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Saints Alive

January – February 2022



The Church of All Saints Mission has a vision of being a vital, joyful source of the grace of God where individuals are respected, feel safe to worship, and are spiritually energized to live out God's purpose for their lives.

We acknowledge that we are on the traditional unceded territory of the Sto:lo Nations

Rector's Ramblings

Dear Friends:

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! It has been an unprecedented year, once again. We have all had to contend with the ups and downs of the weather and the COVID19 pandemic. The many changes and chances take a toll on our mental health, and we are left with little energy to celebrate the birth of Jesus. But Jesus is the reason for the Season. During Advent we prepare ourselves for the coming of Jesus. And at Christmas we celebrate Jesus, Emmanuel – God with us! At Christmas we celebrate the incarnation –

God taking on our human flesh and blood. Here is a fact we can rely on. No matter what circumstances we find ourselves in, God is with us. This is the good news! Jesus comes to us with God's gifts of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Let God's gifts be born in you today. Don't let the ups and downs of life dictate your state of mind, but rely on God to refresh you. God gives us Hope by being trustworthy and faithful; God gives us Peace and rest as the chaos swirls around us; God gives us Joy whether we are happy or unhappy; God's Love for us never ends. This is the good news of Christmas – good news which lasts the whole year through. It is in God where we find rebirth and new life. God is Emmanuel – Thanks be to God for the indescribable gift of Jesus!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to one and all!

Blessings,

Rev. Paul Bowie





Regular Services

Regular Services

Masks must be worn when entering the church

Sunday: 8:00am – Spoken Service

Sunday: 9:30am – Family Service BAS with Music

Thursday Morning Eucharist: 10:00am

Healing Prayer offered at the back of the Church during Communion or after the Worship Service.

The deadline for submissions for the next edition of 'Saints Alive' is **February 25, 2022**. Thank you for your contributions to the newsletter.

Editor of Saints Alive

An Epiphany Prayer

Gracious God, we thank you for revealing yourself to us in Jesus the Christ, we who once were not your people but whom you chose to adopt as your people. As ancient Israel confessed long ago, we realize that it was not because of our own righteousness, or our own superior wisdom, or strength, or power, or numbers. It was simply because you loved us, and chose to show us that love in Jesus.

As you have accepted us when we did not deserve your love, will you help us to accept those whom we find it hard to love? Forgive us, O Lord, for any attitude that we harbour that on any level sees ourselves as better or more righteous than others. Will you help us to remove the barriers of prejudice and to tear down the walls of bigotry, religious or social? O Lord, help us realize that the walls that we erect for others only form our own prisons!

Will you fill us so full of your love that there is no more room for intolerance? As you have forgiven us much, will you enable us with your strength to forgive others even more? Will you enable us through your abiding Presence among us, communally and individually, to live our lives in a manner worthy of the Name we bear? May we, through your guidance and our faithful obedience, find new avenues in ways that we have not imagined of holding the Light of your love so that it may be a Light of revelation for all people. We thank you for your love, praise you for your Gift, ask for your continued Presence with us, and bring these petitions in the name of your Son, who has truly revealed your heart. Amen.



Important Update re: New Provincial Health Orders re: COVID (Omicron Variant)

- We shall continue In-Person and Zoom Worship
- No coffee hour after Service until further notice or on January 18th
- Wait and see if Annual Vestry Meeting will be In-Person or via Zoom
- Parish Council Retreat date will be not be set yet



Bishop's Statement responding to the December 21, 2021 PHO's Order (Omicron Variant)

On Tuesday, Dr. Bonnie Henry spoke to the Province of British Columbia about the increased spread of the Omicron variant of the virus associated with COVID-19. There is clearly great concern about the spread of this variant related to its rate of transmission.

In this press conference, Dr. Henry spoke very little about worship services in the province and therefore we are to maintain the protocols outlined by her earlier this month, which are summarized on the Provincial Government Website as:

- **If all participants are vaccinated as determined by the worship service leader, there are no capacity restrictions on worship services and choirs.**
- **If participants are not all vaccinated, worship services and choirs are limited to 50% seated capacity.**
- **Masks are required but may be temporarily removed for ceremonial eating and drinking, and by officiants, readers or for singing a solo where physical distancing is observed.**

This will continue to be in place for the diocese, as outlined in my previous [Pastoral Letter of December 1 \(Bishop's Pastoral Letter Regarding Nov. 30 PHO's Orders | Anglican Diocese of New Westminster\)](#). This will be in effect for all Christmas Services and for the foreseeable future, therefore no changes are needed in terms of plans that parishes currently have in place for this most holy time.

