



LEADER

SUMMER 2007

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ANNA'S REFLECTIONS

The season of Pentecost is upon us. During this season we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. I was very encouraged during the Easter Season to hear a parishioner who had been away for a while return to church and remark, 'You can sure feel the Spirit moving in this place.' I believe, that, indeed, the Spirit is moving in the people of St. Laurence.

I was recently at a conference for clergy and lay leaders entitled, "Blessed are the Restless." The theme of the conference was the challenge before mainline churches to embrace vitality and growth. We learned that one of the characteristics of healthy, vital churches is that they are 'permission giving.' Vital churches understand and celebrate that each and every one of us is a child of God. Vital churches trust that the Spirit of God is alive in each of us giving us different gifts, different abilities, and different ministries. Vital churches give each of their members 'permission' to use those gifts, to try new things, to risk failure.

I have been here almost a year and I have experienced St. Laurence to be a 'permission giving' church. You, the people of St. Laurence, have been very gracious in giving me permission to try new things, to lead you down slightly different paths. I am grateful to you for that.

As we continue on our journey together I want you to think about what kind of 'permission' you would like and to trust that both I and the people of this parish will give it to you. Perhaps you have a gift you feel that you would like to share with the people of this place. Perhaps you have a topic you would like brought up at Conversations. Perhaps you have an idea for worship or fellowship. Trust that all those ideas, all those hopes and dreams are gifts of the Spirit. Give yourself permission to trust God, to trust the Spirit and to bring, whatever you are, whatever you believe, to this place.

Pat Bennett wrote the following prayer which speaks to this theme.

Gathering

*Lord,
in this shared time
we offer ourselves
to each other.*

*We offer our understanding and insights -
not to dominate or overthrow one another
but that we ourselves
might be challenged and changed.*

Continued....

*We offer our emotions and experiences -
not in self-indulgence
but that through honesty and openness
we may find and give encouragement and comfort.*

*We offer our skills and talents -
not because of pride in our abilities
but in joyful recognition of sharing
of your overflowing bounty.*

*And as we celebrate and offer our common humanity,
the very flesh and fabric of our lives,
may you,
the Incarnate One,
be once again embodied here
in our individuality
and our community.*

NOTES FROM ANNA'S DESK.....

The Rev. Mervin Wolfleg to retire from St. Barnabas Tsuu T'ina

Due to poor health Mervin and June are retiring from their ministry at Tsuu T'ina and returning to their home reserve. The Works of Mercy and Justice Committee of St. Laurence presented a 'purse' to Mervin and June as a gift and a goodbye on May 6th when he preached at our Sunday service.

Mervin presented a beaded Bible cover for St. Laurence as a thank-you for the many Christmas hampers St. Laurence has provided for his community.

Sorrento Centre

If you missed the presentation about this marvelous retreat centre in the Shuswaps, or if you would like more information about the program it offers for everyone from children to seniors, check out the website www.sorrento-centre.bc.ca

Our own Don McLeod is offering a week-long course, "Re-Imaging the Kingdom of God", July 15-21. More information is on our bulletin board or on the website.

Summer Clergy Coverage

I will be here for the month of July and away for three Sundays in August. Vic Cabel will take the services on August 5 and 26 and Don McLeod will take the service on August 12. Vic Cabel will also be available for any pastoral needs that arise when I am away.

Bishop Hoskin to Visit St. Laurence the weekend of September 29 & 30.

Bishop Hoskin has agreed to be with us the last weekend of September. The Saturday of that weekend the Wisdom Centre for Practicing Congregations will be hosting an all day workshop both for clergy and lay people. The bishop will participate in that workshop alongside any interested parishioners or clergy from St. Laurence or from any other interested parishes. More information on this event to come. Please mark the date and plan on attending.

On Sunday, September 30 the Bishop will be with us for our 10 am service. This service will be a Confirmation service. Anyone who is interested in Confirmation should be in touch with Anna as soon as possible. There is no right or wrong age to be Confirmed. Confirmation is a celebration that an individual has come to a place in their life when they feel ready to take on for themselves the promises made by their parents and god-parents at Baptism - their Baptismal Covenant. Anyone who would like to be confirmed in September should be in touch with me during the summer.

Finally, September 30 will also be the date of our Harvest Festival. Please plan on staying for a wonderful turkey lunch after the service.

