



St. Luke Cedar Hill

www.stlukesvictoria.ca

“a beacon in the community, illuminating
many ways to encounter God”

The Prescription



Easter 2024

St. Luke’s Rector: The Reverend Daniel Fournier

Editors: Sharon McMillan and Barb Prescott

Cover photo created by Sharon McMillan using Bing AI.

(All unattributed pictures in this edition are from websites that offer free photos for non-commercial use)

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We embrace the knowledge that the Ləkʷəŋən (Lkwungen) peoples are the original custodians of the lands on which we gather. Their traditions are a blessing that can open our hearts and minds, and they are bearers of ancient wisdom that can give us hope.

From the Editors

Sharon McMillan and Barb Prescott

Welcome to this Easter 2024 issue of *St. Luke's Prescription*. Thank you to everyone who sent in pictures and articles for this issue. We are always happy to receive your contributions! We also appreciate feedback and suggestions as to what you would like to see included in *The Prescription*.

The submission deadline for the Summer edition of *The Prescription* is **Friday, June 14th**. Please keep sending us (Sharon and Barb) your articles, photos, poems, and other creative endeavours at prescription@stlukecedarhill.ca or communications@stlukecedarhill.ca.

Our History and Our Future

I love history and I find family stories fascinating. I can easily get up caught up hearing and reading the family stories of those resting in St. Luke's cemetery. That is one of the reasons I enjoy the work I do wearing my cemetery hat, which includes collecting family stories for the Prescription and for the Stories from the Cemetery page of our website.

Of course, it's always easier to look back and see where we've come from, than to look forward and try to predict where we are going and what the future will hold. As I encourage people to send in articles for the Prescription, I am always hoping that we can achieve a balance with some articles looking back while others look forward to upcoming activities and events, and future plans.

I was pleased to read Brenda's article, *What Next?* as well as Daniel's comments on change and moving forward. We have a long history at St. Luke's and this is important. But the community around us has changed greatly in the almost 165 years since the parish first began. We need to think about how we can best serve the community that is around us now. New developments are happening all around St. Luke's. What can St. Luke's offer to complement those new developments? We have vision and mission statements. How do we put these into action for our future, keeping in mind that change is inevitable?

Speaking of change, a change is afoot for *The Prescription*. Sharon McMillan would like to step down as editor in order to make time to pursue her own creative endeavours. This is a chance for someone else to take on the fun of helping to create *The Prescription*. Sharon comments that the requirements for doing this are competency with Microsoft Word, having a photo editor with reasonable utility, an instinct for page layout, and some time available four times a year (during about a 2-3 week period leading up to publication) to work on this. It's not an "every week kind of a job" as some volunteer positions are. Also, please don't feel that you need exactly the same skills as Sharon has. Remember that we all bring our own skills, interests, and ideas to any position. If you are interested, please talk to Sharon or to me (Barb).

Easter Blessings to you and your families
Barb

Spring in St. Luke's cemetery
Photo credit: Barb Prescott



From the Rector's Desk

by the Rev. Daniel Fournier



Dear Friends,

It is March 23, the day before Palm/Passion Sunday. On this last day before Holy Week begins, I have been thinking about the disciple's story in our Gospel according to Mark. I am wondering what is going on in the minds of these disciples, who had left everything to follow Jesus. Jesus had already made claims three times that he would be put to death and then rise again in three days. They should have known what was going to happen, and we would think

they would have believed because of all that they witnessed in his healings, the miracles, and all that he had taught them.

Then, on one special day, Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time, where the crowds gave him a hero's welcome. And yet, so very quickly, the cheers turned into a chaotic angry crowd, who shouted, "Crucify him!"

After three days, all that Jesus had spoken about became not some hoped-for fantasy, but the true breaking through of a new reality. A new hope. The fulfillment of eternal promise. New life blossomed.

The journey through Holy Week into Easter perhaps reflects the story of our own story as a parish. As the disciples followed along with the familiar Jesus, experiencing the thrill of his teachings, miracles, healings and wonders, they could not have imagined what would happen to him: death, a cross, a tomb. We too have journeyed as a parish, with the joy of what has been so familiar to us: the ways we have functioned, the activities we have engaged in; yet we, too, have been going through our own Holy Week. Things have changed and are changing. The ways that we have done things in the past are changing. On one hand, we don't want to face these changes; on another, we are coming to understand the necessity of change.

Indeed, I believe we are coming to new life and time of blossoming for our parish. I am seeing things, meeting new people who want to know who we are and who have a thirst for a deepening faith. I am celebrating people who are becoming engaged with new ministries or more deeply engaged in familiar ones. There are people who have dreams to share, and who bring new hope and ambition for our parish. I must say, that looks like resurrection!

The disciples had to experience death before they could become enlivened in new life in Jesus. This must be our experience too: that we also need to experience death to come to life, that is new life, as a parish. And now that we are on the bright side of the cross here at St. Luke's, what might that new life look like?

I close with the inspiring words of Bishop Anna from last year's Diocesan Synod: "The future is not going to look like the past. And the future is bright."

Easter blessings to all.

Daniel+



Words from the Wardens – Easter 2024

by Brenda Morgan

Suddenly, Easter is upon us, so early this year. St. Luke's, always abuzz with activity, keeps me so busy, I hardly feel the time passing. Let me take you through some of the events in the last three months.

