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We are all Jonahs

I find lately I've been waking at 4 o'clock and needing to pray ... better that the waking and the prayer happens than ignoring it.

Karen Larsen starts most of her meetings with prayer. Appointed in 2020 as the chairperson of the administration and finances committee for the Diocese of Calgary, last summer Karen also agreed to take on the role of Treasurer of Synod for the Diocese of Calgary. The word Synod takes its meaning from the Greek term sunodos, a pairing of sun, meaning "together," with hodos, "way." For the Anglican church, Synod represents the gathering of church representatives from parishes, diocese, provinces, or from across the country to confer on important issues and chart a way forward, together. St. Augustine's has four Synod representatives including a

youth delegate that join others at the Diocese of Calgary Synod meetings held every three years.

You can't call it a talent if you can't share it or give it away

But Karen did not start in finance. With a background in plant physiology, organic and inorganic chemistry, she worked in labs for many years at various universities and colleges. She and her husband, Michael, have lived and worked in Northern and Southern Alberta and points in between. At one time, when they had moved north for Michael's teaching position, Karen

began helping people in nearby communities with their taxes.

"There were all these people who weren't able to get their taxes done." So Karen helped. This led to Karen eventually working with an accounting firm in Airdrie.

Today, in addition to weighing in on decisions to do with trust funds, wages, and grants, Karen supports other Diocesan ministries. Emerging from a global pandemic, the Church, like many organizations, is de-

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Karen Larsen



*“Just as it took time
and effort for the
people of Israel to
rebuild the temple,
so it will take time
for the ministries of
St. Augustine’s
to rebuild.”*

From the Rector's Desk

We know who holds the future

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the LORD with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the LORD,

“For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.”

And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the LORD, because the foundation of the house of the LORD was laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away. Ezra 3:10-13

The above quotation from Ezra 3 captures the scene when the foundations were laid for the second temple in Jerusalem. The first temple had been destroyed by the invading Babylonians and the people carried off into exile where they had remained for 70 years. Now finally they were back together and able to begin to rebuild. I love how this text records the mixed emotions expressed by the people of God. First, there was great joy! Finally, after 70 years they were worshipping together on the site of the temple in Jerusalem! But there was also sadness. As beautiful as the worship

was, those who could remember the first temple knew that it was not quite the same. I imagine there may have been some weariness too! It is hard to start over.



As a parish, over the past few months we have found ourselves returning from our Covid-induced exile. We are experiencing the same mixture of emotions as the people of Israel in Ezra. On the one hand, we are thrilled to be back together! It brings so much joy and there is much to be thankful for:

- ◆ Each week there are a few more old friends finding their way back to our worship services.
- ◆ There are many new faces. It is beautiful to see one and all!
- ◆ Our Coffee Hour resumed on Palm Sunday.
- ◆ Our Senior Choir resumed their ministry on that same Sunday and led us through the rest of April, May and most of June.
- ◆ For the first time in two years we were able to hold both adult and youth confirmation classes on a weekly basis with a total of 11 students joining us.
- ◆ On June 12 (confirmation Sunday) some 180 people gathered in person, plus those who joined us online and Archbishop Greg confirmed nine people.

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Financial Update

BY CATHY GILLESPIE
TREASURER

It is such a joy that our church is returning to pre-pandemic normal in so many ways and I pray that this will continue. In preparing the budget for this year, the financial results from the year 2019 were used as a comparator. It seemed appropriate that the budget target for parishioner givings this year be a similar amount as the goal is to return to the pre-pandemic income level as soon as possible.

A summary of the church operating fund financial results up to the end of May is provided below. As you'll notice on the first line, parishioner givings are less than they were at this time last year. They are also trending significantly less than budget. Based on the budget target for these first five months of the year, parishioner givings are about \$14,000 (8%) under budget at this time.

In the years 2020 and 2021, the church operating fund benefited from the federal wage subsidy and from lower than normal expenses, especially staffing expenses due

to turnover in several positions. These factors are no longer in play. Instead, most expense categories are at a more normal level this year and some costs are trending upwards as they typically do. The increased cost of utilities has been particularly significant. Although the total budget on the expense side will not likely be exceeded this year, there definitely won't be the significant 'savings' that were experienced the last couple of years.

The 2022 budget includes provisions to help transition toward a balanced budget, most notably a larger than normal withdrawal from the Endowment Fund of \$35,000 (included in the Other Income budget line) and a deficit of \$25,000, which would be funded from the accumulated operating fund surplus. However, if the downward trend of parishioner givings continues, the deficit for 2022 could end up being much higher than the anticipated \$25,000, and investing in church ministries and programs at their current level in the future would be in jeopardy.

