



WHAT'S UP?

ST. GILES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Spring 2018 Issue

"Called by Christ, Committed by Faith, Connected by Community."

MINISTER'S MESSAGE

It was my first Saturday in Spain as I walked the pilgrimage route of the Camino de Santiago, which had begun on the other side of the border in France. I was a little tired. For the past few days I had been wrestling with a sore throat. I was in desperate need of a pharmacy or at least something to sooth the ever-aching annoyance.

As I walked into Puente la Reina, I was relieved. At least here I would find a pharmacy and be able to buy some medicine, or at the very least find some Halls or Strepisils. Or so I thought. I quickly learned that finding a pharmacy that was open in rural Spain on Saturday afternoon was a challenge.

With a sore throat as my companion I went in search of a store. Luckily, one small store was open. After I explained what was wrong the lady showed me some "honey candies" and assured me they would provide some relief.

During my search for a pharmacy, I had walked passed a church. It was a fairly big and old building. On my way back to the hotel I decided to visit this church - *Parroquia de Santiago y San Pedro* (The Parish of St. James and St. Peter).

I opened the old wooden doors and stepped in. In front of me was, what I thought, a very good reminder. It was statue of Jesus on the Cross. It wasn't the statue that stood out for me though. Rather, it was the inscription: *En la Cruz está la Vida*, or in English, *In the Cross is Life* or *Life is on the Cross*. I think a paraphrase that expresses the meaning more clearly would be something like this: *Do you see the Cross of Christ? It is*

here where you'll find Life.

Throughout Lent we have looked at Jesus' "I am" statements. One of them is: *I am the Resurrection and the Life*. Whenever I think about the church at Puente La Reina where I saw the statue of Jesus on the Cross with the inscription *En la Cruz está la Vida*, I remember that Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."



Yet, what was even more memorable for me was that this was a person's first view as you walk into *Santiago y San Pedro*. Let us think about this for a moment. What was the message this parish gave to people? It was the message of where we find Life, that we find real Life with belief in Jesus Christ who died for our sins on the Cross. This is a message of truth. This is a message of hope. This is a message of care. This is a message that focuses on Jesus Christ.

What is the message people receive when they come to St. Giles? Is it the message of Truth? Is it the message of Hope? Is it the message of Care? Is it the message that focuses on Jesus Christ? My friends, this Easter and for the remainder of 2018, it is my prayer that we at St. Giles will have a message for people; people who often times are looking for something to sooth a sore soul, a weary soul, a searching soul. And this message will be one that points to Jesus Christ who said, "I am the resurrection and the Life", for it is in Him that we find Truth, Hope, and Care.

And may we always remember *EN LA CRUZ ESTÁ LA VIDA!*

Easter Blessing,

Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delpont

MISSION STATEMENT: "St. Giles' mission is to nurture a vibrant Christian life; we will seek to grow in our relationship with God, we will care for the community and we will dare to follow Christ into the world."

EDITORIAL



As we prepare to celebrate Easter perhaps some are asking, "Is it possible to determine the actual dates of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection?" The short answer is that while it is impossible to pinpoint the date with one hundred percent certainty, it is highly probable (close to certainty) that it was either Friday, April 7, AD 30 or Friday, April 3, AD 33. The available data strongly favours the AD 33 date, though AD 30 can't be ruled out. How is it possible to arrive at these dates? Without going into a lengthy technical explanation, it is because much of the New Testament is rooted in history. For example, we know

from the Gospel of Luke that John the Baptist's ministry began 'in the fifteenth year of Tiberius Caesar' (almost certainly AD 29), and that Jesus' crucifixion took place during the governorship of Pontius Pilate (AD 26-36). Moreover, the Gospel of John records that the crucifixion took place on the eve of Passover (and is supported by the Babylonian Talmud in this). These pieces of information and several others recorded in the Gospels, together with knowledge of astronomy and how the Jews determine the date of Passover, allow scholars to arrive at the AD 30 and AD 33 dates.

The Acts of the Apostles, written by Luke as a follow-up to his Gospel, records some of the earliest events of the Church, and in particular, the travels of the Apostle Paul. This brings me to Janet Astle's article, *The Travels of Jim, Janet and Paul through the Mediterranean*, which begins on page 3. When you read it, you'll discover that based on Luke's historical account preserved in the Book of Acts, it was possible for Janet and Jim to travel in Paul's footsteps – though in much more luxury and convenience than any first century traveler ever experienced.

In addition to the travels of Janet, Jim and Paul, we trust that you'll find that this issue of *What's Up?* contains many other informative pieces to keep the reader abreast of what's up at St. Giles.

Denis Mascardelli for the Editorial Team.

NOTEWORTHY

Dear Members of St. Giles,

Thank you so much for all your support and love at this time. My Mom passed away just three weeks after her 95th birthday.

All of your calls, visits, cards, hugs, smiles and flowers are so appreciated. I am grateful to have so many people at St. Giles I know I can rely on.

Sincerely,

Joan McLean (John, Jeff and Katie)

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Dear Friends of St. Giles,

John and I would like to express our appreciation for all the ways in which we were cared for over the Christmas season: meals, cookies, cards, tea bags. So many showing love in so many ways!!

Thank you, thank you, thank you one and all.

Joanne and John Watson

Dear Friends of St. Giles,

I would like to thank the congregation of St. Giles for the beautiful birthday celebration for my Mom, Bette Wilson. She loved it! The cake was delicious. She enjoyed having all her St. Giles friends around to celebrate her big day. It was such a kind gesture and very much appreciated.

Warmest wishes to you all! Jacki Wilson

We also received a personal note from Bette Wilson thanking us for the great welcome and the beautiful birthday cake.



Daughter Jacki and Bette Wilson

THE TRAVELS OF JIM, JANET AND PAUL THROUGH THE MEDITERRANEAN

The article I wrote for the previous *What's Up?* was about my summer wildlife survey across the Southern half of Alberta and our trip to Sable Island in the Atlantic Ocean. At the time I thought that was going to be it for 2017 holidays, but Jim had other ideas. He was able to take advantage of a cancellation to make an almost last-minute booking for a four-week cruise in the Mediterranean during October. This trip, in a 300-passenger ship, took us around the Aegean Sea, where we visited some of the Greek islands and parts of the Greek mainland before sailing westwards to Crete, Malta, Sicily and Spain. It was quite the trip.