New Christian Education Program - Living the Questions

In October we will begin a DVD-based program for Christian exploration and spiritual formation "Living the Questions." I have heard good things about this program from other congregations and have been impressed by the sample DVD I have seen. Scholars such as Marcus Borg, Bishop Spong, John Dominic Crossman and John Bell take part in this challenging and engaging series. The series is 13 weeks long and I anticipate that we will do the majority of the sessions in the fall and then finish the last few in January. Depending on the level of interest I am considering offering this program both on a Thursday morning and on a Wednesday evening. During one of the Conversations in September I will speak about the program so that you can get a better sense if this is the sort of series you might be interested in.

**FALL LEADER DEADLINE
IS
AUGUST 1ST.**

Warden's Report May 2007

As we draw to the conclusion of yet another church year (as defined by the new Vestry format) the Corporation of St Laurence would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our brothers and sisters for their efforts and dedication towards moving forward in our spiritual journey and the implementation of our vision as an 'Intentional Community'.

Our new vestry convened on May 8th and we welcomed all new members and thanked those outgoing members for all their hard work and commitment. As previously reported, vestry was reorganized last fall with each member being responsible for only one committee with the remainder of the committee members being filled by members of the parish at large. Hopefully this will bring more continuity and efficiency to the process. One of the main goals for vestry in 2007 is to bring continued variety and vitality to all our programs and worship.

With this in mind we are very excited about the launching of the Wisdom Centre for Practicing Congregations at St. Laurence. This centre will provide an invaluable resource to congregations from all denominations that are searching for meaning and direction in their own communities and parish lives. The official launch date was May 16th at the presentation by Diana Butler Bass.

The Future Facility Committee was formed last year with the mandate of reviewing the state of the physical facility at St. Laurence to ensure it is suitable for the future needs of the church in this place. This work is well underway as we have recently commissioned the services of BCMP Architects to undertake a feasibility study to identify all issues with the current structure and a detailed plan that supports our vision of a 'practicing congregation'. Please refer to Steve Koning's Future Facility

Committee Report for complete details on this work.

As I write this report the annual church garage sale was held on Saturday May 5th and from all accounts another huge success! Special kudos to Deb McArthur for taking this on again this year. This event is extremely time consuming and an incredible organizational challenge. Deb's leadership and hard work are greatly appreciated by everyone and for that a big heartfelt THANK YOU! Of course it takes the efforts of many people to make this event a success and we would like to thank everyone who participated and volunteered their time. Way to go!

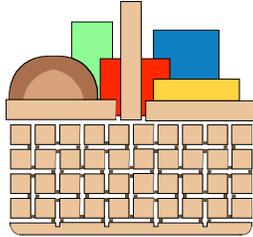
The corporation would also like to take this opportunity to thank Krista Gordon for all her efforts in her new role as the Christian Education Coordinator. Krista has displayed tremendous enthusiasm and has brought new found energy and creativity to our church school program. Keep up the good work Krista!

The Wardens
Gord McDonald - Rector's Warden
Al Rallison - People's Warden
Jessica Tamblyn - Deputy People's Warden

BAPTISM & FUNERAL

Baptized on May 6th **Della Sue Einarsson** daughter of Karen (Warkentin) & Bob Einarsson

Margaret Eileen Gaw passed away on April 4th



CHURCH PICNIC

JUNE 10TH

at ST. LAURENCE

LUNCH PROVIDED

**for \$1.00 per person Children under 21 free
-bouncy castle & games-**

SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH

-Krista D.A. Gordon



As the Sunday school curriculum comes to a close I would like to reflect on my first experiences as the child and youth coordinator at St. Laurence. I must admit that at first I was a bit overwhelmed with all the information to learn and responsibilities to assume, but with the support of the congregation and the youth I was made to feel welcome and encouraged with my new assignment.

It is a pleasure to work with such enthusiastic and energetic young people. I am amazed at the children and youth's unwavering morals and ethics and their devotion to excellence, and the respect that they give to their teachers and elders. I can see great things down the road for each and every one of them and I am excited to play a small role in them becoming fine men and women in society.

I have been fortunate enough to be accepted to represent St. Laurence at Ask or Imagine, which is a pilgrimage in Ontario held May 6th to May 18th. My goal for this journey is to expand my knowledge on theology and develop stronger leadership skills. My hopes are that this experience will help me become more effective in my role at St. Laurence.

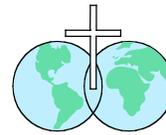
The upcoming unit in our Sunday school curriculum is one that I am very excited to explore with the children. The unit is titled "The Twelve that Changed the World," and it focuses on Jesus' twelve disciples and their significance. More specifically how Jesus found his twelve disciples and the

impact they have had throughout time. This is a very interesting unit that I believe will be enjoyed by all.

I would like to thank Reverend Anna for her support and encouragement, my wonderful volunteer teachers, the youth and the people of St. Laurence for all your help in recent months. I will continue to strive to become better and I always appreciate your input.

