



WHAT'S UP?

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Summer 2011 Issue

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Summer 2011

As I look out the study's window I am utterly amazed at the transformation in front of me. A few months ago it was bare and white but now it is lush and green; it was cold and snowy – as we well remember – now the sun's rays are warming the earth. Spring and Summer certainly bring a certain *je ne sais quoi* to the heart and soul.

When the snow melted I waited with anticipation to see what kind of perennials are in my garden. Quite early three plants started to appear and really grow – now I know they are all 'rhubarb' – and quite a few plants sprung up under the tree – now I know they are all 'lilies of the valley'.

As some of you might remember, I grew-up on a farm and as such I have to plant veggies. Due to the lack of a sizable backyard and not enough time to make raised beds I bought a contraption at Canadian Tire that is a few feet off the ground and you can plant something at the bottom (like tomatoes or green peppers) and on the top so that I can grow veggies this year. I am very happy to say my 1.2 cubic feet veggie garden is flourishing with no less than two rows of lettuce and one tomato plant.

All of this brings to mind something Paul wrote in his first letter to the church in Corinth: *What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos waters, but God gave the growth ...*

only God gives the growth ... [the] one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labor of each. For we are God's servants, working together ... (1 Cor. 3:5-9).

What's - Inside?

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Paul reminded the Corinthians that they belonged to God. Paul and Apollos were instruments God used; nonetheless, those who came to faith belonged to God because it is God who gives growth to faith.

This passage is important for us in the church today. Yes, God is the One who gives the growth to our faith. But look at the text again. What needed to happen before growth took place?

Paul planted and Apollos watered; seeds needed to be planted and watered.

Ah! See the connection to Stewardship? Stewardship is taking care of creation and human beings are most certainly part of creation. We take care of all God's children by planting and watering the seeds of faith; and God gives the growth.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him may not perish but may have a life eternal; indeed, God did not send the Son to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

(John 3:16,17)



Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Blessings,

Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delpport

EDITORIAL

Dear Members and Friends of St. Giles,

Take time to be holy,
The world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret,
With Jesus alone.

[Words by W.D.Longstaff (1822-1894). PCC Book of Praise]

Rev. Dewald Delpont reminds us often to pray, always. It is our opportunity to be in relationship with God. The Lord's Prayer is a great example for us and a perfect place to start. In case you missed his series of sermon's on prayer or you just like to revisit a topic in print, a wonderful article by Rev. Delpont is included in this issue.

We pray for so many of our St. Giles family as they celebrate significant milestones in their lives. We pray for those members who have made decisions that mean we must say a fond farewell to them. We pray for the blessing of seeing and experiencing God's wonderful world and then returning to the place we call "home". We pray for each other, because we care.

Enjoy this issue and the blessing of each summer day.

Susan Carmichael for The Editorial Team

THE 3RD ANNUAL ST.GILES FOLK NIGHT ***BY JASON GASKARTH***

Our 3rd Annual St.Giles Folk Night was held on Saturday, April 9, 2011. This night was once again a success, with about \$600. raised and an attendance of about 80 people. We had a very good lineup. The music was polished, and the evening was under two hours.

The St. Giles Choir kicked off the evening, followed by Shirley Doncaster with her soprano pieces. We were also lucky to have the returning acts of Paul Millar (sharing some authentic folk music) and Ian McKay. Eric Daly was a great co-host and treated us to some wonderful clarinet pieces. Gillian Siddall

anchored many acts with piano, as did Ian McKay with guitar. An added highlight was the father-son (Jim and Stewart Evans) and father-daughter (Wendell and Gillian Siddall) teams. I had fun getting the whole crowd up with 'Hard to Be Humble' and 'Jambalaya'.

A special thanks to Bernice Poon and the Events Committee for setting-up the event and giving us the special ambience.

Plan on attending the 4th Annual St.Giles Folk Night... Coming Spring of 2012!

NOTE-WORTHY

Dear Members of St. Giles,
Thank you to all of our dear friends for your support, visits, food and so many phone calls and cards during Jim's long and difficult illness.

Also, thank you to the Sunday School children for the goody bag and little booklet at Christmas—such a special gift.

Doreen Higgin

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNION TABLE— OR RATHER OF THE MAN WHO MAY HAVE MADE IT! BY JANET ASTLE

Sitting in the choir, as I do most Sundays, gives me an ideal view of the sanctuary and, as a result, many of my articles have been based on what I can see from there. Over the years I have written about the “chancel” rug (which now hangs in the balcony, where only the minister and choir can see it during services), the War Memorial plaque, the stained glass windows, the pews and the font. Moving ever closer, it is now time to see what I can find out about the communion table. As a choir member, I have a lovely, close-up view of the fine carving that decorates this table and I have often wondered who was responsible for it.

The one thing I did know about our communion table was that it came from Chalmers in 2001 when that church closed and St. Giles acquired some of its assets. Also included in those assets were boxes and boxes of archival papers from Chalmers, which I have attempted to sort over the years. Since many of these papers suffered the indignity of being in a flooded basement at some point in their earlier life, they harbour some interesting moulds and I try not to disturb them more than necessary. This time I took a deep breath and delved in to see what I could find.

The 1959 Annual Report gave me a good starting point as it recorded that the communion table had been dedicated on 28 June, 1959. It was dedicated in memory of Mr. J.W. Sutherland, Chalmers Elder, who had died on 18 April, 1958. The cost of the table was \$375, with a further \$10 being spent on an engraved plate for the dedication. This plate has since been removed from the table. Having established a date I dug into the invoice box (one of the mouldy ones) and found the invoice for “One Oak Communion Table” dated 27 May, 1959. The source of the invoice was L’Arelier N. Weismose, 620- 622 17th Ave W, Phone 22023.

