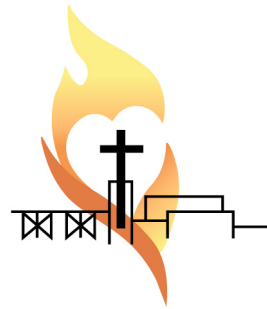


Hippo Herald

March 2016



St. Augustine's
Anglican Church

Message from the Rector

I write this letter a week and a half after our parish's Annual Meeting. It was a celebratory and encouraging meeting and we were conscious of ways in which God has blessed our parish. Many of those blessings were in the area of financial stewardship as the people of St. Augustine's responded with faith, generosity and open hearts to the challenges of the past year.

One of those challenges was our ambitious and much needed building renovation and expansion. The renovation looks wonderful and has already enhanced our parish life. Increased gathering space, handicapped accessibility to worship services and coffee hours, an accessible washroom, a new prayer room (which is being used a lot), an expanded and refurnished nursery and a newly landscaped courtyard are just some of the benefits of this project.

The renovation project cost 1.4 million dollars and to quote Doug McLaughlin, the chair of our Building Committee, this is the most significant parish project since the construction of the church building in the mid 1950's. The congregation responded magnificently to this challenge in gifts and pledges totalling 1.2 million dollars. Any shortfall can be handled by internal financing and we will not need to use our line of credit or rely on any kind of external financing.

Just to be clear, we have basically borrowed from ourselves and still owe approximately \$250,000.00 to complete this project. I ask you, especially those who have completed their pledged giving or any who have yet to contribute to please consider making a generous donation this year. We are just about there and ask you to help us finish this project completely. That being said, it is wonderful that we are already so close.

Another major financial challenge for our parish last year was our response to the Syrian refugee crisis and the formation of START (St. Augustine's Refugee Task Force). Despite being in the midst of a building campaign I was very proud that

our parish (with a special acknowledgement to our Parish Council) believed that God was calling us to look beyond our own needs and reach out in Christ's name, to those who desperately needed our help. The START report in this newsletter will bring you up to date on this significant effort. What I want to emphasize is my appreciation of the members of START and all the people of this parish who have already raised more than \$30,000 for the sponsorship of a Syrian refugee family.

In addition to the significant funds raised for our building campaign and our refugee sponsorship, our general fund (for the day to day operation of our church family) showed a modest surplus! This is an amazing accomplishment for St. Augustine's and I give thanks to God that our parish has responded in such a manner.

I have been writing about financial stewardship. But of course, stewardship involves much more than finances. Stewardship also involves the offering of our time and our abilities in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Church. My prayer is that we can concentrate on expanding that kind of stewardship in the coming year. If there are areas of activity or ministry at St. Augustine's to which you feel called – please let us know! Or if there are areas where you see a need for improvement or areas that we are missing completely, please volunteer.

In order to help both new and existing members of our congregation find ways of using their gifts and abilities in the church, we are establishing the role of Volunteer Ministry Coordinator at St. Augustine's. I am very excited that Steve Bateman, who brings experience and expertise to this ministry, has agreed to take this on. This could be a catalyst for significant growth in our church family and for a richer faith experience for us all as we become better stewards of the whole of our lives.

As you consider the stewardship of your time, don't forget the importance of making time for worship. I especially encourage you to participate in the worship services during Holy Week (please see the schedule in this newsletter). Enter into the worship life of the community as we journey with our Lord Jesus to the cross and the glories beyond. It is when we worship together as the Church that we are enabled to discern God's call to service and receive strength to perform that service. May God make us faithful and generous stewards of our time and abilities!

Your friend and Rector,

James

The Rev. Canon James Robinson

Fundraising Dinner

Just about there! Saturday, April 30th, after the Saturday night service, the Fundraising Committee invites you to a very delicious supper coupled with a silent auction. Tickets are \$20.00 each and may be bought at the office. There will be lots of auction items to choose from as well. Come and bring a friend. Everyone is welcome.

