



# **St Laurence**

# **Leader**

Winter 2006

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## *ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS*

- |                    |                                      |   |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>DECEMBER 3</b>  | <b>ADVENT 1</b>                      | <b>Fairtrade Coffee &amp; Tea Sale</b><br><i>Stock up on coffee, tea, and other items that will make wonderful gifts for family &amp; friends.</i>                          |
| <b>DECEMBER 5</b>  | <b>TUESDAY</b><br><b>7:30 p.m.</b>   | <b>Women's Dessert Party &amp; Craft Sale</b><br><i>Great desserts and \$5 gift exchange.<br/>Fairtrade items available too.</i>  |
| <b>DECEMBER 10</b> | <b>ADVENT 2</b><br><b>11:30 a.m.</b> | <b>Conversations</b><br><i>Kevin Siggins from CAWST (Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation) to come and speak about support for water projects in The Third World.</i> |
| <b>DECEMBER 17</b> | <b>ADVENT 3</b><br><b>10:00 a.m.</b> | <b>Lessons &amp; Carols</b>   |
|                    | <b>6:30 p.m.</b>                     | <b>Pageant - Bethlehem's Best</b> <i>(followed by a reception)</i>  |
| <b>DECEMBER 20</b> | <b>6:00 p.m.</b>                     | <b>BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE</b><br><i>followed by a Potluck Supper</i>  |

*Be with us to hear and share prayers, scripture and music that help us to remember that God's presence is for those who mourn, and God's word comes to give light to our darkness.*

**DECEMBER 24**

**ADVENT 4**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Contemplative Prayer & Eucharist**

*Join us as we carve out an hour of quiet prayer and prepare ourselves for the coming of Christ into our lives and hearts.*

**DECEMBER 24**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Children's Service**

*A celebration of the birth of Christ especially suited for young children and the young at heart.*

**8:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve Family Eucharist**

**DECEMBER 25**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Christmas Day Service**

*A quiet and contemplative said service of Holy Communion*

# Advent Reflections

- The Rev. Anna Greenwood-Lee

Advent is the season in which we wait upon and prepare for the coming of Christ. We wait with hope for the arrival of Christ at Christmas. We wait with hope for the arrival of Christ in our own lives. We wait also for the second Advent, the return of Christ and the coming of the Kingdom.

For many, Advent is a season of outward preparation. We bake, we buy, we wrap, we cook, we decorate. While there is nothing wrong with any of this, often we make ourselves so busy with outward preparations that there is nothing left for inward preparations – for preparing for the in-breaking of Christ in our own hearts and lives.

The inward preparation for Advent is waiting. Most of us do not like waiting. Moreover, Advent is difficult because we don't always know exactly what it is we are waiting for. What we are waiting for cannot easily be described. We are waiting for the Kingdom, we are waiting for the power of God working in us that can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, we are waiting for Christ.

The thing to remember about Advent is that we do not wait without hope or purpose. We have received a promise from God and we wait, in faith, that the promise will be fulfilled. Moreover, we wait for something that has already begun. The seed has already been planted. God, Christ, is with us, now.

During this season of Advent I invite us all to discover what it means to wait in hope. To trust that some things will come about, in God's time, in God's way, and that they will be more beautiful, more wonderful, than anything we could ask or imagine - anything we could bring about on our own.

*You have perhaps waited for years to be freed from some need. For a long, long time you have looked out from the darkness in search of the light, and have had a difficult problem in life that you have not been able to solve in spite of great efforts. And then, when the time was fulfilled and God's hour had come, did not a solution, light, and deliverance come quite unexpectedly, perhaps quite differently than you had thought? Hasn't this happened to you, just as the child comes at his own time, and no impatience or hurrying can compel it - but then it comes with its blessing and full of the wonder of God?*

*Eberhard Arnold  
German writer, philosopher and theologian  
1883-1935*

## NOTES FROM ANNA'S DESK.....

### **Bible Study**

A group has begun to meet on **Thursday mornings at 10:00 am**. All are welcome to join us. Between now and Christmas we will be looking at the parables. After Christmas we will be working through a book about women in the Bible, "Some Women Amazed Us." For more information please speak with Anna.

### **Foyer Groups**

I would like to begin the practice of "Foyer Groups" at St. Laurence in 2007. The idea is simple - groups of 8-10 parishioners agree to get together for dinner, once a month, for a year. There is no agenda other than to build fellowship within the community.

Starting these groups is relatively straightforward. I am looking for five or six people willing to host a group and to suggest a night the group will meet (the first Friday of every month, the second Thursday, whatever works). In later December and early January we will post sign-up sheets for the foyer groups. Parishioners who are interested will sign up for the group and time that suits them. The first supper will be at the home of the host but after that the supper will rotate to the homes of all the members. The host cooks the main course and others bring the rest.

This is a model that has been used successfully in many church communities. It is an excellent way both for long-time members to get to know one another better and for new members to make friends within the community. If you are willing to host a group please be in touch with me as soon as possible as I'd like to get this going early in 2007.

### **Diana Butler Bass to visit St. Laurence**

As you may know, the work of Diana Butler Bass and her research and books on 'Practicing Congregations' has been a major influence as St. Laurence has developed its vision of an Intentional Community. I am very pleased to announce that Diana has agreed to give a presentation at St. Laurence on **Wednesday, May 16, 2007** in the evening. More information will be available in the New Year but please mark the date and plan to attend this exciting event.

### **Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony**

During the fall conversations on the Joy of Worship many of the participants suggested that it would be a useful practice for parishioners to be invited and encouraged to share some of their own faith journey, some of their own thoughts about God, the church and living in the world as a Christian with the congregation.

There are a number of ways to do this and my hope is that in the New Year a few brave and willing souls try this out. One way is for a parishioner to prepare a short talk that could come right before the sermon. Another, would be for a parishioner to write and read what I could call a modern Epistle.

In the first century St. Paul wrote letters to the churches. He wrote letters to churches he had visited and churches he had not – telling them about his own faith journey and encouraging them to remain strong in their own faith and to be a witness to the world.