This I found quite exciting, and for more than one reason. Weismose was a name I recognized as a Calgary company from which I had bought furniture in the early 1990s. The company has been reincarnated over the years and now does furniture restoration, with a speciality in

pianos. Also exciting was that, while the St. Giles pews had come by rail from Ontario, and the font had been ordered through Eaton’s (see previous articles), the table may actually have been made in Calgary. I don’t know if we will ever know this for sure but there is a strong likelihood that this is the case.

Mr. Niels Weismose was a Danish immigrant who lived from 1904 to 1972. He trained as a cabinet maker, and at the grand age of 17 he left Denmark to travel around Europe and gain experience working in such great cities as Venice, Milan and Paris. (He met his Norwegian wife in the latter city.) He immigrated to Canada in 1927, but work was hard to find in those times. The story (as taken from some newspaper clippings filed in the Glenbow Library) goes that he lined up a job situated on the outskirts of a small town in Saskatchewan. He was not impressed when the train stopped in, apparently, the middle of nowhere, and he was told that this was the town. He was even less impressed when he discovered that the location of his work site was actually 50 miles away! As soon as he could he escaped from there and continued west on the train until he arrived in Calgary with very little money remaining. He drummed up work by walking around the Mount Royal area knocking on doors and asking if there was any furniture that needed repairing. He would then hand-carry it back to his small work shop – apparently sofas were a bit of a problem!

He soon started his own custom cabinet building and repairing outlet, but his dream was to own a retail furniture store. This he was able to do in 1946 with a store on 17 Avenue. He married within a few years of arriving in Canada and had two sons. One continued in the furniture business while the other became an engineer in the space industry, located in California. Niels was a very talented craftsman who became well known for his carving skills, in particular for churches. Examples of his work are to be found at Grace Presbyterian, First Baptist, St. Stephen’s Anglican and St Mark’s Anglican. He also spent seven years of his spare time working on an elaborate organ screen for his own church, Sharon Lutheran. Another of his achievements was a 6 ft. by 4 ft.

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HISTORY OF THE COMMUNION TABLE— OR RATHER OF THE MAN WHO MAY HAVE MADE IT!

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relief carving of northern exploration as a Centennial project for the Planetarium. When three Apollo astronauts were killed he made a memorial plaque that was installed at NASA in the States. Other examples of his work are to be found across North America. In his remaining spare time Niels did oil painting, played the organ at church and the violin for the Calgary Symphony Orchestra. He was also a committed community volunteer and was on the board for the Stampede, for which he completed several carvings for the Director's Room.

Presumably, his renown as a craftsman for churches was why the Chalmers table was ordered from him. Sadly, we don't know if he worked on the carvings himself. The table has a band of alternating crosses and roses, connected by tendrils of foliage, all around the edge. He was known to have included an Alberta rose in at least one of his works so it is possible that he had a hand in the design, if nothing more.

History would seem to have repeated itself when St. Giles commissioned a master furniture maker to make the new pulpit and lectern following the renovations of the chancel in 2001. This time it was an English immigrant, named John Morel, who now lives in Dewinton, who made the pieces. John was born in 1943 and learned woodworking from his father at the family farm near the Welsh border. At age 15 he was formally apprenticed to a

master blacksmith where he showed such promise he was able to study at an art college in Birmingham. He qualified as a master blacksmith at the young age of 21. Shortly thereafter he moved to Canada where he travelled the far north plying his trade as a blacksmith and machinist before settling in Calgary to begin his woodworking business. Like Mr. Weismose, he has been commissioned to make pieces for several Calgary churches, including Knox United and St Michael's. Since then his work has won several awards, has toured across Canada and has been shown internationally.

He used North American Red Oak for our pulpit and lectern. The burning bush and cross were made from European Brown oak and the flames are of Brazilian Pernambuco and African Pau Amarello. The pulpit and lectern were installed at the same time as some men from the church were working on the "modesty" boards that front the choir pews. These were made from high quality oak sheets that were then finished to match the other pieces. The Chalmers communion table arrived at more or less the same time. Considering the different origins of all this chancel furniture I think it blends together very well, and we can take pride that it was quite likely all made locally!

Sources: <http://albertaventure.com/2004/07/best-of-craft/>
Glenbow Library clippings file for N. Weismose.

Congratulations

Ryan Lachlan McMillan joined us on May 19, 2011 right on time!! He was 8 lbs and 21.5 inches long when he was born and is growing fast!!

We are all well, figuring things out, and enjoying having him around.

Tracy and Brad McMillan



WMS MISSION AWARENESS SUNDAY

WMS Mission Awareness Sunday was observed on Sunday, May 22, 2011. The Athalie Read WMS Group led the worship service with many of the members taking part in the service.



Following is the Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession which the group would like to share with all our readers:

"Loving God, we thank you for our world—for its infinite beauty found in nature and in people. We thank you for the endless opportunities available to us, chances to serve you; chances to grow in knowledge and understanding; chances to share love and fellowship within our family of faith.

Holy God, we thank you for your work that invites us to come together to celebrate faith and hope. Through your word, your church has been built; your grace has been

made known; your power has been revealed. We are grateful for the witness of those who serve our church as ambassadors and missionaries. We pray for them, and for the people they serve.

Many in the world do not have fair access to the bounty of your creation. Because some take too much, there is not enough for others. Because some feel that they must accumulate wealth and power, others are poor and powerless. Lord, give us eyes that can see the unfairness, ears that can hear the cries of the oppressed, and hands that will work to bring justice.

Many in the world struggle with illness or injury. Because our human bodies are fragile, many are in need of help and strength. Because some feel that they have the right to inflict injury, others are wounded in body and in spirit. Lord, give us eyes that can see the pain, hearts that can love those who hurt, and hands that will work to bring healing.