Social Gatherings

There needs to be changes in terms of any social gatherings in the parishes of the diocese as we move forward. At this point, in response to Dr. Bonnie Henry's concern for safety and caution related to the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, coffee hours, receptions or lunches scheduled after worship **should not take place** effective December 22, 2021. Other in-person social gatherings already planned should be cancelled, effective December 22, 2021. This will be in place from December 22, 2021, until January 18, 2022, coming in line with Dr Henry's protocols for other groups and gatherings.

I understand that this is a busy and beautiful time in our parishes as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. And I am also aware that in the context of the pandemic this is an anxious time. It is important to find safe and careful ways that we can worship and gather together. Please know of my gratitude for all that you are doing. Please know of my prayers as we enter this Christmas time and the beginning of a new year.

Notice of Annual Vestry Meeting All Saints Anglican Church

The meeting will take place on **Sunday, February 27, 2022** in the church hall after the 9:30am Worship Service.



The Vestry Meeting is the Anglican word for a General Meeting, to which all members of a church are invited to have a voice and a vote.

The Vestry is composed of all the baptized members of the congregation, of the full age of 16 years, who for at least six months preceding the holding of a Vestry meeting have been identifiably involved with that congregation, through worship, fellowship, and financial support to that congregation.

WE WANT YOU AT OUR VESTRY MEETING! Your voice, your ideas and insights are valuable! This opportunity to gather **TOGETHER**, to identify **TOGETHER** our direction for the coming year, for as many people as possible at All Saints to feel a sense of ownership, responsibility and participation in the life of our congregation is of **VITAL** and **LIFE-GIVING** importance.

Parish Council 2022

The Nominating Committee will be seeking nominations for the Parish Council. We are asking that you prayerfully consider serving in this ministry. New members will be chosen at our annual meeting on Sunday, February 27, 2022 after the 9:30am service. We need your help in choosing them. Here's what you need to know.

Accepting a call to a leadership position is an act of stewardship. Parish Council members share with their parishioners a wide array of knowledge, skills and experiences plus the devotion of their time, talent and treasure for the parish community.

The Parish Council and Clergy:

1. Help to discern the vision toward which God is drawing our community.
2. Articulate and communicate the vision.
3. Hold the community accountable for the realization of that vision
4. Keep the mission of the Church and that of the individual congregation clearly before the parish community.

God creates the Church, and invites us to participate. A congregation's leaders are the stewards of that creation and hold it in trust. Our congregation is blessed with abundant resources needed to do the job God called us to

accomplish. The clergy and Parish Council identify and allocate those resources, enabling the Church to carry out its mission. They also lead the congregation in celebrating and giving thanks for those resources.

1. What does the Parish Council do?

It's the legal governing body of the parish, the "board of directors." With the Rector and wardens, it sets policy and goals and oversees the finances and property. But it has another equally important role: providing leadership to implement the ministries that serve the parish and the community. It actively supports the work and ministry of the Rector.

2. Who can run for Parish Council?

Any baptized member of the Anglican Church, who has been a member of our parish in good standing for at least a year, is at least 16 years old, makes a regular financial contribution to the parish, and worships regularly with us.

3. Is there an expected time commitment?

Yes. A term runs for one year. Parish Council meets once a month. Synod Delegates commit to attending Synod the weekend of May 2022 (to be determined). And since every parish council member's voice matters, our goal is for members to have no more than 3 unexcused absences from regular meetings in a year. **All Council Members are expected to attend a Retreat**

4. What do we look for in a Parish Council member?

Someone who is involved in some parish ministry, the congregation and is willing to participate in Leadership. Each member brings unique viewpoints and talents to the Council. He or she should keep informed about the parish, and be willing to contribute to working out solutions to issues that arise. Every Council member should work respectfully with other members, and participate in discerning the parish's vision and encouraging its ministries. We encourage all members to participate in this aspect of Parish Life, knowing that the first year is a learning experience. The Parish Council affords people the opportunity to share a variety of their own gifts and talents.