In the New Year I am looking for parishioners who would be willing to write and read modern Epistles – to give testimony to their own faith journey, their own experience of the church. Or, if you are

more comfortable, I am looking for parishioners who would be willing to share some of their own faith journey at the beginning of the sermon time.

I am willing to help anyone who needs help preparing to do this and to offer guidance. The only 'rules' about testimony is that what you say has to be about you, and it has to be about God.

## Confirmation

The Anglican Church confirms individuals of **any age** who have come to a place in their journey when they are ready to make themselves the promises that were made on their behalf at their Baptism. While some people may be ready for this at 14, for others it may be 21, 40 or even 80. If you are interested in Confirmation, please speak with Anna.

## IN MEMORIAM

**Eileen Vaudry**

**George Durham**

*O God of all, we pray for those we love but see no longer. Grant them your peace and in your loving wisdom and almighty power, work in them the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## The Wardens' Report

- Bruce Jantzie

The arrival of Anna has certainly brought even more energy and direction to our parish. Her strong leadership, enthusiasm and organizational skills in particular have been a huge benefit to the Wardens, and we are very grateful for her guidance and support. It's an exciting time at St. Laurence, with many programs and activities underway.

We are also thrilled that Don McLeod has joined St. Laurence as Associate Priest, and that Vic Cabel is continuing his role as Honorary Assistant. Both bring many gifts and talents to St. Laurence, and we feel blessed to have them as part of our parish.

Anna's induction ceremony on Nov. 8<sup>th</sup> was well attended by the parish, particular considering it coincided with the first big snowstorm of the year. It was great to officially welcome her to St. Laurence. Thank you to all the people who attended, as well as those who assisted in the planning and hosting of the event.

We were honored to have Bishop Hoskins able to spend so much time with St. Laurence. In addition to the Induction Ceremony, he was able to attend Larry's Grill, meet with the Craft Group, and also experience some of our Outreach activities such as the Food Bank and Mustard Seed.

There are many new initiatives underway in Vestry. We realized this year that Vestry was composed of too many teams, with members being "spread too thin" with multiple committee commitments.

Vestry was therefore re-organized in September, with each member selecting only one committee that they wished to serve on. The objective was for the remainder of the committee to be filled by members of the Parish at large who feel a calling to participate, and even act as "chair". This

new approach will also enable committees to remain intact from year to year, because even though Vestry members will complete their terms, members of the congregation can continue to serve.

Each team will have a budget and be empowered to spend the money responsibly without approaching the Vestry for expenditure permission.

The second component of this initiative was to create more time in the Vestry life for committees to meet, plan and act on their objectives for the year. With this in mind, Vestry meetings will be held every 2<sup>nd</sup> month. The alternate month will be used for committee meetings.

October	- committee meeting
December	- committee meeting
November	- Vestry
January	- Vestry

Each committee was to hold a meeting in October and select a chair. At the December meeting all the committees will meet together and Don McLeod will facilitate a discussion about the roles of each committee, their function, whether we have too many or too few committees etc. If any parishioner has an ongoing interest to participate, please contact a Warden.

One key initiative worth noting will be a strong focus on making St. Laurence a welcome place for visitors and the “church-shoppers” arriving in Calgary looking for a parish to call their own. The feedback we have received from new members and guests is that our parish is very friendly and engaging and that we make visitors feel at home and appreciated. We are looking at ways that we can enhance the experience of visitors at St. Laurence, and engage them to make it their spiritual home.

Special kudos need to go out to Melanie Lovatt for the fantastic website she has nurtured and maintained. Since Anna’s arrival, Nick Hall, Melanie Lovatt, and

Roger Hough have worked together to make the website a welcoming and informative overview of our parish life. This is particularly valuable and informative to potential new members, who use the Internet as a key part of their review of potential Calgary parishes to visit. The feedback has been excellent.

You may also notice that a Warden will be standing next to the Rector in the Narthex greeting you after the service. Don’t be alarmed that you are being lobbied to join a committee!! We have received feedback from new members and clergy that it is helpful for a Warden to join in these greetings, to introduce new members to the Rector, and help orientate them to programs and activities that are underway in the Parish.

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## **Annual Stewardship Campaign**

**O**ur annual call for stewardship of our time, talent and resources officially wound up with thanksgiving on Sunday, November 12. On behalf of Anna, Vic and Don, the wardens, our vestry, all the people of St Laurence and those who will benefit from our service, a big thank you to all who have pledged a share of their gifts to the work of our church.

Thanks to Ian Burgess who presented the packages at two of our fall dessert parties, to our envelope secretary, Denis Gardner who keeps track, and to all who responded to the call so generously.

Once again, we have responded to God’s call with generous hearts. Jesus said, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21) Once again, the people of St Laurence have given of their treasure and shown their heart.

Thanks be to God.



## Sunday School and Youth

*-Gwen Jarabek*

In my life I have had the privilege of working with many youth, from all socio-economic backgrounds. The children and youth of St. Laurence have to be among the most exceptional. Without omission, these children embody a moral and value system that is seriously lacking the majority of youth in our society today. Take the time to talk to anyone of them and you will find a pleasant, courteous person. In a time when the Anglican Church is seeing a decline in numbers and continuing internal struggle, it is more important than ever that our future generations feel they are welcome and vital parts of our community. A woman at Christ Church said to me that 30 years ago she was the youngest person in the women's group. Today she is still the youngest person in said group. Somewhere along the way due to a variety of factors we have lost a significant part of our population. The late teens to 30's, and 40's are virtually non-existent in our pews each Sunday. St. Laurence however has an edge. Relative to our population we have a large number of children and youth each week. However these children will get older and have the potential to drift away from the Church. We have a lot to compete with in the secular world to keep their attention. Video games, friends, parties, malls, sports, music, the list goes on. These days, children lead lives that are just as busy as adults. I hope that as our

Church continues to grow and live in an intentional community that we can find ways to ensure this valuable part of our church does not drift away.



## **Pageant December 17, 2006 6:30 p.m.**

The Sunday School and Youth Group will present to you **Bethlehem's Best**, a musical production based upon the traditional pageant. Last year we were thrilled at the overwhelming response and support from the congregation. I hope that this year we will see even more come to our pageant as we witness our children and youth share with us the story of Christ.