Many in the world bear burdens of care that weigh them down. Because our culture is so focused on completing tasks and achieving success, many are neglected and alone. Because many feel that they have no choice but to accept the expectations of others, there is a lack of peace and hope in their hearts. Lord, give us eyes that can see the despair, minds that can recognize the influences that work against your will, and hands that will work to resist the culture of selfishness and competition.

These and all our prayers, we offer in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen."

Choir News

BY MARNI STROME

A Choral Fling for Spring – Saturday May 14, 2011

We learned all about **WIDE** vowels vs **TALL** vowels as we work-shopped our way through our music with Dr Will Kesling, guest conductor and clinician for our recent mass choir concert this Spring.

Dr. Kesling inspired us by reminding us of the value of investing our time and effort in the learning and performance of great choral music literature. It is an intellectual as well as a spiritual pursuit that enhances our life existence and boosts our IQ!

Carmen Ashmead again recruited a wonderful Chamber Orchestra to perform with us, and we enjoyed the experience of singing beautiful music with all those

instruments, including our accompanists Esther Woelfle and Robert Lee, with a master conductor, Dr Will Kesling, on the podium. It was a great learning experience and a lot of fun, too.

We were thrilled to see so many people in the audience of Knox United church that night – significantly our St. Giles friends. Thanks so much for supporting us!

Our choir members will be taking a well-deserved break over the summer months, but we look forward to resuming our practices in the fall, where we will continue to bring a wide variety of choral styles to Sunday worship services. New members are welcome any time – first rehearsal of the fall will be on **Thursday September 8th at 7:30pm.**

UPDATE FROM FACILITIES AND MAINTENANCE COMMITTEE BY JACK ALEXANDER

I think the most notable event recently was the retirement of Earl Engel, our church officer for the past ten years or so. He will be missed at St. Giles and we wish him well and by the way his yard at home is already the best in his neighborhood.

With Earl gone, we have decided to try something new and will hire a cleaning service on a trial basis to clean the church twice a week. The work they are to do is clearly specified and we will monitor it closely to determine the effectiveness. As well, Ted Samson will assume a part time role in handling other needs such setting up for events etc. We estimate a saving of four to five thousand dollars a year if all goes well. This concept was approved by Session.

In our last report we indicated that our telephone system would be up graded to give us a much improved service that actually works at all times. The new system has been ordered and will include a built in intercom, caller id and fax and should be installed very soon. We will also upgrade our copier capability.

The biggest addition of the year as every one must have noticed is the new screen and projector in the chancel. It makes it easy to follow along in the progress of the service. The best part for me is it allows me to participate in singing the hymns without digging in my pockets for my reading glasses.

The biggest reduction in the year is the removal of the large spruce tree at the front of the church. It was old and splitting up the middle and blocked the view of the church and the sign board when approaching from the south. This was also approved by Session.

Last, but certainly not the least is the decision of Walter Cooper to resign as chairman of the committee. We trust Walter will continue to work with us and avail us of his skills and leadership qualities. Thank you Walter for all you have done in the service of St. Giles.

EMERGENCY EVACUATION DRILL

Congratulations St. Giles on another successful Annual Emergency Evacuation Drill as required by the Presbyterian Church of Canada under the 'Leading With Care Policy'.

On May 15, 2011 we responded to the actual Fire Alarm instead of a horn. All buildings were evacuated within three minutes in an orderly fashion and people regrouped as planned in the parking lot.

Branches growing across the metal stairs at the back of the church presented a small problem for those using this exit. Thanks to Norman Miller, these branches have since been removed.

There were three other points that we need to keep in mind for next year:

1. **Everyone** is to leave the buildings.
2. People should move as far into the parking lot and away from the buildings leaving the lane clear for emergency vehicles

FIRE
DRILL



3. Children in the Church School are to go with their teacher to the grass area on the far side of the parking lot where the parents may then sign them out. When children are taken before this, the teacher is forced to divide her/his attention between the safety of the other children and having parents sign the sheet. This takes time and could lead to confusion and children unaccounted for.

Thanks to everyone for their cooperation.

Marilyn Machum
for the Human Resources Committee

A PLACE TO CALL HOME—PART ONE

BY MICHAEL MOORHOUSE

The Mission Committee has invited us to submit our thoughts about what we call home. In working on this article for *What's Up?* I originally tried to combine memories from a recent journey with some reflections on home as an idea rather than a place. It ended up being too long, so I've divided it into two parts — this one dealing with the leaving for and then the getting home from a cruise, plus another one in the Fall issue about the shipboard bit and a different kind of home.

We left Calgary on April 9th to fly to Florida for a three-week repositioning cruise on Holland America's MS Ryndam. That's the kind where they shift the vessel from its winter venue in the sunny Caribbean to the summer trade in Europe. Basically it involves crossing the Atlantic plus some other stuff added on. These trips are good value and we had done it before. This time we finished up in Dover.

Actually we hadn't even seen the ship before the funniest moment of the whole trip happened. We were changing planes in Toronto's Pearson Terminal 3, waiting on a flight to Tampa. The gate area was crowded, but we found a couple of empty seats by a payphone near the desk. It was getting close to boarding time when I spotted a guy coming along who was clearly already in Florida - shorts, sandals, no socks, a shirt that shouted at you hanging outside his belt, and some sort of funny hat. He sidled up to the desk, all smiles, and spoke earnestly to the Air Canada agent. This went on for quite a bit, and I could see that the agent was looking around. Suddenly she seemed to spot Margaret and me sitting off by ourselves. It's relevant here that being Canadians of a certain generation we weren't travelling in jeans all torn out at the knees but were sort-of dress-casual, if you know what I mean.

