

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

MARCH 2017



WHAT IS THIS THING CALLED LENT?



Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, which this year is March 1. But what is Lent? How did we get it? And what should we do about it?

The Christian calendar is built around two great festivals: Advent-Christmas-Epiphany, which celebrates the birth of our Lord; and Lent-Easter-Pentecost, which celebrates the death and resurrection of Christ and his return to his church in the gift of the Holy Spirit. In that context, we can see that Lent is intended to be a time in which we

prepare ourselves for a proper celebration of the death and resurrection of our Saviour.

In the early church, some Christians began to prepare themselves by fasting for 40 hours. (The “40” comes from the 40-day fast of Jesus after his baptism and before he began his ministry. [Matthew 4.1-11]) That total 40-hour fast was too strenuous for most people, and variants were introduced. In 325 A.D. the Council of Nicea decreed that Lent should be observed for 40 days (not including Sundays, which are feast days), that the fast should only last until the evening meal, and that certain foods should be avoided. In many ways this is like the Muslim feast during Ramadan; it is possible that there is some connection between the two.

When the Protestant Reformation took place, the Reformers differed on their attitude toward Lent. Luther, who wanted to preserve everything that was not contrary to Scripture, continued the observance of Lent. Calvin, who rejected everything that was not commanded in Scripture, rejected Lent along with almost everything else except Sunday worship. So, since that time, Protestant churches have been divided about the observance of Lent. Presbyterian churches, who trace their ancestry to Calvin, did not celebrate Lent for a long time. But in more recent times most Presbyterians have decided that Calvin threw out the baby with the bath water, and Presbyterian worship has become much more liturgical. For example, the worship service which was recommended

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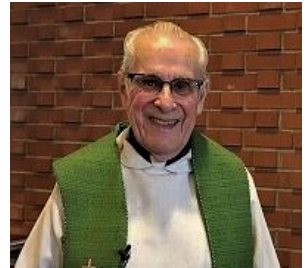
What is This Thing Called Lent continued

for The Presbyterian Church in Canada in 1991 is based on a fourth-century liturgy, not on Calvin's form of worship. So the use of the church calendar described above has become quite general, and the celebration of Lent is part of it.

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, when we are reminded of our own mortality and of the true suffering and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. Lent concludes with Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and includes Maundy Thursday (which remembers the institution of the Lord's Supper) and Good Friday. It ends on Saturday and is followed by the glorious celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday.

So how do we celebrate Lent? That is an individual decision. Some people fast, as the early Christians did. Some people give up some pleasurable practice. Some people take on some spiritual discipline. Many people do nothing. But Lent does provide us with an opportunity to think seriously about all that Jesus suffered for us and to ask ourselves how we can best prepare our hearts to remember Jesus' death for our sake and to celebrate his resurrection.

– from the desk of Rev. Frank Breisch



Lord,
I'm not always eager to do your will.
I'd often much rather do my own will.
Please be with me on this Lenten journey
and help me to remember
that your own Spirit can guide me
in the right direction.
I want to "fix" my weaknesses
but the task seems overwhelming.
But I know that with your help,
anything can be done.
With a grateful heart,
I acknowledge your love.



THE FORTY DAYS OF LENT

REFLECTION

RECONCILIATION

RENEWAL



FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

REFLECTIONS ON AN ANNUAL MEETING

Rev. Jared Miller

The recent film *Arrival* delves into the structural natures of language and asks the question: How does the way we speak affect the way we interact with the world around us? It's the little things, like calling this year's meeting an ACM (Annual *Congregational* Meeting), rather than an AGM (Annual General). It tells us that we're about the business of being the Church, not just the business of being busy. Even though attendance at an annual meeting is always low, participation in this year's was way up, and I want to argue that this is the standard we're always aiming for in the church.

