

Christ Church

Connexion

Issue No. 5 / OCTOBER 2017



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*Looking forward to
seeing God at work
in their lives.*

”

Read about the new Christ Church Family Ministries Coordinator on Page 4

THE ANGLICAN PARISH OF CHRIST CHURCH is a community of faithful Christians where everyone is welcomed and nourished. The parish is a hub of activity and community engagement as we respond to God's call. Our mission is to encourage and support the faith journeys of all who wish to share in God's call to prayer, worship, fellowship, community and outreach.

Rector's Note

Dear friends,

All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee.

These are some of my favourite words from the Order for Holy Communion in *The Book of Common Prayer*. They remind me each week that everything I have comes from God and all that I give back to God was God's in the first place.

All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee.

We say this prayer each week as the offertory plate is being received and the monies have been collected. It is easy for us to simply associate this "giving back to God" in connection with dollars and cents. However, as I look over the pages of this most recent edition of *The Christ Church Connexion* I see much more. I see time and talents given back to God in the building up of the Kingdom of God. I see gifts of generous hospitality and stewardly administration. I see concrete commitment to the spiritual upbringing of children and young people, as well as dedicated devotion to the care of the elderly in our Parish and community. I see the precious gifts of patience and attentiveness sharing a hamburger in the garden. I see the disciplines of prayer and spiritual growth in the ministry of Ascension House. I see self-giving service in the ordination of a new deacon. I see the wisdom and insight of Vestry members and Church Wardens in the care and maintenance, leadership and vision of our parish.

All things come of thee and of thine own have we given thee.

As you read, I know you will see all these things as well. May God make you as grateful as I am for the gifts we are to each other.

Yours,

Rev. Sue



Table of Contents



Family

CC Youth: Second Breakfast Club!
Musical Theatre & Community



Faith

Adult Faith
Thoughts on Stewardship
Faith & Finance
Ordination



Community

Canterbury Services
Summer Highlights

Interested in contributing to the next
Connexion?

Contact Anna at a_schroeder@live.ca

"Second Breakfast Club"

Youth Group 2017

Abbi Penner

What would you like youth at CC to know about yourself?

I am just coming to Christ Church after taking a gap year, where I went to Bolivia to intern at a children's home and to visit my parents who live in Bolivia. Christ Church was also the church where I spent my youth group years and I loved the experience I had here. It was the place where I felt safe to discuss things about my faith among friends that I hadn't had the opportunity to discuss before.

I also love movies, music (my favourite band is Arcade Fire), baking, and my dogs Zeus and Lucky.

What is "Second Breakfast"?

Second Breakfast Club has a really nerdy origin... for fans of LOTR, it's what the hobbits, Pip and Meri, talk about missing while on the quest with Frodo. That's origin. It also happens to relate perfectly with how our youth group operates; we meet over coffee/tea, munch on some scrumptious treats and have open discussions- much like one would while having well, breakfast or brunch! The name I think does a great job of creating a relaxed atmosphere where people don't need to be on edge about impressing anyone. We are all there to enjoy each other and grow in their faith.

How can I join youth group?

That's easy! Be in junior high or high school and then show up to our meetings on Sundays during the 10am service, or the third Friday of the month.

What do you look forward to most with this year's youth group?

I am really looking forward to seeing God at work in the lives of the youth group participants in whatever form that may be. I think that it will be very exciting at the end of the year to see if there is a change in perspective or dynamic in the group because of our time together as a group!

What can youth group expect for this year?

Right off the bat, youth can start getting excited for the Corn Maze that we will be going to on Oct. 6th we will try to find our way through the corn patch, and perhaps have a bonfire. People can also look forward to our meeting on Fridays once a month, where we could do anything from a board game night to an Iron Chef night (and still have discussion times)! There will be other fun activities throughout year such as ice skating, and participation in any and (hopefully) all diocese-wide youth events!

How should I stay in touch with youth group?

If anyone is interested in joining youth group or have any questions they can most definitely contact me through my email (abigail.penner@gmail.com) or they can join our group on Facebook (Anglican Parish of Christ Church Youth)!

Please see the calendar on page 12 for an overview!

Theatre & Community

SETTLE-A-SCORE-PRODUCTIONS was founded by Sarah Dickson, Julia Stanski and Curtis Ward in August 2017. The three have known each other since junior high, and in high school started performing in musicals together. In their final year, they wrote and produced their own one-act musical about the Western Canadian suffrage movement, which premiered at their high school and later at a local arts festival, NextFest. This November, they will be putting up their inaugural show, a revue celebrating the music of movie musicals. A portion of the funds raised will go towards the Christ Church Community Dinners. They hope to see you there to share the love of musical theatre!

*A portion of each ticket sale will go towards
Community Dinners at Christ Church!*

"Songs of the Silver Screen"

When: Friday, November 17th, 7:30pm

Tickets: \$10 students/seniors | \$13 adults | Kids 5 and under are free

To get tickets:

-Email us at settleascoreproductions@gmail.com and we will reserve tickets for you (pay and pickup at the door on the night of the show)

-Buy and pay at door

-Through cast members

-After church

Tickets will go on sale mid-October (keep an eye out in the bulletin!)