5. How are Parish Council Members chosen?

They are nominated by the nominating committee, whose recommendation must be approved by the vestry, and they are elected at the annual meeting.

6. How does the Nominating Committee work?

It accepts suggestions from parishioners, discusses possible candidates, decides who it thinks should be nominated, makes sure people are willing to run, and presents a proposed slate to the Vestry. The approved nominees are then announced to the parish.

Parish Council Job Descriptions

MEMBER-AT-LARGE

To be present regularly in the parish at worship and at parish functions.

To attend monthly parish council meeting to be determined by the new council.

To act as liaison for one ministry area in the church* which includes

- to communicate with key people in that ministry
- to learn about this ministry, to learn what the joys and challenges are
- to report monthly to parish council
- to bring forward any concerns or request on behalf of that ministry area.

ALTERNATE SYNOD DELEGATE

To be present regularly in the parish at worship and at parish functions.

To attend monthly parish council meeting, determined by the new council. To be available for the two day Diocesan Synod meeting held usually the 3rd weekend of May (date to be confirmed). If one of the synod delegates is unable to attend synod, you are to attend as a delegate and report back to the parish as expected of synod delegate.

To form part of the canonical committee in the event of a vacancy of the position of rector.

To act as liaison for one ministry area in the church* which includes:

- to communicate with key people in that ministry
- to learn about this ministry, to learn what the joys and challenges are
- to report monthly to parish council
- to bring forward any concerns or request on behalf of that ministry area.

SYNOD DELEGATE

To be present regularly in the parish at worship and at parish functions.

To attend monthly parish council meeting, to be determined by the new council. To be available for the two day Diocesan Synod meeting held the weekend of May 22nd.

To attend Diocesan Synod and report back to the parish about Diocesan programs that were presented and any motions that were passed. If unable to attend synod, to ensure that one of the alternates is available.

To form part of the canonical committee in the event of a vacancy of the position of rector.

To act as liaison for one ministry area in the church* which includes:

- to communicate with key people in that ministry
- to learn about this ministry, to learn what the joys and challenges are
- to report monthly to parish council
- to bring forward any concerns or request on behalf of that ministry area.

* **Ministry area** could be one of Buildings and Properties, Stewardship, Sunday school and Children's Ministry, ACW, Outreach, Fundraising, Fellowship, Christian Education Environmental Steward, Pastoral Care, Membership, Adult Education, Liturgical Group, Prayer Group and Archives and Diocesan issues.

These Liaison connections will be determined within Council at the first or second meeting.

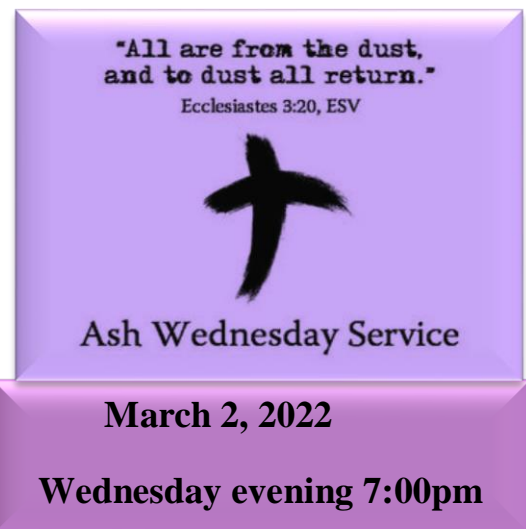


Parish Council Retreat

Retreat for the new Parish Council 2022 will be announced at a later date.

Thank you to each and every volunteer at All Saints. Together we do incredible work.

Thanks be to God for our time and talents.



pleased." -Matthew

Feast of the Baptism of the Lord - January 9, 2022

The Christmas season comes to a conclusion as we remember the baptism of the Lord in the Jordan by John the Baptist. In submitting Himself humbly to the baptism of St. John the Baptist, Christ provided the example for the rest of us. If even He should be baptized, though He had no need of it, how much more should the rest of us be thankful for this sacrament, which frees us from the darkness of sin and incorporates us into the Church, the life of Christ on earth! His Baptism, therefore, was necessary--not for Him, but for us. A voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well



The Baptism of the Lord • Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 At his baptism, Jesus feels affirmed in the choices he has made to live as God's faithful child. How often do we think about the covenant made at our own baptism to live as God's faithful ones?



