

The Parish Light

The Parish of the Northern Lights Newsletter ~ October 2018



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A 10 year old little girl was asked by another classmate, "what is it like to be a Christian?". The girl replied, "it's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then he cuts open the top and scoops out all of the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc., and then He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."



12-8

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JEFF
and
THE
KEANS

"Hear that? People in heaven have ever-laughing life."

Called to Serve

Q: How can I serve to deepen spiritual discipleship?

Answer: Our baptismal liturgy proclaims: “Let your light shine before others that they would see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Service embraces the grace we receive from God and extends that grace and love further into the world.

As you seek to deepen your spiritual discipleship, service provides connection to God and the world God created. Our relationship with God is the foundation of service. We believe that God first serves us. Our actions of serving are then a response to that love and commitment from God.

We do not serve to earn God’s favour but rather to delight God, to thank God and partner with God in multiplying God’s goodness.

Deepening your relations with God feeds your serving. In scripture we are given glimpses into God’s character and relationship. Jesus’ ministry of caring for others gives us a model for living. Through prayer we converse with God, voicing concerns and thanksgiving.

The nature of this relationship propels us to action. We receive so we might give. God feeds people so they can feed others. To serve is to take action for another. In serving we move from a focus on self to a focus on those around us.

The concentric circles of those around us vary in scope and size, from very intimate to global in scale. Following the pattern of Jesus’ ministry among the ordinary folk of Galilee, I encourage you to think about serving the people you are connected to in the place where you find yourself.

Start by scanning for opportunities or needs. You might consider your neighbourhood and those who live on your street, your work or school circle, members of a social or hobby group, the families of players on your child’s sports team, those who worship with your congregation. Who do you see? What needs might this person have? Who don’t you see? Why is that?

Now, consider where your personal gifts might bring joy or alleviate a need for those you called to mind. Each of us has different abilities and passions. Your service most logically flows from these. God not only calls us, but also equips us to serve.

And then move from thinking to doing. Common courtesy, hospitality, listening, as well as extending helpfulness, and getting your hands dirty are but a range of the actions one might pursue. Don’t underestimate simple, ordinary actions. Afterward, reflect on your experience. Consider how you encountered grace or love in this act. Did you feel duty or joy in your giving? What would nurture your energy for continued serving?

It is important to remember that there is no common standard for service. We will each serve in unique ways because we have different gifts and move in different places. We will also experience different seasons of serving as our time, health and resources ebb and flow. It is freeing to recall that serving is a way of life that follows your journey, and to let your light shine, responding as you are able, is enough.

..... Rev. Daranne Harris, Calgary

Attitude

The 92 year-old petite, well-poised and proud lady, who is fully dressed each morning by eight o'clock, with her hair fashionably coifed and makeup perfectly applied, even though she is legally blind, moved to a nursing home today.

Her husband of 70 years passed away, making the move necessary. After many hours of waiting patiently in the lobby of the nursing home, she smiled sweetly when told her room was ready. As she maneuvered her walker to the elevator, I provided a visual description of her tiny room, including the eyelet sheets that had been hung on her window. "I love it," she stated with the enthusiasm of an 8-year-old having just been presented with a new puppy.

"Mrs. Jones, you haven't seen the room . . . just wait."

"That doesn't have anything to do with it," she replied. "Happiness is something you decide on ahead of time. Whether I like my room or not doesn't depend on how the furniture is arranged. It's how I arrange my mind. I already decided to love it. It's a decision I make every morning when I wake up. I have a choice. I can spend the day in bed recounting the difficulty I have with the parts of my body that no longer work, or get out of bed and be thankful for the ones that do. Each day is a gift, and as long as my eyes open, I'll focus on the new day and all the happy memories I have stored away just for this time in my life. Old age is like a bank account. You withdraw from what you've put in. So, my advice to you would be to deposit a lot of happiness in the bank account of memories. And thank you for your part in filling my memory bank. I am still depositing."

Remember the five simple rules to be happy:

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

- Author Unknown -



From the Hymn Book of Common Praise, Anglican, revised 1938

Prayer is the soul's sincere desire, uttered or unexpressed;

The motion of the hidden fire, that trembles in the breast.

Prayer is the burden of a sign, the falling of a tear,

The upward glancing of an eye when none but God is near.

Prayers is the simplest form of speech that infant lips can try,

Prayer the sublimest strains that reach the Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath, the Christian's native air,

His watchword at the gates of death: He enters heaven with prayer.

Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice returning from his ways;

While angels in the songs rejoice and cry, 'Behold, he prays'.

O thou by whom we come to God, The life, The way, The truth,

Thy path of prayer thyself has trod: Lord, teach us how to pray.

.....James Montgomery, 1818.

Poster found in a Church in
France... (translated):

"When you enter this church
it may be possible that you
hear "the call of God".

However, it is unlikely that He
will call you on your mobile.

Thank you for turning off
your phones. If you want to
talk to God, enter, choose a
quiet place and talk to Him.
If you want to see Him, send
Him a text while driving."

God's Boxes

I have in my hands two boxes
Which God gave me to hold.
He said, "Put all your sorrows in the black box
And all your joys in the gold."

