



Christ Church Connexion

Dear friends,

Greetings in Christ. It is an exciting time of year at the Parish of Christ Church as we welcome new faces into our midst and gather once again as the family of God in worship, fellowship and prayer. Our newsletter this month reflects many of the ministries and programs in and around the parish. Over the summer we enjoyed meeting our neighbours through community barbeques, a fun summer Sunday school and times of prayer and praise in our Sunday worship.

This summer we mourned the loss of several beloved members of our parish. In the midst of our mourning there was also thanksgiving and celebration as we recalled the faith and witness of Ruby, Joan, Eva, Audrey, Pauline and William. We prayed that nothing good in their lives would be lost but would carry on in each of us. And we also committed ourselves anew to the life of faith and love of church that shaped the lives of these 'saints in light'.

And so we continue this fall, to do what Christ Church has been called to do: to be a witness to the love of God; to meet the needs of the marginalized and vulnerable in our society; to teach the stories of faith to the next generation and to worship Almighty God through song, prayer and sacrament. I look forward to the months ahead as we do all of these things and more in the name of the One who called us into being.

Yours,
Rev. Sue

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Fall Book Study and Stewardship



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Community
*A Summer Report, Refugee update,
and Lay Evangelism*



Living out our faith

STEWARDSHIP: WHAT WOULD JESUS MEAN?

Stewardship is an unusual word. In 2016, we are unlikely to hear the word outside our parish life. It has, however, become a prominent word in the environmental movement, with many organizations adopting it to describe how they care for the earth. While the word is centuries old, its adoption into Christian commitment is fairly recent. It appears in 1899 in a novel called *His Brother's Keeper*, or *Christian Stewardship* by Charles Monroe Sheldon, an American congregational minister. Three years earlier in 1896, Sheldon published the novel *In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do?* So yes — he was the first person to coin the now familiar, often-heard expression, “What Would Jesus Do?” The question now turns up on bracelets and t-shirts. A century ago, Sheldon posed the question to challenge and share his basic assumptions as a Christian.

Christian stewardship is a recent term, but it signifies a very old Christian attitude to the material world. Since stewardship is central to our vocabulary of shared vision and purpose, we need to renew its significance for us as Anglicans throughout the year.

Stewardship begins with God's charge to Adam and Eve to care for Eden, a story with strong environmental implications for us today. In Psalm 24:1 we read, “The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof” (but we are its stewards). The word steward appears fourteen times in the New Testament, often denoting a household servant or administrator. By comparison, if we feel we have a parish family, we should be good stewards of that family's household. The Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25: 14-30) chal-

lenges us to use our gifts in God's service. There are many other biblical sources and examples for the practice of stewardship. But we still need to explore its meaning individually and as a Christian community.

Modern definitions of stewardship emphasize the channels through which we can give of ourselves to the Church. These channels are time, talent and treasure. Time is perhaps the most precious gift. Time spent in prayer, contemplation, dialogue and fellowship is valuable time.

Time spent volunteering in the ministries our parish maintains is a profoundly valuable gift. Talent, a word that meant money in the ancient world, now means the uniqueness of the gifts we bring as individuals. Such gifts may include teaching Sunday school, making music, working with a group or committee, serving food, supporting outreach, composting waste or hosting coffee after a service. Treasure is an essential gift. Our material gifts are vital to the existence of the parish. It may help to consider that the money we commit to the church changes into energy in very real ways. The energy we provide animates all of the activities we share together, from the next challenging sermon we hear to the next local or community effort we envision or undertake.

In his first epistle, Peter offers this instruction: “Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received” (1 Peter 10:4). Peter orients stewardship in the “manifold grace of God” and not simply as obligation or demand. Is grace an essential part of the meaning



“To set our hearts on the kingdom therefore means to make the life of the Spirit within and among us the centre of all we think, say, or do.”
—Henri J.M. Nouwen

THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV IN SIX EASY LESSONS

You are invited to attend a series of discussions on Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov* led by Henry Schuurman. If you have ever wondered about how a good God can allow the horrible evils our world contains and what the Christian faith might have to offer in response to such evils, you will find Dostoevsky's novel intellectually stimulating and deeply grounded in the Christian faith. In our discussions we will reflect on the problem of evil and the topic of theodicy. We will read selected passages from the *Brothers Karamazov* focusing especially on the character of Ivan Karamazov and on the provocative arguments he presents and on the character and teaching of Father Zossima as an answer to Ivan. Dostoevsky's presents the psychology of unbelief and faith with great insight. In that context we will explore what some people think is a powerful Dostoevskyan apologetic for the Christian faith. If you have ever thought it would be interesting to read the *Brothers Karamazov* or if you have read it and wanted a place where you could talk (further) about the novel and the important questions it raises or if just think it would be fun to talk about the topics just described, please think about joining our discussion group.

