



St. John's Presbyterian Church
 504 – 2nd Street SE
 Medicine Hat, AB T1A 0C6
 Phone: 403-526-4542
 Kim: office@stjohnsmedicinehat.ca
 Jeff: minister@stjohnsmedicinehat.ca
 Web: www.stjohnsmedicinehat.ca

St. John's Spirit – Spring 2018

Inside this issue:

Jeff's Message	1
Courtesies	2
Congregational Life & Outreach	2
Faith Formation, Mission & Witness	2
Christian Education	2
Financial Stewardship & Administration	3
Worship Committee	3
Leading With Care	3
St John's Men	4
Women of the Church	4
Looking Ahead	4

FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

As I write this, Palm Sunday approaches. In worship, we will remember a moment of pure theatre: Jesus descends upon the Capital for the Passover celebrations riding an unbroken donkey to songs of salvation. "Hosanna!" they cry – "Save us!" Salvation takes an unimaginable twist as we move deeper into Holy Week; accusation, arrest and the brutally sudden application of judgement. "Save us!" becomes "Crucify him!" and by Friday the full weight of the power of the state has put an end to dreams of a new kingdom.

Power is like that – strangely attractive, and suddenly unpredictable, but in Jesus' case, we soon learn that power resides not in the smug certainties of those at the head of local government, but in the faithful loving presence of the grace of God. Three days spent in mourning serves as a prelude for great rejoicing, when the love of God triumphs over the power of hatred and death. Jesus resurrection, while a mystery of faith, is also a symbol of the tenacity of God in overcoming our doubts and fears.

In times such as these, when power is so easily and often abused – when the state of the world too often fills us with fear – any signs of fresh hope, or new life should be warmly welcomed. That is the gift that the church offers the community. Our witness ought to encourage those who find themselves beaten down by the powers that be. Our work ought to reflect the hope that is in us – a hope that celebrates a Saviour raised from the dead.

Here at St John's, you have proven to be faithful and consistent witnesses to the good news of Jesus Christ. Your history of community engagement and compassion is an attractive legacy. Your commitment to the hope that is found in the promises of God shines a clear light into a world that can be cold and confusing for those whose hope is lost. It is a privilege to be able to join you in your service to the people of Medicine Hat. May our celebrations in the coming Easter season prove fruitful and joyful as we remember the hope that God offers to all.

Jeff

SESSION

WE JUST WANT TO SAY... **THANK YOU!**

- to the Congregational Life & Outreach Committee for hosting the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Special thanks to Bill Chapman, Lawrence Pudwell, and Ron Webb for flipping the flapjacks;
- to the Worship Committee for conducting the community Lenten Service;
- to Edna Deering and Helen Snortland for doing the Worship Service at River Ridge Seniors Village when Rev. Jeff Lackie was attending meetings in Toronto; and
- to Bev Graham and Phyllis Pudwell for the work they are doing with the archives and pictures to preserve our history.

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE & OUTREACH

PASTORAL CARE

CARING FOR EACH OTHER IN ST. JOHN'S

EASTER ROSES will be delivered to the elderly and shut-ins on March 29th to help them feel a continued connection to the Church. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

HOSPITAL POLICY – Clergy will only know you're a patient if you register as a Presbyterian when admitted. 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. PLEASE, if you hear about another member of St John's in hospital, contact Jeff or Kim. We'd rather hear ten times about the same person than miss them all together!

PRAYER SHAWLS – Enjoy knitting? There is always someone who could benefit from receiving one of the beautiful shawls and the prayers that are entwined with them. If you wish to join our faithful knitters, call Lee at 403-528-8872. If you want a Prayer Shawl to gift, 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 volunteers for visiting.

WE CAN ALL SHARE IN THIS ESSENTIAL MINISTRY!

FAITH FORMATION, MISSION & WITNESS

The next meeting of **ULTREYA** will be Saturday, April 7 at 8:30 AM.

The yearly **PRESBYTERIAN GATHERING** will take place at St. Andrew's Church, Calgary on June 9th with Rev Dr Nancy Cocks as presenter. The discussion is "*I Witness: Speaking up as Mission*". These are always interesting discussions and we hope some folks from St John's will be interested in attending. This gathering is open to both men and women.

Alice Alberta Pearson MacBean SCHOLARSHIP

Any 2018 – Grade 12 Graduates who are planning on attending a College or University this fall and who are members; or a child or grandchild of a member or adherent of St. John's Presbyterian Church may apply for this scholarship. Application forms are available at the Church Office.

2018 **CAMP KANNAWIN** Schedules & Registration are now available at www.campkannawin.ca or check out the poster in Morrow Hall.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The last **FAMILY FUN NIGHT** for this year is on Saturday, April 21st. We will have a Weeny Roast at Kin Coulee Park from 5 – 7 pm, meeting at one of the fire pits close to the playground. The food is supplied, but please bring chairs for your family. Please mark the date and come and have some fun, fellowship, and food!! (*There will be no Family fun Nights in May or June this year.*)

PROMOTION SUNDAY is scheduled for Sunday, June 24th. This is the day that the Sunday School children will lead the Worship Service and will receive their Promotion Certificates. Please mark your calendars and come and support the children of St. John's.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP & ADMINISTRATION

HELP PWS&D RESPOND TO THE ROHINGYA REFUGEE CRISIS

A military crackdown on insurgence has left innocent Rohingya families subject to unthinkable trauma—family members killed and homes and fields set ablaze.

