

THE PARISH LIGHT

The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter - July 2016



I was shocked, confused, bewildered as I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all, nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven who made me sputter and gasp--
The thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.

Herb, who I always thought was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine, looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal? I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here? God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet, so somber - give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said, 'they're all in shock. No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

JUDGE NOT!!

Remember...Just going to church doesn't make you a
Christian any more than standing in your garage makes you a car.

A young man learns what's most important in life from the guy next door

Over the phone, his mother told him, "Mr. Belser died last night. The funeral is Wednesday." Memories flashed through his mind like an old newsreel as he sat quietly remembering his childhood days.

"Jack, did you hear me?"

"Oh, sorry, Mom. Yes, I heard you. It's been so long since I thought of him. I'm sorry, but I honestly thought he died years ago," Jack said...

"Well, he didn't forget you. Every time I saw him he'd ask how you were doing. He'd reminisce about the many days you spent over 'his side of the fence' as he put it," Mom told him.

"I loved that old house he lived in," Jack said.

"You know, Jack, after your father died, Mr. Belser stepped in to make sure you had a man's influence in your life," she said.

"He's the one who taught me carpentry," he said. "I wouldn't be in this business if it weren't for him. He spent a lot of time teaching me things he thought were important. Mom, I'll be there for the funeral," Jack said.

As busy as he was, he kept his word. Jack caught the next flight to his hometown. Mr. Belser's funeral was small and uneventful. He had no children of his own, and most of his relatives had passed away.

The night before he had to return home, Jack and his Mom stopped by to see the old house next door one more time.

Standing in the doorway, Jack paused for a moment. It was like crossing over into another dimension, a leap through space and time. The house was exactly as he remembered. Every step held memories. Every picture, every piece of furniture. Jack stopped suddenly...

"What's wrong, Jack?" his Mom asked.

"The box is gone," he said

"What box?" Mom asked.

"There was a small gold box that he kept locked on top of his desk. I must have asked him a thousand times what was inside. All he'd ever tell me was 'the thing I value most,'" Jack said.

It was gone. Everything about the house was exactly how Jack remembered it, except for the box. He figured someone from the Belser family had taken it.

"Now I'll never know what was so valuable to him," Jack said. "I better get some sleep. I have an early flight home, Mom."

It had been about two weeks since Mr. Belser died. Returning home from work one day Jack discovered a note in his mailbox: "Signature required on a package. No one at home. Please stop by the main post office within the next three days," the note read. Early the next day Jack retrieved the package. The small box was old and looked like it had been mailed a hundred years ago. The handwriting was difficult to read, but the return address caught his attention. "Mr. Harold Belser" it read. Jack took the box out to his car and ripped open the package. There inside was the gold box and an envelope. Jack's hands shook as he read the note inside.

"Upon my death, please forward this box and its contents to Jack Bennett. It's the thing I valued most in my life." A small key was taped to the letter. His heart racing, as tears filling his eyes, Jack carefully unlocked the box. There inside he found a beautiful gold pocket watch.

Running his fingers slowly over the finely etched casing, he unlatched the cover. Inside he found these words engraved: "Jack, Thanks for your time! -Harold Belser."

"The thing he valued most was... my time"

Jack held the watch for a few minutes, then called his office and cleared his appointments for the next two days. "Why?" Janet, his assistant asked.

"I need some time to spend with a friend," he said.

"Oh, by the way, Janet, thanks for your time!"

Think about this. You may not realize it, but it's 100% true.

1. At least 15 people in this world love you in some way..
2. A smile from you can bring happiness to anyone, even if they don't like you.
3. Every night, SOMEONE thinks about you before they go to sleep.
4. You mean the world to someone.
5. If not for you, someone may not be living.
6. You are special and unique.
7. When you think you have no chance of getting what you want, you probably won't get it, but if you trust God to do what's best, and wait on His time, sooner or later, you will get it or something better.

8. When you make the biggest mistake ever, something good can still come from it.
9. When you think the world has turned its back on you, take a look: you most likely turned your back on the world.
10. Someone that you don't even know exists loves you.
- 11.. Always remember the compliments you received. Forget about the rude remarks.
- 12 . Always tell someone how you feel about them; you will feel much better when they know and you'll both be happy .
13. If you have a great friend, take the time to let them know that they are great.

