



# Connections

*I am the good shepherd, says the Lord; I know  
my own and my own know me. John 10: 14*

**SPECIAL  
ISSUE #7**

## Hope in a hurting world

### **LENT - PASSOVER - RAMADAN**

As this part of the world awaits Springtime, three major expressions of faith mark periods of prayer and penitence.

Christians have emerged from the introspection of Lent to the glory of Easter, our Jewish neighbours recently recalled their ancient ancestors' exodus from Egypt, and the Muslim community is beginning a month-long time of fasting, prayer and community service.

This year is different. There are no gatherings in fellowship and feasting, no communal prayer and study of the scriptures, no celebrations with handshakes, kisses and hugs. We pray at home; we study at home; we communicate our caring by phone calls and letters and online messages.



But trees are beginning to show pale green lace on their branches, daffodils and tulips will soon add their colour for our winter-hungry eyes, and by these signs we know once again that God is unchanging; he is with us always. Alleluia!

### **WE MOURN WITH NOVA SCOTIA**



*50th  
Anniversary*

*May 2, 2020*

*Jacque*

*and*

*Adrien*

*Bouthéon*

**Love and blessings  
from your  
Christ Church family**

*Please pray for these members of our faith  
community and their families*

**Anne S  
Annet K  
Beverly B  
Christina & Joshua  
Corinne P  
David M  
Deb A  
Dorothy  
Euphrasia  
Felicia & Lucia R  
Florence S  
Fred L**

**Hannah M  
Jenille L  
Ken K  
Margo P  
Maureen C  
Philip I  
Sam  
Sherri-Ann & Ron  
Valerie A  
Viggy M  
William I**

*and for all those affected by the COVID-19 virus*

**John Nicholl (Joan) and Audrey Taylor recently  
passed away. We pray for their families and friends.**

## TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND

When I heard that our good friend John Nicholl had passed away, one thought I had was that, because of the pandemic, he had been alone in the hospital. I called a lady in our breakfast club to tell her about John and also asked her how she was making out alone. "Oh," she said, "I'm not alone. The good Lord is always with me." I realized then that John had not been alone either. He would have been praying to God or more likely talking to God.

John's church life meant a lot to him. He and Joan were long time members of St. Peter's Church on Brimley Road, where they were very active and until recently had never missed an early morning service.

John and Joan were both members of the Altar Guild. He was very brave, as he was the only male.

The Nicholls became members of Christ Church a few years ago. He was the guy who would come into church wearing a red hat. We all watched him to make sure he took it off!

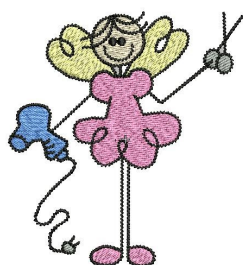
John was quite a character, but to quote Father Roy "a good character". He would say something and we would say "Oh John, you are bad!". His comeback was "I'm not bad - I'm rotten." We would have to agree with him, so we could all laugh.

John and Joan had a wonderful marriage. You seldom saw one without the other. I say the reason they had a great relationship is that Joan always laughed at John's awful jokes. Joan has a terrific laugh.

You know, it's hard to lose a husband, a father, a grandfather, a relative, a friend. The only way I can handle such a loss is by turning to my faith, and by keeping that person close to my heart.

*Ron Clark*

*May he rest in peace  
and rise in glory*



Now that all the beauty salons are closed, we know what colour our friends' hair really is!

## FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD!



Or so Oliver Twist and his friends sang. On Thursday April 16, the Christ Church Deacon's Cupboard received a welcome food donation from Scarborough Rosewood Food Drive. Since some of their regular drop-off points are not functioning at the moment, their Chairperson called the church and we made arrangements to accept some of their food.

We received Cheerios cereal, ketchup, rice cakes and rice/seaweed snacks. Depending on what they can "harvest" we will receive other donations as well. As one of the few functioning food banks in this area, we are continuing to provide food to anyone who comes to our door on Thursdays. And a big THANK YOU to our faithful volunteers who continue to staff the Deacon's Cupboard, and to all those who donate food and money. We strongly suspect that the need will go up (maybe way up) before it comes back to our normal levels.



**Food Bank volunteers  
l to r: Detra Powell,  
Rev. Jacque  
Bouthéon, Diane  
Dean with food from  
Scarborough  
Rosewood food drive.  
Tammy Durdle (not  
pictured) is also a  
faithful volunteer.**

## ***REFLECTION - Invitation to feast on the Word***

If you are a long-time Anglican, you likely dearly miss the Eucharist, the time to "feed on Him in our hearts by faith" (from the Book of Common Prayer).

