

ST. AUGUSTINE'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH



The Hippo Herald

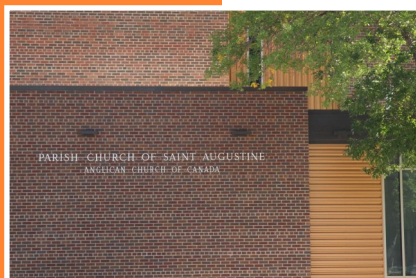
FALL 2021

LETHBRIDGE, ALBERTA

Gillian begins vocation with a heart for service

The newest addition to St. Augustine's staff comes to us with a

strong call to pastoral ministry, and the sense of walking in big foot-steps.



study and service to people in need. She has studied theology in Edinburgh, Scotland, and in New York City, and obtained her PhD in Religious Studies from the University of Virginia.

Gillian's road to Lethbridge began in her home of Norwich, England. She met her husband Robert through mutual friends while studying in New York, and eventually joined him in Humboldt, Saskatchewan where he was teaching

high school. While corresponding, she thought he was joking about the severe prairie winters. When she arrived in February wearing spring attire, the temperature was a bone-chilling -35 – a trip to the clothing store quickly followed. Gillian and Robert were married in 2009, lived in the U.S. for eight years and then, in 2017, moved to Lethbridge where Robert joined the educa-

tion faculty at the U of L. Last year, their son William was born.

Reflecting on her ordination in July and her new role at St. Augustine's,

Gillian says ministry has been part of her life and work for some time: "It's what sustains me and

"I have always felt drawn to that kind of work, whether paid or volunteer. And when I became a Christian I understood why."

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Steve urges us to pray 2

Financial update 4

Remember Wayne 5

Children ministry tid-bits 6

People's Warden speaks 8

Confirmed at last 10

CONTINUED PAGE 11 >

From the Rector's Desk

"Seek the welfare of the city ... Pray to the Lord for it, for in its welfare you will find your welfare" Jeremiah 29:7

This passage is stirring in my busy mind this morning. It is immensely challenging in our current frame.

It is an excerpt from an open letter to the nation of Israel written many centuries ago. First, some context: They had been dragged off into exile in a foreign land. They were now living among their enemies in a city not their own. Other places in scripture describe their intense longing for the life they used to know. Among them were prophets who are telling them "Don't worry, this will all be over soon." That was exactly what they wanted to hear. Jeremiah had the unfortunate duty of bursting their bubble. "It will be a long time," he says. "Settle down and wait for the Lord. And in the meantime, actively seek the welfare of this place, even though you would rather be elsewhere." (my paraphrase).

I think that many of us, especially those of us with optimistic natures, have been counting on the hope that this (our Covid-19 induced isolation) would all be over soon. The second, then third, then fourth waves have

dashed those hopes. Despite our intense longing for a return to normal, it is now clear that we still have a long way to go. We are, for now, still in a kind of exile.

The good news is that there are ways for us to be the people of God while in exile. We too can actively seek the welfare of the city. It is our

privilege to find ways to love our neighbors as Jesus commanded. Here are a few ideas for your consideration:

- ♦ We can pray!
 - We can pray for doctors, nurses and frontline healthcare workers.
 - We can pray for those who are already sick or are vulnerable to the disease.
 - We can pray for the lonely and isolated.
 - We can pray for our governments. "I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness." *1 Timothy 2:1*



"We must resist the urge to impulsively pass something along just because it makes us feel a certain way. Instead, we must take some time to ask both 'is this true?' and 'will this be redemptive?'"

- ◆ We can get vaccinated against Covid. If we have medical concerns related to vaccine-safety or their suitability to our own situation, we can speak directly with our own doctor or call Alberta Health Services (811) to get the information we need to make the most informed possible decision. If we have non-medical concerns regarding vaccines, we can speak with parish clergy or trusted individuals to work through those issues.
- ◆ We can exercise great caution with what we consume and curate on social media. Social media platforms do not care about truth, they care about traffic. Social media algorithms are designed to push in your direction the kind of things you have already shown a propensity to click. If you get most of your information from social media, chances are you are living in an echo chamber which only reinforces your own views. These times demand that we take more responsibility for what we “like” and “share.” We must resist the urge to impulsively pass something along just because it makes us feel a certain way. Instead, we must take some time to ask both “is this true?” and “will this be redemptive?” (in Jeremiah’s words, “Will this bring about the welfare of the city?”). God forbid that we should pass on misin-

formation that ends up harming the health of one or more of our social media connections.