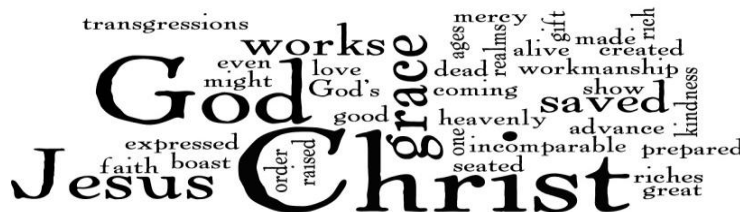
I heeded His words, and in the two boxes
Both my joys and sorrows I stored.
But though the gold became heavier each day
The black was as light as before.

With curiosity I opened the black
I wanted to find out why.
And I saw, in the base of the box, a hole
Which my sorrows had fallen out by.

I showed the hole to God, and mused
"I wonder where my sorrows could be."
He smiled a gentle smile and said
"My child, they're all here with me."

I asked God why He gave me the boxes
Why the gold, and the black with the hole?
"My child, the gold is for you to count your blessings
The black is for you to let go."

- Author Unknown -



PRAYER CYCLE UPDATE

The new head of the Prayer Chain is Sheila Neilsen. Her telephone number is 780- 993-5869

Her email address is: sheilalneilsen@gmail.com



Fall Supper and Silent Auction

St Andrew's Zion Church, Colinton -

Saturday, October 13th, Colinton Community Centre

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Adults: \$12.00 6-12 years: \$8.00 Kids under 6 free

Sponsored by St Andrew's Zion, Colinton and St Thomas, Perryvale

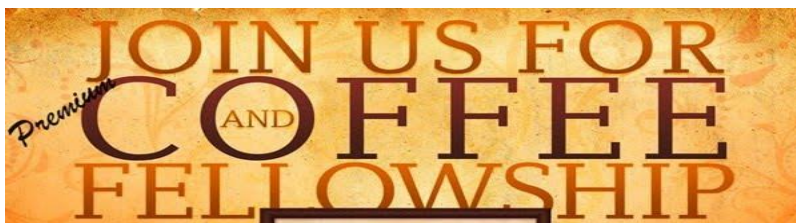
Fall Supper

St Paul's Church, Boyle

Saturday, October 20th, Boyle Community Centre

5:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Adults: \$15.00 7-13 years: \$10.00 Kids 6 & under free



October 4th & 18th

10:00 am – 12:00 noon

St. Andrew's Zion Church Hall

Youth Group News



Welcome to Fall!

Thank you to Shandayah, Isabelle, Bethannie and Lizzie for joining Cathie and I for YD 2018! It was a wonderful weekend!

Tim and the Glory Boys Concert in Athabasca the Nancy Appleby Theatre at 7pm, Tuesday October 9

We are hosting the Band on that day and will require some help. Please let Joanna know if you and/or any family members can give us a hand.

We will need:

- 3 to help unload at 11am on October 9 - adults best as youth will be in school.
- 4-6 people to take tickets before show (6pm) and sell merchandise before show(6pm), at intermission and after the show (at least 2 adults)
- 5+ to help pack up after the concert, strong adults would be best
- We will be providing the band with lunch and dinner that day and may need assistance but I will be in touch if needed.

Tickets: can be purchased online at www.timmytour.com or available locally either Joanna at 780-689-8053 or at Semalta Communications (4919 - 50th Street, Athabasca).

Ticket prices:

- Individual Admission: \$15
- Family pass: \$40 for two adults and any number of immediately related children age 13 and under

Youth Group:

September seems to be a very busy month so we have decided to not to start Youth Group / Alpha Youth Film Series until October. Below are the dates we've selected. We will start at 6:30pm with supper provided and go from there, ending at about 9pm. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us and bring a friend. If you need a ride let us know.

Friday October 12; Friday October 26; Friday November 2; Friday November 30;
Friday December 14

If you have any questions or need more information please contact Cathie (cathie.mmaestro@gmail.com) or Joanna (joannamuzyka@hotmail.com)

All youth grade 7 and up (Age 12+) are welcome so grab a friend and join us!



Tim and the Glory Boys are returning to Athabasca for **The Buffalo Roadshow tour - October 9, 2018, 7pm** at the Nancy Appleby Theatre.

Advance tickets can be purchased online at www.timmytour.com or available locally either from myself at 780-689-8053 or at Semalta Communications (4919 – 50th Street, Athabasca).

Ticket prices:

Individual Admission: \$15

Family pass: \$40 for two adults and any number of immediately related children age 13 and under

From the Tim and Glory Boys Website about the show:

“The Buffalo Roadshow is a spirited, family-friendly party going down at a theatre, church, or barn near you. Whether you’re from the big city or a one bison town, you can be sure this rowdy music hoedown won’t be more than two whoops and a holler away. It’ll be the show you can’t stop talking about... you’ll laugh, you’ll sing, and you’ll stomp yer boots!”

Tim & The Glory Boys are more than just a country bluegrass gospel band! Rumour has it they’re also multiple JUNO, Dove, and Covenant award-winning artists—musical showmen if you will—that bring down the house at every tour stop. With their rugged BC homeland in the rearview mirror, these guys are eager as Canadian beavers to bring The Buffalo Roadshow to your neck o’ the woods. Don’t miss it!”

Note to St Andrew’s Zion ~

St Andrew's Zion is hosting the Band on that day and will require some help. Please let Joanna know if you can give us a hand.

We will need:

- 3 to help unload at 11am on October 9 - adults best as **youth** will be in school.
- 4-6 people to take tickets before show (6pm) and sell merchandise before show(6pm), at intermission and after the show (at least 2 adults)
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