Now, it's easy to think that the distinction is just splitting hairs, and that whatever we call it, the result is the same. But that wasn't the experience on Sunday. Sunday felt different. On Sunday, people shared stories of the church meeting people in relationship and mission. On Sunday, two congregations passed the peace of Christ between each other. On Sunday, the young served the old as groups around table discussed their memories of the past and their hopes for the future. On Sunday, a narrative was presented that told the story of both 2016 and 2017, and on Sunday voices that usually stay quiet or in the background were heard loudly and clearly.

The move from an AGM to an ACM is not a distinction without a difference. It's about breaking the veil between you reading this today and what goes on to make it happen. It's about the church presenting itself in a more transparent and effective way than it has in the past. And that makes all the difference

See, a General meeting is concerned with finance. A Congregational meeting is concerned with faithfulness. A General meeting is dominated by the loudest. A Congregational meeting defers to the mildest. A General meeting is about conducting business as efficiently as possible. A Congregational meeting is about being present with each other in the moment. A General meeting makes sense in the secular world. A Congregational meeting makes sense in the spiritual world.

We wanted to launch 2017 with a Congregational Meeting because, as we move forward into God's future together, we need to trust each other – to lean on each other when times get hard, and to pull each other along when we feel like we can't go on anymore.

As the story goes, we have a mountain in front of us – and no one climbs a mountain alone.

Blessings in 2017

Jared

AROUND AND ABOUT US

By Terry Zimmer



A MISSION WITH A DOCTOR

In a recent workshop at St. Andrew's, it was noted that the important point is not so much that the church has a mission, as that the mission has a church. Dr. Marilyn Kish has been involved in both for most of her adult life. Born in Red Deer, Alberta, Marilyn attended medical school in Edmonton, graduating in 1966. She and John Kish were married in 1967. John graduated with a Master's in Agriculture Economics; and soon two sons were added to their family. In 1979, the family travelled to Papua New Guinea (PNG), initially with CUSO (Canadian University Services Overseas). Later, John taught at the University of Technology in Lae, PNG, and Marilyn was the medical officer on campus. She notes that tropical medicine was a real stretch and a sharp learning curve!

Returning to Calgary in 1985, the couple helped develop the Health Plus Clinic with seven other doctors. Dr. Bill Bieber was one of the doctors spearheading the idea of this clinic, and Dr. Mary Ellen James was also one of that group. John took on the role of business manager. The group that began the clinic moved to South Calgary Medical Clinic in Sundance in 2004.

Given their common overseas mission experience, in the 1980's, the Kishes and Dr. Bill Bieber and his wife, Sharon, looked for opportunities to help those Calgarians who had "fallen through the cracks". Several downtown churches were developing the idea of providing referral services and basic medical care to the people arriving at their doors in search of help. These services would be provided entirely by volunteers. Dr. Michael Ward, minister of the Central United Church at that time, proposed that they use the old Bible Society building on Seventh Avenue, and in October, 1989, CUPS (Calgary Urban Project Society) was born. In the 1990's, the project continued to expand, converting two downtown bars to serve its clientele. Eventually, the project moved to Tenth Avenue and currently provides 16 different medical programmes, plus others which serve the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual dimensions of their patients' health. In 2014, CUPS celebrated its 25th anniversary.

John Kish contracted cancer and died in 2009, having lived a life of service that included organizing the research and data necessary for enlisting the assistance of Alberta Health Services in helping to fund CUPS. John (posthumously) and Dr. Marilyn along with Dr. Bill and Sharon Bieber, and Pastor Michael Ward are being honoured by the federal government with Meritorious Service Medals for their service to promote healing to those neglected by society.

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Before her recent retirement, Dr. Kish worked part time for five years with Breast Cancer Supportive Care. This also was an organization supplying physical, emotional and spiritual support for those affected by breast cancer.

Dr. Marilyn Kish and Dirk Alting met in September, 2015, and were married on March 26, 2016. Dirk was born in the Netherlands and came to Taber, Alberta, in 1960. He and his late wife, Pearl, had their own baking business on Vancouver Island. They retired in 1992, and moved back to Taber. He enjoys writing and wrote his own memoirs! He also loves music and singing. New adherents of St. Andrew's, they can be seen and heard in the choir at 11:15 each Sunday.