The advantage of booking the cruise so late was that I departed for Athens with very few expectations or knowledge of what we would be visiting. I expected to see a lot of Minoan and Greek ruins and, later on, a number of Catholic churches, but I never gave a thought to the fact that we would be travelling in the footsteps of the early Christians, and in particular those of Paul. Gosh, did he ever get around! There were several lectures given while on board the ship, and one was about travel in the Mediterranean area during Roman times.



Via Egnatia enters Philippi

It asked whether one would have preferred to travel by road or by boat. This must certainly have been a question that Paul asked himself as he travelled around the eastern half of the Mediterranean.

The lecturer first discussed the pros and cons of travelling by "road". Mostly, of course, the roads would have been very rough tracks, but the Romans had been busy constructing a network of roads that were much straighter than the previous tracks and were built to more or less the same standard. This included being about 6m wide and formed of slabs of stone or packed sand. Still, these would have been extraordinarily rough for anyone travelling by horse or wagon. The Roman road that we came across is called the Via Egnatia. It starts on the west side of northern Greece and travels almost due east across the country, skims along the northern edge of the Aegean Sea and ends at Istanbul, a distance of over 1000 km.

On Paul's second missionary journey he sailed to Neapolis (Acts 16 vs. 11), now called Kavala, which is on the northern coast of the Aegean. From there he followed the Via Egnatia to Philippi. We also sailed into Kavala but travelled in much greater comfort on a modern road to Philippi. There we walked around the peaceful ruins and were actually



Lydia's baptismal river



One of the cliff-top monasteries at Meteora

able to see the Via Egnatia as it entered the town.

From there we went the short distance to the river where Paul baptized Lydia (Acts 16 vs 15), presumably a fairly affluent woman as she was a dealer in purple cloth and had her household with her, who were also baptised. I was delighted to find that the river is a pastoral, burbling brook that was still fully flowing even in October. Obviously, an ideal spot to hold baptisms.

Paul spent several days in Philippi but the local officials became concerned and he was imprisoned. We were shown the (presumed) site of his prison. Fortunately for Paul there was an earthquake and the locals decided to release him (Acts 16 vs 26). Paul paid a final visit to Lydia and the other new Christians before setting off on the Via Egnatia (presumably as that would be the most direct route) south-westwards to Thessaloniki, a distance of some 160 km. We, meanwhile, returned to the ship for a nice cup of tea and then sailed there overnight. Thessaloniki has several wonderful churches dating from the 8th Century onwards, but not much from Paul's time. He did not spend more than about three weeks there, as a mob arose against the new believers and he had to leave the city expeditiously. One of the highlights for me was seeing some pieces of Roman stained glass in the museum. As an admirer of St. Giles' church windows, I am always on the lookout for stained glass, and I think this is the oldest I have ever seen.

Paul preached at one more town before heading to the coast where he, presumably, boarded a ship for Athens, some 500 km away. We, similarly, sailed to Athens after a couple of stops en route, one to see the incredible cliff-top monasteries at Meteora.

Paul revisited many of the new Christian communities in Northern Greece during his third missionary journey (~AD 53-7). He then made his way back towards Jerusalem by ship. He avoided Ephesus, as did our cruise ship, and must have sailed past Patmos. We found this to be a delightful and peaceful island. It is notable because the book of Revelation was written in a cave there about 40 years after Paul was in the area.

Paul's ship did stop at Rhodes, although there is no mention of him preaching there.

We found it to be a delightful, if crowded place notable for me because I almost gave myself a concussion when I walked into an ancient archway. I wonder how



Old and new at Patmos

many people have done exactly the same thing over the centuries and yet there is still no warning sign!

Paul returned to Jerusalem where he was eventually arrested and the decision was made, despite the onset of winter being close, to send him to Rome, a distance of well over 2000 km. This is where the second half of the lecture, road versus ship, becomes relevant. In recent years the news has often mentioned that there is a season (the warm months) for refugees to attempt the Mediterranean crossing from Africa to Europe. There is also a similar season for the cruise ships as they all leave the Mediterranean at the end of October. This is because the Mediterranean becomes a stormy and unpleasant place during the winter months. In fact, while we had marvellously smooth blue seas for most of the first three weeks, we did have a couple of rough days towards the end of October. Within two weeks of our return there were storms around Sicily that were so bad they were shown on our Canadian TV weather channel. Just imagine how bad these storms must have appeared to ancient peoples in far smaller sailing ships.

We were lucky that our journey from Athens to Malta via Crete was quite smooth

(and I finally got to see my beloved dolphins) but Paul was not so lucky. His trip is described in Acts 27, and it is a catalogue of misfortune. (Surprisingly, it says in Acts that there were 276 people on the ship, almost exactly the same number of paying passengers on our ship.) His little ship tried sailing close to Cyprus because the winds were against it. It then skirted the coastline of what is now Turkey before struggling past Crete, all the time with unfavourable winds. This had taken up so much time that winter was upon them and the decision was made to sail to a harbour on Crete that would be a safe place to stay for the winter months. Unfortunately, a strong northeaster, a significant winter wind in the Mediterranean to this day, blew up and drove them in a westerly direction into the great open waters of the Mediterranean. They suffered mightily for over two weeks before the ship ran aground off the coast of Malta.

We, in contrast, experienced a beautiful entrance into Malta's heavily fortified harbour at dawn. We were then driven up into the hills where we could look over the somnolent autumn fields towards the bay where Paul is believed to have been shipwrecked. The Maltese treated the shipwrecked people with great kindness (Acts 28), which increased when Paul was successful in healing those who came to be cured. The soldiers and prisoners spent the winter quite comfortably there and, after three months, boarded another ship that sailed for Rome via Syracuse on the east coast of Sicily.