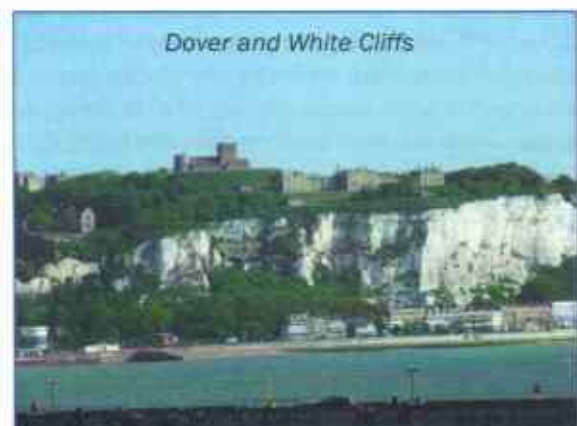
Well. Would we mind if we were upgraded to Business Class? Gee, gosh no, we think that would be all right, and suddenly we were being pre-boarded with a half-dozen other toffs and had moved from Seats 30 A & B up against the rear bulkhead to Row 2 at the front of the aircraft. Four extra inches of bum-room, all leather, and you could stretch your legs. "Could I hang your jacket, Mr. Moorhouse? Here, let me put that carry-on away for you. Newspaper, Sir? Sure. Would you care for a beverage before lunch, Mrs. Moorhouse. You'll wait? Well let's see. There's a lovely French chardonnay to go with the salmon and you have a choice of merlot or a pinot noir for the beef tenderloin." And on the other side of the curtain behind us a plastic-wrapped sandwich was five bucks.

Of course all good things come to an end, but we were the second people off the aircraft. Having been a TCA passenger agent before we married, Margaret had early twigged on to what was happening. Mr. Florida was an Air Canada employee travelling freebee on standby. No problem, but I'll bet the conversation at the desk went something like "I'm sorry, but economy class is full sir, and we would gladly seat you up in business, but, well sir, you aren't really dressed for that, are you ...?" Looking back on it now, I figure it worked out pretty well for all of us. The agent solved a problem, we had our brief peek at the good life, and the other fellow and his wife got to Florida. Good things happen too.

Next day, after an overnight hotel we boarded the Ryndam, one of Holland America's older and smaller ships, turned outward bound for the Atlantic, and began our long journey home. Not everything worked out as planned, but it was all enjoyable. But as I confessed at the start, telling you about all that now will run on a bit, so I'll pick it up at the close of our last full day on the water.



We were in the Belgian port of Zeebrugge, just getting back from a rewarding but deeply sobering shore excursion to the World War I battlefields in Flanders. On re-boarding the ship things had quickly gotten busy. It was time to settle up, gather up, pack up, zip up, say goodbye to our ship-board friends, and drag the bags out in the companionway by 1:00 am for pickup by the crew. Next morning, after a quick overnight crossing to Dover,



Dover and White Cliffs

disembarking was smooth and soon we were on a coach bound for London. It was Sunday. Back on Friday we had been in Cherbourg watching the Royal Wedding on the big screen in the forward theatre lounge with all the impeccable BBC commentary.

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A PLACE TO CALL HOME—PART ONE

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Now, gliding through the gentle Kentish countryside that quiet sunny morning, I couldn't help but think of that final triumphant anthem at the Wedding a couple of days earlier - Sir Hubert Parry's 'Jerusalem', with its closing ode to 'England's green and pleasant land'.

We had booked a two night post-cruise stopover in London. After arriving in the city at Hilton's London Metropole on Edgware Road, we found that we had been pre-registered by a Holland America agent who helped us get our land-legs and observed that our booking included a full English breakfast. The significance of that remark didn't appear till the next morning.

Meanwhile, after a Big Mac lunch nearby (what a change from shipboard cuisine), we set out for walk. Very quickly it was clear that London is not the Kentish countryside, and to say that the city is cosmopolitan is a profound understatement. Where we were I think the language was mostly Lebanese, but then you couldn't understand the native-born either. Nevertheless, undaunted, we set out. First down to Oxford Street and a peek into Selfridges: elegant department store, then back to Marble Arch and westward through Hyde Park to Lancaster Gate, then back along Sussex Gardens to the hotel. About two miles. You may not know the ground but the names might be familiar.

Next day, Monday and a Bank Holiday, was a blur. It began with the 'full English', meaning bangers and a lot more. The Brits aren't noted for their cookery, but they know breakfast. Thus fortified, we crossed the road to the Edgware Road Underground station and took the train to Piccadilly Circus, then walked a few blocks east to Leister Square and bought tickets for 'Les Mis' at the Queens theatre. Soon we were back on the tube again, down to



The London Underground—Edgware Road Station

the Thames and we walked along the Embankment to Westminster. It was a gloriously sunny day and throngs of people were milling around the Abbey. Escaping from there we cut through St. James's Park to The Mall where all the big Union flags were still flying after the Wedding. Then westward along to Buckingham Palace. The royal standard was flying, declaring that her majesty was at home, resting no doubt. Another mob.



Margaret, the Thames and the London Eye



Holiday Crowds at Westminster Abbey



The Mall looking toward Buckingham Palace

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A PLACE TO CALL HOME—PART ONE

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The forecourt at Buckingham Palace

From there we walked north through Green Park to the Underground station, changed trains at Piccadilly, and returned to the hotel. After an early supper we were back on the tube again to the theatre and the tears and joys of *Les Miserables*. What a day.

By contrast our last day was just hanging around. First, thankfully in the morning, we were off to Heathrow for the mandatory two or three hour pre-board wait, then it was a long nine hours over the top to Calgary. We were back in Economy this time and no upgrade, but the meal was good. It was sunny all the way and after endless miles of ice and snow a little bare ground finally began to appear. At Calgary two international flights were deplaning at the same time so there was a long wait for Customs, **but we were home, and home was good.**

THANK YOU WALTER MASTENBROEK

There are so many good things to say about **Walter Mastenbroek**, it's hard to know where to start.

