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Guitarist—Jayde Eustace

People's Warden—Donna Batten: 579-9252

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Sunday School—Rev. Gail Coley MacDonald sundayschool@st-thomaschurch.com

Stephen Ministry—Jean White-Coady: 368-7050 or jean.jay@nf.sympatico.ca

Prison & Aftercare—Rick Tessier: Ext. 230; 740-0285; or prisonministry@st-thomaschurch.com

Servers/Eucharistic Assistants—Vera Schofield: veramschofield@gmail.com

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Rev. Bob Chafe (Archivist): archives@st-thomaschurch.com

Rev. Dr. Bob Rowlands, OPA: bob@warp.nfld.net

Rev. William Rice: rwilliamrice@gmail.com

Rev. Ken Penney: penneyri@gmail.com

Ven. Sam Rose: srose@anglicanenl.net

Important Dates

Sunday, February 4—**Candlemas Service**

Weekly Services

Sunday	8:00 am	Church
	10:30 am	Church
Wednesday	10:00 am	Chapel

Deadline for Bulletin submissions is Wednesday at 2:00 pm.

Bulletin/Flower Memorials can be requested by calling the church office at 576-6632 ext. 0



St. Thomas' Anglican Church

8 Military Road

St. John's, NL A1C 2C4

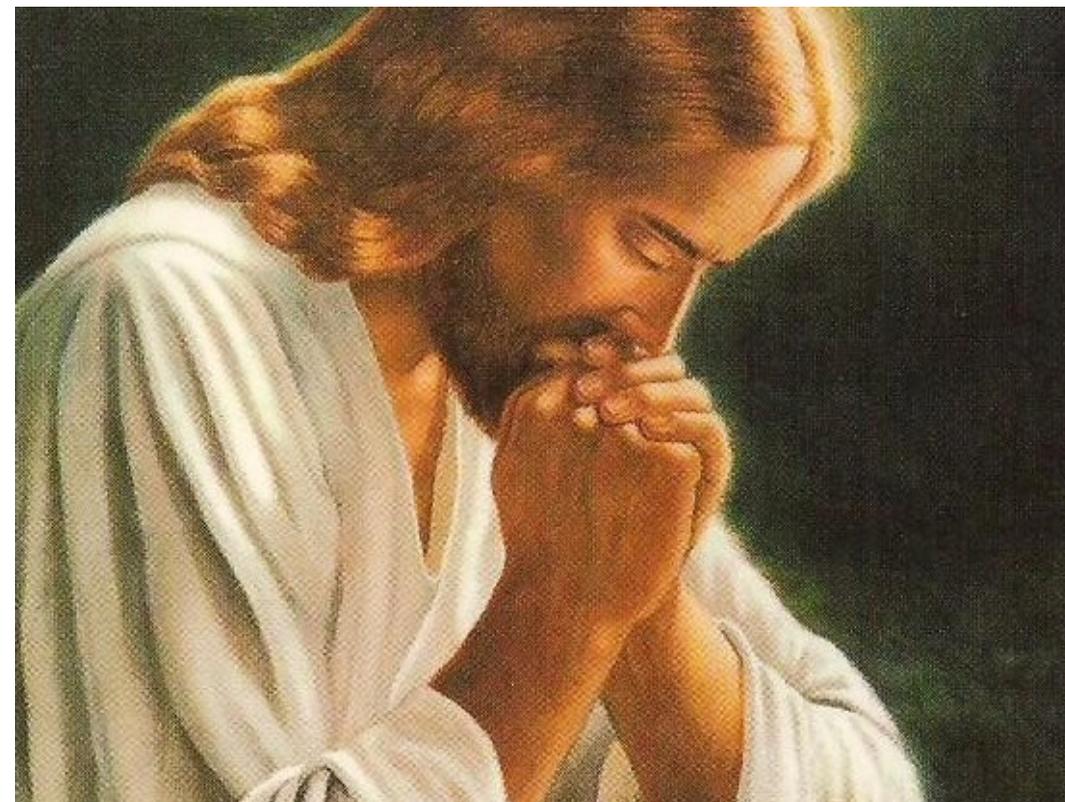
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January 21, 2018



The Bulletin

"I ask... on behalf of those who believe in me... that they all be ONE. As you, Father, are in me and I am I you, may they also be in us, SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE"

Vision: To be a radically welcoming servant church.

Mission: A Community of believers, exploring our faith in Christ and embracing our neighbourhood through sharing and caring.