We followed the first part of this journey. Rough seas had been forecast so instead of sailing westwards (clockwise) around Sicily our captain decided to sail due north, past Syracuse, and along the east coast of Sicily. We were treated to a late-night traverse through the Strait of Messina (between Sicily and the toe of Italy) where we could see the lights of both land masses with only a little turning of the head. Our ship then left Paul's route and turned west, skirting along the northern coast of Sicily to Palermo and into heavier seas. The less said about those the better.

After a couple of days in Palermo, where the biggest

excitement occurred when a tire burst while our bus was being driven along the autostrada, our ship continued westwards to Spain where we visited several of the famous southern Moorish buildings such as the Alhambra. We eventually sailed through the Strait of Gibraltar and up the river to Seville, our holiday thus turning into a river cruise after almost four weeks at sea. In the space a month we had journeyed from the 1700 BC Minoan culture, through later Greek and Roman periods, visited early Christian sites, a couple of synagogues, Byzantine churches, former Islamic mosques and medieval cathedrals, all by way of the luxury of a cruise ship – nothing to what Paul accomplished on foot and by cramped sailing ship over a twelve-year period.

Janet Astle



Dolphin door knocker, Malta

SHROVE TUESDAY DINNER FEBRUARY 13, 2018

On Tuesday, February 13, 2018 St. Giles hosted a Pancake and Sausage Dinner with a dessert of fresh grapes, pineapple and strawberries for approximately 55 individuals.



Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts on Ash Wednesday. The name Shrove comes from the old middle English word 'Shriven', meaning to go to confession to repent of the wrong things you've done. Lent always starts on a Wednesday, so people went to confession the day before. Eventually Shriven Tuesday became known as Shrove Tuesday.

We would like to thank all those who attended and helped make this a successful event. Your donation of \$200.00 was put towards the operating expenses of the church.

Lorne Cowan, Merle Dalip, Dianne Mascardelli, and Trish Terrill

ST GILES FOLK NIGHT APRIL 7, 2018

The 10th Annual St. Giles Folk Night will be held at St. Giles Lower Hall on Saturday April 7, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

Admission is a Freewill Offering. Tickets will be available starting on March 11th, following our Sunday worship service. The proceeds from this event will be sent to the Thutong Ya Bana School in the Galeshewe Township, a settlement of shacks on the outskirts of Kimberley, South Africa. Our Choir Director, Marni Strome, is a volunteer teacher at the school this summer.

Doors will open at 6:30 pm. The program will last for about two hours, and there will be an intermission halfway through the evening.

If you wish to perform, please contact me at 403-234-0823 or my cell at 403-708-5228. We are also looking for volunteers and if you can help us, please let me know or you may leave a message at the Church Office. Once again, this promises to be a great show. We hope that you will invite your friends and family to enjoy an evening of fun and great entertainment.

Jason Gaskarth, Coordinator



ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER MARCH 17, 2018

This year, a break from tradition I know, the Pastoral Care Team, with the help of the Sound System members, convened a St Patrick's Day Dinner. We served Irish stew (both lamb and beef) with all the "fixins". Dessert was provided by the Sound System members, clad in their "Irish" attire. The special flavours were greatly enjoyed by all. Entertainment was provided by Carmen Ashmead and her 'Leprechauns'. The musical interludes were a big success and the Irish tunes were appreciated as they paid tribute to the day.



This event was a church fund raiser with 82-85 in attendance. Many thanks go to all for their help and many hours spent in the kitchen and lower hall. A great team effort.

Jenny Thomson, Convenor

ENGLISH CREAM TEA MAY 5, 2018

This winter weather will eventually end, and what better way to celebrate than to attend our 6th Annual Cream Tea and Bake Sale at St. Giles on Saturday, May 5, 2018 from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm. Tickets are \$15.00 each.



As always, the menu includes delicious finger sandwiches, scones with clotted cream and preserves, dainties, tea and coffee.

We are calling all bakers for the Bake Table; your talents will be most appreciated. We also need volunteers for the kitchen, serving, and clean up. We are looking for 2 and 3-tiered cake plates and, if you have any fancy china sandwich plates that you are not in need of, we would love to improve the table setting. Over the years you have helped us enhance the ambiance with linen table cloths, napkins, fine china tea cups and saucers, cake plates and your attendance. We are also hoping that Carmen Ashmead will once again provide delightful English country music.

We are looking forward to a lovely afternoon with family and friends. Please spread the word.

Candace Siddall, Coordinator

BECOMING A MISSIONAL CHURCH WORKSHOP



The
Presby-
tery of
Calgary-
Macleod
hosted a
workshop
on
February

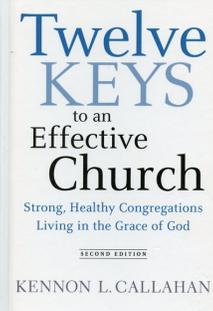
3rd attended by Rev. Delport and four elders. Under the guidance of the keynote speaker, Dr. Darrel Guder, what it means to be a missional church was explored. In the past Christianity was carried to other parts of the world, but words like 'evangelism' and 'mission' weren't used within Canada. Times have changed, and

Christians now have an opportunity to rediscover what God's mission for the church is and become faithfully witnessing communities. As Christians we 'witness' by the way we live and act, giving away to others the love that God has given us.

Pastor Preston Pouteaux of Lake Ridge Community Church in Chestermere joined us in the afternoon to discuss their congregation's work. Described as being 'Mighty Neighbourly', they focus on service in the community, not just the church, and help people identify and use the gifts that God has given them. The more than 70 people in attendance -including some from Lethbridge, Banff and Regina - all felt it had been a valuable experience.

Sandra Cameron Evans

TWELVE KEYS TO AN EFFECTIVE CHURCH



On Saturday, February 10th, the Rev. Dianne Ollerenshaw facilitated a workshop that focused on the book *Twelve Keys to an Effective Church* by Kennon L. Callahan.

Session had studied the book over the past year and felt it was useful for discussing our strengths and discerning how we could use them moving forward. Keeping in mind St. Giles' Mission/Vision/Values,

those in attendance at the workshop discussed ideas for future ministries and missions.

There will be further discussion to expand these ideas and as things progress, information will be shared and opportunities identified for participation by anyone interested.

