**All Saints Anglican Church**

**6904 Lougheed Highway, Agassiz, B.C. V0M 1A0**

**Bulletin September 15, 2025 –September 21, 2025**



**‘The ground we walk does not belong to us; for thousands of years it has been - and remains - the territory of the Stó:lō. We are grateful for their sharing.**

***Phone: 604-796-3553***

***Website:*** [***www.allsaints-agassiz.ca***](http://www.allsaints-agassiz.ca/)

[***https://www.facebook.com/groups/AllSaintsFamily***](https://www.facebool.com/groups/AllSaintsFamily)

**OUR DOOR IS OPEN AND ALL ARE WELCOME**

**September 21, 2025, 15th Sunday after Pentecost**

Priest in Charge: The Reverend Philip Barker

Hosts: Graham Featherstone/Jennifer Pinlac

 Intercessor: Keith Fossey

 Lay Administrator: Dorothy Cresswell

Announcer: Virginia Jennings

 Organ/Piano: Francesca Froehlich

**Vicar’s cell phone:** Revd. Philip Barker. 778-867-2461

**Vicar’s Warden:**Ginny Jennings. 604-796-2206

**People’s Warden:** Lynn Laughlin. 604-799-5131

**Parish email**:   revpb1950@gmail.com

Please contact either warden if you have an issue that needs to be brought to the attention of the Vicar - or contact the Vicar direct (see above for details).

**Wardens Pitch**

* Book Club resumed on Zoom on September 3rd. Our new book is an exciting contemporary autobiography entitled "God's Double Agent: The True Story of a Chinese Christian's Fight for Freedom" by Bob Fu with Nancy French. It is available on Kindle or in paperback for $24.00 on Amazon. Please email Sheila at sjbarker0369@gmail.com if you would like to join the group discussions or have her order a book for you.
* Bible Study with Karol is every Saturday morning 8:30-9:00 on Zoom.
* Prayer Requests can be given on a piece of paper to either of the Wardens or the Vicar or entered in the Prayer Request Book on the lectern. Alternatively, you can contact Anthea Lewis at antheamlewis@shaw.ca for Pray First Prayer Circle, which is a confidential online prayer circle.
* Music Requests may be given to the Wardens or the Vicar.
* AA meets in the hall every Tuesday and Friday at noon.
* Every Thursday in the hall 10:00-12:00 we have a social time with coffee, games if you like or just talk.
* At 1000 on Thursdays there is an Interactive Bible Study on the day’s Lectionary readings. All are welcome – discover the treasures in this amazing book!
* 5th Sunday of each month will be a potluck lunch after the service.
* Don’t forget our Craft Fair on October 25th

**Ministerial Meandering**

*Letting go*

I confess to having a liking for some - repeat *some* - country music. One song that came out in 2008, sung by Indigenous artist Crystal Schawanda, is called ‘You can let go’. In the song, three scenes are painted; the first has a little girl telling her Daddy that he can let go of the bicycle seat that he is steadying for her as she is learning to ride. The second is of a young woman telling her father he can let her go to her groom at her wedding, and the third is of her giving her father permission to die, as he lies in a hospital bed with a terminal illness. Clearly, a bitter-sweet song.

Letting go tacitly implies that the object being released is something that we would rather hold on to - it is precious to us, and we would prefer not to let it go.

Letting your child grow up is hard for some parents, indeed, apparently impossible for some, to the detriment of their suppressed and emotionally stunted offspring.

Seeing your child married is also a testing time for parents, especially when there is serious doubt as to their choice of life partner. But we cannot live our children’s lives for them. They must make their own mistakes - I just pray that they don’t waste time making mine all over again.

And numerous times I have seen a dying person wait for the arrival of a child, or some event - like a birthday or anniversary - before they will relinquish their tenuous hold on life, and even ask permission of that person before they finally let go. Strange, how our physiology works - and some people still cling to the idea that we are not spiritual creatures. They will learn, eventually, but possibly only at the last minute.

At the risk of being accused of regurgitating truisms, I will repeat that life involves change. Change, in its turn involves movement. That movement may require that one leaves one’s job, one’s country, or even one’s partner on occasion. All of these would demand significant time spent in contemplation and prayer - attempting to discern what the will of God might be in the situation with which one is faced.

It is not going to be simple to search out what is the correct path, for it has been said before that the words ‘right’ and ‘easy’ rarely come in the same sentence. What is right is unlikely to be easy, and what is easy is rarely right.

Everyday things - like moving house, or changing your job, or retiring - are not always obvious or straightforward. When is the right moment? Which house or country is the right one? What job should you be looking for? What does retirement look like? Psychology books will tell us that moving house is allegedly more stressful than going through a divorce. I guess it depends on how much agreement (or lack of) is involved in either.

These are practical things that require physical input to achieve, but there are needs to ‘let go’ that are purely in our minds. These are our resentments - which may be either real or simply perceived hurts. But how we hang on to them!

