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The Rev'd Canon W. Lynn Dillabough may be reached at 819-239-6902 or lynn@dillabough@gmail.com. If you would like a pastoral visit, please contact Jane Bishop at 819-887-6802 or Canon Lynn.

News and events:

Our happy birthday wishes to Donald Cooper tomorrow and to Shelley Jacklin on Saturday. **Our congratulations and best wishes for a happy anniversary** to Leland and Anne Bennett on February 4th.

5th Sunday, January 31st Deanery service at 10:30am in St. George's Lennoxville followed by a potluck lunch. **There will be no services in our local churches and there will be no bulletins made.** The RCL readings for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany are: Jeremiah 1:4-10; Psalm 71:1-6; 1 Corinthians 13:1-13; Luke 4:21-30

Our next Sunday services, February 7th, Service of the Word 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 at 11:15am led by Jane. Canon Lynn away for studies. There is an **Evensong service at St. George's Lennoxville** at 4pm. Coadjutor Bishop-elect Bruce Meyers will be guest preacher.

Sunday, February 21st St. Peter's Cookshire will hold their annual Vestry Meeting after the regular service of Holy Eucharist at approximately 12:15pm. There will be a potluck lunch so please plan to stay for lunch and the meeting.

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.

This afternoon, January 24, Week of Christian Unity ends with an ecumenical service **at 2 pm at St. George's Anglican Church** (84, rue Queen, Lennoxville)

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 **See more at the bottom of page 4...**

Sentence: The Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor and release to the captives. *Luke 4.18*

Collect: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call; 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 la Paroisse de Tous les Saints, for The Ven. Pierre Voyer, The Rev. Michel Royer and Lay Reader Evariste Ntakirutimana and Jean Pascal Sarthou. 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 David Edwards of the Diocese of Fredericton; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil, for The Most Revd Francisco De Assis Da Silva, Primate of Brazil & Bishop of South-Western Brazil

- In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for Christian faith communities in Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Western Sahara, and Tunisia. We pray for an end to armed attacks and clashes in Libya; for an openness that recognizes and values differences, especially among religious faiths; for children and youth, who comprise more than half the population of these countries; for those who must live with the presence and impact of landmines, particularly in Libya and for those who risk their lives to cross the sea for entry into Europe.

- We pray for our families, friends, and communities; and we ask blessings for Donald Cooper and Shelley Jacklin on their birthdays and for Leland and Anne Bennett on their anniversary.

- 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.**

A Prayer for Burundi: For the beautiful but poor country of Burundi, we pray dear Lord. For the population living in fear and dread, afraid of the unknown and the uncertain, we ask for peace. For those fleeing, we pray for safety, freedom from disease and famine and for the security that they may return home. For those seeking power through the use of violence that they would stop and seek resolution through non-violence. For the surrounding countries that they may remain at peace, broker justice and reconciliation. Enable an end to violence so that Burundi may become a beacon of hope rather than a place of fear and death. We ask these things in the name of Him who carried all our human failings on the cross, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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!

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.

A Reading from the Book of Exodus...²⁹Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God.³⁰When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him.³¹But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them.³²Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the Lord had spoken with him on Mount Sinai.³³When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face;³⁴but whenever Moses went in before the Lord to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded,³⁵the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him. *Exodus 34:29-35*

Psalm 99 BAS page 837

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians...¹²Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness,¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside.¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside.¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds;¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed.¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. ⁴Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.²We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God. *2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke...²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray.²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white.³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him.³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem.³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with him.³³Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah" —not knowing what he said.³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud.³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. (³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him.³⁸Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child."³⁹Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him.⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not."⁴¹Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here."⁴²While

he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³And all were astounded at the greatness of God.) Luke 9:28-36 (37-43a)

Short Reflection: While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!"

When the Israelites were freed from Pharaoh's hand, and they were wandering in the wilderness, God's Presence stayed with them in visible way: a pillar of fire by night, and a pillar of cloud by day. When they got scared, hungry, thirsty, and they needed to find God—all they needed to do was look to the cloud. When Moses climbed Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God, a cloud descended upon the mountain, obscuring it. The people looked up, and they could no longer see Moses, nor what was transpiring. When God instructed the Israelites to construct a portable Tabernacle, God filled the tent with his Presence in the form of a cloud. And, later, when Solomon built the Temple, once again a cloud filled the sanctuary. God is a mystery. God's Presence is enveloped in mystery.

In fact, coming into God's Presence isn't like downloading a set of search results. It's like entering a thick cloud, where everything is obscured. Distorted. Colorless. Disorientated. But, there, in the midst of the cloud is the Presence of God who has come to be with you. Moses came down from the clouded mountain with his face radiant—changed. Because it's in the cloud that we're changed. Peter, James, and John are changed on that mountain—forever. And, not because they learned lots of fun-filled facts. In reality, they probably descended with more questions than answers. But, like Moses, they met the Living God. And, *that's* what changes us. That's what alters the course of our lives. And, as Christians, that's what we're all about: being in God's Presence.

So when the cloud descends atop the mountaintop with Jesus, Peter, John and James...we shouldn't be left surprised at what's happening. The Presence of God is enveloping them, as the Presence of God has done time and time again to God's faithful people. God's Presence manifest as a cloud says something about God. Clouds don't bring *more* clarity, they obscure. They hide. In this sense they remind us of the mystery of God. And, for faithful Christians that's no different with our relationship to God. We want to know things about God. We want to know how to relate to God. We want to know how this story applies to our life.

Chuckles: A busload of politicians was driving down a country road when, all of a sudden, the bus ran off the road and crashed into a tree in an old farmer's field. The old farmer, after seeing what had happened, went over to investigate. He then proceeded to dig a hole to bury the politicians.

A few days later the local sheriff came out, saw the crashed bus, and asked the old farmer where all the politicians had gone.

The old farmer said he had buried them.

The sheriff asked the old farmer, "Were they all dead?"

The old farmer replied, "Well, some of them said they weren't, but you know how them politicians lie."

A Brit, a Frenchman, and a Russian are viewing a painting of Adam and Eve frolicking nude in the Garden of Eden.

"Look at their reserve, their calm," muses the Brit. "They must be British."

"Nonsense," the Frenchman disagrees. "They're naked, and so beautiful. Clearly, they are French."

"No clothes, no shelter," the Russian points out, "they have only an apple to eat, and they're being told this is paradise. They are definitely Russian."

