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News and events:

Please note: There will be no church bulletin next Sunday, Nov. 29th.

Our Happy Birthday wishes to Robert Lawrence on Thursday, Vanessa Chapman on Saturday, Cathy Lowe on Dec. 1st, and Grace Jacklin on Dec. 2nd..

Next Sunday, November 29th, The First Sunday of Advent is a Deanery Worship Service at 10:30am in St Paul's Church, Bury. The Rev'd Canon Dr. Patricia Peacock and The Rev'd Canon Ron West, will be co-presiding over the traditional BCP service of Holy Communion; and Mrs. Sandra Gallichon, the organist. There will be a pot-luck lunch downstairs in the hall following the service. Please designate your offering for your home church by using your usual offering envelope. **All open offerings will be contributed to the Deanery Refugee Fund.** All are welcome.

Also on November 29th it's the St Paul's Christmas Tea from 2:00 – 4:00 pm at the Armoury in Bury. This is a fundraiser for St Paul's Rest Home of Bury with lots of opportunities for the purchase of unique and hand crafted Christmas gifts.

Saturday, November 28th, St. George's, Lennoxville Christmas Tea and Bazaar from 1:30-4:30pm.

Wednesday, Dec. 2nd, Messy Church in Bury 5:15 - 6:45pm. The theme this month will be stories of Moses. Families will create a 'parting of the sea' diorama to take home, as well as a book with several stories about Moses. We will learn about exile and return, slavery and freedom, fear and courage. Please register with Canon Lynn so we know how many places to set for dinner.

The 84th Ordinary Synod of the Diocese of Quebec and the Election of a Diocesan Coadjutor Bishop will be held Nov. 26th to Nov. 29th at the Campus Notre-Dame-de-Foy in Saint-Augustin-de-Desmaures, QC

Sunday, December 6th our services are in St. Paul's Bury at 9:30am and in St. Peter's Cookshire at 11:00am Holy Eucharist with Canon Lynn officiating. See **More News and events** on page 4

Sentence: Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the kingdom of our father David that is coming! *Mark 11.9, 10*

Collect: Almighty and everlasting God, whose will it is to restore all things in your well-beloved Son, our Lord and King, grant that the peoples of the earth, now divided and enslaved by sin, may be freed and brought together under his gentle and loving rule; 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, for Lynn, our Priest, and for all who are in leadership, both lay and ordained. Grant them the gifts of wisdom and courage as they lead the church. We pray that God will guide us in our search for a new Shepherd to lead us in the years ahead.

- In our Diocesan Fellowship of prayer, we pray for our upcoming Diocesan Synod and Election of a Coadjutor Bishop. Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the upcoming Synod for the renewal of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honour and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord; we pray for our Companion Dioceses, The Diocese of Moray Ross and Caithness in Scotland and Bishop Mark Strange, and the Diocese of Bujumbura in Burundi and Bishop Eraste Bigirimana.

- In the Ecclesiastical Province of Canada, we pray for the Diocese of Montreal and for Bishop Mary Gibson; in the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Rt. Rev'd John Parkes of the Diocese of Wangaratta, Victoria, Australia.

- In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle we pray for Christian faith communities in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, and Niger. We pray for political and economic stability in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali and Niger, and an end to human rights abuses and slavery in Mauritania; for those who suffer from lack of water and food, particularly in desert regions; for refugees and those whose lives have been formed in the midst of violence and conflict; for an increase in the availability of education and medical care; for the elimination of military force as a means to resolve disputes; for peace and reconciliation between tribes and ethnic groups; for reconciliation in families, in marriages; for an end to abuse against children and women and for the just use of oil resources in Mauritania and Chad so that it shall no longer profit only the few and thus lead to social disturbances.

- We pray for our families, friends, and communities; and we ask blessings for Robert Lawrence, Vanessa Chapman, Cathy Lowe, and Grace Jacklin on their birthdays.

- We pray for healing and comfort all who are sick or suffering in any way, especially for Joan Dougherty and Robert Coleman.