I am certain that if I were to search back through the several hundred MM’s that I have written since starting at our parish, I would find one that addressed - at least in part - the business of letting go of resentments and forgiving those whom we believe have wronged us. The fact that I am writing about the same topic again tells me that there is still a problem extant in our church for some. Often, the person who has wronged us would be ourselves - if we could but see it. Nursing anger and bitterness does nothing for the complexion, and even less for the heart and spirit. Jesus told us to get sorted out with our brother (sister, daughter, great aunt, gerbil - whatever) before coming to his table. Let go of your anger and hatred (especially of yourself), and all that makes you scowl. It ain’t pretty.

Philip+

**Truth and Reconciliation**

I am writing to invite you to join me for a series of informal (but structured) small group conversations about reconciliation.  I am actively working on my own learning about this huge topic and I am inviting you to come along with me on this journey.

I recently signed up to learn how to host other settlers and non-Indigenous people in conversations that support us to build new practices to help us understand how to be in better relationship with Indigenous peoples. The program is called [Table Talks](https://kinshift.ca/table-talks/), and has been developed by an Indigenous led organization based in syilx territory called IndigenEYEZ.

The Table Talks approach is informative, challenging and fun. I will host a series of 8 1hr conversations after coffee time on Sundays. If you’re interested in learning more about this opportunity to feel engaged, inspired and mobilized, please join me for a Table Talks information session on Sunday, September 28th, from 12-1.00 pm in the church.

If you’re interested in finding out more, please RSVP to Sheila sjbarker0379@gmail.com

**Chuckle**

If it wasn’t for the last minute, nothing would get done.

**Birthdays this Month**

Rick Probert – 4th, Wendy Young and David Hamilton – 10th, Sonya Hill – 17th, Allen Cresswell – 19th.

**Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We Pray for the Clergy and Congregation of:**

St. James, Vancouver and Hospital Chaplains.

**Anglican Church of Canada Cycle of Prayer: We Pray for:**

The Provincial Synod of the Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon. The dean, council and congregations of the Southern Interior Region of the British Columbia Synod.

**Collect**

Almighty God, you have created the heavens and the earth, and ourselves in your image. Teach us to discern your hand in all your works and to serve you with reverence and thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**Readings**

Jeremiah 8:18 – 9:1 Pamela Evans

You who are my Comforter in sorrow,
    my heart is faint within me.
Listen to the cry of my people
    from a land far away:
“Is the Lord not in Zion?
    Is her King no longer there?”

“Why have they aroused my anger with their images,
    with their worthless foreign idols?”

“The harvest is past,
    the summer has ended,
    and we are not saved.”

Since my people are crushed, I am crushed;
    I mourn, and horror grips me.
Is there no balm in Gilead?
    Is there no physician there?
Why then is there no healing
    for the wound of my people?

Oh, that my head were a spring of water
    and my eyes a fountain of tears!
I would weep day and night
    for the slain of my people.

Psalm 79: 1-9

O God, the nations have invaded your inheritance;
    they have defiled your holy temple,
    they have reduced Jerusalem to rubble.
They have left the dead bodies of your servants
    as food for the birds of the sky,
    the flesh of your own people for the animals of the wild.
They have poured out blood like water
    all around Jerusalem,
    and there is no one to bury the dead.
We are objects of contempt to our neighbors,
    of scorn and derision to those around us.

How long, Lord? Will you be angry forever?
    How long will your jealousy burn like fire?
Pour out your wrath on the nations
    that do not acknowledge you,
on the kingdoms
    that do not call on your name;
for they have devoured Jacob
    and devastated his homeland.

Do not hold against us the sins of past generations;
    may your mercy come quickly to meet us,
    for we are in desperate need.
Help us, God our Savior,
    for the glory of your name;
deliver us and forgive our sins
    for your name’s sake.

1 Timothy 2: 1-7 Fran Froehlich

I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people. This has now been witnessed to at the proper time. And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle—I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a true and faithful teacher of the Gentiles.

Luke 16: 1-13 Vicar Philip

Jesus told his disciples: “There was a rich man whose manager was accused of wasting his possessions. So he called him in and asked him, ‘What is this I hear about you? Give an account of your management, because you cannot be manager any longer.’

“The manager said to himself, ‘What shall I do now?” My master is taking away my job. I’m not strong enough to dig, and I’m ashamed to beg— I know what I’ll do so that, when I lose my job here, people will welcome me into their houses.’

“So he called in each one of his master’s debtors. He asked the first, ‘How much do you owe my master?’

“‘Nine hundred gallons of olive oil,’ he replied.

“The manager told him, ‘Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it four hundred and fifty.’

“Then he asked the second, ‘And how much do you owe?’

“‘A thousand bushels of wheat,’ he replied.

“He told him, ‘Take your bill and make it eight hundred.’

“The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light. I tell you, use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.

“Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much. So, if you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches? And if you have not been trustworthy with someone else’s property, who will give you property of your own?

“No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money.