

A warm welcome today to our guest Preacher, the Rev. Dr. Ross Hebb and to Dr. Linda Hebb. Thank you for coming! It is great to have you back in Stanley!

Bible Study at the Rectory: Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m.. The Holy Eucharist is celebrated at 9:00 a.m.. Everyone is welcome – you don't need to be a scholar!

Ash Wednesday is fast approaching on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. Please bring in your palm branches or palm crosses. They will be burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday.

The Parish Annual Meeting has been set for Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, following the 10:00 a.m. Service. Please give me your annual reports, or send them by email, to [chrisvanbuskirk2909@gmail.com](mailto:chrisvanbuskirk2909@gmail.com). Thank you! CVB +

A Congregational Pot Luck has been scheduled for Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, following the 10:00 am Service.

Next Sunday is the Sunday called Septuagesima. It signifies approximately 70 days before Easter and marks a helpful, three-week period before the beginning of the Lenten Season.

Common Prayer App: provides a digital way to follow the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) each for Family Prayers, Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline -- your choice! The Old and New Testament Bible readings, and Psalms, are included. It's a free, user-friendly resource for mobile devices.

Many thanks to Faye for altering the length of the Altar frontal from St. James. It will enhance our worship this morning.

God willing, the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated for the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple at 9:00 am on Tuesday, February at the Rectory.

**The Parish of Stanley**  
**The Conversion of St. Paul**  
**January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026**



*“As I made my journey, and was come nigh unto  
Damascus about noon, suddenly there shone  
from heaven a great light round about me.”*  
Acts 22.6



Priest-in-Charge: Chris VanBuskirk 506-367-2013  
Parish Lay Visitor: Eva Morton 506-262-3328  
Wardens: Art Logan 506-367-2052  
Paul Humble 506-367-3222

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Anglican Parish of Stanley



## SPOTLIGHT on SCRIPTURE'

*'Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.'*

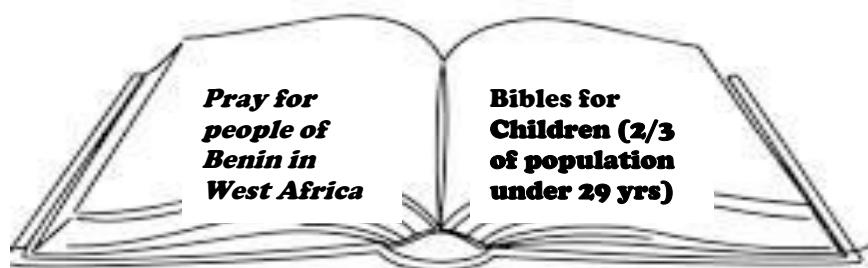
*Psalm 119.105*

### DAILY BIBLE READING

In the Rule of Life on p. 555 of the Prayer Book, we are asked to consider, "The practice of private prayer, Bible-reading, and self-discipline." To that end, here is a modified schedule of daily Bible Readings from the Prayer Book's Table of Lessons.

Sunday	Habakkuk 1	Matthew 11
Monday	Habakkuk 2	Matt. 12. 1-21
Tuesday	Habakkuk 3. 2-end	Matt. 12.22 - end
Wednesday	Malachi 1	Matt. 13.1 - 23
Thursday	Malachi 2. 1-16	Matt. 13.24-43
Friday	Malachi 2.17-3.12	Matt. 13. 44-end
Saturday	Malachi 3.13-4 end	Matt. 14

At home, let us pray for a Bible, visible and read daily, in every home in our community. Abroad, let us pray for the Canadian Bible Society's work in Ukraine.



**Pray for the work of the Canadian Bible Society:**

1. Translation: making the Bible available in languages that speak to the hearts of people;
2. Publication: printing the Bible in useful formats;
3. Distribution: getting God's Word into people's hands;
4. Engagement: helping people find their way to the hopeful, Good News of Christ.

When the present St. Thomas' Church was consecrated 145 years ago, on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1880 one of the notable gifts was the set of three windows over the Altar which depict St. Luke, St. John and St. Paul. St. Paul is pictured in the middle with a book, representing his epistles; and with a staff or sword – a staff as a reminder of his many travels and missionary tours – a sword because, under Nero the lunatic Emperor, he was beheaded outside of Rome in 65 A.D.. These windows had previously been in the west end of Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton.

Interestingly, in our branch of the Church, it is St. Paul's conversion, rather than his death and martyrdom that has received the greatest honour in the Church calendar. Why? Because of the great benefit his conversion was to the Church. Saved by God's amazing grace, Saul, a persecutor and murderer of Christians, became one! A changed man, through and through, his name was changed to Paul, and God sent him out to preach the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to the Gentile world. Some say that he travelled more than 10,000 miles by land and sea.

But the window in St. Thomas' Church is not our only tribute to the Apostle to the Gentiles. We are blessed also with St. Paul's Church in Cross Creek. Built in 1908, it stands as a reminder of God's love and power to change the hardest heart, and of our duty to share the Good News of Jesus Christ Who is full of Grace and Truth.

Today's Collect (page 264) compares the Good News of Jesus to light. And so it is. Not natural light like the sun, but something much greater – a Light that can penetrate and illuminate the darkness of our hearts. Through St. Paul's travels, sermons and writings, the Lord caused His eternal Light to shine. That's the thing: God's heart overflows with love for us and for the world, as broken as it is. He yearns for every person to receive His Hope and healing, and the new life of His Spirit.

At the very end of today's Lesson, Ananias, the Lord's servant, says, "Brother Saul, receive thy sight....The God of our fathers hath chosen thee...For thou shalt be His witness unto all men....Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the Name of the Lord." Let us hear that same Word and allow it to move us deeply. This week, with a renewed desire, let us call upon the Name of the Lord as St. Paul did.