## **YOUTH GROUP EVENTS**

**December 1 Skating at Olympic Plaza**

**December 15 Christmas Party**

# SING HIS PRAISES!

-Ruth Seltner

Among the many forms in which the human spirit has tried to express its innermost yearnings and perceptions, music is perhaps the most universal. It symbolizes the yearnings for harmony, with oneself and with others, with nature and with the spiritual and sacred within us and around us. There is something in music that transcends and unites. This is evident in the sacred music of every community - music that expresses the universal yearning that is shared by people all over the globe.

~ *His Holiness the Dalai Lama*

These are impressive words a little too lofty perhaps, but they speak to something within me. Those of us in the choir are there, not because we are necessarily great musical talents, but because music touches us in a deeply spiritual way. There is a joy in sacred music which allows for personal spiritual expression.

I was a reluctant choir member. Childhood musical experience both drew me to and drew me away from the choir. It took too much time, I wouldn't fit in, it wasn't that important. I joined "just for Christmas" 2 years ago.

The role of a church choir deserves consideration, especially as we move towards a more deliberate practice of our faith. The choir had this discussion at our first practice this September. Deb (our tireless and extremely patient leader) summed it up for us. The choir is there for 3 purposes. Sometimes we perform. This happens in our anthems.

Sometimes we teach - hence you find us at the front of the church introducing new music. Mostly we lead - in various ways throughout the service. We view our leadership as our most important role. However as a community we are moving towards a more deliberate faith. We recognize that we are all participants in the liturgy and we all find expression in different ways.

For some musical expression is uncomfortable - I can't sing, people wouldn't want to hear me, it embarrasses me - I'd rather just keep quiet. If this were true none of us would sing. Some of the choirs more recent practices then, are deliberate in their attempt to fulfill our leadership role and encourage participation. First and foremost we are not currently wearing choir gowns. While we honour the history of the gowns as a symbol of unity, as we move forward the goal is not to separate ourselves from the community. Like all whom lead in the liturgy we are participants in the congregation.

As time goes on we will come out of the choir loft from time to time. There should be no them and us, just we. The choice of music is diverse, joyful, solemn, modern, and ancient, from many times and many places. Chosen with careful thought by a variety of our church leaders, it is again a reflection of our deliberate approach to worship.

We cannot make anyone sing. All we can do is open the door and share the joy of our experience with you. That's why I stayed.

Zimbabwe Proverb

If you can walk you can dance. If you can talk you can sing.

# SPECIAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING ENVELOPES

*The Vestry has designated the Special Christmas Envelopes, contained in this publication, to **The Igloo Church Fund.***

## **Rebuilding Igloo Church Destroyed in Fire is a Struggle**

A year after an arson fire destroyed Iqaluit's "igloo church" – an icon for the Inuit people and the historic Cathedral for the Anglican Diocese of the Arctic – local residents and supporters from across the Arctic are struggling to raise the millions of dollars needed to resurrect their beloved Cathedral.

A campaign across Canada launched in June has collected just under \$250,000 while costs for the restoration continue to grow. Building costs in Iqaluit, the capital of Canada's newest territory Nunavut, are twice as high as costs in the south, estimated at \$485 a square foot compared to \$225 in Halifax, \$235 in Ottawa and \$255 in Vancouver.

As well, costs in the project have risen due to a 40% increase in the capacity of the church needed to accommodate growth in Iqaluit, which is expected to double in population in the next 10 to 20 years.

Insurance proceeds from the November 5 fire are expected to cover \$717,000 of the construction costs leaving over \$5 million to be raised from Iqaluit, The Diocese of the Arctic, and fundraising.

"It is impossible for a community of 6,000 people and our Arctic Diocese of 55,000 people spread across the Northwest Territories, Nunavut and Nunavik – we are the largest Anglican diocese in the world – to raise this kind of money without help

from across Canada and indeed from around the world," Bishop Andrew Atagotaaluk, the Bishop of the Arctic, says.

"We need to make an urgent appeal to Anglican around the world as well as to people of all Christian denominations and to those who care about people of the North. St. Jude's was not only the spiritual centre of Iqaluit and the Diocese, it was the heart of the community from which many critical social and family programs emanated."

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## **ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO EXPERIENCE CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER**

Unable to attend the 5 pm Contemplative Prayer Service held the last Sunday of every month?

The Spiritual Development Committee invites you to come to a session of Christian Meditation at 7:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month, beginning January 23, 2007.

This will be a very simple session based on the Christian mediation method developed by John Main, OSB. We will listen to one of his talks for 15 to 20 minutes and then meditate for 25 minutes.

Everyone is welcome!

If you have questions, please be in touch with Norma Farquharson.  
(Phone 242-5297 or email: [normafar@shaw.ca](mailto:normafar@shaw.ca))

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## The Pastoral Care Committee

*-Eileen Proudfoot*

The Pastoral Care Committee is completing arrangements to be in contact with every parish member on a regular basis. This contact could be in the form of a phone call, a visit during coffee after church or even a chat in an aisle at Safeway. You will soon receive a letter from your phoner introducing him/her self, followed by a phone call or other contact.

Our purpose is to keep in touch and enable parishioners to express concerns in a private setting. Hopefully, if you have questions or concerns we will be able to find answers or solutions.

Your Pastoral Care Committee continues to visit shut-ins, drive people to appointments, and help in any way we can as the need arises.

If you feel that your ministry could include any of the above, you would be most welcome. Please call me at 249-5904.

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## Welcoming Visitors and Newcomers to St. Laurence

*-Melanie Lovatt*

While St. Laurence gets positive feedback from recent new members for being a warm and welcoming place, there is always more that can be done to ensure that newcomers in our midst are made to feel that they are a valued part of our community. With this in mind, a meeting was held on October 24<sup>th</sup> on the topic of "Welcoming Newcomers". This meeting was intended as a one time brainstorming session to stimulate discussion and ideas on how we as a parish can both attract and welcome newcomers to St. Laurence.