Sandra Cameron Evans



PICTORIAL DIRECTORY

We are once again compiling a Pictorial Directory and we need everyone to participate to made our new Directory complete. The last directory was produced in 2012.

The directory will provide many benefits to us including:

- connecting names with faces
- providing community reference to our members, providing a lasting keepsake to enjoy and share with future generations.



The photographer has already completed two sessions on March 12 and 13; the final two sessions are scheduled for **May 14 and 15**. Sign-Up Sheets are available each week after our regular Sunday morning worship service.

We would like to include all our members in the directory. If for any reason you are unable to attend any of the sessions, please let the church office know.

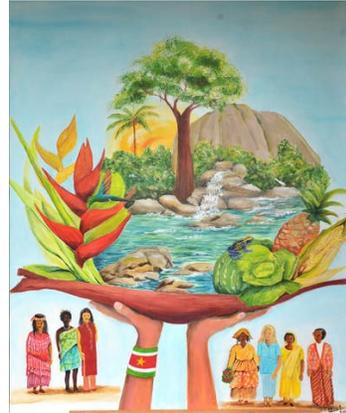
2018 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

At 1:30 pm on very snowy day of Friday, March 2, 2018 St Pius Catholic Church hosted this year's World Day of Prayer. The service was created by the World Day of Prayer Committee of Suriname. We were called to worship throughout the service with the words, **"All God's creation is very good."**

The women from supporting churches who volunteered to help with the service took on the characters of different types of Surinamese women. They shared their stories of intergenerational wisdom, traditions, and experiences of God's love.

The focus of the service was Genesis 1, the miracle of creation. These stories and the Word of God emphasized that we are all caretakers of God's creation. We were invited to explore the issues of climate change, natural disasters, and human abuse of the environment, as these are all things affecting God's creation and God's people.

The population of Suriname is about 540,000, made up of Indigenous, African, Asian, European and many immigrants from countries such as Lebanon, Guyana, Brazil and Haiti. 90% of the population live in coastal areas, and of these, half live in the capital of Paramaribo. Suriname is a beautiful and colorful country, but its people are quite poor. 90% of the country is covered by tropical forests. Suriname is part



of Guianas, an ecological region within the Amazon.

This year's World Day of Prayer Poster was created by a Suriname artist, Alice Pomstra-Elmont. The poster depicts hands symbolically receiving the divine gift of Creation. Alice says, **"Let us keep it as beautiful as we**

received it."

We left with the thought of continuing to pray in solidarity with and for the people of Suriname and their challenges. We also were made more cognizant of our local environment and what action we may take to nurture and preserve creation for generations to come. **"Let us walk in faith and prayerful action."**

There were about 60 people at the service, fewer than other years, probably because of the very cold and snowy day. I would like to thank the hearty people from St. Giles who attended this meaningful, enjoyable and prayerful time with other Christians in Calgary and around the world.

Ann Frost

CONNIE HARMS ACCEPTS ROLE OF TREASURER

Connie Harms has volunteered to take on the role of Treasurer at St. Giles. She brings a wealth of experience in bookkeeping and accounting software.

Connie and her husband David have been attending St. Giles for a number of years, and they are always willing to provide help at our church events. David is the son of Audrey and the late Isaac Harms, who also served as Treasurer for several years.

We are pleased that Connie has accepted this role as Treasurer and we look forward to her contribution. She is pictured at centre right with Audrey and David Harms.



"In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." Proverbs 3:6 NRSV

TED SAMSON RESIGNS AS CHURCH OFFICER/TREASURER

Ted Samson, who grew up in St. Giles, and who has come to be known as an *"always-there-when-you-need-him-kind-of-guy"*, is stepping down from his paid position of Church Officer and from his additional role of volunteer Treasurer. We are thankful that he will continue to count and record the weekly offerings, but we will miss him and his willingness to help in countless ways.

Ted was 7 years old when his parents George and Pearl Samson became Charter Members of St. Giles Presbyterian Church. George was Chairman of the Board of Managers for a number of years and Ted has fond memories of the people and history of St. Giles.

Ted's outside interests lay in radio and television and he was employed in a variety of jobs in that field, firstly at CHQR (radio), and then at CFCN (television), where he worked the night shift scheduling commercials. Sadly, Ted's father suffered a stroke and his mother had passed away in 1972. His father remarried but the stroke confined him to a wheel chair and Ted became needed at home.

After his father died, Ted was able to give more time to the church and he took on the job of Treasurer in 2009

and the paid position of Church Officer in 2011. He became more indispensable as time went on, becoming a member of the Pastoral Care Team, a helpful participant in Mid-Week Mix, and invaluable to the Funeral Team.

His involvement in other events such as Moms and Tots, Teas, and Bazaars was gratefully received, and we look forward to his continuing presence after he has had a break and time to look after his own well-being.

Chris Browne



WELCOME TO GAIL MACCRIMMON



Gail MacCrimmon recently accepted the position of Administrative Assistant at St. Giles. She has been a member of Varsity Acres Presbyterian Church for almost 25 years. Originally from Halifax, Nova Scotia, her father's military career in the Royal Canadian Air Force took the family from Halifax to Germany, southern Ontario and finally to Calgary, where her father retired.

Gail has had an eclectic professional career, having worked for the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology, the Pembina Institute - an environmental not-for-profit organization - and most recently as an environmental consultant with Stantec.

Gail enjoys gardening, singing in the church choir at Varsity Acres, and spending as much time as she can in the mountains.

She's enjoying working with Rev. Dewald and the church staff and she's looking forward to meeting more members of the congregation.

CHOIR NEWS

Choir, through the eyes of Esther Woelfle, Interim Music Director:

The choir continues our week-to-week anthem preparations, as well as the special anthems for **Good Friday** and **Easter Sunday**. We look forward to being joined by a string quartet on Easter Sunday that is being organized and headed by our own Carmen Ashmead.

