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St. John's Spirit – Autumn 2018

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FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Recently in worship I asked you “*What is the church for?*” It wasn’t meant to be a trick question, and your responses covered the basics. “Worship”; “Fellowship”; “Community”; “Hospitality”; “Teaching”; “Outreach”. These are all things that you value as a Congregation, and with good reason. By now it should be no secret to you that your enthusiasms in these areas are what drew me to your profile and ultimately led me to accept the call to serve alongside you.

Since coming to St John’s, I’ve been asked (by new friends and old) “What’s your new church LIKE?” I’m happy to be able to tell them that St John’s is hospitable, connected to the community, joyful in Worship and eager to learn and grow together. But I wonder if anyone beyond our Congregation sees us this way? If we are serious about what the Church is for – if we are genuine in our welcoming and diligent in our outreach; if we approach worship with joy and gratitude, and approach teaching and learning with humility; if we have committed ourselves to learn from Jesus and grow together in God’s grace – then we hope that it will be clear to the wider community that the church is just what it ought to be.

But we are up against an unfortunate stereotype that informs public opinion. More and more often these days, the news brings us unfortunate examples of what happens when faith becomes fanatical. We are terrified by those who use their religious beliefs to foster hatred and violence. We have come to fear those who make declarations about what they imagine God condones. People of every faith tradition have learned to be cautious about their beliefs - not because they are bad, but because they have been so often mis-represented. No one understands what the church is for, because the wrong sort of behaviour has ‘convinced’ the world what the church is ‘like’.

We can change that. We get a chance, every day, to show Jesus to the people we meet. The successful and the sceptical; the poor and the prosperous; our neighbours and the folks we know only as faces on the street. We get to live out our hospitality with our outreach programs: grocery hampers, campus care packages, and Project Connect. We can take the lessons we learn in Bible Study and apply them to our view of the world. We can carry the joy and peace we find in Worship out to a world that is desperate for joy and peace.

That is what the church is for; it is a place that equips us to show people that Jesus loves them – that God is for them, and not just for us. When people see that the church is like THAT, we can say that we’ve accomplished something wonderful.

Jeff

SESSION

THANK YOU TO:

- all those who assisted with the kitchen/pantry remodel (prep tasks, cleaning, post tasks, etc);
- Madison Allen for sharing her experiences at Canada Youth; and
- Helen Snortland for music accompaniment during Allison Kapcala's vacation.

Slowly but surely, the Presbytery of Calgary McLeod is adding new ministers to its roll. St. Andrew's Calgary welcomed the Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald as their new Lead Minister at a service of induction in August. And in July, the congregation of Grace Presbyterian Church Calgary extended calls to fill three staff vacancies. One of those positions will be filled by Maren McLean. Maren will be returning west to answer the call to become the associate minister, children and youth at Grace. Watch the bulletin for details on Maren's induction service – likely to be later in the fall.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & OUTREACH

Caring For Each Other In St. John's...

HOSPITAL POLICY – Clergy will only know you're a patient if you register as a Presbyterian when admitted. (*This virtually never happens in Emergency!*) If you're going in to the hospital and would like a visit, please let the Church Office know the date. If you're admitted unexpectedly, have a friend or family member let Jeff or Kim know. Or ask the Hospital Chaplain to visit and tell him to call the Church Office.



Enjoy knitting? There is always someone who could benefit from receiving one of the beautiful shawls and the prayers that are entwined with them. Anyone who wishes to join our faithful knitters, or if you want a Prayer Shawl to gift, ask Lee or Leann. Cost is \$20 which is used to purchase more yarn.

Our Congregational Life committee also makes **PASTORAL VISITS**, and Joyce Miller would be glad to include additional visitors.

... We Can ALL Share In This Essential Ministry!



Thank you for your ongoing support of the **RED WAGON** (Food Hampers) and **LOONIE**



BOOT (Welfare Fund) during the summer months. *The need for assistance has grown immensely, resulting in 45+ more Food Hampers being distributed by August than all of 2017.*

FAITH FORMATION

The next **WOMEN'S GATHERING** (*formerly known as Ultreya*) will be held on Saturday, September 29th at 8:30 AM in Morrow Hall. All women of St John's are welcome to attend.

Stay tuned via the Bulletins and Weekly News on when Bible Study will resume.



This is a note to all parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles or anyone who brings children to St. John's Sunday School!!

It is that time of year again!! The Church's Sunday School is beginning for another year of fun and excitement! Rally Sunday is scheduled for September 9th!

The "Little Blessings" room will be open to those children 4 years and under. There will be supervision, but we would ask that if your child is not toilet trained that an adult remain with them.

There will be Sunday School classes for children in Kindergarten to Grade 7. We will start the year off with something different—from September until Christmas, we will be having our Bible lessons based on ice-cream!! This will be a delicious way for our children to discover that following Jesus is the key to "living a truly sweet life".



CHURCH FAMILY FUN NIGHT: On Saturday, September 29th, we will have a Church Family Fun Night down at Kin Coulee Park – by the band shelter. We will meet from 5:00 –

7:00pm. The food will be provided: hot dogs, chips, drinks, & marshmallows! All you need to do is bring your own chair. There will be a sign-up sheet in Morrow Hall. Come for a time of fun, fellowship, and of course, food!!

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Did you know that Rev. Jeff prints his **SERMONS** before Worship and a copy can be picked up in the Narthex, to follow along while he offers his message.

The next **COMMUNION** will be held on October 7 for Worldwide Communion Day.

CHOIR PRACTICE RESUMES on Sunday, September 9th at 9:00 AM. The Choir is always looking for members to join the group, even if for just short term or special Worship Services. Please contact Pamela Hauser, Choir Director, for more information or if you wish to join the Choir.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

NO CHOICE – A new roof for Taylor Hall! Why now?