THE REVEREND LAVERNE WALDOCK

1932 – 2017

LaVerne Waldock was born in 1932 in San Jose, California. She had just graduated from high school as class valedictorian and was working in an optometrist's office in Seattle when she met Ray. Her goal was to go to Bible school at Three Hills. Ray was working as a counsellor at a Bible camp just east of Seattle.

"Presbyterians started the Bible school at Three Hills. They were fundamentalist Christians," Ray explains, training 'disciplined missionaries for Christ.'" His family were heavily involved in the school, and both Ray and LaVerne attended it, but Ray rebelled against the teaching. By 1952, LaVerne and Ray were married and living in Calgary. They joined the First Baptist Church, where Ray joined the choir and LaVerne taught Sunday school. The minister there realized the gifting and call of the Waldocks to the ministry and recommended that the church help them.

In their first year at McMaster University Ray began serving churches as a student pastor. During their last year the mission board became aware of them, gave them residence at Hamilton and booked them for the mission field.

Ray and LaVerne were Baptist missionaries in India for six years, early on learning the Telugu language. Their children "considered India the ideal place to live," Ray says with a smile. Back home in the 70's, LaVerne earned her B.A. in history from Carlton University, Ottawa, while Ray taught there.

After five years ministering in Barrie, ON and five in Peterborough, the Waldocks again returned to the mission field --- this time as consultants to a church in Zaire (the Democratic Republic of the Congo). After spending a year learning French and Swahili, they preached in Swahili and met with the church leaders, encouraging the churches. LaVerne and Ray founded and taught in a seminary in Zaire, starting with 30-40 students. What was that seminary is now three universities, with 3,000 students each.

In 1987, Ray received his Ph.D in theology from the University of Montreal, while LaVerne travelled and spoke in churches all over Canada.

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Ray had worked previously with CIDA (Canadian International Development Agency), and in relief and development and reconstruction for the Committee of Baptists in Canada, so, in 1990 – 94, he and LaVerne helped rebuild a flooded village in India (150-200 homes). During that time period, they also worked with the Henry Martyn Institute of Islamic Studies, an institute set up to teach the Christian community about Islam. Ray took over the directorship , and LaVerne took over the library and publications.

Fifty years after graduating high school, LaVerne Waldock was added to its Hall of Fame as a distinguished alumnus. She graduated from teachers' college, and obtained her Master's of Religious Education from McMaster University. She taught public school and college courses, designed religious and academic curriculum, and catalogued an academic library. She had a passion for Christian history. In the mission field she established programs to assist women. At the age of 66, LaVerne was ordained and was an effective pastor for many years.

Ray and LaVerne sometimes used idioms in three languages to express their thoughts to each other. They had been "a team" for over 65 years.



EARLE CLARKE

1924 – 2017

Earle Clarke was born in Calgary. He moved with his family to Lethbridge when he was a young boy, returning to Calgary in 1950. Earle was a Chartered Professional Accountant, working as a corporate tax specialist for several oil and gas companies. He married Madge (Thomas), the love of his life, in 1952. Together they relished the time spent with their two children, the music they created in various choirs, adventure travelling, and the many friends made during their service with several Calgary churches. Earle was a dedicated volunteer throughout life, serving on the Board of Deacons at First Baptist Church, and working with the Calgary Association for the Mentally Handicapped.* He was held in high esteem as a mentor, as well as in his professional life. He thoroughly enjoyed photography and was always fascinated by aircraft, the ocean and lighthouses. As well as their two children, Earle and Madge had two grandchildren. Madge reflects: "Earle had a great sense of humour, deep love for his family, was loved by many, and above all, loved the Lord."

*Excerpts from Personal Alternative Funeral Service.