Your financial giving in support of the operations of the church is greatly appreciated! If you have any questions about options for giving, the church's financial situation and other financial matters, please feel free to contact me at cdjaff@shaw.ca Ω

	Year to-date (May 31 2022)	Last year to-date (May 31 2021)	2022 Budget
Parishioner givings	\$ 162,380	\$ 166,128	\$ 465,500
Other income	3,253	5,033	43,700
Federal wage subsidy	0	9,762	0
Total income	<u>165,633</u>	<u>180,923</u>	<u>509,200</u>
Staffing expenses	\$ 132,625	\$ 118,549	\$ 325,500
Administration & apportionment	46,160	44,581	118,000
Facility expenses	33,110	25,544	71,600
Christian education & outreach	5,190	4,044	19,100
Total expenses	<u>217,085</u>	<u>192,718</u>	<u>534,200</u>
Net deficit	\$ <u>(51,452)</u>	\$ <u>(11,795)</u>	\$ <u>(25,000)</u>

Anglican Church Women

Many thanks to the Evening Group

This year the “Evening Group” of women at St. Augustine’s completed their long and rich ministry to the church. Here is a brief history — a longer history is available in *In His Service* prepared in 1976 celebrating the parish’s 100th anniversary.



BY PHYLLIS CAMERON

An organizational meeting was held September 19, 1962. Founding members were Mary Roberts, Laura Grisdale, Freda Jones, Gladys Talbot, Marg McCrae (Kathy Leonard’s mother), Muriel Nugent and Ruby Lester Gordon (Phyllis Cameron’s mother).

Past presidents over time were Marg Clarke, June Hepple, Phyllis Cameron and Wiggie Yeoman.

Activities included:

Funeral Receptions; Avis Hunt contacted members for food donations. Later, Jeanne Shea, Joan Ross and Sue Kylo (whose family provided the Virginia

Creeper on the west wall of the church), organized the food and did the purchasing. Members helped prepare and serve the food.

Coffee Party; a less formal event than the tea was our self-serve morning coffee party falling towards the end of November, where people could enjoy a coffee, juice, muffins, scones (baked by Sue Kylo), cheese and jam. There was a beautiful bake table manned by Pat Westerson, Jeanne Shea’s mother Peggy Ankill (who worked at St. Mary’s teas) and Ev Schultz. Jeanne was the overseer. Among other baked goods, Christmas puddings were made by Muriel McCuaig, and homemade buns and bread made by Ev and Judith Robinson. We also had a new-to-you table of donated household items.

Dessert Bridge afternoons; desserts were made with members playing bridge and enjoying desserts.

Rummage Sale; donated bags of clothing, bedding, etc. were organized and sorted by the members, and cleanup initially involved some husbands, including Conway Cameron, Art Stratulat and Dennis Burton. Later, Alan and David Besplug would assist with other young people. A group with ties to Westminster School would come to pack up remaining items to be taken to the school so families could ‘shop’ at no cost.

Lenten Lunch; these were done in coordination with the downtown churches each

taking a turn in Lent to provide soup, buns, Sue Kylo's scones and sometimes fruit. St. Augustine's always had a hundred plus attendees.

Pancake Supper; Sausages were pre-boiled and donations of pancake flour and syrup were gathered. Our members, as well as other church members, were servers and helped with the cleanup. Some men would flip pancakes, with the Youth Group eventually taking over.

Church Teas; when the Guild retired from doing the teas, we did several in the spring and one in December. We had recipes and instructions from Norah Hawn for making fancy sandwiches and had a preparation day with her.

We would also have a supper date with clergy and their wives, usually in January. We would then go to Avis Hunt's home and later Ruby Gordon's, then Phyllis Cameron's home for Monte Carlo bridge and

dessert. In June we would meet for a year end lunch.

I, Phyllis Cameron, joined when my children were older to meet other Anglican women and enjoy fellowship. Although our mission was not to raise money, we did contribute significantly to the church renovation, dishes in the hall kitchen and crypt, coolers in both kitchens, and choir surplices. Donations were also made to Interfaith Food Bank, Lethbridge Soup Kitchen, Salvation Army, and Harbor House, to name a few.

Joan Ross, recently arrived from England, was convinced to join the group as a way to meet other church women.

Jeanne Shea was a member of St. Mary's the Virgin after a move from Pincher Creek. As People's Warden, she was involved in the amalgamation of St. Mary's and St. Augustine's churches. Her life had involved trying to save St. Mary's.

