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News and events:

Today in St. Peter's Church Cookshire service of Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist, we are celebrating The Transfiguration of the Lord (Aug. 6). We warmly welcome and thank The Rev. MacDonald Jean for presiding at our service. He will be baptizing his grandson, Shawn Roy-Jean, son of Ghislain Roy and Marie Gisèle Jean. We also warmly welcome members of the Fraser family who have returned for their annual visit. Welcome one and all!

The flowers in the church today are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of the Fraser family by the family.

Our best wishes for a happy birthday to Frances Goodwin on Thursday and to Audrey Lowe on Friday.

Our congratulations and best wishes for a happy anniversary to Dennis and Irma Chapman on Wednesday

Did you know that 2017 is a special year for two of our churches? St. Peter's Cookshire will have a 150th anniversary and St. John's Brookbury will have their 175th in 2017. We must soon choose a date(s) and plan how we wish to celebrate. We are open to ideas and dates.

Next Sunday, August 14th, our one-point parish service will be in St. John's Church, Brookbury at 10:30am.

Sunday afternoon of August 14th from 1-5 pm is OLD FASHIONED DAY at the Eaton Corner Museum. See demonstrations and displays of heritage crafts and skills. Watch and talk with expert local craftspeople who still know how to do everything from quilting, embroidery and lace making to basket making, candle making, timber frame construction, and more. Old Time Music provided by Jan Graham and Ronnie Haseltine, horse and wagon rides, tea and homemade scones. Admission \$10, children under 12 free. Parking available on Laberee Road. For more information call Serena Wintle at [819-875-5210](tel:819-875-5210). Please join us for a taste of yesteryear. Visit us on Facebook, or at www.eatoncorner.ca

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Sentence: Watch and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
Matthew 24.42, 44

Collect: Almighty God, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and light of your Church. Open our hearts to the riches of your grace, that we may bring forth the fruit of the Spirit in love, joy, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive 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 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 Suicide Prevention, for The Rev. Cynthia Patterson, Coordinator for Suicide Prevention and Indigenous Ministries. 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 Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, and the Council of General Synod. In the **Anglican Cycle** of Prayer, we pray for The Church of South India (United), for he Most Revd Govada Dyvasirvadam Moderator of CSI & Bishop of Krishna-Godavari.

- **In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle** we pray for Christian faith communities in Canada and the United States. We pray for continued efforts to ensure the rights of all peoples in Canada: First Nations, English and French speaking, and all immigrants, for those who experience poverty, discrimination and lack of opportunity amid great wealth, and for the growing gap between rich and poor, for those affected by terrorist attacks, and for revitalization in the churches and renewed leadership..

- **We give thanks for** our families, friends, and communities, and we ask blessings for Frances Goodwin and Audrey Lowe on their birthdays, and for Dennis & Irma Chapman on their anniversary. We pray for baby Shawn Roy-Jean being 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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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 church (which is perfectly fine) it can be easily identified and given to your treasurer at the end of service. Thanks for your help.

Wednesday, August 24, 7:00 pm – Scottish Settlers Reunion Ceilidh. St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Lennoxville. Gaelic and Scots songs, country music, reading and stories with: Margaret Bennett – well-known Scottish folklorist, and musician. Norman – accomplished Scottish weaver from Vermont. Skip Gorman – popular country singer. Free admission – donations encouraged. 256 Queen Street, Lennoxville, [819-569-3100](tel:819-569-3100) / [819-346-2638](tel:819-346-2638).

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah... Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill.² He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes.³ And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard.⁴ What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes?⁵ And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down.⁶ I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.⁷ For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry! *Isaiah 5:1-7*

Psalm 80:1-2, 8-18 (BAS page 812)

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews...²⁹ By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.³⁰ By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.³¹ By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.³² And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,³⁴ quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.³⁵ Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.³⁶ Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment.³⁷ They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—³⁸ of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.³⁹ Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised,⁴⁰ since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect. ¹² Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,² looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. *Hebrews 11:29-12:2*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke... Jesus said, ⁴⁹ "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!" ⁵⁰ "I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!" ⁵¹ "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!" ⁵² "From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three;" ⁵³ they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law." ⁵⁴ He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens." ⁵⁵ "And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens." ⁵⁶ "You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" *Luke 12:49-56*

Reflection: Most of us have some type of blinders that keep us from seeing the real world around us. We may not want to admit it. We may prefer to think that we have our eyes wide open, that we have a realistic appraisal of life, and we are not hiding from any aspect of the truth. But, truth be told, we all have on some kind of blinders. We interpret the world around us through the lens of our own experience. It's incredibly difficult for those who have never had to wonder where our next meal is coming from to understand what it's like to live in poverty. What we don't understand, we prefer to ignore. The gospel forces us outside our comfort zones and makes us take off our blinders. Jesus says, "Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!" When anyone has the nerve to look at the way things are and say, "this isn't right," it has an unavoidable effect: it divides people. Those who benefit from the status quo will fight tooth and nail to oppose anyone who tries to change things. And they will adamantly keep their blinders firmly in place to avoid having to see the reality of injustice. It seems to me that's the kind of division Jesus was talking about. He didn't retreat from the Gospel of peace; he just realized that the cost of peace is justice. And he warned his disciples that they would face opposition if they followed him in advocating that kind of peace. I think Jesus summed it up pretty well when he insisted that the people who gathered to hear him teach pay attention to more than just the weather. He insisted that they take their own blinders off so they could see that things were not the way God intended. I think that's at least a place for us to start. Whatever our background, whatever our place in life, Jesus challenges us all to take off our blinders and at least *see* the injustice, the poverty, and the suffering that is so prevalent all around us. – Alan Brehm

Chuckles: To make it possible for everyone to attend church this Sunday, we are going to have a special "No Excuse Sunday":

Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in."
There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard.
Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV late Saturday night.
We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I ever came to church."
Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold, and fans for those who say it is too hot.
Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.
Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to church and cook dinner, too.
We will distribute "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those that feel the church is always asking for money.
One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature.
Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.
The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them.
We will provide hearing aids for those who can't hear the preacher and cotton wool for those who think he's too loud!

A minister was walking to church one morning when he passed one of his members working in his garden. "Can't you hear those bells calling you to church?" asked the minister.
"Eh, what's that?" said the member.
"Can't you hear those bells calling you to church?"
"I'm afraid you'll have to speak a little louder!" said the member.
"CAN'T YOU HEAR THOSE BELLS CALLING YOU TO CHURCH?!" shouted the minister.
"I'm sorry," said the member, "I can't hear you because of those darned BELLS!"

