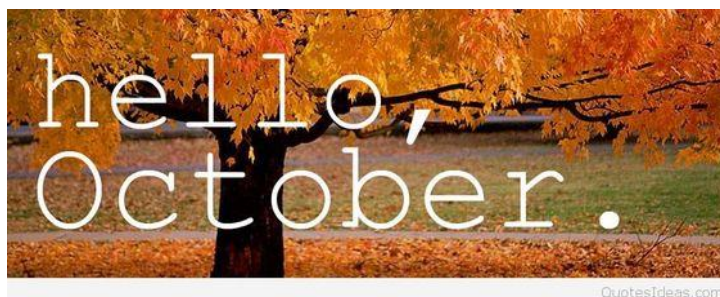


THE PARISH LIGHT

The Tri-Parish of Athabasca, Living Waters and Northern Lights Newsletter



October 2020



As the summer comes to an end, school starts, trees begin to change, normally the Church is already into fall dinners, harvest Sundays, Thanksgiving and other such things. But this is the time of the Covid-19 virus. All these things have been put on the back burner. Now what do we do?

It reminds me of a time in Cambridge Bay in mid-winter. There was a stretch of very cold weather, about 2 weeks of it not getting above -40 with lots of wind. We were enduring the 3rd day of a blizzard that was pretty much a whiteout the whole time. I had not left the mission house in 3 days. I was getting antsy. It was like nothing existed except this little two-bedroom house, even though I knew better. Out of desperation and stupidity, I decided to visit one of the elders.

Going outside in the Arctic wintertime is not small affair. The feet had 2 pair of socks and then a pair of heavy caribou skin socks with the fur on the inside. Over these was a pair of caribou boots that went halfway up the calf of your leg. This was the main boot we called the Kamiq. In really cold weather like this we put on another pair of caribou skin slippers. I have been out for hours with this on my feet and them never getting cold. Once the feet were taken care of, I wore insulated overalls to protect against the wind. Over my t-shirt, shirt and heavy sweater, I wore a down filled parka.

As I stepped outside I could not see across the street. I questioned myself why I was going out. But away I went anyway. Walking in this weather is not easy chore. As I could not see anything on the ground to guide me, I followed the power lines above me. I was only going two blocks, but what normally took me 5 minutes took me 20. As I entered into the house, the lady of the house looked up from her sewing, surprised to see anyone and even more surprised to see the minister. Dutifully, she made me tea and we sat in silence as she sewed. I asked what she was doing. She said during storms she had time to do sewing she normally would not have done. She was making parkas for her grand-children. She said she had the time as she did not normally have company during storms. I took the hint and asked where her husband was and she pointed to the shed out back behind the house. Out I went to the barely visible shed and found the husband sitting on the floor of the dimly lit shed. All around him was probably half the engine of his snowmobile. He said he was cleaning the

engine because it was a good thing to do in a storm and everyone was in their homes. He was about to get up to get me tea when I told him not to move, that I wasn't staying. I went out in the storm that was raging just as hard as ever, went home and worked on my sermon - which I never got to use that Sunday as the Storm was still raging and, unlike the minister, most people had the sense to stay home where it was safe.

What this visit, which I should not have taken, taught me was that when you can't do what you would normally do, do not give up, do something else. I have a sign on my wall that says "If the plan doesn't work change the plan but not the Goal". In the church, our goal is to serve God by reaching out into the community, sharing God's love and salvation. During this time of the Covid-19 virus we can no longer do what we would normally plan to do. The government guidelines and the safety of all will not allow it. The challenge that faces us is, if the normal plans do not work then what plans will? This is the challenge I have asked each of the congregations and parishes to take up. In the next 3 months we have Thanksgiving, Remembrance Day Harvest Time, St Nicolas Day, Advent and Christmas. Even though we are worshipping in the church building, many have stayed at home. There is no Sunday School, youth group or fellowship hour. How do we care for our people and reach out to our community during the time of Covid.

One thing we are doing in St. Andrews / Zion is during October and November we are going to make short Family Advent videos that could be shown at home or used in church as a children/family time. What other things might we do to reach out to our members and our community? If you have suggestions please contact me or Rev. Rose with your thoughts and ideas. Who knows what God has planned for us.

Blessing ~

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Rev. Rose Howell, Assistant Priest Roseh777@telus.net



HAVE YOU TALKED TO GOD TODAY?

Good Morning

Good morning. I am God. Today I will be handling all of your problems.

Please remember that I do not need your help. If the devil happens to deliver a situation to you that you cannot handle, do not attempt to resolve it. Kindly put it in the SFJTD (something for Jesus to do) box. It will be addressed in MY TIME, not yours.

Once the matter is placed into the box, do not hold on to it or remove it. Holding on or removal will delay the resolution of your problem.

If it is a situation that you think you are capable of handling, please consult me in prayer to be sure that it is the proper resolution.

Because I do not sleep nor do I slumber, there is no need for you to lose any sleep. Rest my child.

If you need to contact me, I am only a prayer away.

- Author Unknown



You Prayed for Me

You did not know my need, or that my heart was sore indeed,
Or that my fears I could not quell, but you sensed that something wasn't well.

And so, you prayed for me.

My path had turned from light to black, they seems to be no turning back,
Then in my loneliness I felt God was near, as down the road a light dawned clear.

Because you prayed for me.

And as your prayer to heaven soared , God did on me a blessing pour ~

The day you prayed for me.

