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The Ven. Dr. Edward Simonton may be reached at 819-679-9957 or edwardsimonton@gmail.com He will be away all of the month of July. If you would like an event put into the bulletin or a pastoral visit, please contact Jane Bishop at 819-887-6802.

News and events:

Please note there will be no bulletin next week, July 31st. This is a 5th Sunday and a Deanery HE service will be held in St. Barnabas Church, North Hatley at 10:30 am with The Ven. Richard Salt officiating. A potluck lunch will follow. All local churches will be closed. **Also on July 31st at 2:00pm St. John's Cemetery, Brookbury** will have their annual Flower Service. All are welcome.

During the summer as we travel to our one-point parish services, please consider writing your name on your offertory envelope so that if you wish it to go to your own regular church (which is perfectly fine) it can be easily identified and given to your treasurer at the end of service. The churches do not all use the same number system and may not recognize you or your church and therefore will be unable to give you an official receipt at year's end. (This is also very acceptable at all Deanery services but you must indicate your name and your church for which your offertory is to go.) Thanks for your help.

Our condolences to the family of the faithful departed Verna Westgate, to Norma (John), Ilah (Bruce), Linda (Leslie), and to all the loved ones.

Our best wishes for a happy birthday to Canon Ron West on Tuesday, Serena Wintle next Sunday, Pat West on August 4th, Bryan Coates on the 5th, and Robyn Parsons Jacklin and Peyton Lafond on the 6th.

Our congratulations and best wishes for a happy anniversary to Garnet and Sandra Morrison on Aug. 3rd and to Mike and Cathy Goddard on Aug. 5th.

Our next Sunday, August 7th, our one-point parish service will be in St. Peter's Church, Cookshire at 10:30am. It is The Fraser Family Reunion Sunday and a Baptism for baby, Shawn Roy-Jean, with Holy Eucharist with the baby's visiting grandfather officiating. June Fraser Patterson has agreed to play the organ. Please pray for Shawn Roy-Jean being baptized and for his parents, Ghislain Roy and Marie Gisèle E Jean.

Last Sunday was Bury's Church Heritage Tour organized by the Bury Historical and Heritage Society from 10am-5pm. St. John's Morning Prayer had 28 present and throughout the rest of the day another 52 visited the church. Ed Pedersen, organizer, said 44 participated in the ecumenical service in the former Christ Church, Canterbury. **More News & Events on page 4...**

Sentence: When we cry, "Abba, Father!" it is the Spirit of God bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God. *Romans 8.15, 16*

Collect: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy, increase and multiply upon us your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

This week please pray for:

- **We pray for God's people** throughout the world; for Bishop Dennis, Coadjutor Bishop Bruce, for all clergy, and for those 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 Greater Parish of St. Francis of Assisi, for St. Augustine's, Danville, Holy Trinity, Denison's Mills, Holy Trinity, Kirkdale, and for Lay Reader Marilyn Mastine. We pray for all staff and participants; 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 Cycle of Prayer** we pray for the Diocese of Fredericton and for Bishop David Edwards. In the **Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for The Scottish Episcopal Church, for The Most Revd David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church & Bishop of St. Andrews Dunkeld & Dunblane.

- **In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** we pray for Christian faith communities in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

- **We pray for the faithful departed** Verna Westgate. Rest eternal grant to her, O Lord. And let light perpetual shine upon her. Amen. We pray for Norma, Ilah, Linda, and all the loved ones that they may find strength and comfort in our risen Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

- **We give thanks for** our families, friends, and communities, and we ask blessings for Canon Ron West, Serena Wintle, Pat West, Bryan Coates, Robyn Jacklin, and Peyton Lafond on their birthdays, and for Garnet & Sandra Morrison and for Mike & Cathy Goddard on their anniversaries. We pray for baby Shawn Roy-Jean to be baptized and for his parents, Ghislain and Marie.

- **We pray that God may reveal the light of His presence** to the weak and the sick, that they may be comforted and strengthened, and we pray especially for Joan Dougherty, The Ven. Robert Bryan, Sandra Hurd, Maria Garcia, Wanda Sylvester, Audrey Dougherty, Harris Nugent, and Erwin Watson.

- **We pray for mercy, peace, and justice in the world. Amen.**

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Magog Boat Trip - The Parish of St. Luke's presents an interesting proposal for your consideration.