A STATEMENT FROM THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN STEPHENS, BISHOP OF DIOCESE OF NEW WESTMINSTER REGARDING OPIOID OVER DOSE DEATHS IN BC.

2021 So far, has already been the deadliest year on record for illicit-drug overdoses in British Columbia.

According to the British Columbia Coroners Service, here are some of the facts as presented:

- 1,782 suspected illicit drug toxicity deaths occurred between January and October 2021. These are the highest ever recorded in a calendar year.
- The number of illicit drug toxicity deaths in October 2021 (201 in total) equates to about 6.5 deaths per day.
- In 2021, 71% of those dying were aged 30 to 59, and 79% were male.
- No deaths have been reported at supervised consumptions or drug overdose prevention sites.
- There is no indication that prescribed safe supply is contributing to illicit drug deaths.
- Most people have died in a private residence (55.0%) or some other form of residence, which includes hotels, motels, rooming houses, etc. (25.5%).
- Illicit fentanyl (and analogues) was involved in the illicit drug toxicity deaths approximately 84% of the time

In 2016, British Columbia declared a public health emergency related to the poisoned drug supply. In 2016 the rate of overdose deaths per 100,000 people was 20.4. That rate in 2021 is now 41.2 deaths per 100,000 people.

These are the statistics and they are incredibly disturbing. Each number represents a person; someone who had family, loved ones, those who cared deeply about them. These are not mere numbers, they are our neighbours, friends, colleagues and family.

Although we are all desperate for one, a quick solution for the epidemic of overdose deaths is not around the corner. This is partly because we need to treat the cause of the crisis—addiction—as well as its disastrous outcome in overdose death.

In seeking to reduce deaths, one way forward is the medical provision of pharmaceutically manufactured opioids--through diagnosis, treatment planning, and prescription, along with licensed pharmaceutical provision of the substance. This shows enormous promise for those currently addicted to opioids. Pharmaceutical provision requires absolute rigour, and is the work of physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and licensed medical assistants.

In our rightful preoccupation with preventing overdose deaths, we have at the same time neglected to offer anything close to adequate care for those who seek treatment and recovery from addiction. We must do both.

And in our rightful effort to avoid stigmatizing the addicted, we have avoided discussing the destructive realities and collateral harms involved in a life of active addiction. To avoid these truths, is to block out a major part of the reality we as a society are seeking so desperately to address.

Addiction to drugs and alcohol is not a neutral phenomenon. It is destructive of the self. Addiction is a disorder characterized by physiological, psychiatric, and neurological morbidities and deterioration—no matter how pure the supply. Addiction is universally associated with diminished wellbeing of the whole person.

Symptoms and [sequelae](#) include: alteration of an individual's personality, alteration of values and behaviour, estrangement from or loss of familial and life-long relationships, loss of contact with children, loss of careers and vocations, loss of accumulated wealth, permanent cognitive impairment, exacerbation of mental illness, malnutrition, lack of self-care, self-isolation, and use of progressively larger doses to overcome tolerance.

Some argue that these challenges are not caused by addiction per se, but by society's stigmatization and marginalization of addicted people. Stigmatization certainly exists. But in truth, these morbidities and sequelae are not the result of stigmatization. They are inherent to the addiction process itself—across separate cultures, societies, and social strata. These unavoidable results are the result, not of stigmatization, but of a progressive medical disorder.

Given this toll of suffering, when an addicted British Columbian makes the choice to seek help and treatment, the available options are few and wait times are enormous, with few exceptions. Tragically, for someone in active addiction, the moment of clarity and desire for change, does not last long.

Apart from the for-profit treatment sector, options for detox, treatment and recovery programmes are limited. A bed at a detox facility takes weeks to acquire. Access times to treatment centres vary, but wait times are in months. Six or more months is not unusual for specific or specialized programmes. Some treatment centres are well resourced and operated, others are under-resourced, constantly at maximum capacity, and of insufficient duration. And the quality of programming and outcomes is uneven.