Walter, his wife Jannie, his children Walter Jr. and Jackie, were all long time members of St. Giles. After Walter's



retirement from the Dairy, he came to work at St. Giles as Church Officer. Always supported by Jannie, the two of them kept our church spotless and involved themselves in the day-to-day activities of our church.

Sadly, Jeannie passed away suddenly, but Walter continued on as our Church Officer. He kept the high standard that they had both set and everybody loved him.

Walter has decided to spend his autumn years with his son and family in Ottawa. Their gain is our loss.

We wish Walter all the best and, of course, would welcome him back at any time to our St. Giles family.

THANK YOU EARL ENGEL

It's hard to believe that **Earl Engel** has been with St. Giles for over 10 years. His cheery smile and hospitality has greeted us every day since he accepted the job as Church Officer.



Earl has made a point to get to know the members of our congregation and to recognize their needs.

He has volunteered his wonderful culinary skills on countless occasions and has shared his many recipes with some of our ambitious cooks.

While to us Earl may seem ageless, he has decided to retire and take a well deserved rest.

All of us at St. Giles wish Earl and his wife Donna all the best in their retirement and we hope that they visit us often.

HOW IS YOUR HEART?

BY REV. DEWALD DELPORT

When we go to a doctor for a check-up it is not unusual for the doctor to check our blood pressure and listen to the heart. The heart is an important organ in the body and, as we know, vital for living. The health of the heart is then important. There are also many factors that can contribute to the well being of the heart.

In Scripture the church is often described as the body of Christ. As the body of Christ the church has a "heart."

When a doctor listens to heart she hears a heartbeat, which tells her if everything is in good order. What then is the heart beat of the church? David Poling-Goldenne and L. Shannon Jung in their book, *Discovering Hope*, describes **prayer as the heartbeat of congregations**.

Prayer is vitally important for the church. Without prayer we are not and cannot be the people of God. Perhaps this sounds a little harsh to the ear, but think about it.

What is vital for any relationship to survive?

Communication, without communication (whether verbal or otherwise) no relationship can exist. The same holds true for our relationship with God. Communication is key to our relationship with the Almighty. Is this not also what we see in Scriptures? Throughout the Old Testament and the New Testament time and again we see that those who value a relationship with God have the desire to communicate with God. Even the Son of God prayed on more than one occasion.

How is our heartbeat?

Well, we have a couple of options now. We can either get upset, angry, defensive, and think "this is none of your business" kind of like the reaction when a doctor asks us if we eat right and exercise regularly **OR** we can be willing to listen and see how we can improve our "heartbeat" to be even better than it was before. After all, why settle for 'just ok' if we can be 'good', why settle for 'good' if we can be 'better.'

One of the best ways to learn about and improve our prayer life is to look at the many different prayers in Scripture – and there are many. There is even a prayer about doubt! In Mark 9 we read about the father who prays, "I believe; help my unbelief."

Let's look briefly at a prayer well known to most people – The Lord's Prayer.

It is very important to remember the context in which we find this prayer. The Lord's Prayer is recorded in a section of Matthew's Gospel that is known as "the Sermon on the Mount." It is basically a teaching session. Keep this in mind as you discover the richness in the phrases that follow

Our Father who art in heaven ...

Here in the first petition we see something very important – RELATIONSHIP. So that we may have a better understanding of who God is God brings things down to our level. God is almighty, infinite, omnibenevolent, omnipresent, and God is Spirit. As human beings we do not have experiences with any of these: we are not almighty, we are finite (we have a beginning and an end), our "benevolence" has its limits, we are not Spirit. Jesus uses an example we can understand much better – Parent and child. This relationship is not something new, throughout the Old Testament God reminds His people, "I am yours, and you are Mine."

Most church folk are familiar with John 3:16, but verse 17 is also important. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son; that whosoever believeth in Him may not perish, but may have eternal life. **Indeed God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the [whole] world might be saved through Him.**"* God is our Father ... all the people in the world are His children. Like a good and loving earthly parent God desires what is best for all His children and hands it to His children (Matthew 5:45 ... for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous). Like children humanity can either accept God's love or not. And yet, as we are reminded in the parable of the Lost Son, God is waiting.

... Hallowed be Thy name ...

This second petition is probably the most misunderstood petition in the Lord's Prayer probably since the word "holy" is not part of our every day vocabulary.

In biblical times a person would be given a name that describes them for example Abraham – father of a multitude – or when Naomi changed her name to Marah – bitter – after she and Ruth returned to her hometown. This petition then tells us that God's name is "Holy."

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HOW IS YOUR HEART?

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But there is more to it. With the recognition that God is "Holy" it means we are not "holy." Perhaps we feel a little offended at this after all we do good things. Yes, that is true but remember who God is, God is infinite and almighty, God is all perfect and all good. Scripture teaches us on more than one occasion that God says to His people, "Be holy, because I am holy" (Lev. 11:44).

An illustration that is helpful to understand this is that of a young child and a parent. Young children look at the parents with awe. "I want to be like mommy." "I want to be like daddy."

In God's Word we also find how to be holy. Mark 5⁴¹ "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'⁴⁴ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,⁴⁵ so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous.⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?⁴⁷ And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?⁴⁸ Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

... Thy kingdom come ...

Have you ever thought that the Lord's Prayer is for a better tomorrow? When we pray "Thy kingdom come" we are praying for a radical change. It is also the recognition that humanity isn't living up to God's standards. If we find this hard to believe we only need to pick-up a newspaper.

What is the kingdom of like then? To get a glimpse of what the kingdom of God is like we only need to turn to the Gospels. Here Jesus provides us with ample illustrations and similes regarding the kingdom of God.

I would like to share this verse from Scripture though Rev 21:3-4

- ³ "See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them as their God;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
⁴ he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away."

... Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven ...

