





ST. PAUL

THE

ANGELICAN CHURCH

CONTACT

Connecting with your parish family • Spring 2022

CLARA'S CORNER

The other day I was walking around the church building and happened to slow down long enough to notice a few delightful new signs of growth in the flower beds. I don't know why this always feels like a surprise. It happens every spring! I love how after months of dormancy and no signs of life, in the right conditions – tiny green sprouts pop up above the soil, stretching for light and ready to grow into something new and wondrous. It always feels like a miracle to me. Maybe this is one of the reasons I love spring so much. Creation is always teaching us something about life, about relationships and about God's creative capacity.

In a few short weeks we will once again begin the season of Lent. Like the seasons of creation, our liturgical life circles around the story of Christ's birth, life, death and resurrection. It is the ongoing story of God's creative purpose. Having come through Advent, Christmas and Epiphany we focus on Jesus as he emerges from the waters of the Jordan River, baptized and ready to

begin a new ministry and path. Before that ministry and new path unfold, Jesus spends time in the wilderness. The wilderness or barren land is often seen as a place of emptiness. The images are usually sand or dry earth, very little vegetation and seemingly lifeless. What we don't see with the naked eye is the microscopic activity happening below the surface. Much like a winter season, the wilderness seems harsh and unyielding, and yet in the right conditions, bursts of new life and activity emerge even in the wilderness.

We will begin our journey in the wilderness starting on Ash Wednesday, March 2nd. We go into the wilderness with faith and with trust. We will take time to consider the wilderness season that seems to have gone on for more than 2 years. We have faithfully endured many challenges and yet here we are tired and wondering what this next season will bring. What have we learned about ourselves, our faith and our relationship with God, neighbour, and our beloved earth?

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What lessons will we take with us in preparation for where God is leading us? If we believe that new life, new possibilities are just under the surface, our time in Lent may well be that opportunity to pray, discern and listen deeply to God's invitation to us as a parish. Where are the new signs of life appearing? Perhaps like me, you will need help to slow down a bit so that we can notice what God is revealing to us. Spring is coming! Hope and new life are in the air!

Blessings,
Ven. Clara+

OFFICE UPDATE

Spring has been a busy time for the parish office, as we welcome new groups in our building. A new AA group will be joining our facility on Saturday mornings, and we have seen community event inquiries begin to pick up again as health restrictions ease.

As we foster an ongoing relationship with community organizations, we see our relationships building and strengthening, and the effects of those ripples are being seen in our ministries. Those community groups in our building have been spreading the word about our monthly food card ministry, and we are now seeing a significant increase in the number of people coming to benefit from that program.

As well, in thanks for the ongoing use of our facilities, **Nanaimo Foodshare has arranged for all of our kitchen knives to be sharpened professionally!** Thank you to Nanaimo Foodshare Society!

CHOIR RESTART

The St. Paul choir is restarting! Our first rehearsal is March 12th 2022, at 10 AM in the Church. Everyone is welcome to join us as we dust off our rusty voices together! Proof of vaccination is required.

Anyone curious about singing is invited to simply show up on March 12th to the rehearsal.

If you would like more information please reach out to our director of music, Chuck at:

charlesharman555@hotmail.com

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The parish office hours are 9AM – 12noon, Monday—Thursday. We welcome you to join us in 2022 for our regularly scheduled services

Regularly Scheduled Worship Services

Morning Prayer:

Monday-Friday 8:30 AM — Zoom
**excluding stat holidays*

Contemplative Prayer:

