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News and events:

Our happy birthday wishes to Travis Coleman today, Lillie Jacklin and Greg Savage on Tuesday, Diane Bell and Vivian Bell on Wednesday, Lynda Coates on Friday, and Stephen Chapman on Saturday.

Our next Sunday services, February 21st, 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.

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 lynn@dillabough@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 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.

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. lynn@dillabough@gmail.com. See **More News & Events on page 4...**

Sentence: If you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. *Psalm 95.7-8*

Collect: Almighty God, whose Son was revealed in majesty before he suffered death upon the cross, give us faith to perceive his glory, that being strengthened by his grace we may be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory; 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 Trinity Church, Sainte-Foy, for The Reverend Edwin Stretch; for our Companion Dioceses of Moray Ross and Caithness in Scotland and Bishop Mark Strange, and for Bujumbura in Burundi and Bishop Eraste Bigirimana.

- In the Provincial Prayer Cycle, we pray for the Diocese of Montréal, for The Right Rev. Mary Irwin-Gibson; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America, for The Most Revd Sturdie Downs, Primate of IARCA & Bishop of Nicaragua.

- In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for Christian faith communities in Portugal, Spain, Italy, and Malta. We pray for the Vatican, and all who hold positions of power in the Roman Catholic Church; for an end to terrorism and violence; solutions to the conflicts with the Basque region of Spain; for better use of land, sea and air resources; for wisdom and guidance in dealing with immigration issues; for young people, that they may find opportunity in their homelands and renewed hope in Christ; for the immigrants and the victims of human trafficking; for the unemployed; for an end to corruption and crime, so that justice may exist for all people; for continued struggles against intolerance and hatred; and for a renewal of the spirit of the church, amid an increasingly secular and materialistic society.

- We pray for our families, friends, and communities; and we ask blessings for Travis Coleman, Lillie Jacklin, Greg Savage, Diane Bell, Vivian Bell, Lynda Coates, and Stephen Chapman on their birthdays

- We pray for all who are in danger and need: prisoners, captives, and their families, the hungry, homeless, and oppressed, the sick and the suffering, especially for Joan Dougherty, Robert Coleman, The Ven. Robert Bryan, Dufferin Annesley, Eva Rider, Sandra Hurd, Marcia Garcia, Orvil Anderson, and Teressa MacLeod.

- We pray for those affected by the Zika virus, the 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... Bury - Messy Church, Wednesday March 2nd, 5:15-6:45pm.

All families with children 12 and under are welcome for this time of learning and worship. Parents (or grandparents) attend along with their children as we learn about our faith and enjoy a good meal. Storytelling, crafts, worship and dinner with materials and food all provided. We do collect a freewill offering during worship. This month we are learning about how Jesus washed the disciples' feet and taught us all to love each other. If you would like to attend, or would like more information about the program, please contact lynn@dillabough@gmail.com

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Spring Events (with more detail to follow):

- April 3rd, 2pm, Country Gospel Hour in Danville
- April 23rd, 9:30 - 3:30, Pastoral Ministry Workshop, hosted by the Deanery Pastoral Ministry Team
- May 27 - 29, Diocesan Youth Retreat & Deanery Service in Richmond

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah...Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food.³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David.⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.⁶Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. *Isaiah 55:1-9*

Psalm 63:1-8 BAS page 783

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians...I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,³and all ate the same spiritual food,⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ.⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play."⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer.¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall.¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. *1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke...At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?"³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?"⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?'"⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'" *Luke 13:1-9*

A Short Reflection: In Isaiah verses 6-7 call the people to repentance. Such a call may seem strangely placed in this chapter, but it signals again the openness of God for the future of his people. In verses 3b-5, the Lord has announced the plan for his people; verses 6-7 stand as an open invitation to those who desire to participate. Even for the wicked and the unrighteous, there is hope. If they return to him, he freely forgives. They too will be included in this work of God.

The statements of God given in verses 8-9 no doubt anticipate questions that may result from the word from the Lord. What happened to the Davidic line and the promises to them? How can the Davidic covenant be given to the servants? How can God allow the wicked and the unrighteous to be a part of this new work? The response is found in the affirmation that God's thoughts are not human thoughts, nor are human ways God's ways. Such verses are often taken out of context and applied to a myriad of circumstances, but here the meaning is rather straightforward. What may appear altogether unlikely may in fact be the faithfulness of God to his own plans and purposes.

The themes in Isaiah reflect the overall thrust of Lent. In some sense, Lent is an invitation to thirst. Those who truly thirst and who truly hunger for God and the ways of God (Matthew 5) understand this invitation. The invitation, though, is to do more than simply drink from the waters (verse 1), but it is to participate in the work of God. It is a work directed at more than simply the interior life, but a work that begins in the interior and has implications for all of God's world (verse 5).

Lent calls us to "seek the Lord" and to "call upon him" (verse 6). Lent is an invitation and a reminder that this surprising work of God is open to us all -- wicked and unrighteous alike -- if we will return to the God who abundantly pardons. - W. Dennis Tucker, Jr

Chuckles: A 4-year-old boy was asked to say grace and give thanks before the Christmas dinner. The family members bowed their heads in expectation. He began his prayer, thanking God for all his friends, naming them one by one. Next he thanked God for Mommy, Daddy, brother, sister, Grandma, Grandpa, and all his aunts and uncles. After that he began to thank God for the food. He gave thanks for the turkey, the dressing, the fruit salad, the cranberry sauce, the pies, the cakes, even the Cool Whip. Then he paused, and everyone waited--and waited--and waited. After a very long silence, the young fellow looked up at his mother and asked, "If I thank God for the broccoli, won't he know that I'm lying?"

A journalist was assigned to the Jerusalem bureau of his newspaper. He got an apartment overlooking the Wailing Wall. After several weeks he realized that whenever he looked at the wall he would see an old man praying vigorously. The journalist wondered whether there was a story here so he went down to the wall, introduced himself and said: "You come every day to the wall. What are you praying for?" The old man replied: "What am I praying for? In the morning I pray for world peace, then I pray for the brotherhood of man. I go home, have a glass of tea, and I come back to the wall to pray for the eradication of illness and disease from the earth." The journalist was taken by the old man's sincerity and persistence. "You mean you have been coming to the wall to pray every day for these things?" The old man nodded. "How long have you been coming to the wall to pray for these things?" The old man became reflective and then replied: "How long? Maybe twenty, twenty-five years." The amazed journalist finally then asked: "How does it feel to come and pray every day for over 20 years for these things?" "How does it feel?" the old man replied. "It feels like I'm talking to a wall."