When the Building Stewardship Committee and the Financial Stewardship & Administration Committee met last April, one of the items on the Agenda was the roof on Taylor Hall ... it was leaking. Knowing that the roof protects everything under it and that it could only get worse, and with Session's approval, the FS&A Committee authorized the Building Stewardship people to get quotes from local roofers and to look into any grant money that may be available.

Since Taylor Hall is not part of our historical designation, no money is available from that source. Thanks to Rev. Jeff's efforts, we have been approved for \$10,000 from the *Chisholm Fund of the PCC*. We have just over \$30,000 in the Building Fund – still not quite enough.

The roofer is scheduled to start around mid-September and will be invoicing us on completion. Yes, we can access the Undesignated Fund from which we take any shortage in operating costs. This will reduce this Fund very quickly, something we hope we do not have to do.

The whole point of this notice is that we need further funds. It is okay with our Treasurer if you donate extra funds directly to Building Maintenance or to our Local Budget because increased money in either fund will reduce the pressure on the Living Legacy Fund at the end of the year.

Please Donate where your heart is.



LEADING WITH CARE PROTOCOLS

An important reminder: An Usher will be locking the front (wooden) and 5th avenue (blue) doors at 10:40 AM. The Usher will also do a walk-through of the lower level checking for wayward people. **If you arrive late for Worship** and find the doors locked, please go to the blue 5th avenue door and push the "Kitchen" labelled doorbell. **You may have to wait** until a Sunday School Teacher can let you in. We don't want members locked out but we also have to watch for our children's safety.

Congregants should familiarize themselves with the Procedures for Ushering, Evacuation Protocols, as well as where all the Fire Alarm Pulls are within the Church. The procedures are posted on the Bulletin Boards in the Narthex, outside the Office, in Morrow Hall, and in the Choir Room.

BUILDING STEWARDSHIP

WE'RE RAISING THE ROOF!

In the second half of September, the roof on Taylor Hall is scheduled to be replaced. Some of you may have heard about the leaking we have been having in various locations of the gym this spring. This is a sign the roof system has failed and it is time for replacement. We have an excellent contractor who will be removing all of the old roof pieces right down to the roof structure, install new vapour barrier and insulation to bring the roof up to current R value

standards and install a new two-ply roof that should last us for 30-40 years. Hopefully we will also see a bit better temperature control and comfort in the gym with the added insulation. The construction is expected to last about three weeks, and while the contractor will do their best to ensure it is safe around the building, we encourage you to be aware of construction in progress while the contractor is on site during week days. There will also be added congestion around the building during office hours that may make it a bit more difficult to access.

Your ever vigilant Building Stewardship Committee

ST JOHN'S MEN

The next FALL MEN'S BREAKFAST will be held **Saturday, September 8th, at 8:30 AM**. Time to catch-up with "the brothers" after summer! Invite your friends as well.

Program: the Chaplain at Medicine Hat College will be our Guest Speaker as the fall school term begins. The Rev. Kristy Reimers-Loader (Anglican) serves in this ecumenical ministry position, with support from nine local churches. St. John's has contributed \$4500 annually since 2013, and is committed to 2020. The Presbyterian Church in Canada through the Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod, also provides \$1500 annually. The college Chaplaincy is one part of St. John's outreach and service in our community. Helen Snortland and Dick Bide represent Presbyterians on the MHECM Board. Help us to make Chaplain Kristy welcome, and hear first-hand of her role – and the Christian presence – on the college campus.

Offers of help for cooking and clean-up will be gladly received by Rev. Jeff or Rev. Bob!

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

UPCOMING EVENT: The WOC is planning a one-dish meal take out supper on September 22nd. The meal will consist of ham, potato salad, pickles, corn salad, coleslaw, a bun, and dessert – a good size meal for 10 dollars. These meals are to be prepaid throughout September, either to Brenda MacLean, Joan Cruickshank, or Bev Beresh after Church on Sundays – or to the Church Office during the week.

The meals will be prepared at the church on September 22nd and can be picked up on that

afternoon. If a delivery is needed, a few cars and drivers will be available. More info will be forthcoming in September but keep it in mind and have a night off from cooking supper!!

TWICE TOLD TALES: *Thank you* for supporting this fundraising project for the Women of the Church. The money is used for a "mission" outreach that the WOC choose. Whether soft or hard covered, each book is \$2.



JEWELLERY: The WOC are collecting jewellery to refurbish and sell at Midnight Madness. A Chest sits in the Narthex marked "Jewellery. Your support is greatly appreciated!

EVENTS

A celebration during Worship with a luncheon to follow will be held on **Sunday, September 30th** for the **135TH ANNIVERSARY** of St John's serving in the Medicine



Hat community. Guest preacher will be the Rev David Carter. Archives will be on display. Mark your calendars and plan to connect and re-connect with fellow St John's Congregants. More info will be forthcoming via the Weekly News and Bulletins.

PROJECT CONNECT – Wednesday, October 24

The "8th Annual Project Connect" will fill St John's the fourth week of October. It's a resource fair when people who are marginalized or struggling with the economy, can visit one place and connect with agencies and services offering needed support. St. John's provides free lunch.

Volunteers will be needed for setting up tables on Monday, October 22nd; for food preparation Tuesday, October 23rd; and then at the event itself as greeters, in the kitchen, or serving lunch in Morrow Hall between 9 AM and 3 PM. And finally for clean-up that day and taking down the tables. Many hands are needed for shifts throughout these days – please consider offering a couple of hours! It will be announced in the Bulletin when Volunteer sign-up sheets are posted in Morrow Hall. If you are a baker, we would like home-made cookies to give to each guest as they arrive.