



Connections

I am the light of the world, says the Lord. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.
John 8: 12

Volume 3

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February 1 to 15

2021

IN FEBRUARY WE REVIEW OUR PAST AND PLAN OUR FUTURE AT VESTRY

The days are getting a little longer. It is still winter, but February brings the promise of Spring a bit nearer. We chafe under the restrictions of the current lockdown, and we long for the return of warm weather, green leaves on trees and flowers in the garden.

The Christ Church family, too, longs for a return to the joy of gathering in our familiar places to pray and praise and draw strength from one another.

Meanwhile, we remember our common past and plan our future as a congregation at our annual Vestry meeting, hearing reports about what has gone on in spite of the limits placed upon us by COVID-19, and deciding what we would like the shape of our life together to be after it is defeated.

This year we will not sit across a table with each other as we make these decisions. We will have received three sets of papers to help us prepare for this important meeting. The first will be letters from our diocesan and area bishops and a social justice motion on anti-racism; the second will be the Vestry reports of ministry leaders; the third will include the reports from the Incumbent and the Wardens, the budget and the list of ministry teams for 2021-2022.

There are a number of leadership positions which the nominating committee is looking to fill. These include the following Coordinator roles: Women's Group, Community Meal, and Fundraising.

Or, if you want to organize a new and different fundraising event, we are looking for creative ideas during the pandemic.

Or heading up the events that we have offered in the past - if they become possible. They include International Talent Night, the Christmas Bazaar and Ham and Turkey sales. If you are interested in having more information about any of these opportunities to serve, please contact Pastor Pam.

Details about how our faith family will be able to participate in the Vestry meeting will be sent later, but please reserve the date and time, **FEBRUARY 21, at 1pm** for this very important event in the life of our parish.

The Vestry list of those eligible to vote on February 21 can be accessed by contacting the parish office.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP CALENDAR

ALL SERVICES ONLINE

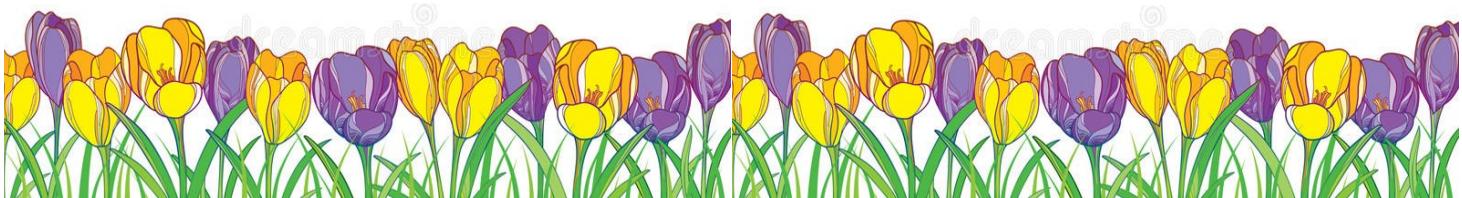
February 7 BCP service

**February 14 Feast of the Transfiguration
"Spiritual Communion" (see page 3)**

February 17 Ash Wednesday

February 21 First Sunday in Lent

February 28 Black History service



SHORT SUBJECTS

Learning from the Scriptures

Last year at the beginning of Lent, 21 members of Christ Church each had their Resource Book and

Bible Study

were ready to begin a two month study program. Then COVID-19 prevented our planned weekly discussions and everyone had to

continue the program on their own. This Lent our Bible Study will feature a Resource Book, questions for discussion and a voluntary weekly Zoom session with the leader. For those without internet access, an alternative system will be available.

Tin Pan Alley

Are you baking up a storm during the lockdown? The food bank has accumulated a number of cookie tins and candy tins and will gladly give them to our pastry cooks. Just let Jacquie know at 416-264-4726 and come by on Wednesday mornings to get them.

An Attitude of Gratitude

2021 offertory envelopes in support of our parish and the wider community are now available for those still using this method of giving. Please note that you will probably have a new number, as some families have chosen to make their gift by e-transfer or by monthly or quarterly cheque. Call the Treasurer at 416-265-5995 to arrange delivery.

What are you Giving Up for Lent?

If you observe the old traditions and it's chocolate, you will want to celebrate Valentine Day with a big box of your favourites.

Or you could take a more positive step and instead of "giving up" anything, "take on" a spiritual discipline that will enhance your faith long after Lent is over.

