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News and events:

Our happy birthday wishes to Helen Hodge and Wendy Olson today, Myrna Lawrence tomorrow, and to Zachariah Standish on Tuesday.

Friday, March 11, 2016, at 7:00 p.m. in the Bulwer Community Centre celebrate **Irish Night**. Talented local musicians and performers offer an evening of music, singalongs, skits, and more, for all ages, in honour of St-Patrick's Day **Admission:** \$8 (\$4 for children under 12 years). Refreshments available. It's Fun, it's Friendly, and it's Local. **A fundraiser for the Eaton Corner Museum** For more information: Mme. Serena Wintle, 819-875-5210, info@eatoncorner.ca, site web www.eatoncorner.ca

Daylight Saving begins at 12.01am, Sunday the 13th. Please remember to turn your clocks ahead before bedtime on Saturday Night 12th March. Spring - clocks spring ahead Fall - clocks fall back.

Our next Sunday services, March 13th, Liturgy of the Word with Layreaders 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 lynnedillabough@gmail.com

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 ordained 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.

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Sentence: I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him: Father I have sinned against heaven and before you. *Luke 15.18*

Collect: Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world, evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him, 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 the Diocesan Order of Lay Readers, for all Lay Readers; 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 Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, for Bishop Geoffrey Peddle; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of England, for The Most Revd and Rt Hon Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury.

- In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for Christian faith communities in Austria, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Andorra, Monaco and San Marino.

- We pray for our families, friends, and communities; and we ask blessings for Helen Hodge, Wendy Olson, Myrna Lawrence, and Zachariah Standish 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, Maria Garcia, Orvil Anderson, and Teressa MacLeod.

- We pray for peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples. We pray that a ceasefire in Syria may become permanent. **Amen.**

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Wednesday, February 24 - March 30, 6:00 pm St George's Church, Lennoxville - The Nicene Creed: What Does the Church REALLY Believe? A six weeks course on the Nicene Creed led by the Archdeacon will be held on the Wednesday Evenings in Lent. This course is particularly suitable for those of mature years considering preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. It is also suitable for those interested in the theology and philosophy of foundational Christian thought. Participants need not be Christians but it is for all those who are interested in what the Church REALLY believes as opposed to what most people THINK it believes. Conversation will take part over a Lenten soup supper.

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...¹⁶Thus says the Lord, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:¹⁸Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old.¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.²⁰The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise. *Isaiah 43:16-21*

Psalm 126 BAS page 885

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians...If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith.¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 3:4b-14*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John...Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him.³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said,⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?"⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.)⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me." *John 12:1-8*

A Short Reflection: "No one has ever said it but how painfully true it is that the poor have us always with them." – Hector Hugh Munro

This is Spikenard Sunday. The perfume Mary used to anoint Jesus' feet was spikenard (see Greek below). Lazarus, whom Jesus raised from the dead, was present at this dinner party. The stench of death that once lingered over the house is now replaced by the fragrance of love and devotion. Not just any aroma. This is the really good stuff. Judas says it could have been sold for almost a year's wages (see Greek below) (John 12:5). Judas, being a thief, deceptively says he wanted to give the money to the poor. Jesus dismisses this idea by saying we will always have the poor with us, but we will not always have him. This does not mean

that he did not care for the poor. His whole life tells us the contrary. The point of this passage is that Jesus is going to die. Jewish teaching places honouring the dead over almsgiving. So let Mary anoint the body for burial (John 12:7). We in our society may indeed respect the dead but we try to make them cosmetically pleasant, and keep our distance. (see *The Denial of Death* by Ernest Becker) Death can be down and dirty as Jesus' death was. We as Christians are to die with Jesus. We can do this by going to the rough place where people are dying emotionally because of loneliness and neglect. An example of this is Mother Teresa of Calcutta who died among the poor many times before her body died. We may wonder how we could possibly be like Mother Teresa. We can. Mother Teresa once said for us not to come to India. Just go next door she advised. People now days may not use the perfume of spikenard any longer. But we can metaphorically bring spikenard to our neighbor. A very practical suggestion is that we might in our own town volunteer for hospice or bring food to families of the bereaved.

Greek: The Greek word used in John 12:3 is best translated "spikenard." It has a musky odor. It is made from dry roots and young stems of the East Indian plant *Nardostachys jatamansi*. In ancient days it was used for perfume. In John 12:5 Judas says the one pound of this perfume could have been sold for 300 denarii. A denarius was a day's wage. Therefore the perfume was worth almost a year's wage. – Bob Eldan

Chuckles: One rainy afternoon I was driving along one of the main streets of town, taking those extra precautions necessary when the roads are wet and slick. Suddenly, my son Matthew spoke up from his relaxed position in the front seat. "Mom, I'm thinking of something."

This announcement usually meant he had been pondering some fact for a while and was now ready to expound all that his seven-year-old mind had discovered. I was eager to hear.

"What are you thinking?" I asked.

"The rain," he began, "is like sin. And the windshield wipers are like God, wiping our sins away."

After the chill bumps raced up my arms, I was able to respond, "That's really good, Matthew." Then my curiosity broke in. How far would this little boy take this revelation?

So I asked, "Do you notice how the rain keeps on coming? What does that tell you?"

Matthew didn't hesitate one moment with his answer. "We keep on sinning and God just keeps on forgiving us."

There's a little fellow named Junior who hangs out at the local grocery store. The manager doesn't know what Junior's problem is, but the boys like to tease him. The boys say he is two bricks short of a load, or couple fries short of a happy meal.

To prove it, sometimes the boys offer Junior his choice between a nickel and a dime. He always takes the nickel, they say, because it's bigger.

One day after Junior grabbed the nickel, the store manager got him off to one side and said, "Junior, those boys are making fun of you. They think you don't know the dime is worth more than the nickel. Are you grabbing the nickel because it's bigger, or what?"

Junior said, "No sir, you see if I took the dime, they'd quit doing it!"

The hardness of butter is directly proportional to the softness of the bread.

Bills travel through the mail at twice the speed of checks.