Watch for more information coming soon about an exciting night of music May 18, 2016. You won't want to miss this one.



Stephen Ministry

In October of 2015 we began the training for nine new Stephen Ministers. On May 1st these caring, compassionate members of St. Augustine's will be commissioned at the Stephen Ministry Sunday service and soon after will begin God's service to people in crisis through this caring, confidential, individual ministry. We offer our prayers and thanks to God for the existing relationships between care receivers and Stephen ministers.

On May 4th we will host an evening presentation by Dr. Bill Peifer on the topic of Mental Health Trauma. All interested members of our congregation are invited to attend plus Stephen ministers from other churches in the city. More information will be posted during the weeks to come.

Caring Ministries

There are many caring ministries at St. Augustine's church and we welcome anyone who might feel called to bring Christ's love to others in the hospital, nursing homes and other care facilities. We are often looking for someone to deliver flowers on a Sunday after the 10am service to parishioners who are sick or in hospital. If this is something you might like to do please call Pam Mundell (403 328 4884).

Report on START (St. Augustine's Refugee Task Force) and the Refugee Situation: November, 2015-February, 2016

Sponsored Refugee Families

Three of the four Syrian families we are sponsoring arrived in Lethbridge early in February. They consist of the parents of Muna, who asked us for help in the fall, Muna's brother and his wife with their two children nine and six years old; another of her brothers and his wife and two children nine and seven years old. Muna's sister Wafa, and her three children are not here yet. They remain on stand-by in Lebanon, but are expected soon. Please note, we continue to refer to the members of our sponsored family collectively as "Muna's family," without specific names, to protect the safety of family members who remain in areas of conflict.

The families who have arrived are all successfully housed together here in a rented house and two apartments close together and now furnished. They are situated near Muna's house and also a five-minute walk from school.

An outing for swimming and children's activities was arranged for Family Day at the YMCA. The three families and members of the larger University and Anglican committee attended, and the outing was a great success for the children, who swam and played in a large bouncy castle. Pastor Ryan Dueck and his wife Naomi then invited everyone back to their house for a dinner party.

As of this date the children have all been enrolled in school and have attended their first day on Wednesday, March 1, 2016. The adults are enrolled in ESL classes largely at Flexibility.

Immigrant Services of Lethbridge Family Services has arranged special clinics for Health and Dental assessments and inoculations for the families. Dentists have been found for each family. The larger University/ Anglican/Doctors' committee, of which St. Augustine's is a part, is now looking into finding optical care for the families and is canvassing members for help in finding willing doctors.

Clothing and furniture donations have so far been very generous. A "store" has been set up in the basement of the RBC Building, where both our privately sponsored families and the Government sponsored refugees can come to pick out needed clothing and furniture. Computers are definitely in demand. (These are in some cases the only link with families outside Canada).

Finance Committee

Karen Larsen from St. Augustine's is serving on the University/Anglican/Doctors' financial committee. They have just issued the first financial statement, which shows that we are in a solid financial situation with respect to our support for the families.

Youth Committee

Eliza Wiederspick from START is also chairing the youth committee for the University/Anglican/Doctors' committee.

START Activities

1. Volunteer Work

At the moment START is trying to organize a volunteer base to support the needs of our sponsored families, such as driving to appointments, socializing etc and helping them integrate successfully into the community. Over the next few months, the committee and other volunteers from the Parish will be organizing various events to introduce the families to our Church community. Suggested events include a pot-luck to meet the sponsored families (date TBA) and the establishment of "reading circles" informal get-togethers with our sponsored families to help with the acquisition of English language skills.

2. Fund-Raising Activities

a. Benefit Concerts

START has initiated a series of three benefit concerts in collaboration with the University of Lethbridge Music Department. The second in the series was given at St. Augustine's on February 7, 2016. The U of L Opera Workshop under Dr. Blaine Hendsbee presented favourite arias and opera excerpts. The matinee concert was a great success, with approximately 100 in attendance (despite the Superbowl) and proceeds between ticket sales and donations amounting to about \$3,000.