Our Christmas Services were absolutely beautiful. The church looked different this year, because the new smaller altar has moved forward, and the choir is now facing the congregation. Christmas Eve, bright with poinsettias, sparkled with the fairy lights on the windowsills, and when the lights were lowered for the candlelit "Silent Night", it was magical. The music throughout the service was fabulous – talk about the heavenly choirs singing! Thank you, Susanne, for your leadership. The crèche, which used to be in the bottom of the large altar, has now found a place on a table under the pulpit, closer to the congregation, where it is very visible especially during communion. The bell choir also faced the congregation, which made for excellent sound projection.

The Reflections services continue to be inspirational and well attended. For those of you who haven't yet had that pleasure, please come. You will not be disappointed. Different from the regular, traditional services, they offer an alternative, sublime way to encounter God.

Our Family Service has resumed. Again, we offer families an alternative way to worship with their children. To further our family involvement, we continue to offer Fantastic Fridays once a month, a great complement to the family service.

Shrove Tuesday's Pancake Supper was very graciously hosted by the Lutheran Church of the Cross. Mountains of pancakes appeared, which we made short shrift of (no pun intended), and they went down well with all the sausages, fruit and syrup. Thank you so much to all the cooks at LCC and the servers who helped. It was a lovely, enjoyable evening with our friends across the street, and we are grateful for their generous hospitality.

More recently, Carol Turnham organized a Vintage Market. It was a different sort of sale to the ones we usually hold, bringing in a different set of buyers. We are always pleased to expose our buildings to new sets of people. One never knows where it will all lead. The event was very successful, and we congratulate Carol and thank her for all her hard work.

The winter has been unusual, mild most of the time but with surprisingly cold, frosty snaps. On the whole, it has been dry—again unusual. However, dryish winter notwithstanding, we did have a torrential rainfall that resulted in a flood in the church basement the likes of which I have not seen in all my years here. I heard more about sump-pumps and drains than I really wanted to know. It did serve to remind us that we have a heritage building with all its inherent problems. Nevertheless, floods come with rainbows, and our church still stands as a precious reminder of times past and as a promise of a bright and lively future.

The wardens wish you a Happy Easter, full of blessings.



Photo credit: Brenda Morgan

Dates to Note: April through June 2024

Date	Event
Friday, April 5	Fantastic Friday (aka Messy Church) - 4:30 - 6:30 pm
Sunday, April 7 – June 30	Communion Services at 8 am and 10 am Coffee Time in the Hall after the 10 am services.
Sunday, April 14	Reflections Service - 4:30 pm
Sunday, April 21	Cemetery Tour - 2:00 pm The Amazing Women Resting in St. Luke's Cemetery
Sunday, April 21	Family Service - 4:00 pm
Saturday, April 27	Spring Fair - 10:00 am - 3:00 pm
Friday, May 3	Fantastic Friday (aka Messy Church) - 4:30 - 6:30 pm
Saturday, May 11	Cemetery Cleanup - 9:00 - 11:30 am
Sunday, May 12	Reflections Service - 4:30 pm
Sunday, May 19	Family Service - 4:00 pm
Friday, June 7	Fantastic Friday (aka Messy Church) – 4:30 - 6:30 pm
Saturday, June 8	Cemetery Cleanup - 9:00 - 11:30 am
Sunday, June 9	Reflections Service - 4:30 pm
Sunday, June 16	Family Service - 4:00 pm

And Dates to Note in the Summer

Monday, July 22 - Friday, July 26	The Amazing Journey 2024 Summer Day Camp - 9:00 am - 12:00 noon – A joint project of St. Luke's and Church of the Cross. The Camp will be held at Church of the Cross this year.
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Your Support is Always Gratefully Received...

Contact the Parish Office if you would like to help

- **As a Reader and Liturgical Assistant**
- **To keep the grounds tidy**
- **By donating to the Altar Guild Flower Fund**

Financial support of St. Luke's is always welcome.

Make an extra financial donation to St. Luke's by:

- **Cheque or Cash** in the collection plate on Sunday, mail it, or drop it off at the hall
- **E-Transfer** (from your bank account to admin@stlukecedarhill.ca)
- **Credit Card** (Canada Helps)
- **PAR** (Pre-Authorized Remittance Program, also called automatic debit)

Visit the **Donate page at the website** (<https://www.stlukesvictoria.ca/donate>) for more information about making financial donations.

An Update from Will Ferrey – February 2024



Will with Owen

How lovely to hear from you!! I'm glad things are going well, and I guess busy is better than bored. I tell myself that, at least. No shortage of busy here!

I am on parental leave! With Sim, I took 8 weeks (nicely timed to have the summer off) but with Owen, we decided it would be good for me to have a little more time, so I'm in the midst of six months off. I started January 8, and then Allie still had a bit of leave left, so we overlapped for a bit. She's just back to work this week. It's great being on leave - I mean, it's still tiring and busy, but only in one way, instead of being busy at the church and then busy at home too. We have a really good interim priest, and a good associate priest, so I'm not worried about the parish at all. There's a big prison in Springhill, which

is very near here, and the interim, Lorraine, runs a retreat center on the grounds there. She's taking her day off to come to Amherst and is here Sundays as well.

I spend a lot of my time going to the library and the family resource center, and a lot more of my time reading books to Owen. He loves to read - he'll grab a book and crawl over, pull himself up and say, "book? bookie? book?" until you read it to him. And if you read it once, you're in for three or four goes at least. But he's so cute it's hard to say no, and of course, he's my whole job now. Sim is still doing well at school - I walk him there most mornings (about 20 minutes each way) and sometimes to pick him up as well, if Owen's nap works out.