- ◆ We can adjust our thinking and our language regarding current restrictions. This means viewing them not primarily in terms of personal inconvenience, but as an opportunity to love our neighbors by protecting their access to healthcare.
- ◆ We can pay attention to the needs of those with whom we have actual real-life relationships and seek to bless them with a kind word, a gift, a phone call, a text message or a card.

This list is woefully incomplete. I urge you to prayerfully make your own. Despite closures and restrictions, we are still surrounded by many opportunities for ministry. Finding them will require both wisdom and grace. Despite the challenges, like the Israelites of old, we can dare to be the people of God while in exile. We too can seek the welfare of our city.

May God bless and keep you in these challenging days.

Your Rector,
Steve



Three happy triplets on a Sunday morning: Throughout the pandemic, Barb Hignel has been busy making face masks. Here she is (right) sharing one of her special designs with Karen Hudson (left) and Joanne Collier (centre).

Financial Update

BY CATHY GILLESPIE
TREASURER

Offerings

If you have attended a service in person, you probably noticed that collection plates are not being passed during the service. Instead, one is placed just inside the entrance to the church. Please feel free put your offering in the plate when entering or leaving the service. Offerings (cheques in envelopes) can also be dropped off in the church exterior mail slot, which is located to the right of the main entry doors, or mailed to the church office.

As a reminder, there are several online options for giving. The church is set up to receive e-transfers emailed to givings@staug.org. Donations can be made via credit card using the Donate Now (Canada Helps) button on the church website. Some parishioners chose to establish an ongoing automatic monthly transfer from their bank account to the church bank account. The form to set up this arrangement can be obtained by contacting the church office.

Any special instructions related to a payment (e.g. if it is to be directed toward a specific purpose or fund) should be noted on the envelope, cheque memo or applicable online message field. A single payment can be allocated to one or more special funds in addition to regular offering, as long as that instruction is provided.

Operating Fund Update

Although parishioner givings (offerings) are only slightly less in total than they were last year, they are about \$15,000 less than the budget target for these eight months. Most operating expense categories are under budget, resulting in total expenses being about \$21,000 less than the budget target for this period. The expenditure savings are mainly due to temporarily spending less on a couple of staff positions, church maintenance and programs. It is anticipated that expenses will soon return to budgeted levels because staff positions have been filled and church programs are starting up again (with a few hitches along the way).

In summary, the operating fund is in a relatively good position compared to budget for the first eight months of this year. However, if total parishioner givings continues to decline and the amount is less than budget in future years, there will be challenges in maintaining church operations at the level they were prior to the pandemic.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about options for giving, the church's financial situation and other financial matters. [Ω](#)

	Year to-date (August 31 2021)	Last year to-date (August 31 2020)	2021 Budget
Parishioner givings	\$ 263,695	\$ 264,999	\$ 459,100
Other income	6,433	6,185	34,000
Federal wage subsidy	9,762	26,427	0
Total income	<u>279,890</u>	<u>297,611</u>	<u>493,100</u>
Staffing expenses	\$ 190,828	\$ 203,904	\$ 308,300
Administration & apportionment	70,274	70,518	114,400
Facility expenses	38,684	36,158	65,000
Christian education & outreach	7,633	6,170	20,400
Total expenses	<u>307,419</u>	<u>316,750</u>	<u>508,100</u>
Net deficit	\$ <u>(27,527)</u>	\$ <u>(19,139)</u>	\$ <u>(15,000)</u>

Remembering Wayne

BY JOANNE COLLIER
MUSIC DIRECTOR

It's hard to believe that over five months have passed since we lost our beloved Wayne Edwards. His absence is keenly felt in our church family and especially in music ministry.

Wayne's love of music, expertise, and enthusiasm in sharing his gifts were a blessing to all of us. In response to Wayne's legacy of music making at St. Augustine's, members of the Confessions worship band and music ministry team, along

with several anonymous donors have come together to create a lasting memorial in his honour.