And on top of their choir participation, many of our choir members also volunteer in a variety of capacities within St. Giles:

Session	Dennis Daly, Ian McKay, John & Joan McLean
Mission Possible	John & Joan McLean, Cathy Brown
Church Archives	Janet Astle
<i>What's Up?</i> Newsletter	Pearl Dalip, Janet Astle
Second Sunday Singers	Gillian Siddall, Pearl Dalip, Dennis Daly, Marilyn Machum
Policy & Planning	Marilyn Machum, Dennis Daly
Human Resources	Marilyn Machum
Annual Folk Night	Jason & Toby Gaskarth
Moms & Tots Program	Gillian Siddall

Our choir is deeply committed to the work of St. Giles Presbyterian Church, both within and without its walls. I am privileged to be working with such a great group of people!

As always, we welcome new members to join us. We meet on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. We are a friendly group who love to sing together.



TEAM ST. GILES PARTICIPATES IN THE 2018 COLDEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR (CNOY) WALK

On February 24, 2018, Team St. Giles joined in the Coldest Night of the Year (CNOY) walk. Our team raised over \$1,700 and the overall total exceeded the \$80,000 goal.

The name of the walk—which takes place in communities across the country—is designed to highlight the bigger goal of ending homelessness in Canada. By working together, we can make a difference in the lives of those seeking shelter. The money raised in this walk will help pay down the mortgage of buildings offering shelter, thus reducing rents.

The St. Giles Mission Team will continue to work with

KAIROS—Calgary's Affordable Housing Group—to assist citizens who are establishing themselves in homes.

Thanks to the friends and families of team members for their donations, and thanks to members of St. Giles for supporting this important cause.

Our team members this year were Joan McLean (team captain), Sandra Cameron-Evans (founding participant), John McLean, Cathy Brown, Connie

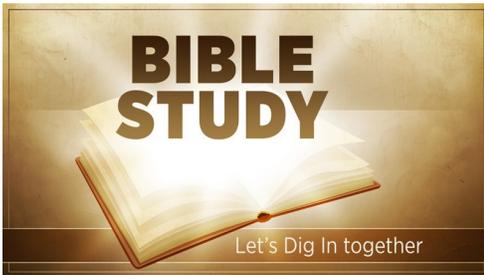
Harms, and newcomers Susan Cooper and Merle Dalip. Consider joining our team next year.

Joan McLean



"The future lies before you, like a field of fallen snow; Be careful how you tread it, for every step will show." - Unknown

BIBLE STUDY



When King Jehoiakim heard the words of Jeremiah condemning the sinfulness

of Israel he had the scroll upon which they were written burned. During the great persecution in AD 300, the Roman emperor Diocletian ordered every Bible burned. Like King Jehoiakim, he believed that he could eradicate the message by destroying the physical scriptures. Although both Jehoiakim and Diocletian were unsuccessful, the world has witnessed numerous similar attempts – which still go on – to prevent access to the Scriptures. Fortunately we live in a country where this is not the case, so those of us at St. Giles are free to not only possess our own Bibles, but to also meet to study and discuss the Word. A

privilege we perhaps take for granted but shouldn't. At St Giles a group meets for an hour or so at 10:15 on Wednesday mornings to take advantage of this privilege. Since September we've been studying Mark's Gospel, the shortest of the four Gospel accounts, though it's still taken about five months to work our way through it. Now that we have, we've begun to study the letter of James, which should take us to the end of our 'Bible Study year' of September through April.

Although we'll be nearing the end of our study of James by the time you read these words, you are invited to join us in September when we begin exploring the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes. Everyone is welcome regardless of scriptural knowledge, and there are no homework assignments. Just come with a Bible, an inquiring mind, and a desire to better understand God's Word.

Denis Mascardelli

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WORSHIP

I think it would be fair to say that you might have noticed a theme during worship. For the Season of Lent we have looked at Jesus' "I am" statements that we find in the Gospel according to John. On Sunday mornings we have examined 5 of these, and we looked at the other two during the Wednesday evening Praise Service and Communion.

This year we will exclusively look at the Gospel according to John. Here are a few facts about this Gospel that you may find interesting.

It was written between AD 60 and 90.

It is the only Gospel that tells the story of the Wedding Feast at Cana in Galilee.

Unlike Mathew and Luke, it does not contain a nativity story.

The purpose of this Gospel was so "That [we] may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing [we] may have life in His name". (John 20:31)

It is the only gospel record of Jesus' "I am" statements. Join us on Sunday morning as we continue to explore the Gospel according to John.

Rev. Dewald (Dewey) Delpont

ST GILES GARDENS

After years of taking care of the gardens at St Giles, Norm Millar can no longer do so. In response, several members of the church worked last summer to improve the appearance of the church; as a result new beds were dug, old ones restored and planted, bushes pruned, beds weeded and bark laid under a bench.

Fully restoring and improving St. Giles' landscape is too great an undertaking for several people but, with more people to help, it becomes (we believe) doable.

To that end, a plat of the church will be posted in the Narthex showing the beds and pots that will need to be maintained together with a brief list of the tasks required for each area. Many of these areas will be small to keep the jobs easily manageable. Members will be asked to sign up for a specific area (or areas), and will be responsible to maintain it on whatever schedule works for them. For any who aren't able to take on an area but would like to be part of the project, donations for flowers and supplies are welcome.



Ivy Mewha, Candace Siddall, Denis & Dianne Mascardelli

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT



Dewald and Zlatica sharing the special cake

On Sunday, January 28th the congregation of St.Giles extended congratulations and best wishes to **Dewald Delpert** and **Zlatica Biljetina** on their recent engagement. Dewald is in his eighth year of Ministry at St. Giles and Zlatica is completing a Residency Program in Anatomical Pathology at the University of Calgary.

After our regular worship service a cake, made especially for the occasion by Candace Siddall, was shared with the congregation by the happy couple.

MOMS AND TOTS PROGRAM



Moms & Tots at St Giles works to bring timely and accurate information to those who care for babies and young children - including a growing attendance of dads and grandparents. The Fall 2017 sessions were very well attended and received and attendance has stayed strong in 2018. Although the February 8th meeting fell on an extremely heavy snow day, eight intrepid moms and their little ones managed to come. Unfortunately our speaker couldn't make it but Candace Siddall, a pediatric dietitian, stepped into the breach once again and conducted a Q&A session dealing with infant and

toddler nutritional concerns. The group was keen to hear the originally scheduled speaker (on Sibling Rivalry, which had been requested by moms last year) so an extra meeting was held on the 22nd. Several new topics have been added this year including Music for Munchkins, coming on Thursday May 10th.