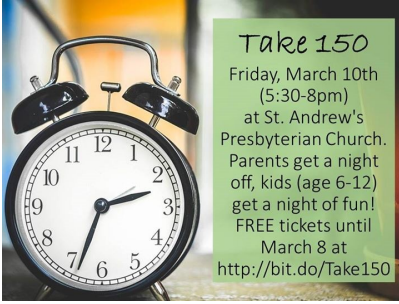
THE ROAD TO EMMAUS — TRAVELLING TOGETHER

MARCH 22, KARL ENGLISH LOUNGE AT 7 P.M.



What would it be like to meet the risen Christ on the road? What might Christ say to you, or you say to him? On March 22 we will have a one-evening session to talk about this story from Luke 24:13-35 and to gather your thoughts about the story, as preparation for our Easter sermon. Come and share your thoughts, and see where the preacher takes them.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE



Family Ministry is starting an exciting new initiative for families. **“Take 150”** is a program for parents and children (ages 6-12 years only), where both groups get to take 150 minutes for themselves. Running from 5:30 - 8:00 p.m., parents can bring their kids to St. Andrew's, where they will be well cared for by familiar volunteers in the church. They will have dinner together and enjoy quality programming. On our first night, March 10, the kids will enjoy playing games together and working on an art project. Parents --- you will have that time to yourselves! You can go on a long overdue date with your spouse, hang out with friends, grocery shop --- do what you want to do, knowing your children are well cared for and having a great time.

Parenting is rewarding, but tough. We're tired by the end of the week after all the running around. “Date Night” is expensive. Slowly wandering the aisles at Superstore all alone is a dream. Quality programming for children is expensive. “Take 150” is here to help with a night out for parents AND kids!

What: “Take 150” (Dinner hosted by the Ladies Evening Guild and fun activities, ALL just for kids)

Who: Parents (night out) and kids ages 6-12 only (night in)

Date: Friday, March 10

Drop off: 5:30 p.m.

Pick-up: 8:00 p.m.

Location: St. Andrew's Church (Trinity Hall)

Sign up! FREE tickets are available until Wednesday, March 8 at <http://bit.do/Take150>

“WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING” CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK SUPPER SATURDAY, MARCH 11

Everyone young and old is invited to the “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling” Potluck Supper being held in Trinity Hall on Saturday, March 11, from 5 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Bring your entire family along with a salad, main dish, or dessert for a delicious meal and an entertaining and fun evening. The shared supper will be followed by Irish dancing, Irish fiddlers and a group sing-a-long! There is no cost, but please preregister at the sign-up centre in the narthex. Please come out and join us on Saturday, March 11, for an entertaining evening of food, fellowship, and fun. See you there!





MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

SATURDAY, MARCH 18

All St. Andrew's men and guests are invited to attend our Men's Fellowship visit to Youth Link Calgary on Saturday, March 18 at 10 a.m. We will be meeting at Tim Horton's, 1 block north of McKnight Blvd. NE at 52nd Street NE (Falconbridge Blvd. NE) from 8:30 a.m.—9 a.m.

Youth Link Calgary is located at 5111 47th St NE in Calgary and is part of the Calgary Police Interpretive Centre. The visit is free, but a tour can be arranged at a cost of \$9.95 per person.

MEN'S BREAKFAST

The Centre will show how policing has changed through the years and how it empowers youth to make the right decisions and avoid crime, victimization and bullying. Please preregister at the sign-up centre in the narthex and indicate whether you want to tour the facility. When you sign up, please indicate if you need a ride.

Watch for information on our April 8th gathering at McDougall United Church.



613CHURCH
STANDREWS CALGARY, CA/613

WELCOME TO THE 613 CHURCH!

A gathering for all ages and stages. We are trying something new. Please join us for tea, coffee and goodies in the Karl English Lounge as we experience informal fellowship and worship. Everyone is welcome.

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 AT 6:13 P.M.

GETTING ACQUAINTED PIZZA SOCIAL - SUNDAY, APRIL 23 AT 12:45 P.M.

