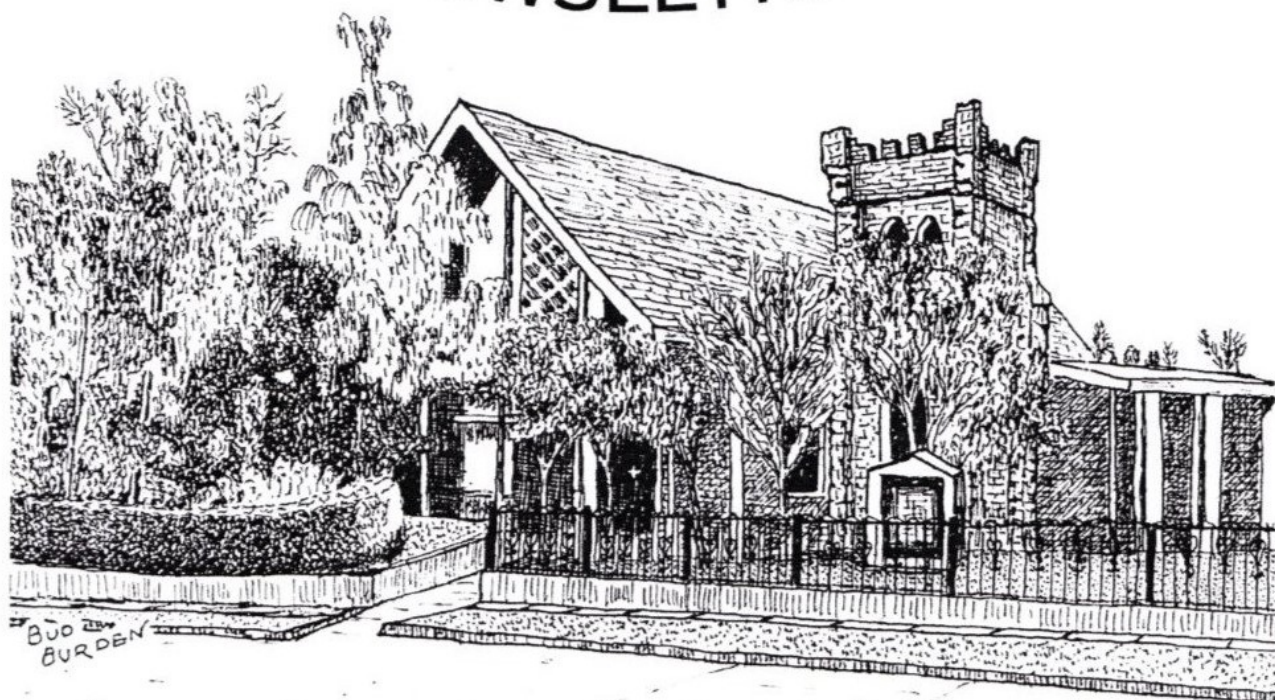


THE
Parish Grier



Saint Barnabas
NEWSLETTER



Fourth Edition
Spring 2020



Saint Barnabas Anglican Church

The Rev. Kersi Bird – Incumbent

David Parker – Rector's Warden

Sue Carr - Assistant Rector's Warden

Lisa Mitchell – People's Warden

Les Parsons – Assistant People's Warden

Parish Council Members – Archibald Adams,

Matthew Jones, Susan Marasco, Rick Wards

Lesley Stuart, Wendy Zorzos

Newsletter Editors – David Parker,

Gloria McCracken

What a difference a month makes in the life of this world. By now perhaps we have felt the enormity of this situation start to sink in. We see the global reach of this pandemic on the lives of citizens. We feel the impact of change on our everyday activities. We wonder about the future.

Within our community there are those who have been touched directly by this virus, and many more who are experiencing the effects of necessary measures to counteract the virus: unemployment or under-employment, loneliness and lack of mobility, concern for loved-ones in care, suspension of medical treatments and bereavement in a time of isolation are just a few of the very real consequences of Covid-19 on individuals.