Although the moms come mainly for the information available, many have met and formed friendships with others at the sessions.



Information on the program can be found on the *Moms & Tots at St Giles* Facebook page, the St Giles web page, and posters located in the Narthex. Also in the Narthex are postcards with essential information about the program should you wish to pass one along to someone who might benefit from the program. Moms & Tots

would like to thank Ted Samson for all his work making a comfortable and safe setting for our meetings.

Linda Anderson, Ann Frost, Donna Hamilton, Teuny Howarth, Dianne Mascardelli, Candace Siddall, Gillian Siddall

WEDDING CELEBRATIONS

On October 21, 2017, after dating for ten years, **Kristine Woodward and Evan Wan** were married. The wedding and reception were held at the Nordic Centre in Canmore.

Kristine's brother, Robert, received special permission from The Province to officiate at the ceremony.

Following the wedding, the couple enjoyed a two-week honeymoon in Bali.

Kristine is the daughter of Bill and Susan Woodward and brother to Robert.

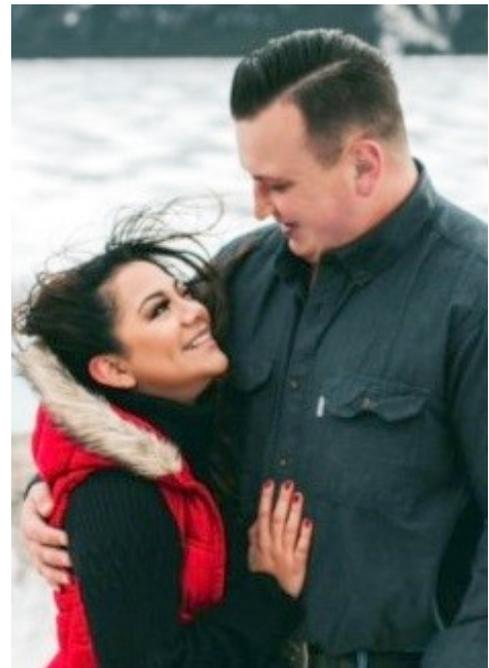
Evan is the son of Steve and Debbie Wan.



Bradley (Brad) McCuaig and Cynthia Giron were officially married the beginning of March 2017. They had an intimate ceremony, held in the elegant wine cellar of a French Restaurant here in Calgary, which was attended by immediate family and a few close friends.

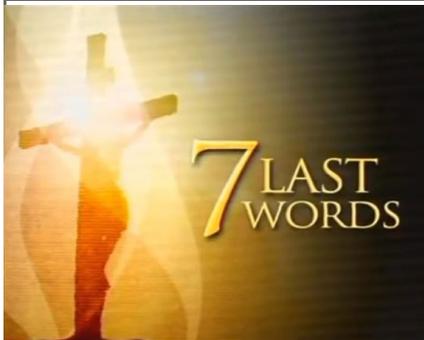
This was the first of what would be three wedding celebrations they would have over 2017. The second ceremony was held June 30, 2017 at Heritage Park, providing them an opportunity to celebrate with their extended family and friends.

Their third and final wedding celebration was held on December 23, 2017 at a beautiful beach front venue in El Salvador, allowing them the opportunity to share and celebrate their marriage with all of Cynthia's family and friends there. Bradley is the son of Mark and Laurine McCuaig, and brother to Chelsea, Andrea and Jennifer.



THE SEVEN LAST WORDS OF CHRIST

Let us prepare our hearts this Lenten season by reflecting on the Seven Last Words of Christ.



The First Word (Luke 23:33-34)

When they came to the place called "The Skull", they nailed Jesus to the cross there, and the two criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Jesus said, **"Forgive them, Father! They do not know what they are doing."**

Soldiers have just driven nails through his hands and feet and hoisted him up by those nails. He does not fear those who kill his body; he pities them and prays for them. They are unwitting instruments of the higher purpose that brings him here.

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The Second Word (Luke 23:39-43)

One of the criminals hanging there threw insults at him: "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" The other one, however, rebuked him, saying: "Don't you fear God? Here we are all under the same sentence. Ours, however, is only right, for we are getting what we deserve for what we did; but he has done no wrong." And he said to Jesus, "Remember me, Jesus, when you come as King!" Jesus said to him, **"I tell you this: Today you will be in Paradise with me."**

But a dying thief says, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." What the cynical voices suggest is not the way to prove he is the Christ. His kingdom is not of this world. He ignores them and reassures the thief.

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The Third Word (John 19:25-27)

Standing close to Jesus' cross were his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Jesus saw his mother and the disciple he loved standing there; so he said to his mother, **"Woman, here is your son."** Then he said to the disciple, **"Here is your mother."** And from that time the disciple took her to live in his home.

Not quite alone. He looks down. Which hurts worse: the pain of being crucified, or the pain of a mother watching her son be crucified, or the pain of a young man whose beloved teacher hangs bleeding before his eyes? He understands their pain in the midst of his own, and tells them to care for each other.

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The Fourth Word (Mark 15:33-34)

And when the sixth hour had come, there was darkness over the whole land until the ninth hour. And at the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, **"Elo-i, Elo-i, lama sabach-thani?"** which means, **"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"**

But physical torment takes its toll. He suddenly discovers that he cannot hear the still, small voice; he has lost his two-way communication with God. His lifeline is not working, so he must face the narrow gate of death alone.

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The Fifth Word (John 19:28)

After this Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said (to fulfil the scripture), **"I thirst."**

Time passes slowly. His spring of living water runs dry. He reaches the end of his strength. This is the moment the Tempter has been waiting for: through the voices of cynical men, Satan tries again, as he did in the wilderness: "if you are the Christ, prove it! Save yourself and impress the people."

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The Sixth Word (John 19:29-30)

A bowl was there, full of cheap wine mixed with vinegar, so a sponge was soaked in it, put on stalk of hyssop and lifted up to his lips. When Jesus had received the wine, he said, **"It is finished!"**

He has defeated the Tempter again. Despite the agony, he has rejected temptation and cared for those around him. His temporary duty on earth is complete. He has shown the way God wants us to live. He has demonstrated the fact that faith and hope and love cannot be destroyed by anything men can say or do.