Isn't this a wonderful petition? We are asking that our hearts, minds, and souls be in sync with God. In Romans 12:1 & 2 we read "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.² Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

This petition also reminds us that often our will and the will of God are on too very different horizons. We are inclined to say, "If you feel that is right and good, then go ahead." Unfortunately we are not holy nor are we perfect – after all we pray, "Hallowed be Thy name." The will of God is that all His children learn and know about His love and patience. The will of God is that all people be encouraged to be like their Father in heaven. The will of God is that we share with others our knowledge of God so that they too may know Him. The will of God is that we hold each other accountable for our actions.

Are we judging others when we share the will of God with them? Let me share two Scripture passage and you'll be the judge (no pun intended J):

1 Timothy 2:4 *God desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

1 Thessalonians 5:13b-22 *Be at peace among yourselves.¹⁴ And we urge you, beloved, to admonish the idlers, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with all of them.¹⁵ See that none of you repays evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to all.¹⁶ Rejoice always,¹⁷ pray without ceasing,¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.²⁰ Do not despise the words of prophets,²¹ but test everything; hold fast to what is good;²² abstain from every form of evil.*

... Give us this day our daily bread ...

As much as God cares about spiritual well being God also cares about our physical well being. Here we can once again keep the idea of family in mind. We are God's children and He is our heavenly Father. Is a child completely independent? No, a child is not. A child depends upon another to care for him. I remember that

(continued on page 12)

HOW IS YOUR HEART?

(Continued from page 11)

as a young child my sister would sometimes "take care" of me while she was still dependent on my parents.

This petition then is not a petition for "hand-outs" but rather one where we become aware that what we have is God given-gifts that we also share. God gives us what we have (sometimes we foolishly do not accept what God provides us with) to care for ourselves and other people.

...And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors ...

Six months after graduating from seminary I experienced a rude awakening. Study Debt! I thought there was something called loan forgiveness. Then I learned my idea and what the fine print read were a little different. They meant I did not have to pay for six month but the interest accumulates. I thought there would be no interest nor payments ... I mean it is suppose to be forgiveness!

Our experience of forgiveness seems to approach the philosophy of "avoiding the inevitable for awhile." Forgiveness with God is different. Psalm 103:13 explains God's forgiveness like this, "as far as the east is from the west, so far He removes our transgressions from us." How far is the east from the west?

Why debt? It implies we owe something, what do we owe God? We owe God righteous living. The sin and iniquities in our life breaks our relationship with God. When we gossip, or covet, or wish harm to someone (there are many more examples) then we are not showing forth the image in which God created us. We are encouraged to deal with our spiritual debt so that we might be spiritual free in Christ.

I think it is also quite interesting that we find here a reminder to forgive each other. "... [A]s we forgive our debtors." We are asking God to deal with us on the same basis that we deal with others ... on the same basis that we show forgiveness. If anything we – who love to hold grudges, much rather have revenge, and see that others get what they deserve – are reminded to become a more forgiving people

...And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from Evil ...

Put a double caramel cheesecake or a peach pie in front of me, and it is good-bye healthy eating. As much as we have food related temptation so we have spiritual temptations. It looks so good after all ...

We have all heard the saying, "the grass is always greener on the other side." In Matthew we read about the Tempter who tried to entice Jesus to walk over to the other side (Matthew 4:1-11). The Tempter tried his best to make the grass greener as green and lush as can be. And yet, Jesus reminded the Tempter throughout this ordeal what is import – "Worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only."

It is good to remember that it is not God who tempt us, but the Evil One. God is not the author of evil. This passage from James 1 is helpful: ¹³No one, when tempted, should say, "I am being tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil and he himself tempts no one. ¹⁴But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it; ¹⁵then, when that desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and that sin, when it is fully grown, gives birth to death.

This petitions reminds us to yearn for God's righteousness and to depend upon Him, our heavenly Father, to guide and help us.

**And that is the Lord's Prayer –
a guide, a help, a source,
an encouragement – for you and I so that
we may grow in spiritual strength.**

I would like to conclude with these words:

"I am weak, but Thou art strong.
Keep me Jesus from all wrong.
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee."

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalm 119:105

Church School News

BY HEATHER MACKIE

Now that the Church School year is completed we would like to thank the many people that have been involved in making this past year a success.

Many thanks to:

- ⇒ The teachers for teaching each Sunday morning.
- ⇒ The substitutes who have been there to step in when needed.
- ⇒ Toby Gaskarth for being our registrar.
- ⇒ Heather Tufford for being our Nursery worker and for taking care of all the "little ones" each Sunday morning.
- ⇒ Rev. Dewald for getting us started on learning the books of the Old Testament. We are all enjoying this challenge.

For the summer months the GIFT committee has created lessons for each week. The bags are in a basket below the blue Youth bulletin board in the Narthex along with a sign-up sheet. **We are asking for volunteers to spend an hour with the children of our congregation. It is a great chance to get to know the children in a small group and to be able to give something back to the church. This also allows the regular teachers to enjoy a much needed break so they are fresh for September.** There are generally only a few children (between 3 and 6) and if you would like you can volunteer in pairs.

All materials that are needed are in the bags so all you need to do is read the story, lead a short discussion and help with the activities provided. There are also the pew bags (with paper and eye spy bags or paper and felt pieces) in the back row that can be used by young children who would prefer to stay in the service. **If you are able please sign up for one week so that the children are still able to enjoy a class and the teachers are able to come to church and enjoy worship!!**

We will be hosting Vacation Bible School this year during the week of July 11–15th. The theme is **The High Seas Expedition**. We are still looking for volunteers to get snacks ready, to work with the kids and to purchase some of our supplies and snacks. If you are able to help in any way please call Heather Mackie at 403-567-0739.