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



In their 35 years as neighbors on Earth, Arnie and Bart never knew they were both Christians. **FUNNY** isn't it? *Do your neighbors know what you believe?*

One Sunday morning, at a small southern church, the new pastor called on one of the deacons to lead in opening prayer.

The deacon stood up, bowed his head and said, "Lord, I have buttermilk." The pastor opened one eye and wondered where this was going.

The deacon continued, "Lord, I hate lard." Now the pastor was totally perplexed.

The deacon continued, "Lord, I ain't too crazy about plain flour, but after you mix'em in a hot oven, I just love hot biscuits.

Lord, help us to realize when life gets hard, when things come up that we don't like, whenever we don't understand what You are doing, that we need to wait and see what You are making. After You get through mixing and baking, it'll probably be something even better than biscuits.

Amen"

Romans 8:28

The Dead Church



A new Pastor in a small Oklahoma town spent the first four days making personal visits to each of the members, inviting them to come to his first services.

The following Sunday the church was all but empty. Accordingly, the Pastor placed a notice in the local newspapers, stating that, because the church was dead, it was everyone's duty to give it a decent Christian burial. The funeral would be held the following Sunday afternoon, the notice said.

Morbidly curious, a large crowd turned out for the "funeral." In front of the pulpit, they saw a closed coffin, smothered in flowers. After the Pastor delivered the eulogy, he opened the coffin and invited his congregation to come forward and pay their final respects to their dead church.

Filled with curiosity as to what would represent the corpse of a "dead church," all the people eagerly lined up to look in the coffin. Each "mourner" peeped into the coffin then quickly turned away with a guilty, sheepish look.

In the coffin, tilted at the correct angle, was a large mirror.

BIBLE TRIVIA

(answers on the last page)

1. Who wrote the Epistle of Jude?
2. What did John call the New Jerusalem he saw in a vision, coming down out of heaven?
3. God instructed Noah to make the ark:
 - a) 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high
 - b) 400 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 60 cubits high
 - c) 300 cubits long, 50 cubits wide, and 60 cubits high
 - d) 400 cubits long, 30 cubits wide, and 30 cubits high
4. Connect the Thots:
Joseph
The ancient Israelites
Onesimus
5. How many books are in the Old Testament?

The Story of Elijah

The Sunday School teacher was carefully explaining the story of Elijah the Prophet and the false prophets of Baal.

She explained how Elijah built the altar, put wood upon it, cut a steer in pieces, and laid it upon the altar. And then Elijah commanded the people of God to fill four barrels of water and pour it over the altar. He had them do this four times.

“Now,” asked the teacher, “Can anyone in the class tell me why the Lord would have Elijah pour water over the steer on the altar?”

A little girl in the back of the room started waving her hand. “I know, I know,” she said, “To make gravy!”



July 20th – Graduation Service for Lydia Dame and Nate Day in St Andrew’s Zion at 10:30 am.

A donation offering will be taken and money split between the two graduates.

August 7th – Rev. Lesley’s final services in the Diocese will be held in St Paul’s Church in Boyle

Boyle at 10:30 am and Christ Church in Wandering River at 1:00 pm.



YOUTH GROUP UPDATE - Submitted By Joanna Muzyka

YC – 11 youth and 3 adults took in YC 2016. We had a great time. A big thank to all supported the youth group in going to YC without your support it wouldn't have happened. A special thank you to Cathie Creaser and Curtis Creaser for agreeing to help me with driving, chaperoning etc.!

Youth Daze 2016 – Open to all youth 12-20 (grade 7+), see poster in the newsletter. We are well underway with planning Youth Daze 2016 and posters and registration forms are now available, please contact me for a registration form.. Due to a great number of factors we are doing things a little different this year – Youth Daze will again be held in Slave Lake but we will be holding it at the Slave Lake Inn, this helps out with sleeping arrangements, meals and allows us to focus our “manpower” on the youth. Registration is \$100.00 per youth. The youth group will cover 50% of the registration fee for youth wishing to attend from our Youth Account from our parish, so youth will only need to pay \$50.00 each. I would like any youth who wishes to attend to go and if needed we can sponsor all their registration fee. If anyone wishes to sponsor a youth in our parish or diocese to attend please contact me. I would like to send all our registrations in together, so any youth wishing to attend need to have their registration to me by August 5 2016

Graduation Service – July 20/16 at 7pm at St. Andrew's Zion. We will be celebrating Lydia Dame and Nate Day's accomplishments in graduating from high school. This is a parish event and all are welcome. The service will be followed by refreshments.