Facebook link: @SettleaScore

Making Disciples

Mary - Ann Shantz

THIS FALL at Ascension House we have been working through a curriculum called Discoverment that focuses on vocational discernment. The curriculum is a nice mix of Bible study, other readings or video clips, and discussion about our personal experiences and beliefs. We have been considering "vocation" in a broad sense to include the bigger decisions we make in life, as well as how our faith informs the everyday, and the ways we can make use of our spiritual gifts on a regular basis. The session themes include: God's Activity; Spiritual Gifts; Listening for God; Making Decisions; and Celebration. Sometimes the activities have us getting creative, mapping our personal journeys, for example, and our creative Ascension House residents really run with these tasks!

We enjoyed a retreat at the Catholic Mount Carmel Spirituality Centre in Parkland County during the last weekend in September, and during our time together we went through three Discoverment sessions, as well as enjoying worship together with Alison Hurlburt leading us on her guitar. We also joined our hosts at the retreat centre for morning and evening prayers, and squeezed in a beautiful fall walk and some games and relaxation.

Thoughts on Stewardship:

Restless Heart Syndrome

David Gay

IN HIS BOOK ON STEWARDSHIP, *Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity*, Adam Hamilton describes what he calls “restless heart syndrome”: “Now, there is a certain discontent that God intended us to have. God actually wired our hearts so that they would be discontent with certain things, causing us to seek the only One who can fully satisfy us” (p. 71). As his title implies, we can satisfy our restless natures through the joys of simple gifts and giving. While our parish needs our giving, it also makes it possible for us to experience and enjoy simple gifts. And that is one of the Church’s gifts to us.

George Herbert (1591-1633), the Anglican Church’s greatest poet, understood the role of restlessness in our search for God. Here is one of his best-known poems:

THE PULLEY

When God at first made man,
Having a glass of blessings standing by,
“Let us,” said he, “pour on him all we can.
Let the world’s riches, which dispersed lie,
Contract into a span.”

So strength first made a way;
Then beauty flowed, then wisdom, honour, pleasure.
When almost all was out, God made a stay,
Perceiving that, alone of all his treasure,
Rest in the bottom lay.

“For if I should,” said he,
“Bestow this jewel also on my creature,
He would adore my gifts instead of me,
And rest in Nature, not the God of Nature;
So both should losers be.

“Yet let him keep the rest,
But keep them with repining restlessness;
Let him be rich and weary, that at least,
If goodness lead him not, yet weariness
May toss him to my breast.”

It would be hard to understand Herbert’s poem without its title. It’s also hard to think about stewardship without a good illustration or comparison. Can a pulley help us think about stewardship? As we know, a pulley is a simple machine made to raise and lower things more easily. It works through motions that go in





Faith and Finance

opposite directions. The downward direction comes from God to us in the gift of life itself, and then strength, and then other gifts. Rather than resting on these gifts, can we use our God-given strength to lift our gifts upward in his service? Would this lifting channel our restlessness into good Gospel work?

Herbert was known for making strange and surprising comparisons in his poetry. His contemporaries found him challenging to read, but worth the effort. In Herbert's poem, we feel the pull of God's goodness and the pull of our restlessness at different times in our lives, and God understands both. In fact, restlessness has been the start of many good works among us. We hope Herbert's idea of the pulley will help you think more deeply about stewardship at this time of year.

In the coming weeks we will ask for your input on how you might like to communicate on or learn more about stewardship. Please feel free to chat with us after church as well.

Your Stewardship Committee:
Tom Snyder, David Gay, Matthew Cassie

THE FAITH AND FINANCE COMMITTEE at Christ Church is made up of a collective of faithful parishioners with a particular heart for the short- and long-term financial planning in the Parish. The committee is chaired by the Rector's Warden, Ron Norton. Members include Treasurer Scott Belamisco, Helen Ward (People's Warden), Tom Snyder (Chair of the Stewardship Committee), Roger Thompson, Sue Burns, Ken Singleton, David Angus and Rev. Sue. Meeting on a quarterly basis, the Committee offers support and recommendations to Corporation in terms of budget planning, investment, endowment policies and procedures, stewardship and spending. Rev. Sue is grateful for the work of this committee as we look ahead to the future financial health and stability of the Parish. If you are interested in learning more about the work of this Committee please feel free to speak with one of its members.

Ordination



Sheila Moorey



Deacons are called to work with the Bishop and the priests with whom they serve as heralds of Christ's kingdom. They are to proclaim the gospel in word and deed, as agents of God's purposes of love. They are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people. They are to work with their fellow members in searching out the poor and weak, the sick and lonely and those who are oppressed and powerless, reaching into the forgotten corners of the world, that the love of God may be made visible.

Deacons share in the pastoral ministry of the Church and in leading God's people in worship. They preach the word and bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession. They accompany those searching for faith and bring them to baptism. They assist in administering the sacraments; they distribute communion and minister to the sick and housebound.

