

**The Rev'd Canon W. Lynn Dillabough** may be reached at 819-239-6902 or [lynnndillabough@gmail.com](mailto:lynnndillabough@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 Anne-Marie Dubeau, Sandra Morrison, and Wanda Sylvester tomorrow, and Joe Coates on Friday.

**Next Saturday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm St George's Church Hall, Lennoxville – Deanery Council meeting.**

All members of the Deanery Council are requested to attend this meeting. You are a voting member of the Council if you attended the last synod. At this meeting the Rural Dean, Secretary and Treasurer will be elected. The current officers are willing to continue, but these are elected positions so others are welcome to put their names forward. The Rural Dean must be a member of the Deanery Council, but the Secretary and Treasurer do not need to be. Please send nominations to Ruth Sheeran as nominations will not be received from the floor. The meeting is open to all interested members of the Deanery.

**Our next Sunday services, February 21<sup>st</sup>, Holy Eucharist** with Canon Lynn 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.

**February 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Tuesdays, February 16 – March 22, 9:00 – 10:00 am** St George's, Lennoxville – **Six Week Lenten Reflection** Group. All are welcome for an hour of quiet reflection on the lectionary readings for Lent. We will use the method of Lectio Divina to listen for God's Word speaking in our lives. All materials are provided and there is no need to sign up. Please come when you can. It is cold outside, but this group is warm and welcoming. If you have any questions, please contact [lynnndillabough@gmail.com](mailto:lynnndillabough@gmail.com)

**Sunday February 14 and 21, March 13 and 20, 1:30 - 4:00pm** St Anne's, Richmond - "The Hatless Christians" Youth Group. All high school aged youth are welcome to attend. Please contact [lynnndillabough@gmail.com](mailto:lynnndillabough@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.

**Sentence:** *We shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God. Matthew 4.4*

**Collect:** Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; 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, Fred our Primate, 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 our Companion Dioceses of Moray Ross and Caithness in Scotland and Bishop Mark Strange. We also pray for our other Companion Diocese of Bujumbura in Burundi and Bishop Eraste Bigirimana.

- In the Provincial Prayer Cycle, we pray for the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario, for Archbishop Colin Johnson and the Provincial Council; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Church of the Province of Central Africa, for The Most Revd Albert Chama, Archbishop of Central Africa & Bishop of Northern Zambia.

- In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for Christian faith communities in Belgium, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. We pray for tolerance and mutual respect between the Flemings and Walloons in Belgium; for drug users and those who sell drugs, that they may find comfort and strength in God instead of substance abuse; for the church's vitality to attract once again those who have lost interest in the faith; for the hundreds of asylum seekers at the borders, who are turned back to where they came from without exception, and who are deported without any hope of a better future; for a healthy and open discussion between those who believe and those who don't, between those born in these countries and those who came later, so that people don't let themselves be tempted to develop racial prejudices; for people to respect each other's identity; for neighbours to live in peace with one another instead of treating each other with indifference and suspicion.

- We pray for our families, friends, and communities; and we ask blessings for Anne Marie Dubeau, Sandra Morrison, Wanda Sylvester, and Joe Coates 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, Dufferin Annesley, and Sandra Hurd.

- We pray for those affected by the Zika virus, the many babies born with encephalitis and their parents; we pray for the Syrian refugees making a new home in Canada; we pray for a world of peace and justice for all. **Amen.**

**More News & Events con't from page 1... Education for Ministry - Year One: September 2016 until June 2017** Beginning in September, there will be an opportunity for new participants from the deanery to begin the Education for Ministry program. Now is the time to start thinking about this. EfM is a four-year program of theological education for lay people. The commitment is high, but the rewards are many as you learn to reflect theologically on your own life and on the world in which we live. First year involves an intensive study of the Old Testament scriptures. The following three years are on the topics of: New Testament, Church History, Theology, Ethics, and Ecumenism/Inter-Faith Dialogue. All years have a strong component of practical theological reflection. In many dioceses this is the standard formation program for lay readers, but anyone seeking greater maturity in their faith will find the program enriching. Canon Lynn Dillabough is the registrar in the Deanery and co-mentors the program with the Rev. Ruth Charleau. You may contact her if you would like any more information. [lynnndillabough@gmail.com](mailto:lynnndillabough@gmail.com).