Are you planning to attend the 150th Anniversary Celebration in Georgeville on Aug. 28th? Would you enjoy making the trip from Magog to Georgeville via a large tour boat? The return trip would be by autobus as the boat has a schedule to maintain. The cost per person would be \$10 with any surplus (after expenses paid) going to the Deanery. Hopefully, sponsors will offset the bulk of the expenditures. In order for this proposal to materialize it is urgent that the planners of this proposal have a showing of interest from parishioners through out the Deanery. If you are interested please reply by e-mail to robert.chapman@sympatico.ca before Friday, July 29th. Further details will follow if sufficient interest is demonstrated. This project has been proposed by Mr. Rene Prince of the Parish of St. Luke. Robert Chapman is the People's Warden of St. Luke's. Should you not have access to e-mail service facilities please call Robert in the evenings at 819 562 2133

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah... The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah. ¹⁰Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom! Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ¹¹What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of fed beasts; I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats. ¹²When you come to appear before me, who asked this from your hand? Trample my courts no more; ¹³bringing offerings is futile; incense is an abomination to me. New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity. ¹⁴Your new moons and your appointed festivals my soul hates; they have become a burden to me, I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵When you stretch out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you; even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood. ¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, ¹⁷learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. ¹⁸Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. ¹⁹If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land; ²⁰but if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword; for the mouth of the Lord has spoken. *Isaiah 1:1, 10-20*

Psalm 50:1-8, 23-24 (BAS page 768)

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews... Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. ²Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. ³By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ⁸By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. ⁹By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old—and Sarah herself was barren—because he considered him faithful who had promised. ¹²Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.” ¹³All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, ¹⁴for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them. *Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke... Jesus said, ³²⁴“Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ³⁵“Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; ³⁶be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. ³⁷Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and

he will come and serve them. ³⁸If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves. ³⁹“But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁰You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” *Luke 12:32-40*

Reflection: All the hopes that the Hebrew prophets had raised about God renewing and restoring this world to the peace and justice and freedom of his merciful reign are focused on the future coming of Christ. In the Gospel reading, Jesus says that “You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour” (Lk. 12:40). He tells us a parable that illustrates what that looks like; a story about servants waiting for their master to return from a wedding banquet. I think we have to assume that this is not just a matter of a night out, but rather this wedding banquet involves a journey, and the servants cannot possibly know the exact day or hour of their master’s return.

Jesus says that those servants will be ready if they are found “waiting” when the master returns. But I don’t think that means that they are just sitting around watching the gate to open. The servants have tasks that need to be performed on a daily basis. And so their “waiting” and their “readiness” involves being “dressed for action” and being “alert.” I think this means that the servants are to continue doing their jobs and taking care of the master’s household. In other words, being “ready,” being “alert” means doing what they have been instructed to do as if the master were right there with them.

We really cannot know when the day will come but Jesus said, “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” That doesn’t mean it will be easy or that we can sit around doing nothing. It means we are called to do what we’ve been instructed to do, and to live in the manner we’ve been taught to live every day, as if the master were already here with us. In one sense he is already with us so we can go about our business, the business of the mercy, peace, freedom, and compassion of God’s kingdom, in the confidence that what we do is pleasing in God’s sight. It seems to me, that’s what it means to be ready. – Alan Brehm

Chuckles: A minister was walking down the street when he came upon a group of boys between 10 and 12 years of age. The boys had surrounded a dog. Concerned lest the boys were hurting the dog, he went over and asked "What are you doing with that dog?"

One of the boys replied, "This dog is just an old neighbourhood stray. We all want him, but only one of us can take him home. So we've decided that whichever one of us can tell the biggest lie will get to keep the dog."

The minister taken aback said. "You boys shouldn't be having a contest telling lies!" He launched into a ten minute sermon against lying, beginning, "Don't you boys know it's a sin to lie," and ending with, "Why, when I was your age, I never told a lie."

There was dead silence for about a minute. Just as the minister was beginning to think he'd gotten through to them, the smallest boy gave a deep sigh and said, "All right, give him the dog."

Following a sermon on lifestyle evangelism one family thought they had better do something to witness to Jesus so they invited neighbours to dinner. At the meal, the hostess was keen to show their neighbours that they upheld Christian standards so she asked 5-year old Johnny to say grace. Johnny said. "I don't know what to say." An awkward pause was followed by a reassuring smile from the boy's mother.

"Well darling," she said, " just say what Daddy said at breakfast this morning."

Obediently, the boy repeated, "Oh God, we've got those awful people coming to dinner tonight"