Monday nights 7:00 PM — Zoom
**excluding stat holidays*

11 AM Mid-Week Service—BCP

Wednesday — *in person only*

8 AM Holy Communion—BCP

Sundays — *in person only*

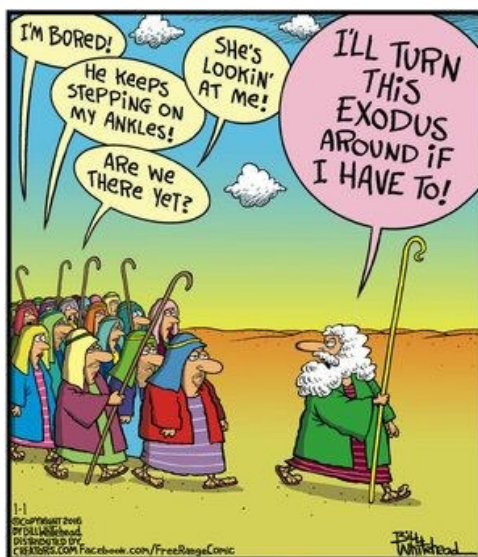
10:30 AM Holy Eucharist—BAS

Sundays — *Livestream & in person*

After-Service Fellowship

Sunday after each service
socializing downstairs in the hall

**no refreshments served at this time due to health restrictions*



LENTEN OFFERINGS

PWRDF's Creation Care: Climate Action Daily Lenten

Writing Reflections:

Each day the PWRDF writers invite you to read their selected scripture, reflect and pray with them. Subscribe below to receive the daily reflections in your inbox and deepen your connection with PWRDF. Learn more about the resource at pwrdf.org/Lent2022

LIVING WELL THROUGH LENT

Daily Devotional booklets will be emailed to the parish community on Feb. 28, and paper copies are available at the parish office.

The Living Well Compass is a dynamic resource that will assist us in our search for balance and wellness. Our call is to live an undivided life, where heart, soul, strength, and mind are integrated into both our being and our doing.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY WITH CLARA+

Wednesdays 6:30 – 8pm (Zoom)

Starting March 9th (5 sessions): Join Clara+ for a Lent bible study focused on the first half of the book of Exodus. We will focus on the wilderness experience and on what we will learn along the way about God's faithfulness. To register please call/email the office at 250 753 2523

TREASURER'S REPORT

FINANCIAL REPORT TO END OF JANUARY 2022

**This is the first Financial Report of
2022.**

Year-to-Date Summary:

Income	\$ 23,815
Expenses	<u>\$ 24,204</u>
Subtotal	<u>(\$ 389)</u>
2021 Carryover	<u>\$157,393</u>
TOTAL	\$157,004

YTD Budget	\$ 20,255
YTD Actual	<u>\$ 22,979</u>
Subtotal	<u>(\$ 2,724)</u>
2021 Carryover	<u>\$157,393</u>
	\$154,669

We ended January with a \$389 shortfall; without Christmas offerings and the Federal Canada Employment Wage Subsidy we would be \$9,000 in the hole for the month. In January, we received almost \$6000.00 in Christmas offerings which should have come in December, and there was the last of the Federal COVID support payments for \$3200.00.

During 2021 we averaged \$7300 deficit each month. If that trend continues into the future, we will use up the \$157,004 surplus within 24 months.

Thanks to everyone in the Parish who have continued their giving during these most difficult times.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Gillett – Treasurer

NOTICE OF AVM

A reminder that the annual vestry meeting will be held on February 27th 2022 at 2PM in the church. Proof of vaccination is required for in-person attendance.

If you are unable to attend the Annual Vestry Meeting and would like to have a proxy vote, forms are available at the parish reception desk, or can be emailed to you for home printing. Please give your proxy to someone who is attending the meeting and can offer your proxy in your absence.

We will not be sharing lunch during the meeting, as the meeting is being in the church proper. As such, please do not bring a bagged lunch, but instead eat offsite.

Thank you to all of our parish volunteers, and to all those who are allowing their names to stand for election to the various leadership roles available at both the parish and diocesan levels.