We thought that a steel pan would be a fitting tribute and have acquired a beautiful instrument that will be used in our services. Hearing the steel pan without Wayne playing it will be different but continuing to include it in our contemporary

arrangements will maintain our unique "St. Augustine's sound" and, more importantly, provide a living legacy of

Wayne's many gifts to us. Thank you to the many individuals who contributed to this memorial.

If you are interested in playing – either you already know how to play pan, or you'd like to learn – please let me know

(joanneccollier@gmail.com). We do know of one or two in our parish who already play but the opportunity to learn is open.

Bass guitar and junior size acoustic guitar

Harriet has generously donated some of Wayne's instruments to the church and

we'd love for them to be used! If you are interested in playing bass guitar we now have one. It would be great to add this to the Confessions Worship Band. As well, there is a very nice small acoustic guitar which would be perfect for a young beginner. Please let Joanne or Mary Lee know if you are interested in playing either instrument. Ω



Abundant life among the youngest

BY WENDY DOHERTY
CHILDREN & FAMILY MINISTRIES

With God's help and despite the speedbumps Covid-19 has presented, St. Augustine's Children's Ministry program is still here, serving and growing alongside the youngest members of our church family.



provide such a heartfelt ministry to the children. Thank you to all our volunteers and everyone who provided supplies and snacks. With God's help, we were able to show the children in our community that "Jesus' Power Always Pulls Us Through!"

Sunday School: We were grateful to be able to enjoy a vibrant Summer Sunday school program again this year. Thank you to Laurie and Quinn Odland, Temi Soboyejo, Alice Doherty and Eliza Weiderspick for taking time out of your summer to lead lessons and help our kids worship, learn, and connect with their peers each Sunday. Your ministry has been a gift!



Left: Our sweet Annie P. showing us the card she made for her dad in Sunday School.

Vacation Bible School: VBS was another gift this summer. With a few minor adjustments and an abundance of God's grace, we were able to run VBS in August. It was a week jam-packed with prayer, worship, Biblical learning and fun! It was so encouraging to see so many of our teens step into leadership roles and

New and Noteworthy Parenting Resources: If you are looking for a new Podcast to listen to while you are out for a walk or stuck in the car, look no further. *Risen Motherhood* is a weekly Podcast that seeks to "encourage, equip, and challenge moms to apply the gospel to their everyday lives." They are currently doing a mini-series on prayer that is practical and inspiring. Give it a try, I think you will enjoy it. And there are some great Podcasts out there for dads too – *Dad Tired* offers lots of advice, entertaining stories from a myriad of guests who "take their faith, family and marriage seriously." Both Podcasts are available on Spotify and iTunes.

Book Buzz: Many of our parishioners have been buzzing about a four-book series called *Sensible Shoes* by Sharon Garlough Brown. Christianbook.com describes it as "a series about four women who reluctantly arrive at a retreat center and embark together on a jour-

ney of spiritual formation. They find themselves drawn out of their separate stories of isolation and struggle and into a collective journey of spiritual practice, mutual support and personal revelation.” Keep it in mind when choosing your next read and join in the discussions about it around St. Augustine’s.

Looking Ahead: We have some exciting programming coming soon for our children and youth. Our middle and high school students will be able to pop by the church after school for Homework Club. This will be a supervised but unstructured program to allow teens the opportunity to assist one another with their studies, while providing an opportunity for fellowship and connection. We will also be offering First Communion

class for children who want to learn more about the Holy Eucharist. Additionally, we look forward to the return of regular, weekly Sunday school and Youth Group as soon as is allowed. There is much behind us to be grateful for and up ahead to look forward to. Thanks for hanging in there, St. Augustine’s – your devotion, persistence and creativity is so appreciated. Ω



St. Augustine's remains very active despite restrictions

The front doors of the church have been closed to public worship during the pandemic, and at times they have been open. But whether or

not there are people in the pews, the ministry of the church goes on.