Upcoming Events

- **May 27th** Youth will be collecting donations for Betty's Walk and Run for ALS.
- **June 2nd to the 3rd** The youth will be participating in the PWRDF 24 hour famine.
- **June 10th** Annual picnic on St. Laurence grounds. We will be renting a bouncy castle and playing fun games.



Side by Side, PWRDF – 24 hour Famine. June 2nd and June 3rd

In our busy lives it is easy to forget that we live in a world of injustice. The youth of St. Laurence are setting one day out of the year aside to think and learn about our neighbors in other parts of the world and how we can work to achieve justice and equality. Side by side is a program that is designed to help youth learn more about development principles, and what it means to stand side by side with global partners as we work for a better world. This event will bring the youth together to learn about global issues raise funds, and build community. On behalf of the youth at St. Laurence we ask for your support to our cause through donations.

Future Facility Committee

Following the adoption of the facility vision statements presented by the Future Facility Committee (FFC) at the Parish's Annual General Meeting in February, the FFC asked the Diocesan Architect to suggest the names of three or four architectural firms in the city that have experience working with Anglican churches. As a result, invitations were sent to four architects to work with the FFC to develop a comprehensive plan for the St. Laurence property.

Two of the four architectural firms responded positively to the invitation and so an "interviewing sub-committee" consisting of five members of the FFC was formed to conduct in-person interviews and reference checks. Although both of the architects were eminently well qualified, on the basis of the interviews and extensive reference checking, the interviewing sub-committee unanimously selected Mr. Ivica Marinic of BCMP Architects as the architect to work with the FFC over the next few months.

Ivica (pronounced iv-eet-sa) has already had a couple of meetings with the rector and the FFC chair and one meeting with the full Committee. At that meeting, a proposed timeline was adopted and eight FFC members were appointed as a Facility Concept Sub-Committee (FCSC) to work intensively with the architect over the next few weeks. By the time this article is published at least two meetings of the FCSC will have occurred.

The highlights of the proposed timeline are as follows:

- **Late-April to mid-May:** Work on the specific elements to be included in the conceptual plan (the "Facility Program")
- **Mid-May:** Approval of the Facility Program
- **Mid-May to end of June:** Design process (to be done by the Architect)
- **End of June:** Presentation of Architect's "Proposed Solution"
- **Beginning of July to mid-August:** Evaluate and assess the "Proposed Solution"
- **Mid-August:** Decision to proceed with "Proposed Solution" (or make changes)
- **Mid-August to late September:** "Facility Conceptual Plan" developed by architect (completion of drawings and other documents to support the "Proposed Solution")
- **Late September to mid-October:** Presentation and Approval of "Facility Conceptual Plan" to/by Vestry and Congregation

The members of the Facility Concept Sub-Committee are Anna Greenwood-Lee (as chair), Ian Burgess, Denis Gardiner, Steve Koning, Gord McDonald, Janet Pedersen, Margaret Smith, and Arnold Wright. Over the next few months, they will be very busy working with the architect to develop the facility program. As part of that process, they have been reviewing the Facility Vision Statements as well as the comments that were made about them at the AGM.

If you have any questions or concerns about the work of the Future Facility Committee or the Facility Concept Sub-Committee, please contact any member of the respective Committee. (The FCSC members listed above are on both Committees.)

Steve Koning, Chair
Future Facility Committee

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE



Work has been done to upgrade parts of the “rectory”, the house that we own and rent out at 6004 Lakeview Drive. New vinyl flooring has been installed in the entrance, kitchen and two bathrooms. The old flooring was worn through in places and was not attractive.

Additionally, bathroom sinks are being replaced because of deterioration. Also, the two matching (blue and green) toilets have been replaced.

This work has been facilitated by the valuable volunteer assistance of Phil Crowe and of John Michaud who is the resident caregiver. John is attending to installation of new base boards and other reparations.

Also, we’ve replaced the defective clothes washing machine by a new Whirlpool model, recommended by “Consumer Reports”.

The cost of this project, about \$2700, is being charged to the Capital Maintenance Fund which has been built up in recent years.

*Arnold & Mary Wright
Building Superintendents*

Social Committee – The 3 Queens

Our committee hosted an event on May 6th following the church service – a luncheon to celebrate spring finally arriving in Calgary. It also offered a time for the hard working garage sale folks to sit back from their labors of the previous days and enjoy lunch.