Some of the ideas generated at the meeting will be implemented as new procedures, such as distributing a copy of the latest Leader issue along with the cards, plants and the letter from Anna that is currently being given to newcomers. We are also looking at advertising more extensively in community newsletters and doing a direct mail campaign. Other suggestions will result in changes in the information that is available at the church for newcomers, both in the form of a variety of written material and visual displays about St. Laurence in the Narthex. There was also some discussion about the role of the Greeters on Sunday mornings, and how they could help to better identify newcomers and bring them to Anna's attention.

In addition to these procedural changes, there were a number of thoughts on how each member of the congregation on a Sunday morning can help make visitors feel less like strangers and more like members of our community. Many parishioners already practice what is preached below; their efforts are noticed and appreciated! For those who find that meeting new people doesn't come quite so easily, the following suggestions might be of some use.

It can be very intimidating for someone to enter a church for the first time; to see us all greeting one another as old friends, to have to find their way into a pew and to follow what may be a form of the service unfamiliar to them. We can all help by taking the initiative. Make a point of sitting next to someone you don't recognize. Introduce yourself, even if you're afraid it will turn out to be someone who has been attending St. Laurence for twenty years! (At worst, you'll have expanded your own circle of acquaintances at church.) Help visitors follow the service by pointing out the right book to use, and finding the right page for them. If they have children with them, encourage them to join our Sunday School classes; accompany them downstairs at the appointed time if they are shy. Extend a personal invitation to coffee after the service, and walk with them downstairs. Introduce them to others, and especially, to Anna. A conscious demonstration of genuine interest in our visitors is the best way we can form a connection with them, and make them feel truly welcomed.

If any of the above has sparked any ideas on this topic in your brain, please bring your thoughts forward, to Anna or to any of the Wardens. Remember that we are all a part of the "face" of St. Laurence Anglican Church, and that first impressions are lasting ones. The more thought we put into improving our performance in this arena, the better we will all become at consciously welcoming newcomers, and encouraging them to consider making St. Laurence their new spiritual home.

**PLEASE WELCOME THE  
FOLLOWING NEWCOMERS TO  
ST. LAURENCE**

**Jim & Audrey Ellis**

**Frank & Betty Gough**

**Shirley Johnson**

**Kevin Kerr**

**Drew & Janet Mittag**

**Peter Saunderson**

**Spencer Stevens**

## **Our Greeters**

*-Richard Odland*

**E**ach Sunday everyone is offered a warm hand shake and a welcome to St. Laurence inside the front door of the church. In some respects this may seem like a small courtesy, but it is actually a very important duty in our church.

The Greeters (which could include a couple, two women or two men or a family) are the first people a new person encounters, so the first impression is all important. Attached to the Greeters' roster are some guidelines which include: (1) welcome, (2) have new person sign the guest book, (3) introduce the visitor to a warden, sidesman, priest, etc., (4) try to include them in the coffee hour and make sure that they are not left alone.

Equally important is getting to know our own parishioners. If you can say their name that is A+, if not ask their name and get to know as many as you can. Its fun! With our vision as an intentional congregation welcoming is all important to gain and to retain members.

Next time you are at church, make sure you get to know the greeters' names and assist them (everybody should) to welcome visitors. If you are not on the roster let me know. It is not a big obligation, maybe once or twice a year. The roster for January to June, 2007 is now at print, so your time could begin after June 2007.

If possible, we will get together in the new year to improve our welcoming function.

Please note that both the front doors are now being unlocked, so that some folks may enter from the west door as well as the south door.

## A New Web Master for St. Laurence

Effective the end of September, **Nick Hall** officially stepped down as our **Web Master**. Nick, who is the middle son of Julia and Martin Hall, has been the Web Master for the St. Laurence website, [www.stlaurence.ca](http://www.stlaurence.ca), since its creation in 2002. (What is a Web Master? He/she is the person responsible for posting updates on the site, and making any changes to its appearance or function.) Nick built the site, with help and consultation from George Durham and Melanie Jantzie, when he was only nineteen years old, and has been upgrading and maintaining it for us ever since. During that time, he has also managed to earn a degree in International Business from the University of Lethbridge and travel extensively, including trips to Costa Rica, Chile and Easter Island. Despite leading such a busy life, Nick always managed to meet his commitments as Web Master in a cheerful, timely and professional manner, even when he was out of the country. He is now moving on, and continuing his education at Mount Royal in the field of Accounting. Nick has earned our heartfelt gratitude and respect for the quality of work he has done for St. Laurence, and we will miss him. Be sure to tell him "Good job!" next time you see him!

Nick's replacement is our **new Web Master, Roger Hough**. Roger was raised in

North Wales in the shadow of Harlech Castle, and graduated in 1967 from Leeds University, UK with a BSc in Applied Mineral Sciences. He then spent the next 32 years working for Shell International in many parts of the world, including: Lowestoft, London and Aberdeen in the UK; The Hague, the Netherlands; Siracusa, Sicily; Malta; the Sultanate of Brunei; the Sultanate of Oman; Maracaibo, Venezuela; and here in Calgary. He came to Canada in 1992 for 3 years followed by further overseas service until his retirement in 1999. He became a Canadian Citizen in 1997. Roger teaches oilfield drilling technology on a part time basis at the U of C and downtown. He is a member of the same Rotary club as Rev. Vic Cabel, which is how he got involved with St. Laurence and our web site. He has been running Rotary websites since 2000, including his own club website, and subsequently the Rotary District site supporting about 2400 Rotarians. He also manages a database of international humanitarian projects for the District on the same site. Roger is married to Elspeth, who was born in Montreal, and they live in Lakeview. They have a married daughter and family in Vancouver, and a son who also lives in Lakeview just behind St. Laurence. Apart from Rotary and messing with computers, Roger's interests are gardening (mainly tomatoes), model railways, reading, classical music, and food and wine. He works out twice a week with his son and supplements the exercise walking his lab cross. Roger brings a great deal of experience to the job, as well as some fresh energy and ideas. He says he is very happy to be able to help manage the St Laurence website.