**A Reading from the Book of Genesis...**After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”<sup>2</sup>But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”<sup>3</sup>And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”<sup>4</sup>But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”<sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”<sup>6</sup>And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”<sup>8</sup>But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”<sup>9</sup>He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”<sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two.<sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.<sup>18</sup>On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18*

### **Psalm 27 BAS page 735**

**A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians...**<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.<sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.<sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.<sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved. *Philippians 3:17-4:1*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke...**<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.”<sup>32</sup>He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.’<sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.”<sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!<sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’” *Luke 13:31-35*

**Short Reflections:** Abram is suffering from tunnel vision, although he is a spirit filled man who is devoted to God, Abraham’s vision is only focused on what is immediately in front of him. Abraham hasn’t yet submitted to God’s will and allowed God to open his eyes to see the effects of God unending love and possibility. Abraham’s myopia leads him to focus on the fact that he is childless and what he currently owns.

Thus, God’s promise of offspring that would number the stars of the sky and ownership of vast amounts of land is beyond his human understanding. But this is the crux of the passage; Abraham is still walking by sight and not by faith. Submitting to God’s will necessarily means that we must also place full trust and faith in the Lord. The perfect and complete cure to human spiritual myopia is faith in the abundance grace of the Holy Trinity.

Paul, formerly chief persecutor now converted chief advocate for Christians offers a warning to “enemies of the cross of Christ”. That is, if you place your minds on earthly things, your glory will be shame and destruction. Saint Paul, to the members of the church in Philippi draws a divisive line between earthly gains and heavenly reward. The citizenship of value is not on earth but in heaven with our Lord of Saviour Jesus Christ. The busyness of this world dictates that we are wrapped in trying to assert, redefine or identify the role in the communities in which we live. We assert our identity through citizenship, community, social groups, religion, family and friends. Our membership in these various groups drives our earthly existence daily. How often do we consider what it takes to acquire and maintain membership in heaven?

George Webb in his hymn *Stand up Stand up for Jesus* was persuasive when he wrote, “from victory unto victory his army shall he lead, till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed”. In our gospel reading today, Jesus Christ faces familiar foes in the Pharisees. Even though Jesus is performing miracles to the benefit of the community, the religious elite wants no part of it or him. In response Christ is resilient, defiant and brave as he insists that God’s work is paramount to any request or law from the Herod or the Pharisees. Jesus’ stance is a reminder that in following him we are called to stand up for justice, love and the welfare of our surrounding communities. This may mean forsaking loved ones/friends, defying societal norms or doing the unpopular. It also means spirit-filled joy, countless blessings and an abundance of grace.

**Chuckles:One New York father sent this note to his 12-year-old daughter’s teacher** explaining why she wasn’t on time for class one day. To Whom It May Concern:

Please excuse Isabelle’s tardiness to school today. In the interest of honesty, I feel it is my obligation to be straight with all of you as to the reason.

Last night Isabelle was lucky enough to see Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band in Albany, and darned if he didn’t play for three and a half hours.

This may not seem like a good excuse but have you ever wondered how many kids would be late – or miss school outright – if God were suddenly to appear?

It’s something like that.

Sincerely, Patrick A. Pipino

**One day, Joe, Bob and Dave were hiking in a wilderness** area when they came upon a large, raging, violent river. They needed to get to the other side, but had no idea of how to do so.

Joe prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength to cross this river." Poof! God gave him big arms and strong legs, and he was able to swim across the river in about two hours, although he almost drowned a couple of times.

Seeing this, Dave prayed to God, saying, "Please God, give me the strength and the tools to cross this river."

Poof! God gave him a rowboat and he was able to row across the river in about an hour, after almost capsizing the boat a couple of times.

Bob had seen how this worked out for the other two, so he also prayed to God saying, "Please God, give me the strength and the tools, and the intelligence, to cross this river."

Poof! God turned him into a woman. She looked at the map, hiked upstream a couple of hundred yards, then walked across the bridge.