The Party Queens

Please mark your calendars for the Sunday School picnic on June 10th. We will be offering a hot dog and ice cream cone lunch. On July 8th we will host a Stampede style barbecue lunch following the church service. Thanks for your ongoing enthusiasm and support as we enjoy food, fun and fellowship, and celebrate our lives together in the community of St. Laurence.

Martha Stewart

Yvonne Krieger

Lillian Rallison

Women's Committee

Beckie Grant

Another very successful Women's Breakfast was held on April 22 with about 60 people attending. The food and conversation were exceptional. Thanks to all who brought muffins and fruit trays and a special thanks to the committee for the casserole dishes.



The Women's
Retreat planning
is underway.
The date is
Saturday,
June 16 at
Kamp

Kiwanis, just west of the city on Highway 8. Come out and have a relaxing and spiritual day in a beautiful setting. Look in the bulletin for more information and ticket sales (\$25 each) coming in May.

Finally, after such a successful Court Whist party in January, we thought it should be repeated. Larry's Grill and the Women's Committee are teaming up to host a combined Court Whist party on September 18. Watch for further details in the bulletins in the summer months and for ticket sales in early September.

Beckie Grant
Lynn Odland
Cathi Elsey

Melanie Lovatt
Tara McDonald
Cecily Bornemisza

CRAFT GROUP

Mary Wright
April Co-ordinator

Our group is winding down after a good year of productivity.

Joan and Elsie have made 28 worry dolls with the rest of us pitching in to make matching bags. Those dolls will be given to the Sheriff King Home for use in their therapy program.

We have put together and tied 3 quilts, one twin and two crib-size to be donated to some cause yet to be chosen.

Joan, with input from Martha and Alice, made a tablecloth to match the new chairs in Anna's office, greatly enhancing the decor there.

An ambitious project of padding and covering the seats of 18 chairs was begun by Barb & Daphne. It's a challenge, but will allow greater comfort and longer attention spans during meetings.

We were very saddened by the death of Eileen Gaw. She was always a cheerful, contributing member of our group.

Lunch out at the end of May will wind up our year and then we retire for the summer! New members are always welcome – no skills required.



Coffee/Tea?

Just a reminder that Fair trade coffee and tea will be available for purchase on Sunday June 3 immediately following the service. It is hard to believe that this will be the last sale date before October. Stock up for your summer entertaining. Thanks again for your continued support.

Blessings, All

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

P.S. I will have your regular order available unless you tell me you do not need it.

Makes you think, eh?

The Oxford dictionary defines "practice" as "habitual action... repeated exercise in an activity... action or execution as opposed to theory." Quite clearly, if we are to 'practice,' we must be involved in some form of action. The implication is that our actions must emerge out of an understanding of the theory behind the acts.

The basis for our actions is an understanding of the faith we share as members of the body of Christ.

In "Good to Great," the author, Jim Collins, offers the story of James Stockdale, an

American military person who spent 12 years in a Vietnam prisoner of war camp and emerged with his health and his soul intact while many others perished. Collins calls the reasons given by Stockdale for his survival a paradox: unwavering faith in the end of the story while daily confronting the brutal facts of reality.

Made me think. As we confront the brutal facts of our daily reality, we find the need for a Christian response. All around us, we confront the reality of those in need, whether it be the families who spend their nights in church basements, those who must visit the Food Bank for their dinner, those who have no clean water for their family needs or any one of a hundred other things that ordinary people need and do not have.

As we hear about, observe and come to understand the needs of others, we sense an obligation to act, to serve, to *practice*. At the same time, we keep the wonder of the end of our own personal story in mind.

Makes me think of the lesson from the book of James: "faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead." (2:17) Some years ago, I spent several days debating with a dying friend the question of which came first, faith or good works. We agreed that he had come to good works through faith while I had come to faith through works. After many long hours of this 'argument among friends' (David Hume would say that from such arguments emerges 'truth'), we agreed that it really did not matter. What was important was that we had both faith and good works in some modest measure. James had it right.

Makes me confident that we are on the right track in pursuing our vision at St Laurence. As we practice, as we serve others, we grow in faith. As we grow in faith, we see more clearly the obligation to serve. We come to understand the wisdom of the words of James.

Lots of messages from a number of sources come together in a kind of heavenly chorus,

enjoining us to faith and good works. We have an obligation to practice.

Lots of things that make you think, eh?

**DEPRESSION SUPPORT
GROUP has ended for now
but will meet again in the fall
on the first and third
Wednesday of the month.**



**STAMPEDE BAR-B-Q
JULY 8TH**

**FOLLOWING THE
CHURCH SERVICE**

OFFICE HOURS

**Marilyn will be in the office
WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
MORNINGS
9 AM - NOON
DURING JULY & AUGUST**