St. Augustine's is a busy parish,

says Doug McLaughlin, People's Warden and Chair of Parish Council. As one of the church's senior volunteers, he interacts with the Rector and other church staff on a regular basis, and with other volunteers. He says the pandemic has not represented a time-out.

An obvious example is worship on Sunday mornings, and all the technical, musical and liturgical elements that require considerable preparation and coordination. St. Augustine's has taken a very sophisticated approach to making worship services available to parishioners, using audio visual and computer technology to good effect so that everyone can participate from

home. The same goes for weekly prayer services using livestream video, and adult education using Zoom meeting technology.

Similarly, governance and administrative activities have not taken a holiday. An example is the recent hiring of a new administrator and a new Pastoral Associate. Doug says this project involved many volunteer hours of Zoom meetings, research, interviews and the work of preparing the tools these staff members would need to do their jobs. Budget decisions required coordination between Parish Council and Corporation, leading up to an "e-vote" and a successful hiring outcome.

From Doug's point of view, the day-to-day running of the parish – worship, pastoral care, Sunday School, administration, facilities – has not really slowed down due to Covid-19. Certainly the details have changed, but not the energy or commitment to the Gospel. He says the same is true for long-term projects, many of which continue in development in some form. An example is the Property Development Committee which is focused on adjacent property owned by St. Augustine's. He says these assets represent an opportunity, but what



"One of the things we have talked about in Council is how can we develop the property so it fits within our vision within the community."

kind of an opportunity exactly remains to be seen.

“One of the things we have talked about in Council is how can we develop the property so it fits within our vision within the community,” says Doug, noting that St. Augustine’s operates in relationship with neighbouring organizations like the City of Lethbridge and the London Road Community Association. Whatever temporary or long-term decisions are made, they must account for St. Augustine’s ministry to its parishioners and its ministry to the people outside the building.

Another long-term issue is the financial health of the parish.

“Budget is pretty important and over the next few years it is going to be crucial as we don’t know where things are going to go with the Covid issue,” says Doug. “We’ve been very fortunate that the parish has maintained strong financial support, but Covid is having an impact.”

Doug maintains that St. Augustine’s is not driven by finances, but financial health is important from a ministry perspective. Thanks to the energy and acumen of our Treasurer and other leaders in the church, he says he is confident that good decisions will be made. Ω

GIFT BASKETS TO FRONT LINE WORKERS

BY GREG YOUNG

As we work through more Covid restrictions our thoughts and prayers are with all the medical people at the front lines. Thanks to the talent of Harriet Edwards and Barbara Edgecombe-Greene, several gift baskets were prepared to go to the front-line workers. One basket went to the emergency unit at the hospital, another to the ICU and another went to the people operating the testing centre.

This is a small way to show we are thinking of them and the efforts they have made. Continue to pray for all those workers who need rest, recognition, and respect for all they do. Let our love be shown in acts of kindness.

“We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing.”

1 Thessalonians 1:3



Confirmed at last

BY GREG YOUNG

On Sunday, September 19 Archbishop Greg Kerr-Wilson presided over the confirmation of seven people who have waited for more than a year to be confirmed. The need to wear masks due to Covid restrictions did not diminish the joy of the occasion.

The youth confirmands began classes in the fall of 2019, meeting once a week on Wednesdays for an hour and a half. In the spring of 2020, our classes met on Zoom after more restrictions were in place. Leading the group was the Rev. James Robinson, Molly Stallard and Greg Young. The youth confirmands were Dasha Tuckova, Ayoola Aramide, Julia Samayoa and Muka Efetha.



The adult confirmands had a similar journey of meeting in person and then on Zoom. Rector Steve Bateman and Brother Jason Carroll lead these classes. The adult confirmands included

Erinn Roberts, Brad Gillespie and Tom Warwick. Judy Warwick had hoped to be confirmed that day but had to attend to a family matter.

Congratulations to all our confirmands. Let us continue to uphold them in prayer and support as they join us on Jesus's path. Ω



Gillian, continued from page 1

gets me up in the morning. Expanding that part of my life is really exciting.”

As a young person Gillian volunteered in soup kitchens, and later worked at a big high school helping kids with behavioural issues, giving them a place to go. She says of that job that it paid terribly, but she loved it. Here in Lethbridge, she worked at the U of L's School of Graduate Studies advising grad students. She says she does her best work when interacting with people.