It has been a fairly mild winter here - still cold, but not too many storms. Some years we get a storm a week, but not this year. We did have a three-day snowstorm, which was a lot of fun. I was super glad to be on leave, as I didn't have to decide about cancelling church on the Sunday of the storm, or worry about going anywhere. I think we got maybe 18 inches of snow, but it blew around a lot, so there were some big drifts. Cape Breton got over a metre of snow! Our neighbours built a snow hill and slide in their driveway, and Sim had a lot of fun sledding down it.

I'm going to dig into the "new to me" *Prescription!* I always enjoy them.



Owen ready to read



Allie with Sim

The building behind them is the old customs house. It's downtown in Amherst, and now houses a quilting shop on the main floor and apartments upstairs. Christ Church is sort of behind it, but you can't see it from the angle of the picture.

North to Alaska

(With Apologies to the Late Johnny Horton)

by Ray Lett

In the summer of 1977, I worked for a Canadian mining company exploring for minerals while studying for a degree at the UBC. My boss at the time, a very experienced geologist and shrewd manager, decided I should go to Alaska (*It will be good experience for you, Ray*) because he knew (but neglected to tell me) that that manager of the company's Alaska division was known to have an abrasive personality. So, in early summer I flew, first to Anchorage, and then to an Arctic Village, a small, Gwich'in speaking Alaska First Nations Community.



Arctic Village, Alaska



Gold panning (Chez in yellow hat)

My first few weeks were spent with several congenial colleagues and two of the community leaders collecting rock samples and mapping the geology to evaluate the mineral resources in the Tribe's traditional lands under an agreement with the Alaska State government. We stayed in the village community hall (converted into a dormitory) and our meals were cooked by the village women. It was a stimulating and interesting two weeks, but then I moved to the company's semi-permanent camp in Bettles, an Alaskan village some 200 km to the west. Again, the work involved collecting rock, soil and stream sediment samples for metal analysis in the mountains north of the village.

All went well for a week or so, until one day Chez, the manager of the company's Alaska division, arrived to check on progress. The temperature in our camp fell several degrees because Chez was meticulous in checking our notes, found fault with the smallest of perceived errors and virtually ignored my presence. After several days of experiencing a cold shoulder from Chez, I decided to take the initiative. My friend in the camp mentioned Chez had been an enthusiastic prospector in his youth so one evening, after dinner, I casually asked him a question about gold panning. He immediately became friendly, began to reminisce enthusiastically about prospecting for gold and promised to take the whole crew to a suitable creek for "gold panning training".

So, the next day we all descended on a nearby creek to learn from Chez the skills of gold panning. He also generously allowed me several days leave so that my wife could fly from Vancouver to Anchorage to join me. We were able to drive to see the glaciers in Portage Inlet and have an excellent and memorable meal at a restaurant with the delightful name of Clinkerdagger, Bickerstaff and Pett's. The Alaska experience taught me the value of discovering a person's interest to build a working relationship.



Lunch stop near Elusive Lake, Alaska



Portage Inlet glaciers, Alaska

Photo Memories of St. Luke's

St. Luke's was recently gifted a lovely, framed set of photos from Christmas in 1977. It was given to our Music Director, Susanne Reul-Zastre, by Kathleen Edge, who had received it from her friend, Ann Newton. The framed photos were presented to Ann's father, Tom Newton. The photographer had a surname of Lund but we don't know anything about the photographer. Tom's children provided this short story behind the photos ...

These framed photos were presented to our Dad, Tom Newton, by his friend and associate, Reverend Moulden, in recognition of his service to the Church. A housepainter by trade, Tom painted the areas shown in the photos as a gift to the Church.

One of Dad's favourite memories of St. Luke's was attending Midnight Mass one Christmas Eve. Toward the end of the service, a gentle snow started to fall, providing Victoria with the rare magic of a white Christmas.

Ann Newton
Catherine Murphy



The six photos are mounted on a black background, under glass



The Lady Chapel, with its beautiful trappings



The Nave, when it had a red carpet



The High Altar, looking glorious with huge bouquets



The Choir, separated from the Nave by a railing



Pews extended to the back of the Nave



The amazing decorations at Christmas

Attic Treasures Vintage Market

by Carol Turnham

Photo credits: Carol Turnham, Sharon Hallsor and Heather Simpson

On February 17, 2024 between 9 am and 4 pm, St. Luke's Church and Vintage Fashion Showcase (VFS) held a new fundraising venture called Attic Treasures Vintage Market. This was similar to the version we had planned to hold in 2020 before all public gatherings had to be cancelled due to COVID. A small planning committee was formed from St. Luke's and VFS and an attractive poster was designed by Sharon McMillan. Vintage vendors were approached and before long, all of the 8' x 8' spaces and single tables were rented.



Extensive publicity was done, with press releases, sharing of online ads through personal social media, and posters distributed around town. Two small ads were placed in the Times Colonist and we received a free ad on the GO page of the TC, as well as a mention on at least one radio station.

The hall was organized on the Thursday evening and bunting was put up to decorate the hall inside and out. Thanks to Jesse and Daniel Poilievre as well as all the other strong people who helped with this huge task. On Friday, it was all full steam ahead for setup - St. Luke's and VFS during the day and the vendors from 7:00- 9:00 pm.

Market Day arrived and quite a few Early Birds paid a premium to be given entry at 9 am, giving them an hour to browse before the General opening at 10 am. Coloured tickets were used to tally attendance and we found that we had 582 customers – an excellent turnout!

St. Luke's sold both old and new items in the front half of the Sequoia Lounge, where Tara Poilievre convened the Vintage table and clothing rack, and Brenda Morgan convened the newly crafted items, mostly made by herself and Joanne Jolson. Heather Simpson managed the Square device for anyone who wanted to use their credit card.