- We pray for the people of France and for all those who are living in any country where terrorists' attacks kill and injure people. We pray for the ones who commit the attacks to stop. We pray for a world of peace and justice for all. **Amen.**

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December 6th Country Gospel Hour in Danville - 2pm. Join "Dave and the Wranglers" for country gospel and bluegrass music on a Christmas theme. The "messy church" children of Danville will be putting on a short play in place of the speakers this month, and Christmas cookies and other goodies will be served in the hall following the service. **All of the offerings collected at this service will be contributed to the Deanery Refugee Fund.** Please contact Marilyn Mastine at m.mastine@hotmail.com for more information.

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah...¹⁴The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah.¹⁵In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.¹⁶In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." *Jeremiah 33:14-16*

Psalm 25:1-9 BAS page 733

A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians...⁹How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you?¹⁰Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. ¹¹Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you.¹²And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.¹³And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. *1 Thessalonians 3:9-13*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke...Jesus said,²⁵"There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves.²⁶People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.²⁷Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.²⁸Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near."²⁹Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees;³⁰as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near.³¹So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near.³²Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place.³³Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.³⁴"Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly,³⁵like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth.³⁶Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man." *Luke 21:25-36*

A Short Reflection: At the center of the reading from Luke for this week is the parable of the fig tree. This parable is not, probably, what we normally think of when we think "parable." There really isn't a story -- no little old lady searching for coins, no sons, or servants, or stewards. Also there isn't the point that is the trademark of the parable. This "parable" is really more of an observation and a warning. It heralds the coming of the Son of Man, calling the listener to have eyes to see the signs, and the good sense to be ready. Jesus tells us that there are signs that indicate the arrival, the advent, the presence, and the power of the Kingdom of God. Like leaves on a fig tree, such signs can show us our redemption, and our Redeemer; this is an important part of what we need to be about as children of that Kingdom: looking for its signs. Luke 21 tells us that people will know fear and that "'Then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and glory." A difficulty, of course, is that there have been, and probably will be more times when there is distress among the nations and the heavens appear to be shaken. How will we know, how long must we wait?

Patience, it seems, may be exactly what is at issue for the fledgling Christian community as it awaits the day of the Lord. The need for patience, endurance, and trust may well have been amplified when to all appearances the promise that "all things have taken place" (verse 32) during that first generation, has proved untrue.

Patience in this life is often the key issue for us as well. Patience in the face of promises yet to be kept; patience in the meantime of enduring illness, broken relationships, and unrealized expectations or hopes; and then more patience after all our patience has run out.

A promise of the parable of the fig tree -- that the Kingdom is near, now -- is a promise that we need to hear regularly. Watch for the signs, Jesus says, and you will see that your redemption is drawing near, and indeed is already near. This is the good news: the kingdom of heaven has come near.

Chuckles: At a Wednesday evening church meeting a very wealthy man rose to give his testimony. "I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I can still remember the turning point in my faith, like it was yesterday: I had just earned my first dollar and I went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. I knew that I only had a dollar bill and had to either give it all to God's work or nothing at all. So at that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today." As he finished it was clear that everyone had been moved by this man's story. But, as he took his seat, a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said: "Wonderful story! I dare you to do it again!"

One of the best examples of how ridiculous government paperwork can be is illustrated by a recent case in Louisiana. A company president was trying to buy some land in Louisiana for a plant expansion, and he wanted to finance this new facility with a government loan.

His lawyer filled out all the necessary forms, including the abstract--tracing the title to the land back to 1803. The government reviewed his application and abstract and sent the following reply:

'We received today your letter enclosing application for your client supported by abstract of title. We have observed, however, that you have not traced the title previous to 1803, and before final approval, it will be necessary that the title be traced previous to that year. Yours truly.' ...

As a result, the lawyer sent the following letter to the government:

'Gentlemen, your letter regarding title received. I note you wish title to be claimed back further than I have done it.

I was unaware that any educated man failed to know that Louisiana was purchased by the United States from France in 1803. The title of the land was acquired by France by right of conquest of Spain. The land came into possession of Spain in 1492 by right of discovery by a Spanish-Portuguese sailor named Christopher Columbus, who had been granted the privilege of seeking a new route to India by Queen Isabella. 'The good queen, being a pious woman and careful about title, took the precaution of securing the blessing of the Pope of Rome upon Columbus' voyage before she sold her jewels to help him.

'Now the Pope, as you know, is the emissary of Jesus Christ, who is the Son of God. And God made the world. Therefore, I believe it is safe to assume that He also made that part of the United States called Louisiana, and I now hope you're satisfied.'

