

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 Jane Bishop on Tuesday and to Bill Lyon on Wednesday.

Wednesday March 2nd, 5:15-6:45pm in St. Paul's hall, Bury - Messy Church. 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

Our next Sunday services, March 6th, 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

Deanery Grants - Please note that the application deadline for deanery grants has been extended to March 19th. The application and guidelines are attached to this message. Please submit your request to the Rev. Ruth Charleau, the Chairperson of the Committee. Her contact information is included on the application form. To expedite the processing of requests, please make sure that all necessary information is included.

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.

Thursday, May 5th Ascension of the Lord is the date that Coadjutor Bishop-Elect Bruce Myers will be consecrated a Bishop at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in Quebec City. Kay Hartwell is making plans for a bus to travel from Lennoxville to the event. More info will follow as it becomes available. See **More News & Events on page 4...**

Sentence: Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. **Matthew 4.17**

Collect: Father of mercy, alone we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves. When we are discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope; 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 Christ Church, Stanstead, for The Rev. David Hockensmith and layreader David Woodard; 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 Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and the Yukon, for Archbishop John Privett and the Provincial Council; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for the Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo Southern Africa, for The Most Revd Kahwa Henri Isingoma Archbishop of the Congo & Bishop of Kinshasa.

- In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for Christian faith communities in Germany and France. We pray for the struggle to unite east and west in Germany, that the gap between the rich and poor may decrease and that all citizens be treated with justice; for revitalization of the church amid increasing secularism and atheism; for a deepening of inter-religious dialogue; for those who seek to protect the environment and transform the current harmful, energy-intensive lifestyles and economies; for refugees and immigrants who often face discrimination and racism; and for the unemployed and those who face economic uncertainty in the midst of globalization.

- We pray for our families, friends, and communities; and we ask blessings for Jane Bishop and Bill Lyon 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; 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. First year involves study of the Old Testament scriptures. The following three years are on: the New Testament, Church History, Theology, Ethics, and Ecumenism/Inter-Faith Dialogue. All years have a strong component of practical theological reflection. 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. Contact her if you would like more information. 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 Joshua...⁹The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho.¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year. *Joshua 5:9-12*

Psalm 32 BAS page 742

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians...¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. *2 Corinthians 5:16-21*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke...Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him.²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”³So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons.¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them.¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’”²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my

friends.³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’” *Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32*

A Short Reflection: There is an arrogance that comes with believing and proclaiming that God – the God who created the heavens and the earth—loves us. it’s true. In the fullest and most wonderful sense, it’s true. But, it’s arrogance. A holy arrogance. An arrogance born in truth. An arrogance to be accompanied by awe and wonder. There is an *unholy* arrogance though. It’s the arrogance that says that God loves me...but you? They? Those sinners? Hardly. It is this form of arrogance to which Jesus submits the parable that we so often refer to as the Parable of the Prodigal Son. As is often helpfully pointed out by scholars, the parable isn’t centrally about the prodigal, as much as it is about the other son. The son who stayed. The son who was indignant that his father received and celebrated the son who left. This parable was given by Jesus to the religious leaders of his day who were indignant that Jesus associated himself with “sinners.” Those religious leaders assumed that God loved them – of course God loved them – but the “sinners?” I observe that the son-who-stayed, the son-who-pitched-a-fit wasn’t cast into the outer darkness where there was weeping and gnashing of teeth. He was simply compelled to regard his brother as his brother, and celebrate that his brother had returned. For God’s character always receives those who repent and return, no matter what it is that we are turning from. When that returning son is us, we are received and celebrated. When that returning son is someone else, they are also received and celebrated. And we are to be practitioners of holy arrogance, and that sort alone. In awe and wonder that God loves us, and our brothers and sisters, whoever they are and whatever they have done. By Rick Morley

Chuckles: The elderly pastor was searching his closet for his collar before church one Sunday morning. In the back of the closet, he found a small box containing 3 eggs and 100 \$1 bills. He called his wife into the closet to ask her about the box and its contents. Embarrassed, she admitted having hidden the box there for their entire 30 years of marriage. Disappointed and hurt, the pastor asked her, "WHY?" The wife replied that she hadn't wanted to hurt his feelings. He asked her how the box could have hurt his feelings. She said that every time during their marriage that he had delivered a poor sermon, she had placed an egg in the box. The pastor felt that 3 poor sermons in 30 years was certainly nothing to feel bad about, so he asked her what the \$100 was for. She replied, "Each time I got a dozen eggs, I sold them to the neighbours for \$1."

Three boys are in the schoolyard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, they give him \$50." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, they give him \$100." The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon. And it takes eight people to collect all the money!"