NOTES OF THANKS

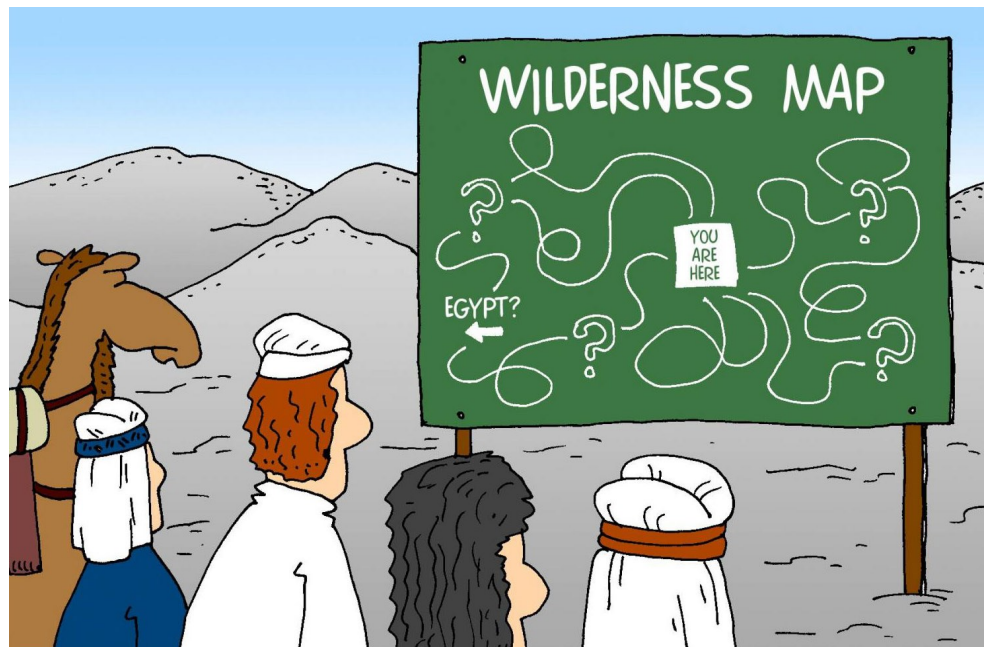
Dear Parish Family,

Thank you for your prayers, flowers, cards, and calls after my recent surgery. Your love is very healing.

Sincerely,
Alison Walsh

“Thank you for handing out the food cards — it really makes a big difference for me and my kids. Bless you.”

Anonymous
Community Member



A SPRING DANCE

*"If you're happy and you know it
dance around*

*If you're happy and you know it
dance around*

*If you're happy and you know it
then your dance is going to show it*

*If you're happy and you know it
dance around"*



Submitted by — Jane Barnes

SPRING THOUGHTS

Although Autumn is my favourite season, I have always loved Spring, especially when living on the Prairies. Spring is the season of resurrection, and no more so than in Manitoba. The winter season is Death, when everything is hidden under a blanket of snow, when the trees appear like skeletons against the sky and only a few birds are brave enough to test the cold. When signs of life start to appear in the garden, or you catch a glimpse of a bud appearing on a branch, (usually May), it's like a miracle. Who among us could not be uplifted by this yearly proof that out of death comes life? Isn't that the very meaning of resurrection?

On a lighter note, I wonder if some of our elders, among whom I count myself, remembers this little ditty.

The spring is sprung,
the grass has riz'

I wonder where the boidies is:

The boid is on the wing;

But that's absoid'

The wing is on the boid!

(Best recited with a
Brooklyn accent).

Submitted by — Marjorie Adams

SEE THE GREENING

Spring is making itself

First the sprout,

then the green shoot,

Then the flower

Birds return

Fill trees with song

Sap rises coloring branches

Shadows lengthen

Spring is emerging,

Awakening,

Greening

May we also have spring in our step



Submitted by — Julie Foster.

SIGNS OF SPRING IN THE PARISH GARDEN



GARDEN S.O.S

I have a large vegetable garden on my property, and every year I grow garlic and kale. I grow these, because they are the only two things I *can* grow in my garden! No matter what I do, it seems my garden is in a sad state.

I've added compost, hay, old buried pumpkins, and mulched leaves in past years, but nothing seems to improve the situation!

I have dreams of a large garden filled with veggies, ripe for canning and preserving, so if any of our very talented vegetable gardeners would like to offer some advice, I would be most grateful!

Plea submitted by Alicia Vanin

EARLY SPRING FLOWERS



Submitted by — Alicia Vanin

NEWS



FINAL NOTES

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you
does in fact please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that
desire.
And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the
right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore will I trust you always though
I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils
alone.

*Thomas Merton, "The Merton Prayer" from [Thoughts in Solitude](#).
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