This is not the first instance of violence against the Rohingya. For decades, they have endured severe discrimination and continue to be denied citizenship in Myanmar.

Escalating brutality has forced the Rohingya (over 600,000) from their homes with nothing. Refugees—mostly women, children and the elderly—are pouring into a small region of Bangladesh and settling in miserable shelter conditions with little access to food, medical, and sanitation services.

Additionally, monsoon season is about to start in Bangladesh and there are serious concerns about whether or not the camps—many constructed on hillsides—will be able to survive the rains. Displaced, malnourished, and deeply traumatized, the Rohingya are in need of many necessities for survival.

PWS&D is responding with the *Canadian Foodgrains Bank* to help deliver life-saving food packages containing lentils, oil, sugar, and salt to the Cox's Bazar region of Bangladesh. With partners at the *ACT Alliance*, PWS&D is responding to meet needs for non-food items, shelter, sanitation services, and psychosocial assistance.

As Christians, we are called to respond to the world's pain and despair. Please continue to join with us in supporting relief efforts for Rohingya refugees and continue to pray for an end to hatred and violence in Myanmar.

You can make a donation through your church, by mailing a cheque, donating online, or calling 1-800- 619-7301 Ext. 291. **Please mark your donation "Rohingya Crisis."**



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Do have difficulty hearing? Did you know that Rev. Jeff prints his **SERMON** before Worship and a copy can be picked up in the Narthex, to read along while he offers his message?

The CHOIR is always looking for members to join the team, 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.



LEADING WITH CARE PROTOCOL

An important reminder as per St John's "**Leading with Care Policy**": **An Usher will be locking the front and 5th avenue 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 be diligent about the safety of our children.

All Congregants should **familiarize themselves** with the updated Standard Operating Procedures for Ushers. The procedures are posted on the Bulletin Boards in the Narthex, outside the Office, in Morrow Hall, and in the Choir Room.

Also, all **Congregants should familiarize themselves where all the Fire Alarm Pulls** are within the Church. An updated Evacuation Protocol will soon be printed and posted on the Bulletin Boards, along with the Ushering Procedures.

ST JOHN'S MEN

18 men of St. John's enjoyed a delicious breakfast and meaningful presentation on March 10th by James Smith of the Prairie Gleaners Society (*see prairiegleaners.com*). From the accumulated generosity of participants this year, we were pleased to give a \$100 gift for this unique and very responsible mission project rooted here in South Alberta.

Heads up! The next MEN'S BREAKFAST will be Saturday, May 5, 2018. Our Guest Presenter will be the Chaplain at Medicine Hat College, the Rev Kristy Reimers-Loader (*Kristy preached several times at St. John's during the vacancy last Fall*). St. John's is a significant supporter of the Chaplaincy; thanks to the Riverside Legacy Fund and funds from Presbytery of Calgary MacLeod. St John's is represented on the Chaplaincy Board by Elders, Helen Snortland and Dick Bide.

Rumour has it that on May 5th, Rev. Jeff may have the opportunity to prove his claim to be an excellent cook! You won't want to miss this!

WOMEN OF THE CHURCH

The **FUNDRAISING** committee of the WOC is always trying to think of ways to raise funds for local mission projects as well as our own Church needs. This year, the WOC has decided to put new counter tops in St John's kitchen and pantry. The old counter tops have been there for more than 30 years so this is more of a health concern than aesthetics. Since this is where all the pie making and other reception and meal prep is done, we feel they have to be changed this year. Our kitchen is inspected yearly by the City Health Inspectors and we want to maintain our excellence!

Many of you have seen the coin boxes in morrow hall. Thank you for taking one. There are still some left and we hope they will be picked up soon. Please save your change in them and return them to the Church by the first of June. This is one way you can help us obtain our goals.

Many thanks to all St John's members for your generosity!

It's nearly that time of year again – spring!!! – and St John's is having a **GARAGE SALE!** Please start saving now. Don't throw away any good working junk as it may be someone else's treasure! The date is **April 13th and 14th**—times to be announced later. Small items may be brought in and stored on the stage. This is a major fund raiser for the WOC and we appreciate all your support. Thank you so much!

LADIES, MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! Allison Henders, daughter of Cindy and Michael Henders, has grown up as part of St. John's Sunday School and Youth Group and will be married by Rev. Jeff in June. St. John's ladies want to celebrate with Allison and will be hosting a bridal shower in Morrow Hall on Saturday April 28 at 2 p.m. If you would like to contribute to a gift see Bev Beresh or Joan Cruickshank. Look for a sign-up sheet after Easter, so we know how many to plan for.

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. Please continue to bring us your used books and buy others of your choosing. If you have books to donate, please leave them on a lower shelf in Morrow Hall and they will be shelved for display.

"JEWELLERY, JEWELLERY, JEWELLERY" – The WOC collect jewellery to refurbish and sell at their High Tea and Midnight Madness. A Chest sits in the Narthex marked "Jewellery" so you can bring it with you to Church and place it in the box as you go into the Sanctuary. Or drop it off during Office Hours. *Your support is greatly appreciated!*

LOOKING AHEAD EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

- ✓ The **WOC** are hosting their "**TEA**" on Saturday, June 2nd in Taylor Hall.
- ✓ **THE TARTONES** will be holding their Spring Concert at St. John's on Sunday, June 17th at 2:00 PM.