Please pray for these members of our community and their families

Anita & Dave F

Anna Mary K

Anne S

Annet K

Beverly Barber

Christina & Joshua

Connie & David M

Corinne P

Dave M

Deb A

Deborah T

Ebun D

Edna S

Gwen P

James Y

Jenille L

John J

Judith R

Ken K

Lennox & Leonora Y

Linda & Robert E

Margaret B

Madhuri M

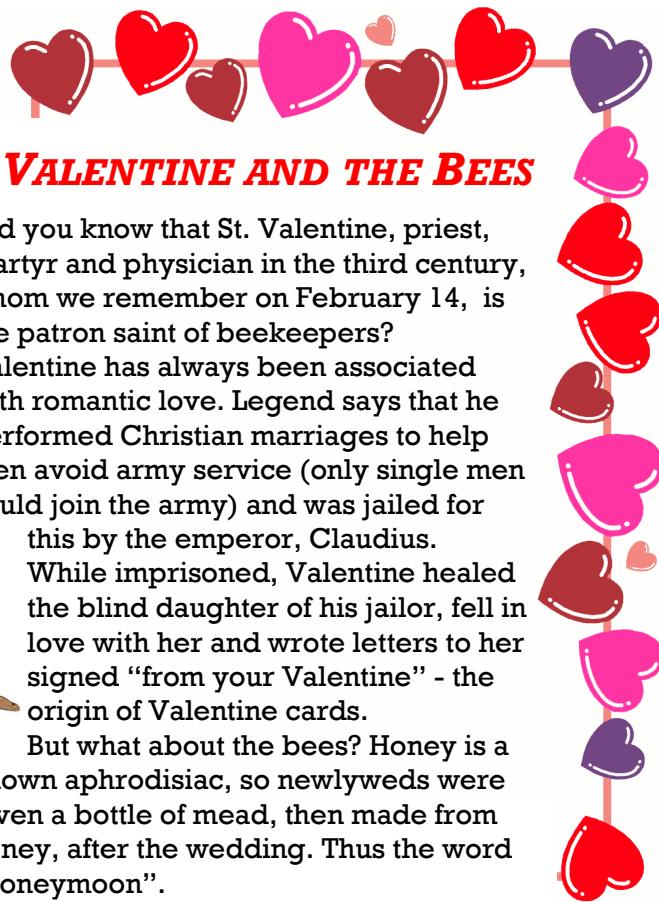
Moureen N

Philip I

Robbie & Bev R

Sherri-Ann & Ron

and for all those affected by COVID-19, racial discrimination or any injustice



VALENTINE AND THE BEES

Did you know that St. Valentine, priest, martyr and physician in the third century, whom we remember on February 14, is the patron saint of beekeepers? Valentine has always been associated with romantic love. Legend says that he performed Christian marriages to help men avoid army service (only single men could join the army) and was jailed for this by the emperor, Claudius.

While imprisoned, Valentine healed the blind daughter of his jailor, fell in love with her and wrote letters to her signed "from your Valentine" - the origin of Valentine cards.

But what about the bees? Honey is a known aphrodisiac, so newlyweds were given a bottle of mead, then made from honey, after the wedding. Thus the word "honeymoon".

All these centuries later, in our cynical and prosaic world, Valentine's story seems like a fantasy, and lifelong love is not always honoured.

But we hear Jesus' words "Love one another" in broader terms, embracing not only romantic love, but the concepts of love for one another as brothers and sisters and social justice for our fellow humans.

And we hear too, the rest of his admonition "as I have loved you", which demands, not just superficial affection, but a deep commitment based on faith.

A Day in the life of a Food Bank Volunteer

There are about a dozen happy volunteers who come once or twice a week to the Christ Church food bank, called the Deacon's Cupboard ,because they feel that this is an important ministry in our community.

Some volunteers come on Wednesday to unload and repackage a delivery we receive from Feed Scarborough (a subsidiary of Daily Bread Foodbank). This involves taking huge bags of potatoes, carrots, parsnips, and fruit items and packaging into smaller individual family portions. Other people carry heavy cases of canned goods, rice, and packaged food up to the parish hall to be sorted. This is combined with donations from the congregation.

Detra Powell and a couple of other volunteers also purchase grocery items using monetary donations. They look for bargains and try to add to the variety of basic food items offered. Volunteers come again on Thursday to distribute the food. This is possible because trays of dry food have been organized in the parish hall.