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The Seventh Word (Luke 23:46)

Then Jesus, crying with a loud voice, said, **"Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit!"** And having said this he breathed his last.

Like a trusting child, he turns to the Father and takes the next step. He has bound himself by love, to both God and the human race. Soon he will begin his long-term ministry by demonstrating the fact that human beings survive physical death. Then he will continue to draw to himself, and thus to heaven, everyone he can for as long as it takes, until whosoever will has come.

OUR LENTEN JOURNEY

The following excerpts of our 2018 Lenten liturgies were produced by Presbyterian World Service and Development.

First Sunday in Lent

We live in God's safe haven, in shelter provided by God. Those who love God, God will rescue; those who know God's name, God will protect. God will satisfy us, and we will know God's salvation. **We begin the Lenten journey trusting in you as our refuge and strength. In our joys and celebrations and in times of trial and temptation, you are present with us. We praise and adore you, O God, in and through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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Second Sunday in Lent

We have confidence in God and shall not be afraid. We live in the midst of forces that seek to destroy life. To those who cry out to God, God answers and is gracious. **O God, you are our light in the times of darkness and our strength in times of weakness. When we call to you we are graced with the comfort of your presence. When we are afraid you transform fear into faithfulness. In Jesus Christ, we taste your salvation and the Holy Spirit leads us through the darkness into light. We praise and adore you, O God. Amen.**

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Third Sunday in Lent

We live in the knowledge that God satisfies our souls thirst with refreshing water. Our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast and so we sing for joy. We have seen God's power and glory; we know God's salvation. **Loving and Gracious God, we continue our Lenten journey with joy and hope for we know that your mercy is always close to us. When we call you, you hear. We praise and adore you, O God, in and through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

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Fourth Sunday in Lent

We live with the knowledge that we are forgiven and our sins are covered over. God instructs us and teaches us the way we should go. God fills us with joy and gladness. We have known God's salvation! **Holy God, we are deeply grateful that in spite of our rebellion and stubborn wandering from your ways you are not angry with us, but come rushing toward us to receive us with arms wide open. You bring us back home, bless us and fill us with hope. We praise and adore you, O God. Amen.**

Fifth Sunday in Lent

We are a people of memory and hope. We live with the assurance that God acts in love. God has done great things for us! He has refreshed our lives with cool waters. We have tasted God's salvation. **O God, you have given us reason to be joyful and to laugh. We remember and celebrate your faithfulness in the past and rely on the new things you have planned for us. We anticipate a joyous future when those who cry will shout for joy. We remember Jesus and celebrate the new thing made possible for us through Christ and the cross. Amen.**

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Palm/Passion Sunday

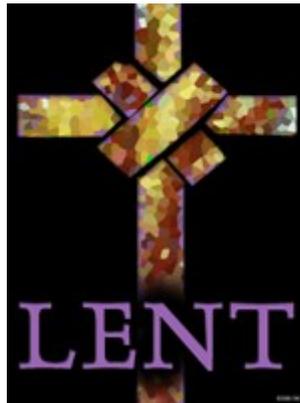
We live in the midst of chaos and still give thanks to God who is good. We live with the promise that, as God has blessed us, God will continue to bless us. The One rejected as worthless has become our salvation. God's love will always be there for us. **Loving God, we praise you that with humility Christ emptied himself for us. We marvel at the faithfulness with which he continued on the way to Jerusalem. With that same determination we follow him through Holy Week and we seek your presence. We cry out with our "Hosannas," believing and knowing that Jesus is our Lord. Amen.**

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Easter Sunday

Today we celebrate our rescue from all that seeks to destroy life. We celebrate the new life of Easter in which the old ways of fear and discouragement have been shattered. We celebrate the privilege of sharing the new life and promise of Easter with others through the ministries of the Church. Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed! **God of salvation, you have rolled away the stone! The tomb is empty! Death has been defeated! Christ is risen and we celebrate that victory. We will continue our celebration through the witness of our daily living and the witness of the Church and its ministries. Hear us as we pray together in the name of the risen One, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.**

Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen, indeed!



COMMENTS FROM YOUR REPRESENTATIVE ELDER ON PRESBYTERY

Presbytery met on February 6th at Westminster, Calgary. For the Theological Reflection, Rev. Delport did a Pilgrim's Reflection of his Camino walk.

Being the Body of Christ

- Notices of Motion
 - Presbytery moved that any member or Session of Presbytery before sending a letter to all Sessions within the PCC must first ask for Presbytery's permission;
 - Presbytery moved that the Court be constituted by acknowledging the land on which we gather is the traditional territory of Treaty 7 as well as the homeland of the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region 3. Further research will be done to address the inclusion of Treaty 4.
- Overture from the Session of Valleyview
 - Presbytery moved to transmit the overture regarding the exploration of a sub-denominations model to General Assembly without comment.

Discerning the Future of our Presbytery

- Enthusiasms and Concerns Regarding the Ministries of the Presbytery
 - There was appreciation for the Missional Church Workshop hosted by Presbytery;
 - Varsity Acres had hosted an event as part of the Interfaith Week;
 - Grace had celebrated the baptism of 15 Anyuak speakers;
 - The group congratulated Rev. Delport on his recent engagement to Zlatica Biljetina.
- Mission and Strategy
 - A process of using an on-line survey after presentations and Q&A's at a Special Meeting to determine Presbyters' opinions had been useful.

Reports on the Ministries of our Presbytery

- Clergy and Congregational Care
 - Presbytery moved to certify Mr. DeSandoli as a candidate for ordination;
 - Presbytery moved to endorse the application of Mrs. Bocskoras to be a minister of the PCC.
- Administration Committee
 - Presbytery nominated Rev. Delport for the Presbyterian College Board of Governors;
 - Rev. Genis named Moderator-Elect for 2018-19.