We can and must cooperate and act to end preventable deaths. Yet we must act equally, in investing in human life and human freedom. Providing genuine options and available resources, for all who seek healing from addiction.

Collectively, we must compel elected representatives, government ministers, and policy makers, to attend to the absolute priority of providing, not simply purer drugs, but medical treatment of addiction itself. All of us have a role to play—voters, the media, church members, religious leaders, and all individuals of conscience, who exercise corporate or financial or political influence.

Compassion is our sacred obligation to our neighbour.

Holy and gracious God, in this complicated and at times heart-broken world, we pray to you for guidance and new compassion. We pray for all who have died as result of drug overdose, we pray for their families and friends, that they may know your gracious love upon them. For you call us to love one another, and we invite you to help us to see beyond the limitations of our sight, to be voices of compassion and hope. May we be part of bringing change to this tragedy taking place daily in our province. May we not stand idly by but be willing to see Christ's presence in the hungry, the thirsty, the forgotten, the searching, the addicted.

For we pray this in Jesus' name.

Amen



Advent 2021

Each Sunday in Advent we hung the banners of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as we lit the Advent Candles.

A special thank you to Marlene and the choir for the Advent Lessons and carols. This is always a lovely service.



Our "Not the Bazaar, On-Line Bake Sale" which ended on December 12th with the distribution of the Ordered baking & preserves totalled \$467.50 for the Baking, an additional \$205.00 in donations for a grand Total of \$672.50. There were 11 volunteer Bakers; 18 people made Orders. The Bakers donated extra towards the Donation Draw; so much that we divided it into two huge containers - the winners were Margery Skerry & Judy Beale. The money from this Fundraiser goes towards our church's programs. THANK YOU to everyone,

To all my family at All Saints,

This has been a year of "ups & "downs" for our family as most of you know. What wonderful support we have experienced! Firstly, my great -grandson Owen Arnold underwent heart surgery & came through with flying colours. He has also experienced a couple of bouts of viral pneumonia. His development as a "preemie" has been remarkable. His parents, Matt & Chantelle Arnold have appreciated everyone's support.

As most of you know, my daughter, Eileen & husband Ron have been a part of our church family as they are members of St. Andrews United Church. Sadly, Ron's health took a bad turn late in the year and he lost his battle with ALS. Eileen & his four children have so appreciated the support of All Saints' family. With everyone's help Eileen has been coping well with her loss.

Again, thank you to everyone for all your prayers & good wishes.

God bless,
Colleen Keil

*Thank
you* 



A Message from the Outreach Committee

Hello everyone,

Thank you all so much for your generous contributions to our Meridian Market fundraiser, our Alternate Giving for SARA, and our basket donations of socks, mitts and toques for the community. Your kindness is much appreciated.

Just to give you a heads-up, please hang on to your Christmas and New Year's cans and bottles. We will have a bottle drive in January to support "Basic Human Needs", an organization that supports a street school in Varanasi, India for children who can't afford regular school fees. We learned about this school through ACW and have donated the bottle returns from parishioners to it since 2018 as the international aspect of All Saints outreach. Bring your returnables to church and put them under the stairs outside the hall or, if you need pick up, call Susan at 604-826-8721.

Many thanks and best wishes for a Merry Christmas.



Flower Dedication Schedule for 2022

Polly is assembling the schedule for 2022. Ideally, each Sunday has flowers at the altar donated by a parishioner, with a dedication in the bulletin for that Sunday. The chart for the year will be on the Narthex bulletin board.

Background: before COVID we had Flowers at the Altar every Sunday (except Lent). They were purchased by a person, dedicated in memory of loved one(s), taken to the church where a member of Altar Guild arranged them, and in the past few years left for St Andrews to appreciate.

A Chart was assembled so everyone had a designated Sunday.

Recent: since March 2019 we have had "virtual" flowers - artificial flowers arranged weekly. Real flowers were purchased for Easter, Pentecost, Harvest, & Christmas and distributed to groups of Parishioners afterwards. Some donations were received for these purchases.

2022: Some regular Donors can no longer go & purchase the Flowers. Some regular Donors may have decided to discontinue contributing.

ACTION: In early January, Polly will start assembling a list for 2022. As usual, she will try to give everyone their chosen Sunday, as per their requests.