Time has indicated to our group that we can no longer continue with these activities. We have enjoyed our journey but have decided we are retiring. Ω

See you in September

It seemed that our beloved Senior Choir had just regrouped and now summer has taken them away again. All the more reason to look forward to their return in the fall. Here are a few photos of the Choir's wrap-up gathering in June.

God bless them all.





Young people running the race

Running is a theme that shows up in the Bible in many places. For example:

“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever.” *1 Corinthians 9: 24-25*



Tyler Wiebe

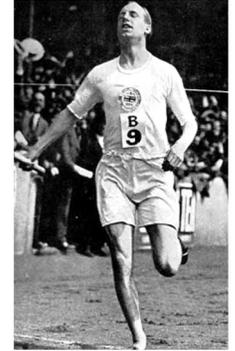
This passage and others like it have inspired many Christians over the years such as Eric

Liddell, a Scottish missionary to China who won the 400m race in the 1924 Summer Olympics. Liddell is known to have said: “I believe that God made me for a purpose – for China. But He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.”

At St. Augustine’s we have a number of competitive runners, in particular Mary Lee Voort, our church organist. Mary Lee wanted to highlight the accomplishments of the young people in our parish and chose three individuals: Kimoya Edwards, Orion Legg and Tyler Wiebe.

Tyler is a Grade 10 student at Catholic Central High School. His mom, Rachelle (our office administrator) says he has always been a runner – she ended up

chasing him down the street when he escaped when he was very little, and he's never stopped running. Tyler excels at the sprint distances of 100m and 200 m: this year at the city meet he placed second (behind the fastest



Eric Liddell

runner in the province) which qualified him for zones in Medicine Hat. A very strong finish at zones qualified him for provincials, also held in Medicine Hat. Although he didn't make it into the finals this time, just qualifying for provincials is a huge deal, and we know Tyler's speed will continue to improve with his hard work and determined competitive nature.

Orion Legg and Kimoya Edwards are both students at the Lethbridge Collegiate Institute (LCI). They're often up in the church balcony



Orion Legg

on Sunday mornings, running the video system for our livestream services. Here's what Orion has to say about his athletic experience:

"I started running in 2018 with the Lethbridge Track and Field Club. I trained in sprints and competed with school at 100m, 200m, 400m, triple jump and relay. At my Grade 8 zone meet I won a few of those events and I was hooked. I've since attended youth nationals and competed at multiple provincial meets."

Kimoya Edwards says she started running in Grade 8, the year after she came to Canada. Here is her story:

"It felt really special to me to be competing because track was like the one common trace I had found so far between Canada and Jamaica – it made me feel not so out of place in this new country. I competed in hurdles, 100m, 200m and 4x100m relay. I didn't know I was capable of doing hurdles, but when we had trials in gym class in school, the teacher thought I was good at it and ever since then I have been doing hurdles and 100m consistently."

She continues: "I competed this year from January-April for the University of Lethbridge and I did 80m hurdles and 60m. I was able to go to four competitions which was really amazing because I got to go to Edmonton and Winnipeg, and I did really great for my first year. I got a PB (personal best) in 60m in my first attempt, and at my last competition at CAN-WEST in Winnipeg, I placed fourth in the 60m final and seventh in the 60m hurdles."

Mary Lee adds: "By 1/100th of a second! I looked it up."

"This made it possible for me to hold the U of L record for indoor hurdles," says Kimoya.



Kimoya Edwards

"Overall, I love track and it will always hold a special place in my heart because to me it is home."

Mary Lee adds that Kimoya is also on the honour roll for academics, being an outstanding student athlete and a former high school team member of iGEM, the International Genetically Engineered Machine, which consistently wins high-placing achievement awards at both the very competitive high school and undergraduate levels. In her senior year at high school, she received the Principal's Award for outstanding contributions in the areas of leadership, citizenship, and academics at LCI. She also received the Pat Adams Memorial Scholarship who has performed well in the areas of fine arts and athletics, and who exemplifies leadership and volunteerism in the LCI community.

The people of St. Augustine's join in saying congratulations to all our students for their accomplishments in the 2021-22 school year. [Ω](#)



Another high-achieving young parishioner is university student Brandon DeGorter. Here he conducts the University of Lethbridge Wind Orchestra at Convocation on June 3.



“Christians need to be with one another on a regular basis. Face to face we need to bear witness to what God is doing in our lives.”

Fellowship is back on track

What is it about Coffee Hour? The venerable après church tradition had been percolating along for years – very much enjoyed but perhaps taken for granted. Then along comes the pandemic and wham, the Crypt is dark and empty. But no more. Two years later and the lights are back on, the coffee butlers are steaming and the fruit bread is on display.