Reports from Interim Moderators/Presbytery Representatives

- Grace Church
 - A candidate was invited to preach for the Call however the congregation voted not to extend the Call, resulting in changes to the Profile;
 - Dr. Morris has assumed the title of Interim Executive Minister. Rev. Marple has been contracted part-time as Interim Pastoral Care Leader and the contract with Roberto DeSandoli, Young Adult Ministry Coordinator, has been extended;
 - The Search Committee for Associate Minister of Engagement and Service will be reviewing applications;
 - The Search Committee for Associate Minister, Children and Youth, has finalized the Job Description and will begin advertising.
- St. Andrew's Church, Calgary
 - The Search has begun for a Lead Minister following the revision of the Congregational Profile;
 - The Absence due to illness for Rev. Hazlett has been extended to April 10, 2018.

Reports on our Ministry Partnerships

- United/Presbyterian Campus Ministry
 - Rev. Nethercott will be on sabbatical from February 4th to May 4th. Rev. Ollerenshaw will provide some oversight during this time;
 - The committee and Team are exploring options to meet a 2018 budget shortfall. Congregations are asked to consider how they might help.
- Synod of Alberta and the Northwest
 - Director of Regional Ministries
 - The Government of Alberta has begun a Sixties Scoop Apology Engagement to listen to survivors in preparation for developing the apology;
 - PWS&D worship resources including sermons, services, Lenten liturgies and short videos, are available online.

Next Meeting – The next regular meeting and Retreat will take place June 18-19th at St. Andrew's, Lethbridge.

Sandra Cameron Evans

FINANCIAL UPDATE: JANUARY-DECEMBER 2017

For those who missed the AGM or haven't yet had an opportunity to review the 2017 Annual Report, a simplified version of the 2017 budget results is shown on the accompanying table.

Please note that this isn't the complete financial statement, which is a more comprehensive accounting of St. Giles' financial health as it includes additional items such as fund balances, liabilities, receivables, and depreciation (a non-cash charge). What the table shows is the money spent by the Church and its income, and both are compared with the budgeted amounts.

Total 2017 income was \$248,965, which was \$5,832 short of the anticipated (budgeted) amount. However expenses of \$246,476 were \$8,321 below budget, resulting in a small surplus (income minus expenses) of \$2,489.

For those wondering what the major categories represent, the following 'budgeting made simple' explanations may help.

	2017 Actual	2017 Budget	Variance
Income			
Envelope Offerings	\$203,379	\$206,897	(\$3,518)
Other Income	45,586	47,900	(\$2,314)
Total Income	\$248,965	\$254,797	(\$5,832)
Expenses			
Assessments	29,228	29,228	0
Salaries	156,647	158,194	(1,547)
Christian Education	1,183	1,075	108
Worship & Service	4,295	3,750	545
Mission & Outreach	13,832	15,600	(1,768)
Office & Supplies	10,186	13,150	(2,964)
Property Expenses	31,105	33,800	(2,695)
Total Expenses	\$246,476	\$254,797	(8,321)
Surplus/Deficit	\$2,489	0	

Envelope Offerings – Sunday morning offerings, pre-authorized remittances (PAR), and any other items eligible for a tax receipt.

The major sources of *Other Income* include rent from the Calgary Korean Church and Centron, and money raised through Congregational Life events such as the Ham Dinner, Yard Sale, Spring Tea and Christmas Bazaar. These 'life events' raised \$11,013, a significant sum. Unfortunately, the income from Centron (\$10,000) will not continue into 2018.

Assessments includes Presbytery Dues and the Presbyterian Pension and Health and Dental Plans.

Salaries – by far the largest expense, this item captures the cost for the Minister, Administrative Assistant, Church Officer, Director of Music, Organist/Pianist, and nursery attendant.

Christian Education – primarily costs associated with the Sunday School and Youth Group.

Worship and Service – a hodgepodge category that includes items such as music materials, special occasion musicians, and the St. Giles' 60th anniversary event.

Mission and Outreach – the lion's share (\$10,000) was the congregation's support of *Presbyterians Sharing*, the national church fund that supports ministries of the Presbyterian Church (Canada) in Canada and around the world. Other significant items included the Thutong Ya Bana School in Kimberley, South Africa (\$1,628) and the Calgary Interfaith Food Bank (\$980).

Office and Supplies – as might be expected, this category captures expenses for office supplies, telephone, internet, copier and computer. It also includes bank charges.

Property Expenses – are the second largest draw on our finances. These include utilities, regular maintenance, insurance, emergency repairs (fortunately none in 2017), and organ and piano maintenance and repair.

UPCOMING EVENTS



WORSHIP SERVICES ARE HELD EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:00 AM

- ★ **Bible Study:** Will begin again in September with a study of Ecclesiastes.
- ★ **Mid-Week Praise:** Come and join us on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. We'll sing some old songs, some new songs, and learn a few more.
- ★ **Mid-Week Mix:** Exercises at 11:30 am on Wednesdays will resume in September.
- ★ **Sunday, March 25: Palm/Passion Sunday and Communion Service**
10:00 am—Holy Week begins with the events of Palm/Passion Sunday. We remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, surrounded by joyful crowds who wanted him to be their king. We also remember his suffering and death for the sins of the world.
- ★ **Friday, March 30: Good Friday Worship Service**
10:00 am—We remember Jesus' suffering and death.
- ★ **Sunday, April 1: Easter Sunday Worship Services**
7:30 am—**Easter Son-rise Service**
This early morning Son-rise Service will be held in our church's backyard and afterwards we will breakfast in the Lower Hall.
10:00 am—**Easter Sunday Worship Service**
We celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!
Our worship service includes the telling of the Easter Story.



Special thanks and appreciation to our Music Director/Pianist and Organist, Esther Woelfle, and to our guest musicians, for the wonderful and inspirational music that they provide us.

Check our Church Bulletin for other Upcoming Events

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it." John 1:5

We have journeyed through the Lenten season and the dawn of Easter morning is breaking before our eyes. People questioned Jesus' teaching and yet He taught with compassion. Others questioned His authority and yet He was a gentle King. On the cross they mocked Him and yet He prayed, "Father forgive them." He was the Light that shone in the darkness. Today He still is the Light that gives light to the darkness in our life.

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