The other half of the lounge featured racks of clothing sold by Vintage Fashion Showcase members. St. Luke's Players graciously allowed us to borrow two of their very sturdy racks. As well, a small sealed-bid auction was positioned along one side of the hallway, convened by Sharon Hallsor. Many sellers wore vintage outfits to add to the fun.

All the vendors were very pleased and complimentary about St. Luke's facilities and the organization and expressed the hope that it become an annual event.

The event was very successful and raised for St. Luke's a total of \$4,623.60. It was hard work but lots of fun! Our thanks to all who helped out in various ways, such as Sandra Lindberg who provided courtesy coffee in the kitchen to all the vendors, which was greatly appreciated.

ATTIC TREASURES
Vintage Market







The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at LCC

St. Luke's parishioners really enjoyed both the hospitality of Lutheran Church of the Cross and the pancakes that were expertly prepared and served, with the help of Rick Saville and Martin White!



St. Luke's Annual **SPRING FAIR**

3821 Cedar Hill X-Rd

Saturday, April 27 10:00 – 3:00

Plants & Garden Art ~ Jams & Jellies ~ Home Baking ~ Jewellery
Silent Auction ~ Vintage Clothing ~ Antiques & Collectibles
White Elephant ~ Toys ~ Books ~ Crafts & Creations
Mother's Day Gifts



Lunch & Snacks available from Come and Get It food truck



Thank You from Rob Jewsbury

Please thank the good people of St. Luke for Sunday's surprise Get Well card. I have an upgraded walker that Andrea brought me yesterday. My son-in-law Mike has customized an outdoor wooden handrail at the driveway cement steps from Brazilian (IPE) walnut, one of the hardest-grown wood on earth.

My vestibular physiotherapist is attempting to retrain the brain to learn to walk with balance. I am completely deaf in the left ear after 111 days since Nov 21. He suspects the middle-ear nerve was damaged by the shingles virus.



Mothering Sunday

by Barb Prescott

We celebrated Mothering Sunday on March 10th with daffodils and a blessing for the mothers (all those who had mothered and nurtured), and simnel cake for everyone.



Simnel Cake made by Kathleen Patterson (picture from April 2019) Photo credit: Sylvia Sinclair

Mothering Sunday is a holiday celebrated by Christians in many Anglican parishes throughout the world. It falls on the fourth Sunday in Lent, exactly three weeks before Easter Day. Mothering Sunday was once observed as a day on which people would visit their "mother" church. This was the church where one was baptized, the local parish church, or the nearest cathedral (the mother church of all the parish churches in a diocese). Children and young people who were "in service" (as household servants) were given a day off on that day so they could visit their families (or, originally, return to their "mother" church). The children often picked wildflowers along the way either to place in the church or to give to their mothers.

Thanks to Kathleen Patterson for making the simnel cake for us to share. Simnel cake is a light fruitcake often associated with Mothering Sunday. It is distinguished by two layers of almond paste or marzipan, one in the middle and one on top. Conventionally, eleven marzipan balls are used to decorate the cake, symbolising the twelve apostles minus Judas Iscariot, or occasionally twelve are used, representing Jesus and the eleven apostles. *(Source: Wikipedia)*



“Passport Panic”

by Gillian Bloom

Knowing exactly where my passport was located, I did not bother putting it together with my other travel documents until a few days before departure – big mistake! Checking inside, I discovered to my horror that it would expire on March 4, 2024. Looking back, I remembered, that even when I travelled back in September, I had to go through a special line-up because of that date. Great to recall that now – only two days before I was due to go to Puerto Vallarta on February 3rd with my daughter and granddaughter!

So I thought the best thing was to go and ask if my passport would clear customs to get me into Mexico. I thought I would try the Langford Office as it is not as busy as downtown and sure enough I didn't have to wait too long to be told the disquieting news that “Mexico is a bit iffy about passports just coming up to expiration date.”

The Official suggested I get an Expedited Passport, but unfortunately that could only be done downtown – sigh of despair! So, I arrived at the downtown office to face a long line-up OUTSIDE the doors. I took my courage in my hands, went straight to the front door, and explained that I needed an Expedited Passport. Immediately I was let in – much to the chagrin of the long line-up left behind! There into a shorter line-up and finally to the one desk person on duty.

I explained my predicament and she seemed very hopeful about the outcome until she asked the fateful question – what are your flight times? My daughter, Tanya, who lives in Black Creek, had made all the arrangements and was of course working that day. My flip phone will not call up-Island but someone kindly lent me their cell phone and of course, it went straight to voice mail!!

I was beginning to panic somewhat by this time so I was sent to yet another agent who was so calm and so helpful. She took down my daughter's information and promised that they would somehow get in touch with her. Meanwhile they clipped my old passport. Horrors – passportless!!

She told me to come back just before 4 pm when they closed and the passport would be ready, providing they had managed to get the flight information from my daughter. My daughter told me later that she had been a little worried when her phone rang and “Passport Office” was the caller and she did admit that her first thought was, “Oh no – what's Mum done now!!!”

Being the organised person she is, everything the Passport Office needed was on her phone and when I arrived just before 4 pm on February 1st, my brand new passport was waiting for me along with a cost of \$270!!

My bus ride to Black Creek the following day was smooth sailing especially without the stress which had plagued me the last couple of days. Of course, it was all worthwhile (even the \$270) to be able to spend nine days with my daughter and granddaughter in the warmth and sunshine of Puerto Vallarta.