The third concert will be an evening of Classical Persian music presented on **Friday, April 15 at 7:30pm** by Rohub, a Classical Persian Ensemble from Calgary, and Dale Ketcheson, Adam Mason and Joe Porter from the University of Lethbridge. Tickets will be \$20 regular and \$10 for children 10

and under (available at the door). There will be a reception afterwards. We are hoping to have the sponsored families present as special guests.

b. Calendars

There are still 8 calendars available @ \$25 each.

c. Cards

Very attractive cards with photos by John Black are also still available at \$3.00 a piece, 4 for \$10.

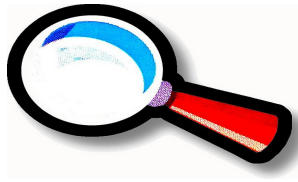
d. CDs

The CD of piano miniatures by Schubert, Chopin and Debussy by Brian Black, which was donated to St. Augustine's for the Refugee cause, is now available at \$20. It will be on sale after Sunday services. It is also available through the University Bookstore @ \$21 (GST included). All proceeds will go to the resettlement effort.

To date, St. Augustine's has raised **over \$35,000** for our Syrian Refugee families, through donations, concerts and sales! This has been a tremendous effort on the Church community's part and we believe it reflects the generous spirit of St. Augustine's and indeed of Lethbridge in general. Although we have raised so much money, there is still so much to do to help the families settle into their new home and become part of our community. We have committed to support them officially for a year, but such a commitment is realistically much longer, for we want to become the friends and neighbours of the new families for life. Over the next year we will need volunteers to help out in various capacities. START will make known periodically any needs that arise and will organise events to bring the Church community together with our new arrivals. Social contact is extremely important as is help in conversational English, especially for family members who need to enter the work force. Such activities will become a main focus of START's planning in the coming months.

As this newsletter was going to press we heard that St. Augustine's has received a donation of \$2200.00 from the people at St. Aiden's Anglican Church in Cowley AB for the refugee fund! What a wonderful and generous gift to the refugee cause!

SEARCHING FOR TREASURE



Signs and Symbols in St. Augustine's Church

Treasure #5

Gifted artisans conceived my design
For the Glory and Honour of the Saviour Divine
Who, with outstretched hands and gentle smile,
Invites all to "Come to Me and rest awhile."

Font and Chalice, signs of Sacraments Holy,
Ordained by Christ as for Salvation necessary,
The first, of man's entrance into the Kingdom,
The second of Christ in Holy Communion.

Red, blue, green and gold—my colours are bright,
For shining through me is God's heavenly light.
The glorious red speaks of Christ's Divinity,
The blue is the sign of His humanity.

Flowers, trees, sky and earth, signs all, fill my frame,
Too many to mention, but some I must name:
Humble white lily, flowering so fragrantly,
And symbol of Christ's Resurrection and purity.

Tall slender cypress—dark symbol of death,
Flourishing oak for strong Christian faith,
But also the tree of which it is said
Cruel men made the cross on which Jesus bled.

So don't pass me by without even a glance,
I have much to tell you if given the chance.
Take a moment to discover symbol and sign
Which will speak to your heart of the Saviour Divine.

One last clue to help you in the "chase:"
I'm a somewhat *small* frame for *this* rather "*large case*"!

I am the _____

_____ Muriel McCuaig (Answer is hidden elsewhere in the newsletter)

Altar Flowers and Flower Calendar

Altar Flowers have long been an integral and meaningful part of Anglican Worship.

First and foremost fresh flowers are lovingly placed at the Altar to give glory to Almighty God. As a symbol of eternal life they remind us that God is a living God and that believers live forever in Him. In addition, their beauty and fragrance speak to our hearts in an indefinable way.

Throughout the year the colours of the flowers may reflect the colour of each Liturgical Season from Advent to Trinity.

The Sanctuary Guild's various groups are responsible for the arrangement and care of the flowers in both the Sanctuary and St. Monica's Chapel.

