

News and events:

Tomorrow 3pm monthly Holy Communion service at St. Paul's Home in Bury.

Our happy birthday wishes to Marian Guillette on Wednesday, Eva Rider on Friday, Anne Bennett, Shirley Lowe, and Myrna Bolduc on Saturday.

Next Sunday services, January 17th. Holy Eucharist in St. Paul's Church hall, Bury at 9:30am with Sunday School available, and St. Peter's Cookshire in the hall of Trinity United Church (just up the hill) at 11:15am. Canon Lynn officiating.

Lectio Divina on Tuesdays from 9 to 9:55 a.m. in the Upper Room at St George's Church, Lennoxville. This is an open group for anyone who would like to enter holy silence and listen for God speaking in your life.

January 17 – 24, 2016 Week of Christian Unity - Ecumenical Bible Study / Partage biblique, Saturday, January 16 at 4 pm at Plymouth Trinity Church (380, rue Dufferin, Sherbrooke) Musical Festival / Chorale oecuménique et festive. Sunday, January 17 at 2:30 pm at Paroisse Notre-Dame de Protection (2050, rue Galt Est, Sherbrooke) Christian Unity Service / Célébration de prière pour l'unité chrétienne. Sunday, **January 24 at 2 pm at St. George's Anglican Church** (84, rue Queen, Lennoxville)

Thursday, January 21st St George's Church Hall, Lennoxville – **Third Thursday soup lunch.** Your choice of three delicious homemade soups, delectable dessert, buns, cheese, tea, coffee and juice. Donations in support of the Deanery Refugee Fund welcomed.

Wednesday, February 3rd, 5:15 - 6:45pm St Paul's Church, Bury - Messy Church. Our theme will be the baptism of Jesus with story-telling, crafts, worship, and dinner provided. All families with children are welcome, but please let us know if you are attending so that we know how many places to set at the table and how much food to prepare. For more information about Messy Church, please contact lynn@dillabough@gmail.com

Saturday, February 13th, 11:30am - 1:00pm Valentine Luncheon at St Anne's, Richmond. Come and celebrate Valentine's Day with our annual luncheon. \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. There will be a bazaar table as well as door prizes and a raffle. We would love to see you! **See more on page 4...**

Sentence: A voice came from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son with whom I am well pleased." *Matthew 3.17*

Collect: Eternal Father, who at the baptism of Jesus revealed him to be your Son, anointing him with the Holy Spirit, keep your children, born of water and the Spirit, faithful to their calling; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

- We pray for God's people throughout the world; for Dennis, our Bishop, Lynn, our Priest, Coadjutor Bishop-elect Bruce, and for all in leadership, both lay and ordained. Grant them the gifts of wisdom and courage as they lead the church.

- In our Diocesan Fellowship of prayer, we pray for the Parish of New Carlisle & New Richmond, for St. Andrew's, New Carlisle, St. James', Hopetown, and St. Mary Magdalene, New Richmond, for The Rev. Nicholas Forte, The Rev. John LeGresley and Lay Readers Cyrus Journeau and Kenneth Ward. We pray for our Companion Dioceses of Moray Ross and Caithness in Scotland and Bishop Mark Strange, and Bujumbura in Burundi and Bishop Eraste Bigirimana.

- In the Provincial Prayer Cycle, we pray for Bishop Ron Cutler and Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Australia, for The Most Revd Philip Leslie Freier, Archbishop of Melbourne & Primate of Australia.

- In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for Christian faith communities in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Yemen, Iran, and Iraq. We pray for peaceful relationships between different tribes, religions and ethnic groups; for those who come from other countries to work, and are separated from their families; for clean water for those who thirst in the desert; for women, who have far fewer opportunities for education and employment than do men; for those who are persecuted for their faith; for healing for wounded bodies and crushed spirits caused by conflict and strife; for Muslims who make the pilgrimage to Mecca, that they might be safe during their devotion; for the grieving, the families torn apart, the homes destroyed, the businesses no longer functioning; for an end to terrorism, lawlessness, and state oppression; and for International peace-keepers and monitors of treaty obligations.

- We pray for our families, friends, and communities; and we ask blessings for Marian Guillette, Eva Rider, Anne Bennett, Shirley Lowe, and Myrna Bolduc on their birthdays.

- We pray for healing and comfort all who are sick or suffering in any way, especially for Joan Dougherty, Robert Coleman, The Ven. Robert Bryan, and Dufferin Annesley.

- We pray for the Syrian refugees arriving to make a new home in Canada; we pray for a world of peace and justice for all. **Amen.**

More News & Events...