Tim Neufeld and The Glory Boys Concert – Will be performing October 5, 2016 at Nancy Appleby Theatre as part of their Hootenanny Tour – A Worship Hoedown. We approached them to add us to their tour schedule as we saw them at YC this year and really enjoyed their performance a mix of blue grass, gospel, country and they will appeal to all ages! We will be working with them to make this a success with promotions, ticket sales, volunteer set-up, takedown, merchandise sales the night of the show and providing them with lunch and supper. Please save the date and let me know if you can help.

Fall Youth Group – I am planning to try and run youth twice a month in the fall as we did this year. Once dates are set I'll let you know.

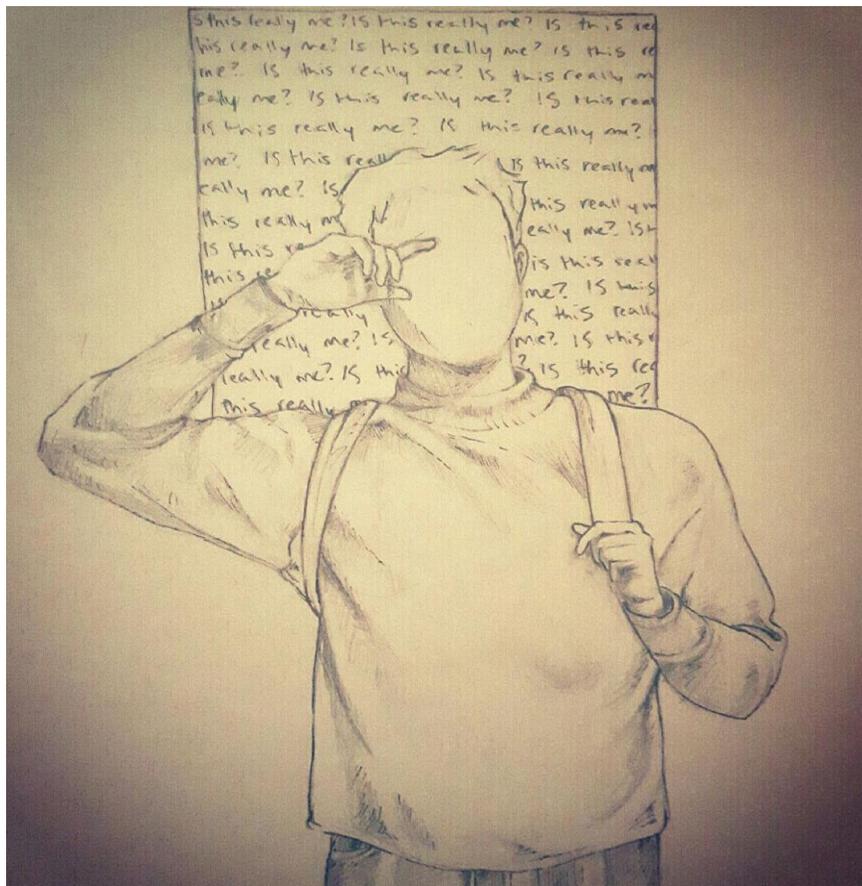
Anyone wishing to make a donation to the youth group, can do so by making your donation to “*Parish of the Northern Lights – Youth Account*” and mail c/o Joanna Muzyka, Box 725, Boyle, AB T0A 0M0. Please provide your name and contact information so a tax receipt can be issued to you at the end of the year.

Any questions please feel free to contact Joanna - joannamuzyka@hotmail.com.

Diocese of Athabasca Presents

YOUTH DAZE 2016

I AM.....??????



September 2 - 4 2016

Slave Lake Inn, Slave Lake, AB