We are beginning to plan for the upcoming Church School year and are looking for a teacher and some new substitutes. Teaching Church School is a wonderful experience and we are willing to help you until you feel comfortable on your own, there is a very straightforward and detailed curriculum we provide, however teachers can also implement their own ideas if they want. If anyone would be interested in teaching or substituting or would like to know more about what is involved please talk to Heather. **Please prayerfully consider if you would have any gifts or talents in this area that you could share with our children.**

COMMENTS FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ELDER ON PRESBYTERY **BY SANDRA CAMERON EVANS**

Knox Presbyterian Church hosted the May meeting of the **Presbytery of Calgary-Macleod**. Worship focusing on the Emmaus story in Luke 24, which led to our Theological Reflection where we discussed engagement with the various congregations in the Presbytery.

Community of Communities

Interim Moderator's Report for Knox

- Bob Smith shared that congregational life continues under the much-appreciated leadership of Rev. Hilary Cox. The Assessment and Search Committee has completed the congregational profile and submitted it to the national office.

Presbytery Youth Ministry Committee Report

- Plans are underway for the 2011 Fall Retreat that will be held on September 30th – October 2nd at Valleyview Presbyterian Church. A local speaker, Randy Carter of Straight Talk Ministries, will be presenting on the theme "The Faith Network".

Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding the Ministries of the Presbytery

- St. John's Medicine Hat distributed information on John Bell's visit for a youth event and presentation on Celtic Christian traditions, the weekend of June 11–13.
- Acadian Place held a Spring Fling cleanup on May 14th with lunch provided.
- Varsity Acres recently had four of their Elders retire as part of their Elder term service, with a total of 90+ years of service.

Chair of Christian Thought

- This Advisory Board meets monthly with the Chair of Christian Thought, Professor Doug Shantz on various things including the selection of guest speakers for the lectures which the chair sponsors and assists with fund-raising activities.

Calgary Council of Christians and Jews

- The Annual Holocaust Memorial Service took place on May 25th at St. Anthony's.
- A mini-series on "View of Moses the Man" was offered at the Calgary Jewish Centre.
- The Annual Spring Breakfast Dialogue "A Pedagogy of the Spirit: Talking about God and Religion in a Secular Age" was held @ the Calgary Jewish Centre.

Christian Muslim Dialogue

- Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman has joined the Dialogue and a new name will be found.
- The Calgary Multi-Faith Alliance, which seeks to build relationships with and learn from other organizations, is open to working together on justice issues.
- An Outreach and Dialogue event amongst Muslim-Christian Youth is being planned.

- A Study Trip to Israel, "In the Path of Abraham, A Jewish-Muslim-Christian Experience of the Holy Land", is planned from Sept. 4-10, 2011. Contact Leslie Walker revles@telus.net; 403-244-5861 for more information.

Corrections Chaplaincy Report

- Tom Brownlee continues his ministry at the Remand and Correctional Centres, where the people of many faiths he meets impact him.
- He noted that Alberta provides the lowest funding per inmate of all the provinces. This means few meaningful programs and little treatment of the problems that brought people into jail initially (there is an 80% addiction rate), resulting in a higher recidivism rate and more crime.

Mission

Imagining Ministry Team

- Charged with exploring new ways of ministering within the Presbytery and especially ministry south of Fish Creek, the committee has explored themes of partnership, study/education opportunities.

Pastoral Effectiveness

- Study leaves had been approved for Rev. Clay Kuhn and Rev. Leslie Walker.
- The Rev. Phil Reinders of the Christian Reformed Church has applied to enter the Presbyterian Church of Canada and will be interviewed as part of the process.
- Rev. Peter Baek has completed his clergy review.

Strategy and Leadership

- The committee noted that it has been a year since the national church's Emmaus Conference took place which was intended to share information amongst those Presbyteries in attendance, equipping them with resources to follow their own sense of God leading them. Calgary-Macleod chose to engage in a time of intentional discernment to establish our future direction.
- Members of Presbytery, Sessions and congregations were encouraged to complete the questionnaire sent by the General Assembly Special Committee on the Life of HanCa Presbyteries.
- Kobus Genus will service as Moderator of the Presbytery for 2011-2012.
- The Visitation Team to Valleyview Presbyterian Church reported on the significant progress that the congregation has made in dealing with accounting and financial control issues. A follow-up visitation is to be held in early 2012.

Administrative

- All congregational records were reviewed at this Presbytery meeting. St. Giles' records were attested as "Neatly Kept With Notes".

Next Meeting – Tuesday, June 21, 2011, 1:00pm at St. John's Medicine Hat. Presbytery is open to guests; consider joining us as an observer.

FINANCIAL UPDATE FOR APRIL AND MAY 2011

BY TED SAMSON

At the end of March, we had accumulated a total operating deficit of \$20,560 largely for two reasons: our revenue was substantially down in both February and March, and our expenses were quite a bit higher than average due to one time costs associated with having a new minister. Now that we have reached June, we have two more months of income and expense to see more clearly how 2011 may go.

The chart below includes April and May:

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW FOR APRIL AND MAY

	April	May	YTD	Budget
Revenue	\$20,289	\$20,239	\$91,220	\$107,840
Expenses	\$20,467	\$24,486	\$116,205	\$107,840
Difference	(\$178)	(\$4,247)	(\$24,985)	0

Our total operating income is now more than \$16,600 less than anticipated after five months, although both April (including Easter) and May gave us much better results than February and March. On the expense side, our total operating expenses are now more than \$8,300 higher than the budget. Some of these expenses are Maintenance related, including repairs to the sump pump, the new thermostat for the house, graffiti removal, repairs to the pot sink and dishwasher in the kitchen and fixing the intercom at the backdoor. We also purchased a new computer for the Church Office which was long overdue.

Since we are going into the summer months, we can expect that our expenses will level off somewhat because there will be less activities in our facilities. However, the summer also leads to lower attendance and consequently lower income, so we ask for all of our contributors to do their utmost to keep up with their offering this year.