Know that Altar Guild cannot purchase Flowers without funds; it is easier if people purchase their own flowers. Donations are welcome for Easter daffodils & Christmas poinsettia.

PLEASE CONTACT POLLY pajbest@shaw.ca 604-826-8277 with your choices, your desires, your dedications.

The Gospel According to John: submitted by Donna Kennedy

I have the Inspirational Study Bible by Max Lucado and this is the introduction to John's Gospel. Imagine if you will.

He's an old man, this one who sits on the stool and leans against the wall. Eyes closed and face soft, were it not for his hand stroking his beard, you'd think he was asleep.

Some in the room assume he is. He does this often during worship. As the people sing, his eyes will close and his chin will fall until it rests on his chest, and there he will remain motionless. Silent.

Those who know him well know better. They know he is not resting. He is traveling. Atop the music he journeys back, back, back until he is young again. Strong again. There again. There on the seashore with James and the apostles. There on the trail with the disciples and the women. There in the Temple with Caiaphas and the accusers.

It's been sixty years, but John sees him still. The decades took John's strength, but they didn't take his memory. The years dulled his sight, but they didn't dull his vision. The seasons may have wrinkled his face, but they didn't soften his love.

He had been with God, God had been with him. How could he forget?

- The wine that moments before had been water - John could still taste it.
- The mud placed on the eyes of the blind man in Jerusalem – John could still remember it.
- The aroma of Mary's perfume as it filled the room - John could still smell it.

And the voice. Oh, the voice. His voice, John could still hear it.

I am the light of the world, it rang...I am the door...I am the way, the truth, the life.

I will come back, it promised, and take you to be with me.

Those who believe in me, it assured, will have life even if they die.

John could hear him. John could see him. Scenes branded on his heart. Words seared into his soul, John would never forget. How could he? He had been there.

He opens his eyes and blinks. The singing has stopped. The teaching has begun. John looks at the listeners and listens to the teacher.

If only you could have been there, he thinks. But he wasn't. Most weren't. Most weren't even born. And most who were there are dead. Peter is. So is James. Nathanael, Martha, Philip. They are all gone. Even Paul, the apostle who came late, is dead.

Only John remains.

He looks again at the church. Small but earnest. The lean forward to hear the teacher. John listens to him. What a task. Speaking of one he never saw. Explaining words he never heard. John is there if the teacher needs him. But what will happen when John is gone? What will the teacher do then? When John's voice is silent and his tongue stilled? Who will tell them how Jesus silenced the wave? Will they hear how he fed the thousands? Will they remember how he prayed for unity?

How will they know? If only they could have been there.

Suddenly in his heart he knows what to do.

Later, under the light of a sunlit shaft, the old fisherman unfolds the scroll and begins to write the story of his life...

In the beginning was the Word.....



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

The Anglican Church of Canada

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund is now accepting donations towards an emergency response in British Columbia. The news of the destructive floods, especially after a particularly devastating fire season in the province, are moving Anglicans to reach out to offer support.

Since the floods began last week, PWRDF's Humanitarian Relief Coordinator Naba Gurung has been monitoring the situation. Executive Director Will Postma has been in

contact with the Primate, Archbishop Linda Nicholls, who herself has reached out to the bishops in the Diocese of New Westminster and Kootenay, and leadership in the Territory of the People.

As with most in-Canada emergencies, the need for funds will grow in the weeks and months ahead as the flood waters recede and people begin the work of rebuilding, restoring and healing. "We know from past experience working in the region that the needs are great long after the urgent crisis is over," says Gurung. PWRDF will continue conversations with the Dioceses and Territory as to how funds will be best used.

How you can help:

You can give to PWRDF's B.C. Flood Emergency Response by clicking [here](#), or going to pwrdf.org/give-today and clicking on B.C Flood. You may also donate by phone at 416-822-9083 or leave a voicemail toll-free at 1-866-308-7973 and we will return your call, or mail your cheque to PWRDF, 80 Hayden, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2. Please mark B.C. Flood in the memo line.

Yesterday, the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical Province of B.C. and Yukon released a statement asking Canadians to join them in prayer:

God of compassion, we pray for all who have suffered losses and trauma because of this storm. We pray for those stranded or evacuated, and for those who have lost homes and livelihood. Bless and strengthen those providing food, shelter, and care; and all first responders and crews still working to rescue people and animals.