Gillian with granddaughter, Olivia, and daughter, Tanya, at a Mexican restaurant at Samba Resort, Puerto Vallarta

The Nail of Betrayal

Based on Mark Chapter 14, Verses 43-72

by Genevieve E.A. Richards

Overview:

Jesus celebrated “The last Supper” with his twelve Apostles, following which they went to the Mount of Olives. The Chief Priests and members of the Council are plotting against Jesus; the scriptures must be fulfilled.

Have you ever been betrayed by someone whom you loved, trusted, respected and cared for?

- Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot; the signal for betrayal was a “kiss”, usually a symbol of affection.
- A young man with a linen cloth about his body was so intent on saving himself when the going became rough, that he fled naked, leaving the linen cloth behind; that young man was thought to have been John Mark, the writer of the Second Gospel.
- The Chief Priests and Council sought witnesses to testify falsely against Jesus; when the witnesses’ stories were conflicting, they accused Jesus of saying that he would tear down the temple by hand and rebuild it in three days. They did not understand that he was referring to his death and resurrection.
- The Chief Priests then resorted to entrapment, “Are you the Christ, the son of the Blessed?” Jesus said, “I am”.
- Peter, who was in the crowd, tried to distance himself from Jesus by denying three times that he knew Jesus.

Jesus was betrayed by all those people mentioned before; Peter was his dear friend. In life, we have all experienced betrayal at some time by someone whom we trusted. Yes, there are varying degrees of betrayal but it is never right. Betrayal causes hurt, disappointment and mistrust. Similarly, we too have betrayed Jesus and God our Father at some time, perhaps unwittingly or willfully, motivated by jealousy, malice, greed or a quest for power.

Jesus asked God to forgive those who hurt him, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do”; this was his response to being betrayed. We too must strive to forgive those who have betrayed us and we must seek forgiveness of those whom we have betrayed. God loves us unconditionally; “The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell” (Frederick M Lehman). Jesus gave his life for us so that we may be forgiven. We too must be prepared to forgive those who betray us and hurt us. If we open our hearts and listen, we will hear his voice.



Amen

“Be silent, be silent,
A whisper is heard
Be silent and listen
Oh treasure each word.
Tread softly, tread softly,
The Master is here,
Tread softly, tread softly,
He bids us draw near”. (Fanny J. Crosby)

Our Mother's Story

Gillian (Jill) Rose Agnes Smith (Nee Tait)

by John Harwood, read at Jill Smith's Memorial Service, January 19, 2024

Trying to summarize your mother's life is a poignant, humbling and challenging experience. It is also impossible to do given the 10 or 15 minutes in which to do it. There is no way to touch on all aspects of her life because, after all, she had almost 93 years to amass many experiences and relationships. So if, in the next few minutes, something you consider important is missed, then feel free to share it with us during our time together afterwards. We would be delighted to hear how she influenced your lives. But, this is how she influenced ours.

Mum rarely, if ever, spoke of her childhood and teen years. I suppose that is understandable given she was born in 1931 and her first fourteen years took her through the Dirty Thirties and then WWII. We can only speculate how her father's absence during the war and his subsequent decision not to return home after the war, affected her, because she chose never to speak about it.



Jill with Leanne in 1954

After the War, she lived with her mum and siblings in Winnipeg. She married George Harwood in 1953, but that marriage ended in divorce at the start of the 1960's when he walked away and left her as a single mother to raise five children. We moved to a tiny house in the St. James neighbourhood of Winnipeg, and the next few years were difficult. Money was scarce, but her support was plentiful. Both our grandmothers stood by her, and our Uncle Clive (*Clive Balfour – Jill Smith and Clive's wife, Lois were sisters*) was often called upon, and willingly came, to fix this or that. I recall one incident specifically, because I was the one who caused the damage.

Mum had frequently told Ted, me, and Michael to not kick a football in the front yard. It was a postage stamp-sized yard and she was concerned about something being broken. Well, during one of my more successful punts, I put the football through the front bedroom window. I was horrified. Ted and Michael, on the other hand, were relieved they weren't the culprits. I wasn't spanked. It wasn't necessary because the look of disappointment on her face was devastating.

There were two bedrooms on the second floor of that tiny house, bisected by a staircase. At the top of the staircase was a tiny landing, but of more use to us was a four or five inch ledge at the very top. Rather than step down into the landing and back up into the other room, we simply ran across that narrow ledge. I have to say that very little phased our Mum. Not Michael running back and forth in sock feet on that ledge and then tumbling down the stairs and putting his feet through the china cabinet, nor Melanie running back and forth in sock feet, slipping, and splitting open her forehead on the edge of the landing on those same stairs. The only thing that seemed to faze her was learning to drive, which she did in her thirties. The nervous energy and frightened "Oh's" must have helped her learn, because she did it a lot.

Mum did not have much, but she always found a way to keep a roof over our heads and food in our bellies. We were poor, but never really knew it. Ted recalled that one year, probably when he and I were seven, she saved the box tops from Lipton soups, undoubtedly with the help of others, so that

on that Christmas, the boys got new Timex wristwatches. Of course, it didn't take long before we wound them too tight, but we could still play with the plastic tow trucks she got us from the nearby Esso gas station.

After her divorce, Mum made sure to remain engaged with the world. We attended church every week, and she put the three boys into the all-male choir at All Saints Anglican Church. We also enjoyed the occasional excursion to RCAF Station Gimli where her brother, Peter, was an ATC assistant. Grandma Tait would always drive us up there in her 1956 Volkswagen Beetle. She would drive while Mom sat in the front passenger seat. Leanne, Michael, and Melanie were in the back seat, and Ted and I were squeezed into the space behind the back seat, facing each other and harassing one another all the way. Seatbelts were not even optional; they simply weren't there.