A LITTLE LIGHT READING...



Shirley & Marcy

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence but yet know that he was safe. So she had an idea of how to handle it. She asked a neighbor if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. She said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed. The next school day, the neighbor and her little girl set out following behind Timmy as he walked to school with another neighbor girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Timmy's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do every day all week. Finally she said to Timmy, 'Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?' Timmy nonchalantly replied, 'Yeah, I know who she is.' The little girl said, 'Well, who is she?' 'That's just Shirley Goodnest,' Timmy replied, 'and her daughter Marcy.' 'Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?' 'Well,' Timmy explained, 'every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm, it says, 'Shirley Goodnest (surely goodness) and Marcy (mercy) shall follow me all the days of my life', so I guess I'll just have to get used to it!'

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift His countenance upon you, and give you peace.

May Shirley Goodnest and Marcy be with you today and always.

Editors Note: Thanks to Janette Mackie for sharing this light reading with us.

ENLIGHTENED PERSPECTIVE

Read all the way to the bottom!

If you will take the time to read these. I promise you'll come away with an enlightened perspective. The subjects covered affect us all on a daily basis!

They're written by Andy Rooney, a man who has the gift of saying so much with so few words. Enjoy.....



I've learned.... That the best classroom in the world is at the feet of an elderly person.

I've learned.... That when you're in love, it shows.

I've learned.... That just one person saying to me, "You've made my day!" makes my day.

I've learned.... That having a child fall asleep in your arms is one of the most peaceful feelings in the world.

I've learned.... That being kind is more important than being right.

I've learned.... That you should never say no to a gift from a child.

I've learned.... That I can always pray for someone when I don't have the strength to help him in some other way.

I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

I've learned.... That sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

I've learned.... That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

I've learned.... That life is like a roll of toilet paper. The closer it gets to the end, the faster it goes.

I've learned.... That we should be glad God doesn't give us everything we ask for.

I've learned.... That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned.... That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned... That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned.... That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned.... That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned.... That love, not time, heals all wounds.

I've learned.... That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned.... That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learned.... That no one is perfect until you fall in love with them.

I've learned.... That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned.... That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

I've learned.... That when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

I've learned.... That I wish I could have told my Mom that I love her one more time before she passed away.

I've learned.... That one should keep his words both soft and tender, because tomorrow he may have to eat them.

I've learned.... That a smile is an inexpensive way to improve your looks.

I've learned.... That I can't choose how I feel, but I can choose what I do about it.

I've learned.... That when your newly born grandchild holds your little finger in his little fist, that you're hooked for life.

I've learned.... That everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

I've learned.... That the less time I have to work with, the more things I get done.

PENTECOST 1, 2011

**FOCUS
PASSAGES**

*June 19, 2011
This Is Good*

*June 26, 2011
Holy Welcome*

*July 3, 2011
Chosen
Journeys*

*July 10, 2011
A House
Divided*

*July 17, 2011
a Place of
Blessing*

*July 24
Weaving the
Future*

*July 31, 2011
Face to Face*

*August 7, 2011
When All
Seems Lost*

*August 14, 2011
Bold Moves*

*August 21, 2011
Be Transformed*

*August 28, 2011
Spirit-Led Living*



June 19, 2011
Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11–13
Matthew 28:16–20

June 26, 2011
Matthew 10:40–42
Genesis 22:1–14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12–23

July 3, 2011
**Genesis 24:34–38,
42–49, 58–67**
Psalm 45:10–17 or
Song of Songs 2:8–13
Romans 7:15–25a
Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

July 10, 2011
Genesis 25:19–34
Psalm 119:105–112
Romans 8:1–11
Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

July 17, 2011
Genesis 28:10–19a
Psalm 139:1–12, 23–24
Romans 8:12–25
Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43

July 24, 2011
Genesis 29:15–28
Psalm 105:1–11, 45b or
Psalm 128
Romans 8:26–39
Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

July 31, 2011
Genesis 32:22–31
Psalm 17:1–7, 15
Romans 9:1–5
Matthew 14:13–21

August 7, 2011
Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28
Psalm 105:1–6, 16–22, 45b
Romans 10:5–15
Matthew 14:22–33

August 14, 2011
Genesis 45:1–15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1–2a, 29–32
Matthew 15: (10–20), 21–28

August 21, 2011
Romans 12:1–8
Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Matthew 16:13–20

August 28, 2011
Romans 12:9–21
Exodus 3:1–15
Psalm 105:1–6, 23–26, 45e
Matthew 16:21–28



O LORD, our Lord, How excellent is Your name in all the earth, Who have set Your glory above the heavens! Psalm 8:1

UPCOMING EVENTS



WORSHIP SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

- * July 10.....**Stampede Brunch (see below)**
Come and bring a friend - all are welcomed.
- * September 11...**Fall Welcome-Back Luncheon**
Please join us for a Luncheon in the Lower Hall following our Worship Service.
- * October 2**Worldwide Community Service.**
The first Sunday in October, during which members of ecumenical churches throughout the world celebrate Holy Communion
- * October 9**Thanksgiving Sunday**

Special thanks and appreciation to our Music Director, Marni Strome, our organists/pianists Esther Woelfle and Robert Lee, and to our guest musicians, for the wonderful and inspirational music that they have provided to us.

Check our Church Bulletin for other Upcoming Events

Have a Safe and Enjoyable Summer with family and friends

ST. GILES STAMPEDE BRUNCH

Come and join in the camaraderie of **St. Giles Stampede Brunch** sponsored by members of our Session. Dress in your western outfits and bring your family and friends for a wonderful time together as we share in celebrating Calgary's biggest outdoor show "The Calgary Stampede".

Time: After our regular worship service

Place: The Garden



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