We give thanks for the courage and generosity of those responding to the crisis, for all the acts of neighbourliness and kindness.

God of Life, give courage and healing to all who have been affected.

Give all leaders and responders endurance and resourcefulness.

May we each find ways to bring your comfort, hope and calm in the midst of this anxious time.

Strengthen our resolve to make the changes necessary to care for your Earth.

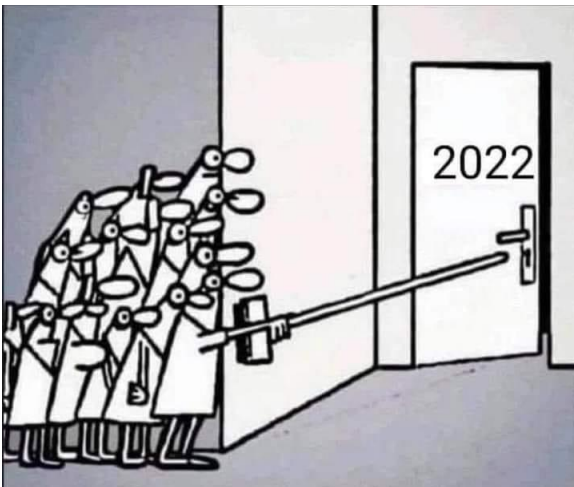
In the name of Christ our healer. Amen.

Church Humour



"I think I just had an epiphany. How do I make it go away?"

SO, I GOT ON MY BATHROOM
SCALE THIS MORNING & LET
ME TELL YOU, THE FULL
ARMOR OF GOD IS HEAVY!
HALLELUJAH!



What Are Seniors Worth

We are worth a fortune! Remember, old folks are worth a fortune with silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last and a few things have come into my life – frankly I have become a frivolous old gal! I am seeing five gentlemen ever day! As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me get out of bed. Then I go and see John. Next Charlie Horse comes along and when he is here, he takes a lot of time and my attention. When he leaves Arthur Ritis shows up and stays the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint. After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with Ben Gay. What a life! Oh Yes, I'm also flirting with Al Zymer.

P.S. The preacher came to call the other day. He said at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do that all the time. No matter where I am, in the parlor, upstairs, in the kitchen or down in the basement – I ask myself – now what am I here after?"

Submitted by June Martin former Holy Trinity, White Rock, now Kelowna



Little Saints of All Saints



Theme

Wise men today still seek the Saviour.

Matthew 2:1-2

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the east and have come to worship him."

If we were planning to go to visit someone in another town or city, we might first ask someone who knew how to get there to give us directions. They might give us some general directions and suggest the best roads to take. Another thing we should do is look at a map. The map will show us exactly how to get where we want to go. As we travel, we should keep checking the map to be sure that we are headed in the right direction. If we follow the directions that we receive and use the map to guide us, we will surely find the way.

After Jesus was born, some wise men, also called Magi, saw a star in the sky which they believed announced the birth of a king. They traveled to Jerusalem and began to ask, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him."

Herod heard about the Magi and their search for a king and he was deeply disturbed. He called a meeting of the priests and teachers of religious law and asked, "Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?" The priests told Herod that the prophet Micah had written that the Messiah was to be born in Bethlehem. So Herod called for private meeting with the wise men and said to them, "Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!"

As you know, the wise men did not have a map to guide them to Bethlehem, but they had something even better — they had a star to guide them. So the wise men followed information that the priests had given to Herod and the star that God had given to guide them and it led them right to Jesus. When they found him, they gave him gifts and bowed down and worshiped him.

Wise men, women, boys, and girls are still searching for Jesus. There are people who want to help -- people like pastors and Sunday School teachers. There is no map to help us find Jesus and there is no star to follow, but we do have the Bible. We can find the way to Jesus by reading God's Holy Word! The Bible is the map and star that will lead to Jesus. All of us should read it every day to make sure we are headed in the right direction!

Dear Jesus, we seek you today because we want to worship you and crown you as our King. We are thankful for pastors and Sunday School teachers who want to help us and we are thankful for the Bible which we have been given to lead us to you. Amen.



Wise Men Worship Jesus
Matthew 2

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