In 1964, Mum received an invitation from her father to join him in England. She packed up five children and in February of that year, we hopped on a plane to live in Welwyn Garden City in England. In England, she met Dawson Smith, who became her life-long partner in August 1965. They were together for 48 years until Dawson's death in 2013. At the same time, we gained a sister, Marilyn, evening the score at three girls and three guys. Marilyn remained in England with her mother when we returned to Winnipeg in July of 1966, where mum eventually landed a job with the Royal Winnipeg Ballet as executive assistant to Arnold Spohr.

Mum did not have a prejudiced bone in her body and was adamant about treating all people with dignity and respect, regardless of colour or creed. She was always fair. Ted stated he never remembered any time that she showed preference to one child over the other; that we were always treated equally. Well, he would say that he was her favourite, or maybe it was Leanne, or Michael, or Melanie?

She passed on wisdom to us in various ways. Ted recalled one such episode when he was lamenting the fact that he was short. Mum very wisely told him something that he has passed on to his son, Steven. Height is NOT the measure of the man; it's what's between his ears.

Mum adored Marty Robbins and was over the top with excitement when she and Ted got to see him live at the opening of the new Winnipeg Convention Centre in 1975. She also loved the Toronto Maple Leafs and especially Frank Mahovalich. In our tiny house in St. James, Saturday night really was hockey night in Canada. Popcorn was made and juice poured and at some point, when Mahovalich was rushing up the ice, we would hear Mom scream out, "Go Frankie, baby, go!"



*Janet, Ted, Gillian, and Dawson
1977*

One of the most devastating events for Mum was Leanne's sudden death in 1994, from a brain aneurysm. It took a long time for her to regain her equilibrium. Afterwards, she and Melanie became very close. When Melanie was able to visit, they would take off for the day and go sightseeing or shopping. They loved to explore the downtown, Chinatown, the beach, and second hand shops. After Dawson died, Melanie weaned Mum off of Manchester United and got her back into watching baseball games. Apparently, when she was younger, her favourite team was the New York Giants, but Melanie converted her to a Blue Jay's fan. She would call Mum up to let her know when a game was starting and they would call back and forth whenever there was a great play or a bad call by the

umpires. Now Melanie has to watch the games alone, but will always remember the fun they had when the games were on and they could chat about the umps, the players and the plays.

Melanie is a gifted stained-glass artist and Mum loved the pieces that Melanie made for her. She always encouraged Melanie to continue with her art, and whenever they would talk on the phone, she would ask what Melanie was working on. That is something that Melanie is really going to miss.

A little secret, in case you didn't know: Mum hated house cleaning. Don't misunderstand me; she hated it, but she did it. She came up with a ploy while we still lived in Winnipeg. I came home from university and noticed that she frequently left the vacuum cleaner sitting just inside the front room. When I finally asked her why it was always out, she said she left it there so that if anyone dropped in unannounced, they would think they had interrupted her cleaning the house. I thought that was brilliant.

Mum was adamant that her children would be prepared for their own adulthood. While we always had chores to do, she also taught us --- even the boys --- to do basic cooking, iron clothes, and even sew on buttons. When we became old enough, we were assigned a weekday upon which we each had the responsibility to make supper. I got pretty good at making spaghetti every Wednesday.



A family gathering in 1995, a year after Leanne died. From left: Ted, Melanie, John, Gillian, Dawson, Mike, and Dawson's daughter Marilyn

Mum stood by us right from our earliest years, even when things were falling apart for her. Did she do all things right? Of course not, none of us does. But, it was she who kept us together and, although we drifted apart because of time and geography as we grew older, it was Mum in her later years who brought us all together again. It was her final gift to us, and we are grateful for it. Thanks, Mum, for always being there. Rest in peace now.

Jill and Dawson Smith are now resting in St. Luke's Cemetery in Row R (Midgley Terrace) Plot C08. Thanks to John Harwood for sending his mother's story and to Ted Harwood for contributing the family pictures.



Did You Guess Who?

In the Christmas issue of *The Prescription* we asked you to Guess Who it is in this photo.

The correct answer is: **Vicki Sharp!**

The picture was taken around 1951. She is a Brownie in the photo, about age 8

Thank You for Your Donations for Burundi

A Note from the Compassionate Resource Warehouse

The Burundi Load was confirmed on Monday and finished around 5:30 pm on Wednesday, March 20th. This load was very detailed, tricky, complicated and challenging but we were able to fit everything in and lock it up in one day. We tried very hard not to send any Canadian air!

Every department had to pack specific items in specific sized boxes, labelled very specifically. A huge Labour of Love by all of our CRW team, Youth For Christ Victoria, the Sharps, the Sharp team, Canada Comforts and Soap For Hope, Church of the Nazarene, Trinity Christian Centre, and St. Luke's Anglican Church. It indeed was a wider community effort!

There are so many amazing treasures in this load...an amazing GIFT BOX that will make such a difference in the lives of so many children, teens and families.

Thank you all for your kindness! (See more photos at the [News page](#) of St. Luke's website.)