—HENRY SHUURMAN

We will meet on Sunday, October 16, 23, 30, and November 6, 13, 20th @ 11:30 am in the parish lounge. Bring your lunch!

of stewardship?

Questions are a good way to renew our understanding of stewardship. Let's set aside the question “what would Jesus do?” Instead, when it comes to the word stewardship, let's ask ourselves: “What would Jesus mean?” May this question sustain you in thoughtful reflection as you consider all you might offer our parish in the coming year.

With sincere thanks for our life together,
THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Living The Questions

Young Adults (age 18-29) are invited to join Rev. Sue for beer, munchies and conversation about faith and life.
Friday October 14th 7pm in the lounge
November 18th 7pm in the lounge
Come and wrestle with questions of faith and doubt in a safe and supportive environment.

family ministry



The youngest members of Christ Church have been growing in faith as they discover they are part of God's story and amazing work in the world through Jesus, thanks to our team of Sunday School teachers.

For the past two years the teachers and children have been learning about God's love and the Bible with "the Jesus Storybook Bible". This year we'll be using a new curriculum to explore the Old and New Testaments and what they mean for us in our lives.

Holy Moly is a fun and engaging way for our youngest to learn, talk about and put into action the foundational stories of our faith. Often hilarious, always fun, the lessons start with an animated video of the Bible story, followed by age appropriate discussion, a story and a craft.

It will be an excellent time for the students, and even a learning experience for the teachers. Perhaps the best part is that it allows the volunteer teachers to make the most of the time they dedicate to the Sunday School, not having to fret about the lesson and to be able to engage and enhance it with their own faith.



If you are interested in signing up a child for Sunday School or being a teacher talk to Rev.Sue or drop by the Sunday School!

"We will not hide these stories from our children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and his might, and the wonders that God has done." -Psalm 78:4

See you at the next Messy Friday on **Novemeber 4th!**

summer happenings



This summer Christ Church showed our love for our neighbours with all our hamburger, hot dog and watermelon. It was a summer full of BBQs to enjoy fellowship as a church and as a part of the Oliver Community. With the support of our parishoners, The Oliver Community League, IGA and Save-on-Foods Christ Church hosted 4 BBQs throughout the summer for our neighbours to get to know one another. We also hosted a BBQ with the Inner City Pastoral Ministries which had food provided by St Theresa's food truck and live entertainment from a Bluegrass band and a family of Cree drummers who had us all up and dancing. Not to mention the two BBQs after church on Mother's day and the last Sunday School day thanks to our mens group and our Scout Troop. Our hope for the neighbourhood BBQs was to have a number of small gatherings that would give people an opportunity to get to know one another over a meal and games over a period of time. We wanted our meals together to be something like a family picnic, where people would not get lost in a crowd or feel part of a transaction but know they were part of a community. It was wonderful to see those hopes met. Many of our neighbours came for all 4 BBQs and did get to know the faces and stories of the people they live near and pass by on the street. It is a true blessing that we were able to be part of making strangers into friends and creating an even greater sense of welcome in one's own neighbourhood. Christ Church is growing in it's strength of hospitality, reaching out for welcome and community building to all those around us. May all our feasts be a vision of God's kingdom.

—REV. NICK TRUSSELL



Special thanks to Laurin Paterson, Julia and Katie Heaton for a wonderful Veggie Tales Summer Sunday Program!!

community outreach

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

The Anglican parishes of Christ Church and St Peter's have begun the process to sponsor a refugee family from Syria. Our family consists of a mother, Arjeer Azem, a father Shamil Al Droubi and four children ranging in ages from fourteen to one: Layan Sara, Alice, Hamza and Sam. Arjeej is expecting a baby so we anticipate our family will be seven by the time they arrive. We have submitted the needed paperwork for our sponsorship but it may be months before the family arrives in Edmonton. We do not know the exact date when the family will arrive.