Four Candles

Four candles slowly burned.

Their ambience was so soft; one could almost hear them talk.

The First candle said:

"I am Peace"

"The world is full of anger and fighting – nobody can keep me lit."

Then the flame of peace went out completely.

The Second candle said:

"I am Faith"

"I am no longer indispensable. It doesn't make sense that I stay lit another moment."

Just then a breeze softly blew Faith's flame.

Sadly, the third candle began to speak:

"I am Love"

"People don't understand my importance so they simply put me aside. They even forget to love those who are nearest to them"

And waiting no longer, Love's flame went out.

Suddenly..... a child entered the room and saw the three unlit candles. "Why aren't you burning? You're supposed to stay lit til the end."

Saying this, the child began to cry.

Then the fourth candle answered:

"Don't be afraid –"

"I am Hope!"

"While I am still burning, we can re-light the other candles."

With shining eyes, the child took the candle of Hope and lit the other candles.

The greatest of these is **Love**...

but the flame of **Hope** should never get out of life!

With hope each of us can live with **Peace, Faith and Love.**

.....

The Rejected Stone

Jesus quoted the words of the Psalmist: "The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner..." (Ps. 118:22) Later Simon Peter would quote these words to the rulers and the elders in testimony concerning the good news of Christ. (Acts 4:11) Later he would cite those words again in his epistles. (I Pet. 2:7)

There was a legend that was well known in New Testament times that in the building of the temple of Solomon most of the stones were of the same size and shape. One stone arrived, however, that was different from the others. The builders took one look at it and said, "This will not do," and sent it rolling down into the valley of Kedron below.

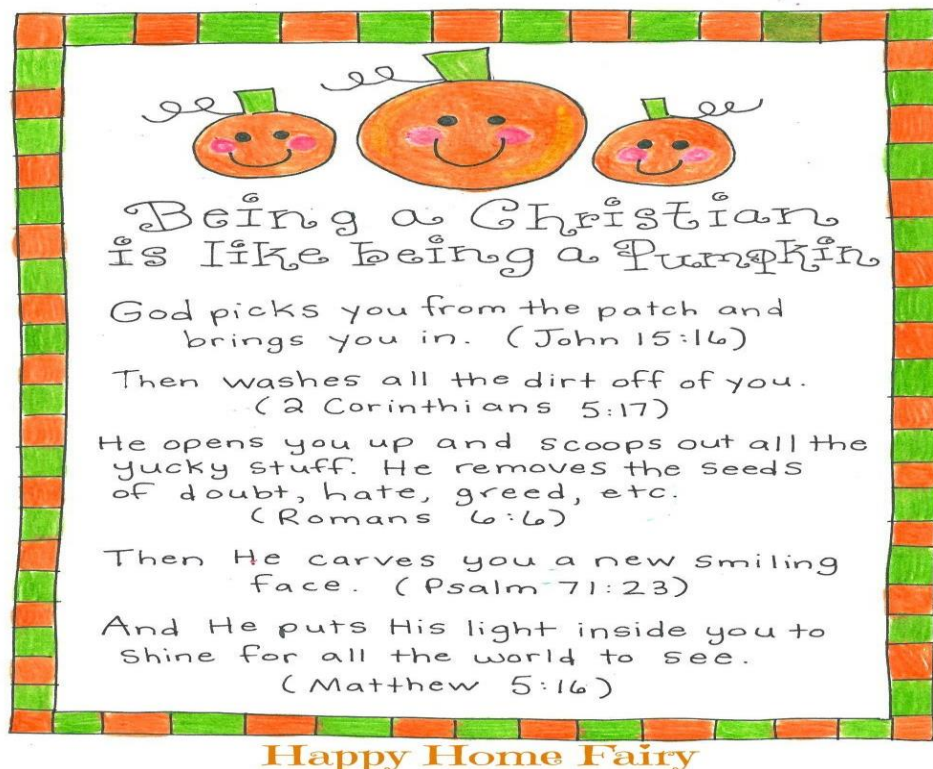
The years passed and the great temple was nearing completion, and the builders sent a message to the stonecutters to send the chief cornerstone that the structure might be complete. The cutters replied that they had sent the stone years before. Then someone remembered the stone that was different than all the rest that somehow did not seem to belong.

They realized that they had thrown away the cornerstone. They hurried into the valley to retrieve it. Finally under vines and debris they recovered it and with great effort rolled it up the hill and put it in place so that the great temple would be complete.

The stone that had been rejected had become the chief cornerstone. Jesus, who had been rejected now reigns at the right hand of the Father.

From rejection to rejoicing.

King Duncan, From Rejection to Rejoicing



The Bulletin Board

BIBLE STUDIES

St Paul's, Boyle Tuesdays at 10:00 am ... studying the Letter of 1st John

St Andrew's Zion, Colinton Tuesdays at 7:15 pm A study of Ephesians

COFFEETIME

Coffeetime will resume at St Andrew's Zion every first and third Thursday of each month. We resume our coffeetime on October 15th.

Coffeetime is from 10:30 am to 12:00 noon. Join us for a cup of tea or coffee and some good fellowship ~ everyone is welcome !!



As our six churches join together in fellowship - please let me know if you are having any events or studies Or interesting happenings at your church. I will put them in the monthly newsletter.

If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please advise at leroyjan96@gmail.com

Have a Happy Thanksgiving - Jan Overacker, publisher