Covid robbed us of many things, but at St. Augustine’s, the simple act of sitting down with friends and strangers after the service was one of the most deeply lamented suspensions of church life. Since restarting on April 10, Coffee Hour is slowly drawing people back together for casual fellowship just as the Sunday services are slowly drawing people back to formal worship.

teen – the fellowship “machine” was brought up to full steam. Previous volunteers were contacted, new volunteer groups were set up, the church’s two kitchens were re-supplied and a full-colour instruction manual was created. By the time April 10 rolled around, Coffee Hour was back on track.

Karen says she is grateful for the many people who have volunteered as families or small groups to work on Sunday mornings. Her intention is that each group need serve only three or four times a year. While the volunteer roster is full, she says there is always room in the kitchen.

“People working side-by-side, learning to trust and serve one another, is a big part of church community,” says Karen, whether in the kitchen or in worship or with hammer and nails.

“Fellowship is much more than Coffee Hour, but it is true that Sunday morning refreshments is the cornerstone of my ministry.”

In addition to the small groups that take turns setting up, serving and cleaning up on Sunday mornings, there is a separate Fellowship Group of about 14 volunteers who are ready to serve at celebrations of life and similar events as required.

Earlier this year, Karen Hammond assumed the role of Fellowship Warden, following in the capable footsteps of Tina Huckabay.

In partnership with Elaine Hoon – a long-time parishioner and Fellowship volun-

“We have missed close contact for the last two years,” says Karen. “Christians need to be with one another on a regular basis. Face to face we need to bear witness to what God is doing in our lives.” Ω



Rector's desk, continued from page 2

- ◆ On that same day our new Young Adults group, led by Rev. Gillian, met for the very first time with a very encouraging response of 14 people!

We are so grateful to God for the many good things that are happening.

On the other hand, there is a measure of sadness. It is not quite like it used to be. We very much miss those who died during the pandemic. We miss those who are still unable to join us in person. We miss those who moved away during a time when we were unable to say a proper goodbye. We miss the physical passing of the peace, the common cup, and the other things which are not back to normal just yet.

We are aware of the challenges ahead for all churches coming out of Covid. Though we are deeply grateful for all those who have generously supported St. Augustine's during the pandemic, as with most churches, we have some financial rebuilding to do (see Cathy Gillespie's report on page 3). We are also still building back our wonderful team of ministry helpers.

Just as it took time and effort for the people of Israel to rebuild the temple, so it will take time for the ministries of St. Augustine's to rebuild. But to date the signs are very encouraging.

The second temple never did look exactly like the first – the needs were different, and the times had changed. Please pray with us for

God's guidance that together we might build wisely and in a way that will last.

This fall will be an especially important time for our parish as we continue this joyful work. We are excited to be planning additional ministries involving children, youth and young adults and occasional events like our annual Harvest Dinner and Senior's Christmas Party. We are also planning to offer a "Know Your Spiritual Gifts" course.

May I ask you to pray, to give, and to minister as God gives you strength? Ask the Lord to give us wisdom to know how best to meet the needs of our parish and our broader community. Together, with the help and guidance of God we will have ongoing reason to celebrate.

None of us know what the future holds, but we certainly know who holds the future. Therefore, let us commit ourselves, our souls and bodies to the one who makes all things new.

Thanks be to God!

Your Rector,
Steve

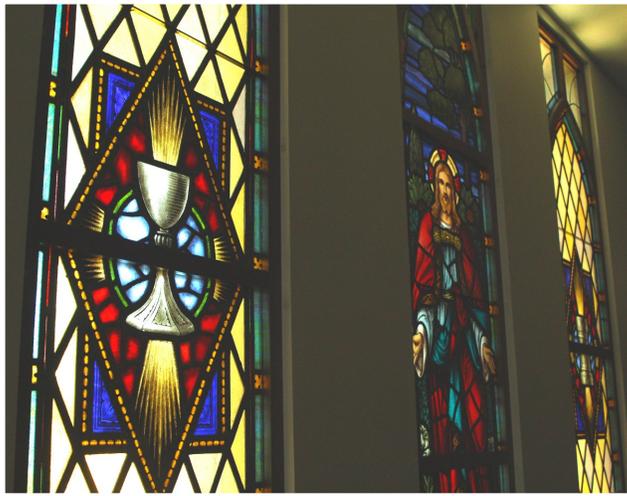


◀ On May 1, Allison Kittleson led the recession at the end of the 10 a.m. service and was joined by her daughter Islay. Due to Covid-19, the procession and recession have been absent as regular features of our services for many months, and so were welcomed back with great joy.