Are you a newcomer to St. Andrew's who would like to know more about our congregation? Perhaps you are a long-time attendee who would like to know more about St. Andrew's structure? If either of these definitions apply to you, please join us for a Getting Acquainted Pizza Social in the Upper Room on Sunday, April 23 at 12:45 p.m. This is your opportunity to learn more about our congregation's history, organization, and layout. Best of all you will have an opportunity to meet and get to know many other members of our church family. We will be serving pizza and refreshments. There is no cost, but to assist in our planning we would like to know how many persons to expect. Please preregister at the sign-up centre in the church narthex. We hope that you will be able to join us on Sunday April 23rd.



SPRING FUN DAY

All children are invited to join us in Trinity Hall for a morning of fun (Butterfield Acres farm animals, crafts and games) on **Saturday, April 22**. Please sign up, or let the church office know you'll be attending (403-255-0001).

Crafts (10 a.m.–11 a.m.) Butterfield Acres mini-farm (11 a.m.-12 p.m.)

Games (12-12:30 p.m.)



SESSION HIGHLIGHTS FROM FEBRUARY 2017

- Session began like other groups, sharing in setting up tables and chairs.
- Our devotional was taken from Phil 4:1-9 which provided encouragement on the journey as well as a reminder that we as individuals and as a congregation are led by the Risen Christ.
- This year is also a fire drill year, as mandated by Presbytery. Information about the procedure and the date will be available well in advance of the drill.
- The Session received a report from the Search Team. The search continues, not just to find a person, but to find and call the RIGHT PERSON for the position of Minister of Vision and Direction.
- To fill this position we require a person with experience in team ministry with gifts and experience in administration, leadership development, communications, worship and preaching and in leading both long range planning and program development.
- As a result of the search experience so far, Session has made some adjustments to the ministry position description.
- The Session also reviewed the intent of the new Ministry Resource and Accountability Team. This team will be a resource for St. Andrew's ministers and will assist the ministers in the ongoing assessment of goals and objectives of ministry, providing constructive feedback to and from the ministers as appropriate.
- As a result of smaller worship attendance last summer, we will have only one worship service on Sunday mornings from July 2 up to and including September 3. We may have a couple of days when we are a little cozy, but in the main we expect that we will enjoy the fuller worship experience.

- Rev. Jan Hazlett

MISSION TEAM EVENT

Aboriginal Awareness Evening
Wednesday, March 15, 7—10 p.m.
"Reconciliation in an Urban Setting"
Trinity Hall

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday—April 13
Seder dinner at 6 p.m. followed by 7:30 p.m.
service

Good Friday—April 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday—April 16 at 9:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m.

STEWARDSHIP & PLANNING REPORT

Sunday, February 26, the 2017 budget was approved by congregation members in attendance at the Annual Congregational Meeting. There were excellent questions submitted, prior to and during the meeting regarding the 2016 financials and the 2017 budget, which were addressed. All comments made in the discussion were appreciated.

Summary of the approved 2017 budget:

Total projected revenue of \$653,809

Total projected expenditure of \$644,925

Total projected surplus of \$8,884

Increase in spending of \$25,323

Increase in anticipated revenue in 2017 of \$24,238

As we look forward into 2017 with a Minister of Vision and Direction and prepare further into 2018;

We ask that you prayerfully consider a 2% - 5% increase in your giving.

If you have any questions regarding the 2017 approved budget, you are welcome to direct them to the church office.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Cantlon, Vice-Convener, Stewardship & Planning



**“Spring for the Shingles”
Fundraising
Campaign
Thanks to your
generous donations we
did it!**

**Our \$50,000 goal
has been reached.**

**The work for the roof
repair is scheduled for
early spring.**

**Thank you from your
Stewardship Team**

Editorial Team of NFTP

Rhonda Mullan, Norah Finlay,
Terry Zimmer, Judie Coleman,
Linda Haines, Rev. Jan Hazlett

Articles may be submitted in the mailbox in the Karl English Lounge or emailed to :

newsletter@standrewscalgary.ca

NEXT DEADLINE: MARCH 15th, 2017

*The editorial team may edit your submission due to space limitations.

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