Following the 10:00 Eucharist every Sunday, flowers from the Altar are delivered to two or three parishioners, selected by James, who are patients in the Hospital and Nursing Homes. This ministry is carried out by members of the Vestry, Parish Guild and Evening Group as well as other volunteers from the congregation. The flowers are greatly appreciated by the recipients.

The Flower Calendar allows members of the congregation to select a specific Sunday on which to remember the life of a loved one by placing flowers at the Altar as a memorial. The name of the loved one is incorporated into the Prayers of the People and printed in the Sunday Service Leaflet.

The cost of the Altar Flowers each Sunday is approximately \$65 and is funded strictly by donations. As there is usually more than one memorial each Sunday most people donate in the \$40 range.

A few months before a memorial is scheduled, donors are asked if they wish to continue having flowers placed on the Altar, and if so, to make any changes in the wording of the announcement.

Requests for memorial Altar flowers should be phoned in to Muriel at 403-394-2811 or to Denise in the office at 403-327-3970.

Muriel McCuaig, Flower Calendar Co-coordinator

Parish Council, Corporation, Synod Delegates and Management Committee for 2016/2017

Corporation

Canon James Robinson	
Rev. Andrew Horne	
Carol Young	Rector's Warden
Allison Kittleson	Deputy Rector's Warden
Barbara Edgecombe-Green	People's Warden
Kay Allison	Deputy People's Warden

Parish Council

Linda Bateman	David Besplug	Peter deGorter
Alan Efetha	Emily Kundrik	Michael Larsen
Jean Larson	Bryan Pritchard	Meagan Thorlakson
Diane Wahlfeldt		

Parish Council Clerk Alternate

Elizabeth Torariuk
Kay Allison

Management Committee Members

Robyn Henderson	Worship
Diana Lowther	Fellowship
Karen Larsen	Financial Stewardship
Patricia Pope	Discipleship & Evangelism
Pam Mundell	Caring & Outreach

Synod Delegates

Rene Boere	Jean Larson
Tim Pope	David Besplug: Youth Delegate

Service of Dedication

Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson will be with us at the 10:00am service on **Sunday, June 5** to formally dedicate our new building renovation and expansion. Plan to attend this very special celebration in the life of St. Augustine's.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule

March 24

9:30am

7:00am

Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion

Holy Communion with Foot washing and
Solemn Stripping of the Altar

March 25

11:00am

Good Friday

Meditation on the Cross

March 26

8:00am

Easter Eve

The Great Vigil of Easter

March 27

8:00am & 10:00am

Easter Sunday

Holy Communion

The **Hippo Herald** is available in electronic format. If you wish to receive it by email in graphic colour, please consent to us sending it to your email address. Indicate your consent by entering your email address below and signing and handing this page in to the church office or to the "Office" mail slot in the narthex.

My email address: _____

My name: _____

My Signature: _____



Need a **Creative Outlet**? Join us for one of our crafting evenings! Stay for a short visit or the whole evening. We meet the Second Tuesday of each month from 6 pm – Midnight.

Do you love kids?
Are you available

the odd long weekend? We have a need for a few volunteer Holiday Sunday School teachers. No lesson preparation required. All that is needed is a willing heart and a half hour you are willing to share with some incredibly sweet children!



Connect with other Christian women (and girls 13+) at our Crosswalk group. Each month we will delve into a specific topic that affects us all as women of God, wives, daughters, mothers and friends. We meet the second Tuesday of each month, from 7:00-9:00 pm in the church Crypt (basement). Childcare available if requested ahead of time.



The Brightest Week of the Summer!

- ➔ New friends ➔ Amazing experiments
- ➔ Spelunker Sports ➔ Lip-smacking snacks
- ➔ Surprising adventures ➔ Incredible music

Location: St. Augustine's Anglican Church
(church name)

VBS will last from: August 2nd - 5th, 2016
(VBS dates)

Each day's fun begins at: 9:00 am
(VBS starting time)

The VBS day ends at: Noon
(VBS ending time)

For more information, call: 403-327-3970
(church phone number)

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