The 2024 Parish Council



Meet your Parish Council members for this year:

Back row: Brian Dominique, Rick Saville, Maria Ross, Carol Turnham, Barb Prescott, Sharon McMillan
(Secretary) *(Treasurer)*

Front row: Heather Simpson, Joanne Jolson, Tara Poilievre, Steve Ruttan, Brenda Morgan, Daniel Fournier
(Rector's Warden) *(People's Warden)* *(Rector)*

Absent: Sean Tiernay *(Director of Worship)* Thea Todd Daniel Poilievre *(Youth Delegate)*

What Next?

by Brenda Morgan

Truly, truly, I say unto you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. [RSV John 12: 24]

Part 1: Redevelopment of the Parish Site

Exciting times are before us. There are new plans on the horizon. Daniel and the wardens have recently been in an early discussion with the Diocese regarding redevelopment on our site. There is a long process to follow and many steps along the way, but in the end our site will look quite different from what you see today.

Our vision statement states that St. Luke's is a beacon in the community, illuminating many ways to encounter God - and so it must continue to be. St. Luke's Church, and all it stands for, will remain our centre, our light, and our compass, guiding us through all new ventures. Any redevelopment vision, i.e. "the new project", will fall under the umbrella of our existing St. Luke's vision.

As a parish, we will come together to discuss ideas for this new project. Daniel will set a date for this discussion, after one of our 10 am services.

The question to consider is: What do we want our land to look like when we are done?

To develop a vision for this new project there are some points to consider:

- The Diocese wishes as far as possible to retain ownership of its land.
- The entire process will go through the Diocese. We cannot act unilaterally as they are the official landowners.
- The Diocese would like to serve the community by either providing rental housing, or rental space for some type of community service (managed by a professional property manager). We would continue to be landlords, gaining "perpetual income".
- If we don't sell land, we do not have cash in hand for the project, but we would have land to use as collateral. We would have to find partners where we would bring "land" to the partnership. In the current political climate, there are partnerships we could make, for example, BC Builds, among others. There might be private investors who have money but no land.
- To release some capital (to build for our own needs - parish offices and social space), there are other models we could explore; for example, leasing; or "air parcels" where we would hold the land rights but sell the air rights, for some of the land.
- In developing the project vision, the Diocese would like us to consider community needs, the environment, and reconciliation which fall under the Diocese's mission statement.

As a reminder, in the year before COVID struck, a proposal was submitted to our parish by a developer. There were a couple of parish meetings to discuss it but it wasn't submitted to the Diocese for review because the Bishop recommended holding off on further work until we had done more groundwork to understand our goals and needs. Within the proposal, we would keep the church, cemetery and some of the current parking lot, and would sell the remaining property to the developer to build market-value condominium housing. In the new building we would have become strata owners of the ground floor operational and rental spaces specially designed for St. Luke's and its community partners. The floors above us would have been sold off for apartment housing, between 90-100 units.

It sounded like a deal worth exploring further, as we would have had money in hand to save the parish from closing and would have had almost exactly what we have now - except we would have had to sell the land to get it. The Diocese suggested at the time that we shouldn't move forward while having only one proposal to consider and has since advised that parishes need to invite proposals that don't require the sale of land.

As we come up with a new project vision, looking at models that don't include selling land, I urge you to remember that the parish of the future will likely NOT look like the parish of today. To hanker after what we have today is probably a vain dream. We have been blessed all these years to enjoy the community centre we have here. Let us give thanks for that. But, let's also be prepared to move from it to some other equally good model. Change is always difficult to accept but look at how well the changes in the altar/choir space have worked out. Think of this as a new adventure, new ways of serving God.

Our heritage church will not be part of any new development, nor will the cemetery or memorial garden site, so we should focus what the church can bring to us as a community. That's not to say we will have no auxiliary buildings, but they may not be what we have now or what we would expect.

Be open to new ideas, new explorations. Trust in the process, and trust in God's grace to guide us. The new plan will undoubtedly bring a whole new way of thinking of a church community, but as Bishop Anna said, "It will be bright!"

Part 2: Keeping our Heritage Building Functional and Beautiful

Even as we consider all the possibilities for redevelopment, we also must consider that as a first step we need to keep our church a going concern and up to code. We wish our church to look cared for and alive. None of us knows the future but whatever the evolution of our parish, our St. Luke heritage building will probably be here, hopefully intact, beautiful, and still providing inspiration. When the rest of the buildings go under redevelopment, the church building will be our centre. It will be our place of worship, our place to meet, and our place to socialize. We need a conversation on what to use as a meeting/social space - maybe the chapel area?

First Steps:

- We are looking to develop a second washroom in the church building that would be wheelchair accessible. We have been told by a builder that we have enough space in the entry.
- The bell-tower entrance needs repair and painting. Though we don't use this entrance, it faces an important street. Its improvement would serve to give the impression of well-being and vibrancy.
- We need to find grants to help pay for these improvements.

As a designated heritage building, St Luke's is eligible for grants. We need a small committee who will be committed to fundraising through grants to preserve our beautiful building. Most of us love this church: some have memories going back years; others have been newly inspired, so we call on you now to help us preserve this building and keep it as a legacy for future generations. Please consider helping. Never assume others will do the job. We need you. Please volunteer today.

Bishop Anna, Nov 2023: "It is my hope that if and when parishes face questions about their properties and the need for significant changes, improvements and developments, the Diocese can partner with them in finding life-giving and sustainable solutions that ensure vital ministry for years to come. We do not want to be looking at closing and selling properties, but rather at reimagining what might be possible so that they best serve community needs today and are preserved for future generations and future needs."

Cemetery News – Spring 2024

by Barb Prescott

It always seems a bit odd to talk about news from a cemetery, especially a cemetery as old as St. Luke's Cemetery. But in order to keep the cemetery maintained and well cared for, there is always work to be done and so there is, in fact, news! There are also newsworthy events and activities to share with you.