From the Rector's Desk

(Christian Unity)

Dear Friends in Christ,

Every year at this time between the feasts of **The Confession of St. Peter** (January 18) and **The Conversion of St. Paul** (January 25) we set aside a week to pray for Christian unity, rightly called, The Week of Prayer for Christianity Unity. Most churches today will certainly include in their intercessions a prayer or two for greater fellowship and corporation among Christian denominations. Some will take it a step further and pray for an end to the walls of enmity and prejudice that divide us. And for sure there will be some effort among ministerial groups to bring us together for an ecumenical service. As for the faithful whose ministry it is to pray, no doubt they will use every opportunity this week to do so, that we may be ONE in Christ.

Is Christian unity possible? The history of division in the Christian Church is a sad one. In fact, much of it is just too downright sickening to repeat. And make no mistake, divisions in the Church is not a recent phenomenon, nor is it a product of the Middle Ages and the time of the Reformation in the sixteenth century. The Christian church has a history of factions dating right back to the time of the New Testament.

In his First Letter to the Corinthians the apostle Paul gives us some vivid pictures of the actual life and problems of a particular local church at the middle of the first century. Chapter 1:10-11, 13: "Now I **appeal** to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in **agreement** and that there be **no divisions** among you, but that you be **united** in the **same mind and the same purpose**. For it has been reported to me by Cloe's people that there are **quarrels among you**... Has Christ been **divided**? Was Paul crucified for you?" Wow!

In fact, it can be argued that most of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians can be interpreted in light of this opening chapter and the factions among the people of the Corinthian church. Consider, for example, the whole of chapter twelve where Paul talks about the Body of Christ. *"For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into the one body"* (12:12-13). In other words, the Body is Christ and needs the gifts of each other, even those who feel unimportant. And then there is chapter thirteen, the LOVE chapter of the Bible. *"Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant..."* (13:4). Until the spiritual gift of love is evident in the church above all other gifts there will always exist the potential for division. *"Now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love"* (13:13).

Is Christian unity possible with all its different takes on theology: liberal, fundamentalist, progressive, evangelical conservative, liberation? The Protestant Church especially – every time someone don't agree with something they break away and start their own church. Sad, isn't it?

It is good to set aside a week every year to pray for Christianity unity. But it is something we need to pray for every day. How important is it? Listen to the prayer of Jesus: "I ask... on behalf of those who believe in me... that they all be ONE. As you, Father, are in me and I am I you, may they also be in us, SO THAT THE WORLD MAY BELIEVE" (John 17:20-21).

(Check out the prayers for the Church and Christian unity on pages 39 and 40 of the BCP).

Prayerfully, Canon Greg+

January 21–28

Sunday 21	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24
Holy Communion 8:00 am—Church Parish Communion 10:30 am—Church	Canon Howitt 1:30—Ladies Book Study	Canon Howitt 1:30—Stretch n Size Financial/Property 5:15 pm—Canon Howitt ACW 7:30pm—Kit/Aud	Men's Ministry Group 7:00 am—Library Holy Communion 10:00 am—Chapel Men's Service Club 8:00 pm—Canon Howitt
Thursday 25	Friday 26	Saturday 27	Sunday 28
Archives 10:00 am—Library Vestry 7:00 pm—Auditorium			Holy Communion 8:00 am—Church Parish Communion 10:30 am—Church
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY/PROPER 4 DEUTERONOMY 18:15-20; PSALM 111; 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1-13; MARK 1:21-28 <i>January 28, 2018</i>			
Sidespeople	Greeters	Eucharistic Assistants	Servers
Team: 1 Captain: Doug S	(S) Ann F (W) Heather R (N) Daphne N	May Vera Joan	May Vera
Prayer Teams	Intercessor	Reader	Power Point
Glen/Edmund	Ruby	Eliz H	Hope w/ Daph

Our Prayers



Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for the Anglican Church of Bangladesh, The Most Revd Paul Shishir Sarker Moderator, Church of Bangladesh & Bishop of Dhaka.

Tri-Diocesan Prayers: Pray for the Parish of Bay L'Argent, Awaiting Appointment, St. Hilda, Bay L'Argent; St. Mary, Harbour Mille; St. Paul, Jaquess fountain; St. Thomas, Grand LaPierre; St. Mark, Baine Harbour; The Ascension, Brookside; The Transfiguration, Boat Harbour and St. Peter, English Harbour East. Also Pray for The Parish of Bay of Islands, Priest in Charge The Rev. David Taylor; Along with St. James, Lark Harbour and St. Ambrose, John's, Beach.

Remember the sick and those who have asked us for our prayers: June C., John C., Dorothy H., Emily, Hawa and family, Lillian W, Roger R, Sandra, Eva H, Genevieve H, Krista P, Howard H, Erin M, William H, Barbara and Ella, Jeremy R, Nita S, Dorothy H, Mary K, Janet C, David C, Gilbert B, Neil C, Doreen M, Payton B, Emily B, Walter O, Edna D, Larry C, Peter H, Roy G, Kathryn F, Jean McGrath; Daisy C, Viola McBay Chenoweth, Joan Boland, Beth T, Eric H. & Family, Rachel Forsey and Tina Taylor & Greg Carter.