The **Web Editor** position also changed hands at the end of September. Our invaluable Church Secretary, **Marilyn Cantlie**, is now responsible for receiving data about the happenings at St. Laurence, determining what should be posted on the web site and getting it to Roger. This appointment is an obvious fit, since Marilyn is already the hub of information flow at

St. Laurence, and will be facilitated by her recent computer hardware and software upgrades. So, **if you have any information you'd like posted on the web site, or any comments about the site, please contact Marilyn and let her know!**

## **Future Facility Committee Report**

*-Margaret Smith*

After several years of hard work under the leadership of Don McLeod, our parish has created a truly inspiring, workable Vision for Ministry. This was followed by the commencement this summer of Anna Greenwood-Lee's leadership. Our plan to become an intentional community seeking to practice a renewed Christian spirituality is starting to come to pass. Our worship is becoming more meaningful, and our conversations with each other after the service, in the coffee hour and in the more formal "conversations" after, are on a deeper level than they were before. With this new energy and spiritual vitality, thoughts have turned to our church building, and a desire has been expressed to give it some care and attention, and to make some changes that reflect our vision for St. Laurence for now and for the future.

On May 9, 2006, the Vestry approved the mandate for the formation of a Future Facility Committee (the FFC), to review the state of the physical facility of St. Laurence, evaluate its suitability for the future of the church in this place, and develop a recommendation on required changes, if any, and an action plan to accomplish the changes. More specifically, the goal is for a comprehensive overall plan that supports the vision of a "practicing congregation", and a

recommendation for a facility that reflects the parish's intention to become a place of the spirit and an integral and important part of the community. It is expected that this facility plan will remain viable for at least 20 years, will recommend changes to the facility and will specify the funding needed to accomplish these changes.

Accordingly, the FFC met on September 13, 2006 for its initial meeting. Committee principles were set out. It was emphasized that the primary criteria for evaluation of the FFC recommendation will be the degree to which it supports the implementation of the parish vision. Focus will be on what needs to be accomplished, and long-term solutions are to be the objective rather than temporary measures. This process will take time, and will at some time require the assistance of a professional architect.

The first step of the FFC was to engage, along with the rest of the congregation, in a book study of Re-Pitching the Tent – Re-ordering the church building for worship and mission, by Richard Giles. After the first session, some long sheets of newsprint showed up in the main hall downstairs. Those of you who have been unable to attend the book study may have felt a little unsettled at the many changes proposed on these sheets. Don't worry. That was just Don McLeod's way of greasing the wheel, getting our thought processes going, and also, more important, his instructions were that we put down absolutely everything on our "wish list", and then leave it there on the paper, so that we could focus more on the overall picture of how to create a worship and gathering space that reflects our vision and welcomes the community into our midst. Further sessions of our book study, led by Anna, Don and Steve Koning, were wonderful opportunities to reflect, dream, explore possibilities, and link all our dreams to our parish vision. Please be assured that throughout our discussions, accessibility for all challenges, such as mobility, hearing, or sight, was a major concern.

In addition to the book study, the Future Facility Committee has visited four church facilities in Calgary, Holy Spirit Roman Catholic, Holy Trinity Anglican, Good Shepherd Anglican, and St. Michael Roman Catholic. The committee also met on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November for several “virtual visits”, looking at several other facilities via video and pictures. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, the committee met with Herman Bell, the Diocesan Architect.

I wish to emphasize that we are grateful to Hugh Seton, the architect who designed our building, for having provided us with a structure that has so much to offer. As someone said, the building has “good bones”. We are not wishing to undo the work of Hugh and others who built this church. We are now engaging in a plan to enhance what we already have been given. I would urge you to read on to the article written by Arnold Wright. In it, he quotes Hugh Seton from the talk he gave at the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church construction. St. Laurence was a very forward-looking parish then, and still is. Let’s go on to consider what changes we can make to this spiritual house to best reflect who we are right now.

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## **The Church of St. Laurence**

*-Arnold Wright*

The word “Church” is employed in a variety of meanings. In this article we want to talk about the physical church, the building and property that house what our sign calls “St. Laurence Anglican Church”.

We have a ton to be grateful for, and we give thanks. We have a splendid and functional property, thanks to the original founders of our parish, their Architect, and the backing of our Diocese.

### Why Review?

It is a good thing to review where you’re at and to plan where you want to go. Our Vestry, our parish council, has commissioned a study of our future needs in our facilities. It is a good time for us to examine the many strengths of our existing accommodation, as we contemplate the future.

In this review, you have to acknowledge the creative work of our parishioners, including Architect Hugh Seton. In a partnership that included Ted Raines and others, Hugh designed a building that draws us together and has served us marvelously.

### Perfection?

Let us say quickly that facilities can always be improved. The design of our building, including its worship space and its supportive spaces, is not perfect. It is just near - perfect.

In fact, since 1967, when construction was completed, the parish has made changes across the property. Outside, a full row of trees enhanced the parking lot and flower gardens enhanced the entrance way. A double garage was built behind the rectory house: half is for church storage space and half for the rectory tenants. Inside the church, pews were installed, in place of chairs, and a fine new organ was installed. Parishioners donated funds and work for smaller enhancements, such as a “tabernacle” to hold the vessels of bread and wine, and wall hangings to enhance plain walls.

### What Do We Have?

What we have now is an attractive and functional community church. Fortunately, Hugh Seton talked about the design, as he conceived it, during 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations in 1992.

Hugh noted that the parish started its church services in a school gymnasium where a tightly knit community congregation

developed. This feeling of closeness led to our curved seating arrangement at St. Laurence which brings people closer to each other, and to the front sanctuary, than traditional Anglican designs allowed.