Our first piece of news is an upcoming event to note in your calendars. On April 21st at 2 pm, the Old Cemeteries Society will hold a tour featuring the Amazing Women of St. Luke's Cemetery. If you would like to talk about an amazing woman resting in St. Luke's Cemetery who was your mother, grandmother, friend, or other relative, please contact me, Barb Prescott. Also, please come and hear the amazing and interesting stories of some of the women resting in St. Luke's cemetery. Everyone welcome. The cost for the tour is \$5 per person.

Our second piece of news includes more dates for your calendars. We will be holding our cemetery cleanups on the second Saturday of the month this year in May, June, and July. The dates will be May 11th, June 8th, and July 13th. The cleanups are usually from 9:00 – 11:30 am. Many hands make light work. So if you are able to come, even to help for a short time, your help will be greatly appreciated.

Our final news item is about work that is being done in the cemetery. For a number of years, we have wanted steps by the shed to take us to the graves in the upper terrace area (Rows M and N). We had been using a cement block there, which was a temporary solution. Finally, we now have two steps in that area. Christopher Barclay has been doing some work for us to repair the dry stone wall on the north end of the cemetery that was bulging. So at the same time he created the stairs and repaired the broken concrete caps on some of the other walls. See the pictures below telling this story.



On the left, the cement block that was used as a step



On the right, our new stairs



The bulging, crumbling wall

As ***The Prescription*** is going to print, the dry stone wall isn't quite complete but watch for more pictures at the website. Dry stone walls are somewhat unusual in this part of the country. They are common in Eastern Canada and in Europe. In BC, most walls are mortared but a well-built dry stone wall will withstand the weather over the years better than a mortared wall.

Christopher Barclay, who specializes in dry stone walls, has repaired other parts of the wall for us. This is an ongoing process of gradually repairing the walls in St. Luke's cemetery.

If you would like to make a donation towards the cost of repairing the dry stone wall, creating the stairs, and other miscellaneous repairs in the cemetery (totalling just over \$5,000), St. Luke's would be most grateful. Please make your tax receiptable donation by putting cash or a cheque (payable to St. Luke's Church) in your envelope and noting on the envelope that the donation is for the cemetery. Another option is to visit the [Donations for the Upkeep of St. Luke's Cemetery link](#) at the Cemetery page of St. Luke's website (www.stlukesvictoria.ca/community/st-lukes-historic-cemetery) to find out how to make a tax receiptable donation using a credit card or by e-transfer.



*The dry stone wall being rebuilt
Photo credits for pictures on page 23 and 24:
Barb Prescott*

I hope to see you at the Amazing Women Cemetery Tour on April 21st at 2:00 pm and/or at one of the Cemetery Cleanups on the second Saturday of the month in May, June, or July.

A Lament

*by Joan Jolson**

In death there is still life
Even though our bodies have died and are decaying
If we have through God made one person's life more serene
Then our purpose on the planet has been fulfilled.

Through God's love in us and around us
All things can be made better
For those around us and within ourselves
Our love that God has given us has been shared

It's that love that will remain
And flourish in the person or people
That our lives have touched
So in our death there is still life

**Joanne Jolson's mother, Joan Jolson, wrote poetry throughout her life. We have shared her poems in previous issues of The Prescription, and we are pleased to share another here.*



COOK GROW SHARE CONNECT

What's Cooking at The Kitchen

by Ray Lett and Kim Cummins

Phase 2 Renovations are Happening!

If you were walking down Cedar Hill Cross Road recently and casually glanced in at The Kitchen you may have noticed the absence of furnishing and people, except for carpenters and other skilled workers. Yes, The Kitchen's Phase 2 renovations are currently underway! The project includes construction of a commercially certified kitchen, a walk-in cooler expansion and walk-in freezer, HVAC, and several accessibility upgrades.

Renovations are expected to be completed by the end of April. Staying connected and providing food support for our members during the renovations has been our top priority. While our

facility may not be available right now, our team continues to operate and provide essential services twice a week (Wednesdays 12-5 and Fridays 10-3) from the Upper Hall at Lutheran Church of the Cross. Since adapted operations began, over 350 participants have accessed healthy food and grocery gift cards from The Kitchen.



Spring means the start of the Garden Program



In 2023, our Garden Programs generated 9,315 lbs of fresh produce for our Pantry and Food Skills Programs! After a much deserved winter break, spring cleanup work parties began this month. On March 8th, staff led a volunteer service day at the Cedar Hill Garden, with a team of students from St. Michaels University School. Together they tidied the garden, harvested kale, and sampled delicious miner's lettuce. As the Cedar Hill Garden enters its fourth growing season, our team wants to send our deepest gratitude to St. Luke's for their continued support of our growing efforts!

Seeking New Directors

The Shelbourne Community Kitchen Society is a growing and vibrant food security organization. We are reaching out to community-minded individuals to join the Board of Directors. The Board governs The Kitchen's Pantry, Food Skills, Garden and Resource Programs. Dignity, respect and inclusion guide the Board's decisions and foster community connection. If you are looking for a rewarding and progressive volunteer opportunity where your work can make a big difference, The Kitchen may be for you. We are looking for the following expertise: human resources, accounting, marketing, grant writing, and non-profit organizations. Please send expressions of interest to Chair of Nominating Committee, Don Storch, hr@shelbournecommunitykitchen.ca by April 30, 2024.

Save the Date! The Shelbourne Community Kitchen Annual General Meeting is tentatively planned for June 11th, 2024, and all are welcome.


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