Deacons are to seek nourishment from the Scriptures; they are to study them with God's people, that the whole Church may be equipped to live out the gospel in the world. They are to be faithful in prayer, expectant and watchful for the signs of God's presence, as he reveals his kingdom among us. – an excerpt from the Church of England's Common Worship

EDMONTON HAS ALWAYS BEEN MY EARTHLY HOME, the Anglican Church the spiritual basis on which I have built a foundation leading me on a quest to the diaconate.

Many years ago, as a young widow, I moved to my current location in the Oliver area. Almost immediately I felt God's power and the call to Christ Church. I became involved with various committees and out-reach projects, and I was asked to become the coordinator of Christ Church Community Dinner Program. To this day, I love this ministry and continue to be inspired by those in need and those living on the margins of society.

For many years I had heard God calling me and eventually He had my attention. I was prepared to spend more time with Him, to be committed to His service, have my faith grounded in Him and to be part of a visible ministry.

Proudly, I am thankful for the love and encouragement from my children and grandchildren, friends, clergy, and my parish family. Their support of my dedication to faith is yet another of God's great gifts.

On September 14, 2017, I was ordained as a deacon and I will continue my journey as one who serves.

Thank you to all members of the clergy and my wonderful parish family for the love, support, and prayers as I journeyed to the diaconate. I am also grateful for the precious gift of the deacon's stole. As I wear it, I will keep you all in my heart. In Christ's love, Sheila

Canterbury Service



Sue Oliver

CANTERBURY FOUNDATION is a senior's residence in Laurier Heights. Founded by members of St. Timothy's Anglican Church and Christ Church over 40 years ago, this residence has served as home to many members of the community. The connection with Christ Church continues as several of our parishioners call Canterbury home. Rev. Sue is also an honorary board member and chair of the inter-faith volunteer team. She takes a monthly Eucharist service on the third Thursday morning of every month. Rev. Sue treasures leading this group of faithful Anglican men and women in worship, especially as they say the responses from the BCP from memory--and with obvious devotion, gusto and love. There is a time of fellowship and cookies after the service as folks catch up with one another and with those from the community who also attend the service. You would be welcome to join us anytime!

Summer Highlights

A photograph of two elderly people sitting at a table in a room with wood-paneled walls. On the left, a man in a dark suit and glasses is seated in a wheelchair, looking towards the camera. On the right, a woman in a dark patterned dress and glasses is seated in a chair, smiling and holding a piece of paper. A plate of food is visible on the table in front of them.

Nick Trussell

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IT WAS ANOTHER SUMMER OF BBQ'S at Christ Church as we welcomed our neighbours to join us for food and fellowship in our garden. We hosted four small neighbourhood bbqs with the goal of 40 people at each, with the hope that we might then get to know one another as we shared our meal. We definitely met that target, welcoming familiar friends and new, sharing stories and building relationships. These gatherings let Oliver residents nearby the church know that the church is here and open to them. We built some goodwill and are gaining a reputation of a church that is accessible for everyone in the neighbourhood.

We also again partnered with ICPM to serve a delicious burger from St Theresa's food truck to members of the inner city community, as well as to our road construction workers and a city of Edmonton parking enforcer! We certainly brought people together, feeding over 120 people and entertaining them all with Gospel hymns and the drumming of the "Chubby Cree Drummers". The day ended with a round dance and a prayer as we gave thanks for being people on this land together.

I'm already looking forward to next summer and more creative ways to engage our neighbours with an invitation to community at the church.

Thank you so much to our generous donors who gave both money and time to make these gatherings possible and to all those church members and neighbours who came week by week to extend a warm welcome to new friends.



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4



5

1. Gram and Ruth Harle celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary
2. Christ Church tradition continues—eating out of ice-cream troughs!
3. Mom & Baby Group has a summer outing
4. Dominic and Amelia lead the game of tug-of-war at a summer BBQ.
5. Messy Church summer edition—Everly and Charlotte try finger painting.

At a Glance

October

- 1st **YAG: Discipleship & Dinner**
6.00 PM - 8.00 PM
- Lunch & Learn with Micheal Lapsley**
12.00 PM - 2.00 PM
- 6th **Youth Group Event - Corn Maze**
6.00 PM - 7.00 PM
- 13th **Messy Church: Give Thanks!**
5.00 PM - 7.00 PM
- 20th **Youth Group Event**
6.30 - 8.30 PM
- 21st **Community Dinner**
5.00 PM - 7.00 PM

November

- 5th **YAG: Discipleship & Dinner**
6.00 PM - 8.00 PM

November cont'd

- 10th **Messy Church: Love the World**
5.00 PM - 7.00 PM
- 17th **Settle A Score Production: "Songs of the Silver Screen"**
7.30 PM
- 18th **Community Dinner**
5.00 PM - 7.00 PM
- 24th **Youth Group Event**
6.30 - 8.30 PM

December

- 2nd **Messy Christmas**
5.00 PM - 7.00 PM
- 3rd **YAG: Discipleship & Dinner**
- 9th **Community Dinner**
5.00 PM - 7.00 PM
- 22nd **Youth Christmas Party!**