Hugh wrote, *“Many of us grew up in the traditional church with the altar, sanctuary, and communion rail facing east; then the choir; then the long straight nave for the congregation. There appeared to be a gulf between the clergy and laity. A building in this form seriously prejudiced the congregation’s view of all the important events taking place in the sanctuary. Thus, this design was not at all acceptable to our close family. We wanted to be more intimately involved with, and be a part of the liturgy.*

*From this initial premise, the vision of a central sanctuary evolved. The congregation could then be grouped around this central focal point thus becoming more involved with the service, both visually and audibly. At St. Laurence no one is more than 38 feet from the altar, and that brings us all closer as a family in worship.*

*So this was the main philosophy of our design vision. By definition, a communion is really an act of sharing or community of relation. This is actually a return to the Early Christian format, wherein the laity or congregation grouped itself about a theme point and participated in the service.*

*This is the way we do it now. It is very basic: we come forward to read lessons, enunciate the Epistle and Gospel. Our Leader and others come forward with announcements. We all participate, all can see and all can hear, just as at a family gathering.*

*The choir would become a body within the congregation with its function of leading us all in song. Its location has proven to be very functional as the music and voices fill the church.*

*The narthex or entry into the Church has a low ceiling and this instills a feeling of humility upon entering.*

*However, as one proceeds further, the scene changes dramatically. The space explodes into openness and light, and the sanctuary with the altar becomes a strong focal point.”*

An additional thought that Hugh noted was that the sanctuary platform could be used as a stage for religious plays, etc. Of course, it is regularly used for the Sunday School’s Christmas pageant.

Hugh concluded his remarks with, *“These were the main visions leading to how and why St. Laurence has taken the form that it has. We had many meetings with, and presentations to, the congregation, all leading to an acceptance of these basic tenets. Hopefully, during the passage of time, these visions will still be valid and acceptable.”*

Thanks be to God for the vision of our early parishioners, their Architect and their Diocese.

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## **Our Grounds**

-Jim Dolph



Our grounds and building personnel subject to Vestry approval, arranged some necessary professional arbor care for the Church property. Pruning of specific trees and shrubs were required. Some of these had grown into the walls and roof of both church and rectory. Two contractors tendered bids, and The Yardist was chosen. The work was completed in September 2006 for \$848.00

Both contractors submitted bids on work required for the rectory grounds. This will be considered for 2007.

Thank you to Janet and Eric Pedersen for selecting and planting the colourful flowers in the entrance beds. The clematis by the front door bloomed this summer. Its companion, by the office walk, is on the way to blooming next summer. Both produce purple blooms that habitually increase in number year by year. Plant more along the back fence suggested The Yardist.

### *Makes you think, eh?*

During the Sunday service on Labour Day weekend, we read from the Book of James these words: “let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak.” Reverend Anna used these wise words as the basis of her sermon, reminding us of the importance of listening as a spiritual practice as well as to the development of effective relationships and the best ideas and most effective solutions.

Made me think. How often, in our action-oriented world, do we fail to listen? In our rush to get our own ideas into the conversation, do we fail to give the other person the opportunity to express fully their bit?

Made me think of my experience in the corporate world. Those with extroverted tendencies controlled the conversation, often answering another’s question before it was fully expressed. The result was that many times the response had little to do with the question (they answered the wrong question).

Also made me think of my own approach to conversation. Recently I asked my life partner, who is very much wiser than I, how she got so much personal information from a person she had just met. She replied “but you are always talking.”

Lessons from Scripture reinforce the value of listening. In the first chapter of Proverbs, we read “let the wise listen and add to their learning.” Later on, in chapter 18, we learn that “he who answers before listening, that is his folly and his shame.” If we would gain wisdom, if we would learn and grow in wisdom and spirit, we must first listen.

Once again, I find lessons from our religion that are now finding their way into secular practice. The very first characteristic of a servant leader is said to be ‘listening.’ The Greenleaf website informs that leaders must have “a deep commitment to listening intently to others... Listening also encompasses getting in touch with one’s own inner voice.” Here, I believe, we see the link to the spiritual journey, for surely the Holy Spirit is the voice within.

Makes you think once again of the role of religion in current times. We are called to create an intentional community, practicing a renewed Christian spirituality. Each of us is called to deepen our own experience of God and then to share this path with others. This is to be our gift to our community and the world.

Just maybe it all starts with listening.

*Makes you think, eh?*

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## **Fair Trade and Christmas Gifts**

The next sale of Fair Trade coffee and tea will occur on December 3 following the service. It is my pleasure to sell these items throughout the year. Thank you to all who regularly support this endeavour.

On December 3, in addition to the regular coffee and tea, there will be other items from Ten Thousand Villages including CDs and preserves from Swaziland. These items

will also be available at the Women's Dessert Party on December 5.

All fair-trade items purchased at St. Laurence provide a triple blessing. One gift is that of a viable income to the producer and his/her family. The second gift is to the recipient. The third gift is the money given to P.W.R.D.F. from the proceeds of each sale.

Stock up on coffee, tea and other items that will make wonderful gifts for your family and friends. Have a Blessed Christmas.

Carol Gardiner  
P.W.R.D.F. representative

## **Inn from the Cold**

*Sylvia Smyth  
Program Coordinator*

**O**ur dedicated group of volunteers has been especially thankful to be involved in this extremely necessary program these past three months as we began welcoming more children than adults to our Inn at Living Spirit Church. We have been taking five more guests than usual each time as the regular 45 beds hosted by three churches every night of the year just hasn't been enough to accommodate all the families applying for the service.



We have been blessed with wonderful volunteers – especially the Overnight Program Coordinators – Donna and Miles Motture,

Suzanne and Tim Leacock, and Krista Gordon – all of whom have been cheerfully and regularly performing this necessary stint for the past three years. Unfortunately they have all recently experienced changes in lifestyle and will not be able to help with this for a while and so we are **in urgent**

**need** for others in our parish to step up and offer to give the placement a try **just one time!** It would not be a monthly commitment but a much needed one time contribution to show your support for our St. Laurence Inn from the Cold program. We all agree that it isn't very much time to give to help with our city's present desperate problem, but it is something!

Perhaps there may be a few young people in our congregation who may be interested in giving the shift a try? Our October Inn saw Krista and three of her friends from Mount Royal College come to answer my urgent call. We made up two cots for them to use for the 3 \_ hour sleep period, however they said they spent a quiet night doing homework, playing card games and having a good visit! They did a great job and as long as we continue to have all families as guests, this might be a great way for other young people to help with the problem of homelessness in our city. Please give this request some serious consideration and give me a call if you have questions or need more information.