In this Easter season, the gospels demonstrate to us in story two very important themes: First, that Jesus is the Risen Christ and that his words can be trusted. Second, that the disciples have been equipped to carry on, and be the Church. These examples given to us each week could not have come at a better time. We need to hear this message – that God is good, that Christ is for everyone, and that we as disciples have everything we need to carry on the mission of the church in this new and changing environment.

The following prayer is taken from the 1918 Prayer Book, the very first Canadian edition, which also came at a poignant time in global history. It is a prayer meant for use at home.

O LORD God, who hast bidden light to shine out of darkness, who hast again wakened us to praise thee for thy goodness and mercy, and to ask for thy grace: Accept now, in thine endless mercy, the offering of our

worship and thanksgiving, and grant unto us all such requests as may be acceptable to thy holy will. Make us to be children of the light and of the day, and heirs of thy everlasting inheritance. Remember, O Lord, according to the multitude of thy mercies, thy whole Church, all who join with us in prayer, and all our brethren, wherever they may be in thy vast kingdom, who stand in need of thy grace and succour. Pour down upon us all the riches of thy mercy, so that, redeemed in soul and body, and steadfast in faith, we may ever praise thy wonderful and holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God Bless You,
Kersi



Back in the 1970s while working at an advertising agency where we were trying to get people to spend more on bigger houses, bigger cars, entertainment, and looking pretty, one of the staff, a Seventh Day Adventist commented, "Live simply, so others may simply live," which I believe can be attributed to Mahatma Gandhi.

That's always stuck with me - even haunted me at times – especially when having the privilege to visit with poor families in Nicaragua, to drive through the slum areas of Bombay, and to skirt the huge shanty town in Nairobi.

I believe that God intends that we should have adequate material provision, but we should not be tricked into feeling that being out of step with fashion is to be out of step with reality. "We buy things we do not want to impress people we do not like," wrote Arthur Gish in his book "Beyond the Rat Race".

After preaching on the benefits of lectio divina - meditating on just a few words of scripture - Kersi followed up on the following Sunday by reflecting on the words "Come and See" that invited others to find out what Jesus was all about.

Only three words, but if each one of us offered them just once in this year as an invitation to another to come to church, we could double the congregation of St. Barnabas. Not for the budget's sake but to introduce people to the joy of worship.



I came across a programme for a sacred concert at St. Barnabas held during Advent in 1995 in aid of Connection Housing.

Tenor soloist for "Comfort Ye, My People" and "Every Valley Shall Be Exalted" in the Messiah portion was our friend David Dickinson. Wish I could have heard it - we miss him.



"The wise are recognized by their few words." The Rule of St. Benedict.

Who's Who in the Pew?

Sue Carr, our recently appointed assistant rector's warden, certainly has roots spread deep into Anglican history. Born in England, her grandfather Theophilus, as well as her great-grandfather and great-great grandfather owned the living of St. Torney Church of England in North Hill, Cornwall, on the edge of Bodmin Moor. (Google it for a fascinating record of church history).

And her great aunt was a missionary and Anglican nun who resided at a convent in Peekskill, New York.

After boarding school in the Cotswolds and graduating from university in the West Country, Sue got her first job in Aberfan, Wales, and then moved to London to work on the design of the Jubilee Line and on experimental tunnel construction for the Chunnel.

In 1981 she made the big decision to emigrate to Canada and has two adult children living in Calgary,



but her career took her to Fort McMurray, Fernie, the U.S., and China.

Settling back here, Sue completed her 35-year career in geology as vice president of a natural resource company. Taking 'early retirement' in 2014 she took a complete change of work and, being a history buff, began a new part-time job at Heritage Park as an educational interpreter, educator and tour guide. She also participates in the services at St. Martin's Anglican Church, leading the hymns, singing at weddings and leading carols at Christmas time.

Her other summer job is as a guide for Road Scholar leading educational tourism groups across Western Canada, lecturing in the history, geology, and natural history on the tours.

Living in Sunnyside, with Kit Kat her three-legged rescue cat, Sue is able to walk to St. Barnabas which she joined in 2012 and quickly became a valued member of the choir, altar guild, and now a member of the corporation.