Our refugee sponsorship is an expression of our Christian faith. Christ Church and St. Peter's will work together to welcome and support the family. We will provide the financial resources to meet the family's basic needs for a twelve-month period as well other supports and services that are needed to facilitate the family's transition into the Edmonton community. These include: language training, dental care and child care. We have a good financial base in place thanks to generous donations and our Benefit Concert. Further fundraising may be needed as we learn more about our family's needs.

On October 5th @ 7pm we will hold a planning meeting to begin the process of establishing working groups to ensure we are ready for the family's arrival. We expect that the following working groups will be needed:

- Housing and Furnishing.
- Translation Services.
- Family Budget and Financial Management.
- Language Learning.
- Health and Medical.
- School and Child Care.
- Transportation.

Do you have knowledge or experience in one of these areas? Please join us at our meeting. All are welcome to attend. There will also be an opportunity to learn more about the refugee sponsorship at our upcoming Ministry Fair on September 25th

There will be many ways to get involved in our sponsorship, such as donating household items, joining a working group and/or helping with specific task such as welcoming our family upon their arrival and moving day. We will also want to build relationships through cups of coffee, shared meals, and celebration of birthdays and milestones.

Our refugee sponsorship is one way we are working toward our social justice vision of "a world that embodies the values of Shalom: nothing missing, nothing broken, all at peace and in balance with creation."

—ANNE SMITH

Thank you!

We raised \$5000 at the Refugee Benefit Concert held in May! Many thanks to those who purchased tickets and to our musical entertainment for the evening:

The Accord Ensemble
Kerr McHan Jazz Duo
The Chickadeez

Members of the Kokopelli Choir Association
 and Acapella Catering for donating awesome appetizers!



LAY EVANGELISM

Last year, I joined a group of three other Christians as the first class of Licensed Lay Evangelists under the guidance of Rev. Tim Chesterton. When I told friends and family that I would be involved in the program, our conversations often went along these lines:

"I'm joining a group of people who are working on getting Anglicans more comfortable about sharing our faith. We have this incredible experience of God's love, but we often don't talk about it with friends and family. And then beyond friends and family, we need to look for ways that we can have conversations with our neighbours... to see what we can offer the people who live around our churches, but who don't come on Sundays. Faith shouldn't just be a Sunday morning thing."

Up until this point, the person I was talking to was usually enthusiastic and supportive, nodding their head and agreeing that it sounds like a good idea. Then I would drop the bomb: "It's called Licensed Lay Evangelism."

Evangelism is not a comfortable word for many Anglicans. It certainly wasn't a comfortable word for me a few years ago! But it's something that I'm becoming increasingly convinced is vital for the life of God's church. Licensed Lay Evangelism is as similar calling to Lay Readers, Hospital Visitors, and other lay ministries. Our focus is on encouraging churches to take up Jesus' command to spread the Gospel.

As Christ Church's own Lay Evangelist, I have been learning about models of respectful, relational Evangelism, practicing different ways of sharing our faith story, and doing some good old fashioned Bible study and prayer. In the months and years to come, I will be bringing what I've learned back to our parish to share with the whole congregation. I'm grateful for the support I have received so far, and look forward to starting a larger conversation about how we can share God's love more intentionally with the people in our lives. If you have questions, please find me at coffee hour!

—ALI HURLBURT

Welcome Ascension House 3.0!!

Bassel, Miranda, Anna, Mathew, and Aref!

This group of young adults have begun their 10 months together, with prayer, lots of pizza, and planning a rule of life together in this intentional community.

Coming Up at Christ Church

October 2nd _____ *Blessing of the Animals at 2pm*

October 14th _____ *YAG: Living the Questions at 7pm*

November 4th _____ *Messy Church at 5pm*

November 11th _____ *Remembrance Day Service at 10am*

November 18th _____ *YAG: Living the Questions at 7pm*

December 3rd _____ *Messy Church Christmas at 5 pm*

December 18th _____ *Lessons & Carols*

December 24th _____ *Christmas Eve Service*

December 25th _____ *Christmas Day Service*



Interested in contributing to the
next *Connexion*?

Contact Anna at a_schroeder@live.ca