I am simply delighted to welcome Lillian Rallison and Laurie Mummery who have stepped forward to be Co-coordinators of the program – responsible for the morning shift from 5:15 to 8:15 am. These women have alternated helping Melanie Jantzie with the breakfast for the past year and have offered to carry on for the extra time overseeing the guest's departure on the bus at 6:30 am and then joining the cleaning crew to tidy up the venue, leave five bags of laundry for our Laundry Committee, (Alex Proudfoot!) and return the church key to me. My heartfelt thanks go to these wonderful women who have made my life as Program Coordinator so much easier.

*Many parishioners have asked Sylvia about the children who must stay at an Inn from the Cold every evening. We will publish an article about the children in the next Leader.*

Some of the children attend Catherine Nichols Gunn Elementary. The school has accommodated as many as 30 children – some have to endure a 90 minute bus ride both ways.

They need a sense of belonging, and consistency in order to bolster their self-esteem.

*The smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention*

## **The Cry of the Poor and the Homeless**

–Wayne Stewart

The ‘hot’ economy currently experienced in Alberta leaves many of us with the impression that everyone should be in a position to prosper. “No one should be poor in this environment” we think. When faced with people asking for handouts, a common reaction is “why don’t they just get a job,” and we frequently voice that opinion.

At the same time, we are all too aware of rising costs, particularly in the area of housing. The Calgary Sun recently ran a front page story proclaiming, rather proudly, that the average house price in Calgary has risen to over \$374,000. We hear as well of conversions of rental property to condos as landlords cash in by converting and selling while the price is high, thereby reducing the availability of rental units and driving up the cost of renting.

When one looks to the job market, we see advertisements in every store window appealing for staff. Often, however, the wage on offer does not allow for the cost of housing. In the current housing market,

\$9.00 per hour (recently the offer in a Wendy’s restaurant) is clearly insufficient. Not surprisingly, many Calgarians find themselves without homes and must resort to shelter wherever they can find it.

The 2006 count of homeless people in Calgary on one night last May found over 3,400 in shelters or sleeping outdoors. In addition, and of greater concern, over 55,000 families were living so close to the poverty line that one delayed pay cheque, a few days out of work, some small medical emergency or any other unexpected expense could land them on the streets.

The crisis facing people with no permanent home has become a cruel reality with the onset of winter (which, not surprisingly, comes about the same time every year). The shelter system has been overloaded and turning people away. The call for support for families at Inn from the Cold has reached all time highs, with over 100 people, in 30+ family units lining up for shelter in church basements every night.

The situation of the poor and the homeless is one that we simply should not tolerate in a place of such abundance. We have been blessed with peace and plenty in Calgary. However, the gifts that God has provided in abundance do not accrue equally to all of His people.

We know that our Christian call is to share with those in need (“from those to whom much is given, much is expected”). Our work with the Food Bank and Inn from the Cold is good work; those involved report a feeling of spiritual renewal every time they participate in one or the other of these important services. But, I wonder, is there something else we might do? Are we called to do more?

As individual Christians and as a church community, we must share our blessings with those in need. As just one example, we might adopt a family, providing whatever resources they need to maintain a home and

build a good life for themselves and their children. There will certainly be other creative ways that we can help.

Let us all reflect on the good life we have and what we might do to help those who do not have enough, those who have no place to call home. Let us commit to do whatever is necessary to end homelessness in a place of plenty. Surely our Lord would have us do no less.

## **Works of Mercy and Justice Committee – CAWST Water Project**

“We shall not finally defeat AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria, or any of the infectious diseases that plague the developing world until we have also won the battle for safe drinking water, sanitation and basic health care.” -Kofi Annan, United Nations Secretary General

St. Laurence has been invited to join Holy Nativity and St John the Divine in collecting funds for the CAWST water projects. CAWST is the Centre for Affordable Water and Sanitation Technology. Their Vision and Mission are:

Our Vision is a world where people have the opportunity to succeed because their basic water and sanitation needs have been met.

Our Mission is to provide technical training, consulting, and to act as a centre of expertise in water and sanitation for the poor.

CAWST provides training programs to communities and other organizations in water and sanitation. This training teaches the recipients how to build Bio-sand water filters, maintain them and how to expand the program to others. CAWST strives to create replicas of CAWST, working closely with clients as they progress from training to implementation, to co-delivering training, and eventually independently delivering training programs. Some of the reasons for focusing on clean water are that having clean water addresses people’s immediate needs and prevents people from having to travel long distances to obtain often poor quality water, thus freeing up time for children to attend school and adults to start up businesses. The projects also provide an opportunity to initiate community education on related issues of sanitation and hygiene.



Before and after samples of water in Equatorial Guinea

The Works of Mercy and Justice committee have obtained a Bio-sand water filter to collect funds for the CAWST water projects. It will be placed downstairs in the coffee area and it is our hope that you will consider contributing your loonies and toonies to clean water in the developing countries as we enjoy our morning coffee on Sundays. You may also donate larger amounts to CAWST and receive a tax receipt.

If you are interested in more information Keith Siggins of Holy Nativity has kindly agreed to speak about the CAWST water projects at our Conversations, Sunday December 10<sup>th</sup>.

**OUR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
IS SCHEDULED FOR SUNDAY,  
EVENING AT 7 P.M. ON  
FEBRUARY 11, 2007.**

*Please plan to attend.*

## Christmas Hampers

*Elizabeth McLennan*

Each Christmas we work with the Rev. Mervin Wolfleg and his wife June (of St. Barnabas Anglican Church on the Tsuu T'ina Reserve) to help make Christmas a happy and blessed time for some needy families on the Reserve.

Last year we bought food and gifts for two families and also gave the Wolflegs approximately \$900.00 in grocery store certificates to distribute to families as the need arose during the year. June has since told me that those grocery gift certificates were gone by April! The need is great.

This year the Wolflegs have asked if we can put together Christmas hampers for **five families**. These five families had been living in Black Bear Crossing prior to the discovery of asbestos in those housing units and the evacuation of the people living there. As the Leader goes to press, it is uncertain where these families will be living at Christmas time. What is certain is that they've had an unsettled and disturbing fall, and are looking at a bleak Christmas without our help.