As each client arrives at the door (one at a time) Deacon Jacquie fills out a check list of basic items they might need. Items include coffee, tea, soup, pasta and sauce, cookies, crackers, canned meat or fish, toilet paper, cereal, etc. This list is given to a runner who goes up to the parish hall to fill the list. A bag is filled and taken down to the foyer.



Meanwhile other volunteers help the person to choose from items on tables in the foyer. These include a large assortment of dry food, fruit, vegetables, milk, eggs, yogurt, and meat.

There are many jobs to do to keep the flow of food going. Upstairs, in addition to repackaging bulk food items, trays are constantly being refilled, and cardboard boxes are broken down and stacked neatly.



We try to meet the family needs of our clients.

The comment we hear most often is how people are able to choose what they need and want for their families. They always say thank you. As one person leaves, the next one enters. All people and volunteers wear masks. Hand sanitizer and gloves

are also available.

We find it amazing that our small community church can fulfill a very necessary need by providing food for 150 to 175 people a week (including family members of clients). This is possible because our faithful congregation continue to donate both food and money. A neighbouring church has also donated substantial food and money. Along with donations from Daily Bread Foodbank we can continue to feed people in need who also suffer the affects of this raging pandemic.

Donna Campbell

A PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

For the Feast of the Transfiguration, on February 14th we plan to have an online Christ Church Eucharist service which you can participate in. Although you will not be partaking in the consecrated bread and wine, our hope is that you will be able to know the presence of God with you. This is the prayer that we will have you join in saying during the communion:

I worship and adore you, Lord Jesus Christ, present in the Holy Sacrament and in your people, who are gathered in spirit.

In this moment I join with them to receive you in my heart, and in our community.

May you, enthroned on the altar, be now enthroned in my heart; may you, present in bread and wine, feed and renew my soul; may you, who give yourself to us again, fill us with grace and heavenly blessing.

Even as I am fed, may my hunger for you and for your reign of justice and peace increase, that I may, with your Spirit, work for that day when your reign shall come on earth as it is in heaven.

Amen



Excerpts from a letter by The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Archbishop and Primate, Anglican Church of Canada, The Rev. Susan Johnson, National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and The Most Rev. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop.

Dear friends in faith and siblings in humanity, As leaders of Canadian churches in 'full communion', we wish to encourage your observance of the *United Nations World Interfaith Harmony Week (WIHW)* from February 1 to 7, 2021.

The annual WIHW has today become a preeminent opportunity for raising up the imperative of dialogue between religions and spiritual communities of all kinds for the sake of greater understanding, peaceful coexistence, and mutual collaboration for the common good. Its basic premise is that regardless of religion, faith, or system of belief, there is a common affirmation shared by many: that our highest convictions about life and meaning impact not only ourselves, but also compel us to love of our neighbours.

We have come to understand that WIHW is in agreement with the original vision of Indigenous elders for this Land, and we are

happy to show respect to them in the respect we show to others.

We feel it is highly significant that WIHW takes place at the end of the liturgical season of Epiphany. Each year on January 6th we are reminded of a meeting between the child Jesus and some Seekers of Wisdom from a far away land. As followers of Christ in a religiously diverse time, we hear a call to cultivate encounter and relationship with neighbours who journey along different spiritual and religious paths. Histories and incidents of hostility and violence between faith communities amplify the significance of cultivating relationships as a contribution to the work of making peace.

The urgency for interreligious awareness and cooperation to respond to the many challenges facing the one human family continues to grow, and we believe it is a critical part of Christian discipleship today to commit ourselves to the way of genuine encounter and peacemaking with people of other faiths and beliefs.

Together we therefore wholeheartedly endorse the global celebrations of WIHW, and encourage the members of our churches to embrace its vision and aims as a faithful expression of their love of God turned outward into love for all others.

Worshipping by DVD

Most of the members of our parish family are able to participate in our online worship services every Sunday, but there are others who are not on the internet and so unable to join us.

However, we have overcome this problem for people who have a DVD player, thanks to the persistence of Ian Campbell. Ian has found a way to download and "burn" the service on to a DVD.

Individuals or groups of neighbours without internet access may call Ian at 416-265-5995 if they wish to participate in our worship services by this method.

This is not intended to be an option for people who can use their internet access; the process, while not expensive, takes some time to complete.

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