What about those windows?

Since the Know Your Church Project got started this spring, its researchers and writers have shared a great many facts and stories about St. Augustine's,



mostly through the Sunday service bulletins. The beautiful windows in our building is one such story. Here's what we have learned:

Come Unto Me: The three stained glass windows in the Narthex were dedicated to Canon Leslie L. Grant, Rector of St. Augustine's Church from October 1942 to the fall of 1961. The



dedication plaque which is now in the Narthex refers to the windows as being in "His Memory." He said at the time that the phraseology was rather premature as he was then still very much alive! The windows were installed by a group of his friends in 1948 in recognition of Canon Grant's great devotion to the Eucharist. They depict Our Lord celebrating Holy Communion.

The Ray Cook Memorial Window, located inside the church's main entrance, commemorates the life of Ray Cook, a devoted member of St. Mary the Virgin Anglican Church in North Lethbridge. Ray served his church faithfully over 50 years holding almost every position that a lay member can hold including 35 years as Rector's Warden. He also supervised and performed most of the work in a major renovation and modernization of the interior of the church. This window, along with Cowan window, was built by Demes Art Glass Studio in Hill Spring, Alberta. The colours in the border were chosen to match the woodwork in the interior of the church. The subject is the Ascension of Christ, a central part of Ray's strong beliefs. The flowers are irises and forget-me-nots. The 11 Irises represent Ray's wife, Iris, and their eleven children. The forget-me-nots represent Ray's losing struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Near the top of the window is a small plane which appears out of place. Ray was a pioneer in the building and flying of radio controlled model airplanes and this small model is a tribute to Ray. The artist's signature is represented by an ant hidden in the windows.



◀ **The Cowan Memorial Window** features a Madonna and Child set in the Oldman River valley in Lethbridge. The Blessed Virgin Mary was chosen as the focus for this window as the Cowan family ministered to the parish church of St. Mary the Virgin from 1944 until their passing. The scene was chosen to commemorate the lives of Canon Robert and Mary Cowan who loved nature in all its forms, but particularly the large trees which brought shade to this area of the city. Bob walked the river valley area daily, for over 40 years. The deer, peregrine falcon and cottontail rabbits are other reminders of the natural world. The rabbits also represent the Cowan’s love for children, particularly their own two sons. The wild rose, a symbol of the Virgin Mary, encircles Mary Cowan’s family crest, the Bradbrooke coat of arms. The lily growing from the riverbank is also a symbol of the Virgin Mary as well as a reminder of Christ’s resurrection and promise of eternal life. The Chalice and Paten found in the uppermost part of the window celebrate Robert’s ministry as a deacon and priest of the Anglican Church of Canada for over 50 years. Ω

FUN FOOD FELLOWSHIP RECONNECTING

AFTER A VERY LONG WAIT WE ARE THRILLED TO BE PLANNING THIS YEAR'S

WELCOME X  BACK PICNIC

PLEASE BRING LAWN CHAIRS AND A SALAD OR DESSERT TO SHARE

PROVIDED FOR YOU TO ENJOY

- BURGERS
- HOT DOGS
- DRINKS
- BOUNCE HOUSE
- CANDY TOSS

SUNDAY SEPT. 18
12:30 - 3:30
LOCATION TBA



Karen, continued from page 1

termining how to face a host of new realities. Parishes have weathered extraordinary conditions in varying ways. In addition to getting the Church back on good financial footing, other issues have arisen such as how to better serve rural parishes who face unique challenges.

“There have been a few churches that have closed, or have been re-established as mission churches. We have to listen to the voice in the wilderness.”

As a Missional coach, Karen is involved in mission workshops being rolled out as part of the diocese’s efforts to empower laity as disciples.

“The question is often, *what can we do?*



When you think, *I can’t do any of this stuff*, we need to remember we can pray. Praying is a good start. Sometimes it’s about finding another way to minister – there are many ways.

Karen accounts for her moves around the province and various ministries, in part to listening.

“We are all Jonahs in some ways. We have to be vigilant in listening. The voice has been out there since the day we were born, we just have to get there,” she says. “Most of my listening comes from the years in the north. I listen to nature – birds singing. I keep listening and watching. It could be a sunrise or a Chinook wind. God’s got this.” Ω

One of Karen Larsen’s favourite places to pray is a spot on Mayne Island, near the lighthouse looking across Active Pass.

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.



If you are reading this newsletter between July 5 and 8, please pray for the children and leaders participating in Vacation Bible School. Watch for a story about this year’s VBS in the fall edition of the Hippo Herald.