We'd also like to buy more grocery store certificates to be used during the year. And this year, we'd also like to give some money to Reverend Wolfleg's discretionary fund. The Wolflegs often see young people who need a bus ticket back home, for instance, and this money would allow them to respond to this type of request.

Both Rev. Mervin and June have told us how much our generosity is appreciated by the recipients of the hampers and food gift cards, and also by the parishioners of St. Barnabas. They are very grateful for the help we are able to provide.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus in a stable long ago, let us remember that now we are His body here on earth. Let us give generously in Jesus name as a sign of our love for Him and for our neighbours.

## WOMEN'S GROUP

*-Beckie Grant*



The Women's Group has been busy planning some fun events for the women of the parish. The first date to mark on your calendar is **Tuesday, December 5, 2006 at 7:30 pm** for the annual **Dessert Party**. Look for a \$5.00 gift exchange this year as well as a craft sale by the Craft Group. Bring your gift, appetite for good desserts and your Christmas cheer and have a good time!

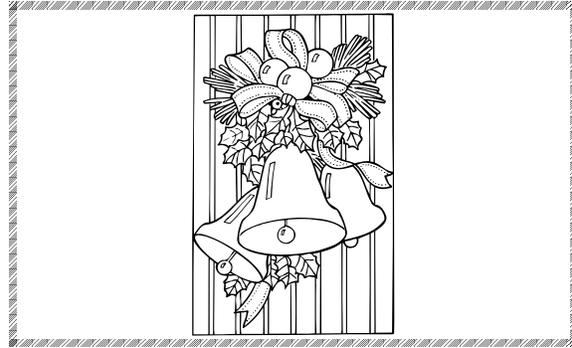
In the New Year, we are planning an evening of **Court Whist**, pizza and beverage. Don't worry if you are not a card player. Court Whist is easy to learn and lots of fun. Mark **Wednesday, January 31**,

2007 on your calendars and bring a friend. Watch for more details to come.

The **Annual Breakfast** will be **April 22, 2007** and will follow the same format as last year; breakfast followed by the women joining the regular service time of 10:00 am.

The **retreat** is scheduled for **June 16, 2007** at Kamp Kiwanis, just west of the city. Any suggestions are welcome in the planning.

We hope to see many of you out to these events.



## THE LAST WORD

Lynn Odland

The winter edition of the Leader has come together very nicely with everyone who was asked to submit an article forwarding them to us in time to go to print. There are many very interesting articles in this issue and we ask that you take care to read them all carefully. Be sure to watch your calendar for upcoming events and when in doubt you can always check it out on the St. Laurence website. If you can offer help or suggestions for the committees and groups here spoken of, please do so. It is always appreciated.

We don't often get feedback regarding the Leader, but recently I was speaking with someone about our church newsletter and commented that I am a better organizer and that I don't write much or well. He said he thought that I do not a bad job. Then I realized that this person thought that I was the author of "Makes you think, eh!" Well, I am not. It comes to us from an anonymous source and it is there to "make you think" and to figure out who could be the author of this series of writings. Do you think you know, eh?

In closing, may I wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas season. With all the new and exciting things going on at St. Laurence I know that we are all looking forward to a wondrous and bright New Year.

### Craft Group

-Mary Wright

**SALE SALE SALE**

Yes, it is sale time again!

The Craft Group gals got swept along with creative energy and are once again presenting a sale of their wares.

It will be held on the evening of the Women's Dessert Party – **Tuesday, December 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.** Included will be bags of all sorts, tea cozies, table runners, scarves and several items never presented before!

Two raffles will be held: a painting generously donated by Alice Graham, and a beautiful afghan knitted by Eileen Proudfoot.

*Come, bring a friend, and enjoy an evening of fellowship, tasty desserts, and wonderful Christmas shopping.*

## Who's in Charge

Rector	Anna Greenwood-Lee	Treasurer	Ken Townend
Associate Priest	Don McLeod	Contributions Secretary	Denis Gardiner
Honorary Assistant	Vic Cabel	Caretaker	Bill Brown
Music/Choir Director	Deborah Koning	Building Superintendents	Arnold and Mary Wright
Administrative Assistant	Marilyn Cantlie	Grounds Superintendent	Jim Dolph
Pastoral Care Coordinator	Eileen Proudfoot		

### Wardens

People's Warden	Bruce Jantzie	Rector's Warden	Ken Townend
Deputy People's Warden	Al Rallison	Deputy Rector's Warden	Wayne Stewart

### Vestry Members

Deb Barron	Mayda Forsyth
Barb Brydges	Shirley Leacock
Suzanne Cabel	Gilda Michaels
Phil Crowe	Donna Motture
Diane Currie	

### Teams

<u>Spiritual Development</u>	<u>Works of Mercy &amp; Justice</u>	<u>Finance &amp; Administration</u>	<u>Building &amp; Grounds</u>
Norma Farquharson	Wayne Stewart	Ken Townend	Ken Townend
Lillian Rallison	Deb Barron	Phil Crowe	Arnold Wright
Diane Currie	Suzanne Cabel		Phil Crowe
Margaret Smith	Shirley Leacock		
Mayda Forsyth			
Gilda Michaels			
Barb Brydges			

### Ministries

Lay Assistants	Yvonne Krieger	Altar Guild	Janice Keebler
Intercessors	Donna Motture	Greeters	Richard Odland
Readers	Ken Townend	Coffee Hosts	Daphne Yeske
Crucifers/Altar Servers		Prayer Chain	Mayda Forsyth
Sidesmen	George Pinsky	Flowers	Nina Smith / Sylvia Smyth
Nursery Volunteers	Donna Motture	Phoners	Donna Motture
Church School Teachers	Gwen Jarabek		

### Miscellaneous Groups and Functions

Women's Group	Beckie Grant	Meals on Wheels	Marion Snowdon
Craft Group		Leader Editor	Lynn Odland
Inn From the Cold Volunteers	Sylvia Smyth	The Sower	Evelyn Pinsky
Larry's Grill	Warren O'Connell	Drop-In Centre Sandwich Makers	Barb Maddocks
Web Site Editor	Marilyn Cantlie	Food Bank/Drop-In Centre Drivers	Art Yeske
Web Master	Roger Hough	Cards	Joanna Thorpe