Sunday January 10th & Sunday January 24th, 1:30 - 4:00pm St Anne's, Richmond - "The Walking Christians" Youth Group. All high school aged youth are welcome to attend. Please contact lynn@dillabough@gmail.com for more information.

Every Tuesday - Wales Home, Richmond -Bible Study on the book of Luke from 1:30 – 2:30. All are welcome to this bible study in the 4th floor living room at the Wales Home. All materials are provided. Just bring a bible. We now have several people attending who are not residents of the home, so please feel free to join us any time. It may be a good opportunity to visit friends while you are there. Sometimes transportation from Lennoxville can be provided. Please contact lynn@dillabough@gmail.com if you would like a drive or any other information.

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah...For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.⁵For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you. *Isaiah 62:1-5*

Psalm 36:5-10 BAS page 748

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians...Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed.²You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak.³Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit,⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses. *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John...On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.²Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding.³When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."⁴And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come."⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."⁶Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons.⁷Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim.⁸He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it.⁹When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom¹⁰and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now."¹¹Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. *John 2:1-11*

Short Reflections: In 1 Corinthians 12:2-3 Paul presents a contrast between the Corinthians' former and current spiritual realities. Formerly as pagans they were misled to worship speechless idols. Now, however, their Spirit-inspired speech is quite different. God's Spirit would never empower anyone to declare, "May Jesus be damned." Rather, the Spirit empowers the saving confession, "Jesus is Lord!" In this way, Paul reminds his Corinthian audience that the primary work of the Holy Spirit is to create faith whose principal pronouncement is the lordship of Jesus. Hence no believer should feel that the Holy Spirit is not at work in

them. One cannot believe apart from the direct, empowering work of the Holy Spirit. In vs. 4-6 Paul constructs three parallel sentences highlighting allotted diversity flowing out of divine unity. Each verse opens with the same Greek word meaning "varied allotments" as he emphasizes how the triune God works in multiple ways. The first diverse allotments of the Spirit involve gifts. For Paul these diverse gifts flow directly out of God's grace. Thus one cannot claim them as their own possession or a product of their own innate talents. They always remain divine grace-gifts.

God chose a small village in a tiny, insignificant country for the Son's incarnation. This is precisely where Jesus begins his pastoral work, a small village, in order to communicate this message: big is not a synonym of great, small is not interchangeable with insignificant. The Nazarene put Cana on the map!

The liberating news in the gospel reading is that the Reign of God has gotten rid of hierarchies. "Epiphany" is the manifestation of "one of us," a Nazarene who attends weddings, who celebrates life in togetherness. Jesus is showing us God's glory, God's sense of humor, God's nearness, mingling. God is not an absentee landlord, the metaphysical god of the philosophers, the never-present father. No, Jesus will never say we are "too close for comfort."

Chuckles: My daughter-in-law Alma and grandson Eddy were digging for fishing bait in my garden.

Uncovering a many-legged creature, Eddy proudly dangled it before his mother.

"No, honey, he won't do for bait," his mother said. "He's not an earthworm."

"He's not?" Eddy asked, his eyes wide. "What planet is he from?"

A pastor is walking down the street one day when he notices a very small boy trying to press a doorbell on a house across the street. However, the boy is very small and the doorbell is too high for him to reach.

After watching the boy's efforts for some time, the pastor moves closer to the boy's position. He steps smartly across the street, walks up behind the little fellow and placing his hand kindly on the child's shoulder leans over and gives the doorbell a solid ring. Crouching down to the child's level, the pastor smiles benevolently and asks, "And now what, my little man?"

To which the boy replies, "Now we run!"

One Spring afternoon, I came home to find two little girls on the steps of my building. Both were crying hard, shedding big tears. Thinking they might be hurt, I dropped my briefcase and quickly went over to them. "Are you all right?" I asked.

Still sobbing, one held up her doll. "My baby's arm came off," she said.

I took the doll and its disjointed arm. After a little effort and luck, the doll was again whole.

"Thank you," came a whisper.

Next looking into the tearful eyes of her friend, I asked, "and what's the matter with you, young lady?"

She wiped her cheeks. "I was helping her cry," she said.

A census taker walked up to a woman who was sitting on a porch. After introducing himself, he said, "How many children do you have?"

The woman answered, "Four."

The census taker asked, "May I have their names, please?"

The woman replied, "Eenie, Meenie, Minie, and George."

Confused, the census taker said, "May I ask why you named your fourth child 'George'?"

With a broad smile, she answered, "Surely, because we didn't want any Moe."