Visioning Committee Prayer: *Heavenly Father, we pray that St. Thomas' may be renewed for its mission in this city. Inspire our minds with a vision of your kingdom in this time and this place. Draw us by faith so that we may live to serve you here in this parish and to look to life eternal.*

Annual Congregational Meeting: Please note that the Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) is scheduled for Sunday, March 18, 2018 in the Parish Hall beginning at 7 pm. All groups and committees submitting reports are asked to have them submitted electronically (if possible) to the office by Friday, February 23 at the very latest. Note also that any parish groups with their own bank account need to have their books audited.

ATTENTION Sidespersons, Greeters, Hospitality teams, Outward-looking team, ACW and MSC, and ALL others wishing to participate: there will be a parish gathering on the first Sunday in February following the Candlemas service to take a closer look at our new parish vision and mission, and see how we can contribute to it. Let's get together and make this work. Canon Greg.

Church Envelopes: Your 2018 church envelopes are available on the tables at the back of the church. If there are any changes to your mailing address, please inform the church office.

Gluten-free Communion Wafers: For those who have Celiac Disease or are wheat intolerant, gluten-free communion wafers are available at the altar. Please inform the server if you wish to receive the gluten-free host.

Home Communion: Are you or someone you know unable to attend our regular Communion services? Did you know that our parish provides Home Communion? If you would like further information or would like to avail of this ministry, please contact Jean White-Coady at 368-7050 or via e-mail at jean.jay@nf.sympatico.ca

Confirmation classes will resume for candidates on Sunday, January 21st, during the 10:30 am worship service. The following are the dates of classes for the next several months:

February 4th, March 4th, March 18th, April 29th, May 13th and May 27th

Candlemas Service: Sunday, February 4 we will be keeping the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord with our annual Candlemas Service. This is a beautiful, ancient service of light welcoming Jesus as the Light of the World.



Paint Night: any one interested in attending a paint night at St. Thomas' is asked to contact Rev. Gail at 730-9290.

ACW Meeting: at 7:30 pm in the auditorium on January 23rd.

Coming Soon – Embracing an Adult Faith: Author and Bible scholar Marcus Borg invites us to join him in revisiting Christianity's most fundamental questions: Who is God? Who is Jesus? What does Salvation mean? In this *five-session*, faith-formation resource, participants enjoy the rare privilege of witnessing Marcus in dialogue with a small, diverse group of adults as they honestly confront BIG questions about faith.



The St. John's and Area Council of Churches: invites you to join them 3pm Sunday January 21, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the Kirk (76 Queen's Rd.) We come together during this week to celebrate the central unity that binds Christians of all stripes together, along with the good we have done and continue to do in Christ's name together. In that spirit of unity, an offering will be received this year for the Salvation Army's Centre of Hope. A time of fellowship and refreshment will follow the service in the Church Hall.

"Hymns for All Hands", Wesley United Church, Patrick St., 4-5pm, Sunday, January 21st. You will get a booklet of 15 tunes: I'll Fly Away, Blessed Assurance, Eternal Father Strong to Save, etc, etc. \$10 at the door to cover expenses. Hope to see you there!

The "Airport Kitchen Party": is coming to St. Augustine's on January 28 at 7 pm. Featuring Sean Sullivan, Rob Slaney, Sheldon Thornhill and the young, but talented, Liam Corrigan, we are sure you will have a great time. Tickets are \$25.00 in advance or \$30.00 at the door. Please call the office at 753-1931 or email staugustine@nf.aibn.com for more information or to book your tickets.

Annual Arctic Char dinner: a second Arctic Char dinner will be held on Saturday, February 3, 6:00 pm at the Church of the Good Shepherd, Mount Pearl. For tickets or information, please call the church office at 747-1022.

The CLB Regimental Band's Annual Valentine's Dinner & Dance: Saturday, February 10. Doors open at 7:00 pm with dinner starting at 7:30 pm. \$80.00 per couple. Advance tickets only \$75.00 per couple! Order before January 31 and save. Call or text 330-2334 for your tickets.

Wesley United Church: will be holding a Pancake Supper & Card Game on Tuesday, February 13th at 5:30 pm. Pancakes, sausages, bologna and baked beans will be served along with dessert and tea or coffee. Tickets are \$15 for adults & \$6 for children under 12 and can be purchased by calling Marvin at 579-7900, Pheobe at 726-1689 or the Church Office at 579-3682.