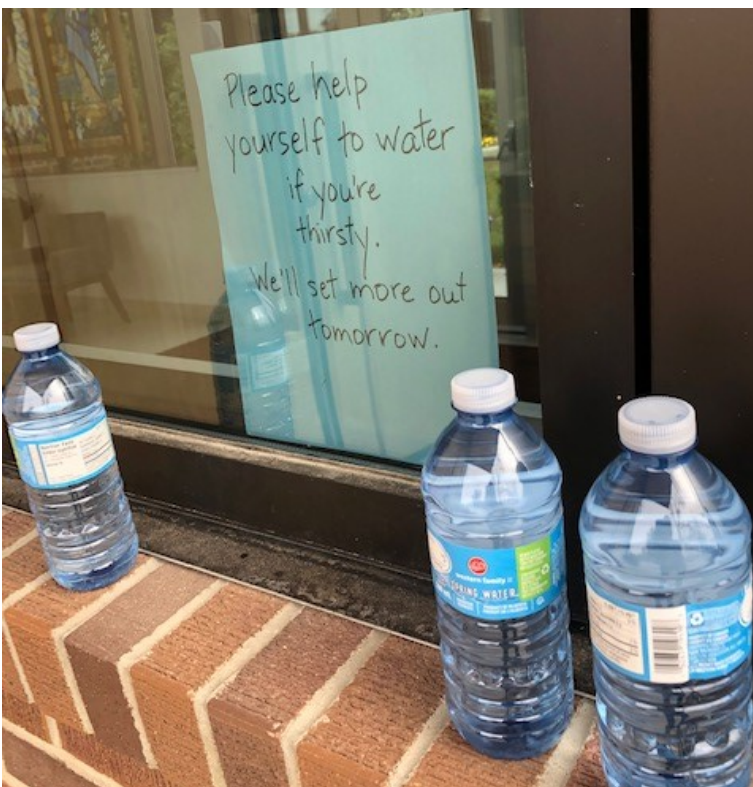
“I have always felt drawn to that kind of work, whether paid or volunteer. And when I became a Christian I understood why.”

In her new role, Gillian will focus on family and youth ministry, worship and preaching, while assisting with other ministry areas.

“I can hope to aspire to love people as well as James, Steve and Jason do. I feel they are such incredible ministers,” says Gillian. “The thought that I could be stepping into that kind of history is incredible for me and it's an amazing gift that I'm receiving.” Ω



Robert and Gillian with William



Did you know that our church gave away more than 250 bottles of water during July, August, and September? This small, quiet mission made a big difference to those on the streets during the prolonged heat wave. Thank you to those who donated water and those who faithfully set out bottles each day.

Treasure #26



CAN YOU
GUESS ?

I came from St. Mary's in two thousand and three, but I came into being in the last century.

Carved by T. Whitaker of Littlebeck, near Whitby, I am made from the wood of an English oak tree.

The carver himself chose the tree for my frame and fashioned me with a skill that brought him fame.

His trademark "gnome" – spirit of the oak tree, is believed to be from German mythology.

It's said that the oak's spirit remains alive only as long as the original tree survives.

He worked only in daylight to see my grain clearly using nothing but wooden dowels for my joinery, tho' my leather component is not original and is attached with nails made of metal.

My rippled surface was made with an ancient tool, an adz, still used by artisans to plane hard wood.

I'm placed by the pulpit for use by the clergy during Thursday morning's Eucharist liturgy.

My purpose is to serve Bishop, Priest or Deacon but the Right Reverend Bishop I will not reject.

So whatever you call me I'll still fill my role in the House of God – which was my carver's goal.

ANSWER CAN BE FOUND ON ONE OF THESE PAGES



St. Augustine's Church

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The Hippo Herald is published quarterly by St. Augustine's Anglican Church, Lethbridge.

St. Augustine's is a warm and growing Christian community. We are part of the worldwide Anglican Church, although many of us come from a variety of Christian backgrounds or none. We are located near the centre of Lethbridge, Alberta but our congregation is spread all over the city and region. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to join our church family as we learn to follow Jesus.