A letter came from the head office (the diocese) at the end of March, written by Bishop Andrew Asbil in response to the hardship of not being able to gather to have communion. In this letter he says that this is a time to "Feast on the Word".

I'd like to elaborate on this. The reasons why a focus on Scripture is important is as 2 Tim. 3:16b -17 says: "there's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another - showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way". (The Message). Or we find out from Proverbs that we need to be "attentive to God's words, from 4:20-22 NRSV,: "Do not let them escape from your sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and healing to all their flesh".



In a time where communion is absent from our lives, we can be more fully learners of the faith, followers, disciples, by exploring the Scriptures. This is a time to delve into and feast on the word, relying on the Living Word, Jesus, to come alongside us, and for the Holy Spirit to lead us into truth. I invite you...actually, I implore you, explore the Scriptures.

**In order to do so, I thought I would give some pointers - what I have found helpful. And just so that you know, this is much of my process when I am preparing to preach.**

1. Pray before you read. It could be something such as this: "God, open your word and help me to hear what you would want to say to me today. Guide my thoughts by your Holy Spirit. Amen".
2. Read a portion of Scripture until you feel you have finished a section. It doesn't have to be a full chapter. One of the first four books of the New Testament, the gospels, are a good place to start.
3. Treat this as an exploration. It is somewhat akin to pulling apart a Shakespeare play, which you likely did in a high school English class. The good news is that there is no exam afterwards and there are eternal rewards. And you get 5 stars for just trying. (Oops. I guess they didn't use gold stars in high school).



4. When you read, you can ask yourself any number of questions. Please don't get bogged down in looking at all of these. However, I did want to provide them for the keeners, who will want to dig deep:

Who is involved? Who are the characters? What are their feelings/words/actions? What was the context of this portion of Scripture...what has gone before...what will come after? Is there any movement of understanding in any of the characters?



5. Is there something that strikes you? It could be a question. For instance, for the gospel reading for this last Sunday, Luke 22: 13-35, I wondered about the two walking with Jesus on the road to Emmaus. What was meant by, "were not our hearts burning within us". And what caused the burning to happen? Ponder and pray about what the answers might be.

6. How does the passage relate to what you know of God? Is there anything that challenges your understanding? For instance, if we see Jesus as meek and mild ONLY, we could be challenged by him being irked by the lack of faith of the two he walked with in Luke 22.

7. Is this story in the other gospels? If you have time to go looking (a computer search could help), what do the other gospel writers say, what are the similarities and what are the differences? Let me



just mention here that there are likely differences. Don't be concerned - each writer was writing from their viewpoint about what they thought was important.

What was important to our gospel writer?

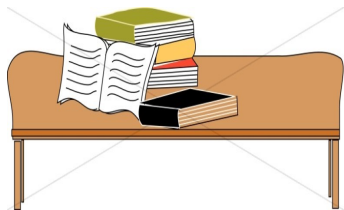
8. Within the one passage or, if you were to look at the various passages for a Sunday service, you could ascertain whether there are any common words, a word used more than once, or if there are stark differences that you could compare. Are there other parts of the Bible that relate to the potential theme? What do they say?

**KEEP GOING....take a breath...you are doing great! Five more stars.**



9. How does all of this exploring relate to where I am at in my life or those around me? Is there anything that is stirring up within me, any potential learning that I need to sit with or attend to?

10. Is there a potential theme that is coming through that relates to what is happening in our world today? Are there other places that may say something about the theme...cartoons, memes, sports, news stories, movies, music, theatre, literature, art, stories of or with your neighbours/family or in your community? Are there examples from how the world works or should work - the planets, animals, gardens, machinery, relationships, finance, business, various medical fields, politics, justice etc. In my pastoral theology class our professor said to "read widely". I would add, read widely and when you read, be aware.



11. Does the theme relate to where we are at in the Church year....to Easter or to anything we know about church history or certain saints, current or past? Is there a hymn that you are reminded of?

12. Personal application: Is there anything in my exploration that encourages me to think, believe, or act differently?

For all of us Scripture explorers, what snapshots of my trip would be good to share with another?

*We are happy to explore with you, or to provide further resources for your exploration. Connect with me at [ptrondson@gmail.com](mailto:ptrondson@gmail.com) or with Fr. Roy at [revroyshep@gmail.com](mailto:revroyshep@gmail.com).*

*Pastor Pam*