Origin of the Prayer Shawl

Around 1892 the first shawls were used by Jewish men, wrapped around their shoulders prior to morning prayer. The shawls were called "tallits", which means "a cloak or sheet". As you wrap yourself in a prayer shawl, you feel the physical awareness that you are in the shadow of God's presence.

Many parishioners at St. Barnabas have been recipients of a prayer shawl when in need of comfort and hope, knowing they are never completely alone. They have been hand-knitted or crocheted in soft, comforting yarn and blessed by the Rev. Kersi Bird.

In preparation one must carefully consider colour, texture and pattern, and although the trinity stitch of knit three, purl three is the most common, three being the symbolic number in many cultures, many patterns can be used.

Shawls can be given for many occasions needing comfort, healing, and blessing: marriage, nursing mothers, travel, and friendship. Baptism shawls are usually trinity stitched using a dense pattern for safety rather than an open weave. Larger wrap shawls are used for wheelchair recipients.

I begin knitting my first row prayerfully, watching the

shawl unfold with countless balls of yarn. Through the gifts of our hearts and hands, they are infused with a blessing multiplied by the number of stitches until the receiver can feel the love from the congregation.

Symbolism of colours: I frequently use a multicolour yarn of bright colours; it can be either a worsted or bulky yarn. Solid colours are better with a pattern.

On presenting the shawls, the Rev. Kersi will choose a suitable colour for the beneficiary. Colours are very meaningful and interesting.

Red: love, respect, energy, courage, health. Pink: friendship, compassion, sensitivity, gratitude. Orange: thoughtfulness, vitality, creativity. Yellow: wisdom, faith wellbeing. Green: earth, haring, fertility, hope, peace, sympathy. Aqua: courage, balance, harmony, stability. Blue: water, healing, peace, wisdom, calmness, spirituality. Indigo: wisdom, insight, spirited nature. Violet: spiritual nostalgia, comfort, healing, wisdom. Purple: power, leadership, royalty, wisdom, justice. Brown: wholesome, honesty, practical, warmth. Beige/Tan: optimism, simplicity, calmness. Black: self confidence, strength, wisdom, harmony. White: spirit, innocence, peace, purity, reverence. Gold: masculine, energy, sacred. Silver: feminine, energy, sacred, flexibility. Gray: strength, balance, wisdom.

Other symbolism can be sewn or tied into the shawl or fringe including charms, beads, and gemstones.

Giving and receiving a shawl is an opportunity for opening doors of communication. Wrapping another person in a shawl with your own prayers is a gift not only to the one receiving, but also to yourself.

Thanks to all who have contributed so far to this comforting ministry. I look forward to hearing from anyone interested and maybe forming a small St. Barnabas prayer shawl ministry group so that more people can benefit from beautiful handmade shawls.

Pauline Booth

The Diaconate

As some of you may know, I am presently involved in a discernment process to become a vocational deacon attached to St. Barnabas. In some ways our understanding of the diaconate has changed considerably from its origin and I am writing a series of articles in response to numerous questions recently asked of me.

As part of the process I've been gathering information from a number of sources, in particular "For Such a Time as This" – a book written for the renewed diaconate in the Church of England and prepared by the house of Bishops there. And I have also reviewed the Iona report recently completed for the Anglican Church of Canada.

So, what is a deacon?

Biblically, the role of a deacon was to help the presbyters with pastoral support in the day-to-day commitment of feeding the hungry and taking care of orphans. I am fairly confident that many people, myself included, mistakenly link being a deacon to a stage in someone's spiritual life on the road to becoming a priest.

All priests are certainly first ordained as deacons and carry the title of transitional deacon. There are three distinct ordained ministries in many ecclesiastical traditional churches, bishops, priests, and deacons, although a transitional deacon is not listed ecclesiastically. After gaining experience in a parish, they can go on to become a priest, but remain deacons for their entire ministries. Once a deacon, always a deacon.

Next issue, I will explore in more detail how I see the role of a deacon.

Marcus Herrel

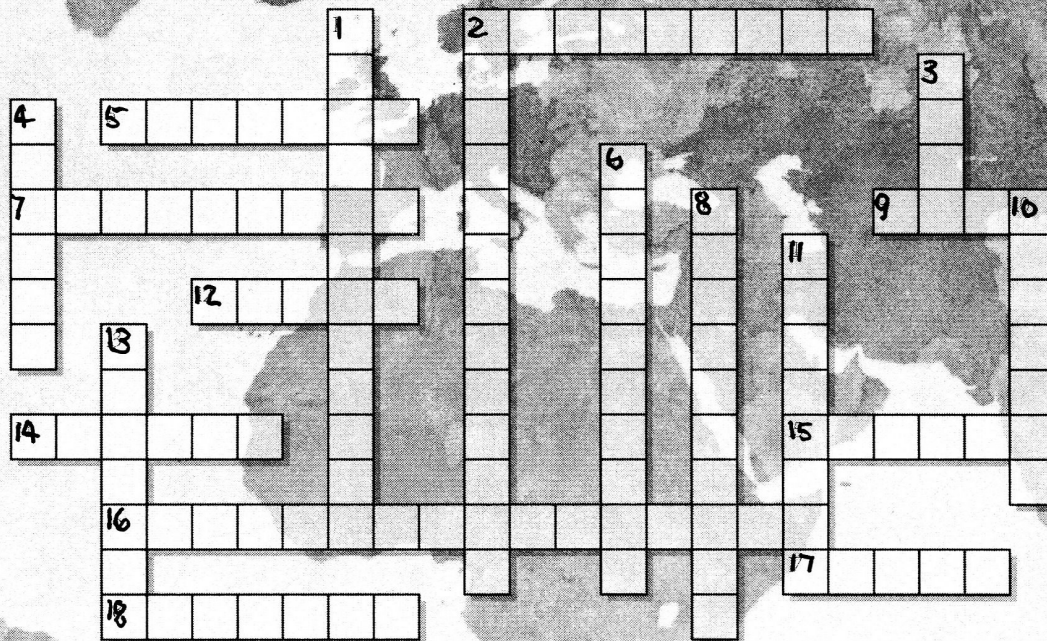


Time-bombed out of her London home during the WWII air raids, Anglo-Irish novelist Elizabeth Bowen said the fear was not cumulative – each night it started again from scratch.

On the other hand, she wrote, "I should not have conceived it possible that the ordinary London person was capable of having such uncrackable self-control and such good nerves. Everyone that one sees in the streets looks dead tired, and at the same time more grown-up than usual. And the good temper is phenomenal: one never hears people being cross, even on buses and places where feeling usually run the highest. I expect that when once this is happily over everyone will have a terrific revulsion and be as cross as cats for about a year."

Let us pray that when our calamity is over we can all retain the new-found kindness and caring that have become so evident throughout our city.

Did You Know?



ACROSS

- 2 Where the Bishop's chair is
- 5 Head of the National church
- 7 Where the altar is
- 9 Rector of the cathedral
- 12 plate for communion bread
- 14 Assists but doesn't preside over communion
- 15 Newly ordained parish assistant

- 16 Dioceses that share common interests
- 17 They conduct the diocese business
- 18 Anglican rituals and ceremonies

DOWN

- 1 Prayers for the needs of others
- 2 Congregation's senior lay officers
- 3 Where the congregation sits

- 4 Congregation's decision making body
- 6 The head of a group of dioceses in a designated region
- 8 Sacrament of ordination
- 10 Entrance area
- 11 The Anglican position on historically disputed issues
- 13 Where the choir is located

Be the first to correctly complete and submit this crossword puzzle, and you will be the lucky winner of a \$10 Tim Horton's gift card. Please email a scanned copy (the email date will be considered the submission date) or snail-mail it (the postmark date will be considered the submission date) to the office. Thank you to Annie Onimous for designing the puzzle and donating the prize.

Don't forget to send pictures of how your family is coping during the pandemic to the office. Growing a quarantine beard? Knitting tea cozies? Learning to make sourdough bread? Watching YouTube videos so that you can rebuild the engine on your car? We want to know! And don't forget to join our virtual coffee hour on Sunday mornings at 11:00 AM. Email the office for details on how to participate.